

ISSUE **17** // APRIL 2014

TRANS- FORM

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

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Dear Reader,
This is the 17th and last edition of Transform that I will officially edit, as the October edition will be published after my retirement. As always there is a wealth of material to read, including our Ofsted Inspection, school activities and achievements.

Transform is an outstanding publication and I shall look forward to reading future issues in which Balshaw's is involved. Our continued thanks to Runshaw and St Andrew's as our sponsors and 'Ninefootone Creative', our designers.

I am sure that you will enjoy reading about my successor Mr Steven Haycocks and all that he will bring to Balshaw's.

Good luck and God Bless to you in the future.

J M Venn Headteacher

INTRODUCTION TO STEVEN HAYCOCKS

■ BALSHAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL IN LEYLAND HAS APPOINTED THEIR 14TH HEADTEACHER SINCE 1782 AS SUCCESSOR TO JO VENN WHO

retires at the end of the school year. He is at present Deputy Headteacher at Skipton Girls' High School.

Steven Haycocks has worked in UK schools for the past 17 years, and as a senior leader for the last seven of these. He met his wife, Emma, on the senior leadership team at a school in Lancashire in 2005 and has two children: Lara, 5 and Theo, 2. Originally from the Wirral, Merseyside, he was educated at Calday Grange Grammar School. Before going to read English Language and Literature at Newcastle University he spent a year teaching English as a Foreign Language in North East Hungary.

Although qualifying as an English teacher from Manchester University, his first leadership role was as head of ICT and Steven has always valued the power that technology has to transform the way that young people are able to learn. As a practising Christian in the parish of Waddington, Steven plays an active part in the life of the church. Steven says, "I am looking forward immensely to being the fourteenth

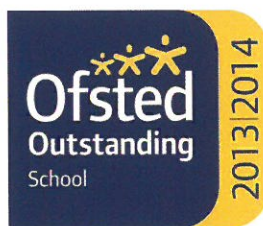
headteacher in Balshaw's proud 232 year history following 20 years of outstanding leadership from Jo Venn."

Jo Venn stated, "Steven will be an excellent Headteacher and has all the skills to take Balshaw's from strength to strength. I know that staff, pupils, parents and Governors will agree that he is definitely the right person for the future of Balshaw's."



OFSTED

■ ON 17TH AND 18TH SEPTEMBER, WE WELCOMED OFSTED INSPECTORS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LEAD INSPECTOR ANN



Ashdown, into school. We were last inspected in June 2009 and had the Inspection deferred for a year, as all indicators showed the school was doing well.

The new framework means that there is no time to change anything or start doing things, as the phone call came at 12.30pm and they were in first thing the following morning. The team was very supportive of the school's values and stated that we are OUTSTANDING in every category, which is what we hoped for. They were very impressed with our results and standards, which buck the trend of national

figures, specifically in English. There were quotes such as:

"Much of the teaching is outstanding and across the school it is consistently good."

"Students, parents and staff are fulsome in their praise of the school."

"Students behave extremely well."

"Students want to succeed."

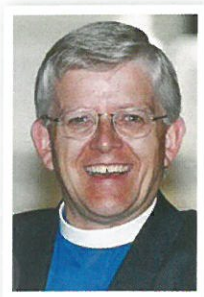
"A very rich curriculum caters for the needs of all groups of courses."

"Students are immensely proud of their school."

If you have not yet read the report, it is available in school or on Ofsted's website.

Ofsted Inspections are a snapshot in time, our mission statement has always been "aiming at excellence" and we aim to be outstanding every day.

BISHOP OF BLACKBURN



■ ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER, BALSRAW'S WAS CHOSEN TO BE

part of the Prayer Pilgrimage of the new Bishop of Blackburn, Rt Revd Julian Henderson. He came to school with his wife Heather to meet with parents, staff, students and governors who prayed for the school and for Julian's new role as Bishop of Blackburn.

- Julian Henderson is 59 and was born in 1954.
- Educated at Keble College Oxford he became an ordained Deacon in 1979 and a priest in 1980.
- From 1979 to 1983 he was Curate at Islington St Mary; Diocese of London.
- From 1983 to 1992 he was Vicar of Emmanuel and St Mary in the Castle in Hastings; Diocese of Chichester.

- From 1992 to 2005 he was Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Claygate; Diocese of Guildford, where he was also Rural Dean of Emly from 1996 to 2001.
- In 2005 he was appointed Archdeacon of Dorking.
- He has also been Honorary Canon of Guildford Cathedral from 2002.
- He is currently chair of the Church of England General Synod Business Committee.
- He also supports The Limpsfield Trust which works to provide fun activity holidays for young people from across the UK from all backgrounds
- Julian Henderson is married to Heather and has two grown-up children, Susannah, 28 and Jamie, 26.
- In his leisure time he enjoys gardening, design and DIY, walking, reading, tennis and cycling.

We look forward to welcoming him back for a full tour of the school and to feel the warmth of Balsraw's.

FAIRTRADE SCHOOL

■ SINCE 2010 THE PUPILS AND STAFF, ALONG WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO PROMOTE

Fairtrade in and out of school.

The list of events organised is very impressive and included an Open evening, where departments in school show cased their activities, a Fairtrade Cake Bake as part of a national initiative and a Fairtrade Fashion Show in 2013. The school took part in the Fairtrade Fortnight activities, winning the 2012 T Shirt competition and was highly commended in the 2013 model competition. These are only a few examples all organised and run by the pupil led group and many more can be seen on the school's website.

The group are continuing their commitment to Fairtrade by holding Fairtrade Friday Feasts in October in school and a Summer Garden Party is planned for next year.

Thank you to everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm, which allowed us to achieve this amazing award.



QUOTES FROM OUR GROUP:

Heather Watson: "It helps people in poorer countries."

Alicia Platt: "I enjoyed going on trips to learn about Fairtrade."

Tom Clarkson: "Enjoyed managing events."

Madison Bolton: "It's fun and exciting being part of the group."

SPEECH NIGHT 2013



■ ON THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, BALSHAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL HELD ITS ANNUAL SPEECH NIGHT WHERE COUNCILLOR

Dorothy Gardner and Melvyn Gardner, the Mayor and Mayor's Consort, were honoured guests. The speaker and presenter of the prizes was Anu Ojha, the Director of Education and Space Communications at the National Space Centre, Leicester. He is a former teacher and therefore understands schools and has visited schools all over the world. The award winners loved listening to what he had to say.

Anu talked about his hobby of skydiving. He explained how he learned much about life from his skydiving failures. He spoke about his fears and how, despite these, he still put himself through this trauma every time he went skydiving.

Anu has been a former Lead Practitioner for the Specialist

Schools and Academies Trust and teaches 'A' level Physics in partnership with Loughborough College. He is at present developing the New National Framework for Space Engineering Higher Apprenticeships for the UK Space Sector. He has presented sessions at NASA Conferences at the Johnson Space Centre and at the European Space Agency. I am confident that we will continue to hear a great deal about Anu, as I am sure that his future in these specialist areas is secure.

Jo Venn stated that the whole evening was a celebration of the events of the year, including Ofsted, and it was great to see a record number of former pupils come back to meet the staff. There was a space theme in all the speeches, including the thanks given by Head Boy Rob Armstrong and Head Girl Jess Pearson.

CLARKE CARLISLE: BOOK SIGNING

■ CLARKE WAS AT BALSHAW'S FROM 1991 UNTIL 1996. HE WAS HEAD BOY IN 1995/6 AND OBTAINED 10 GRADE A'S.

In September 1997 he made his debut for Blackpool before moving to QPR in May 2000.

He has since played for a number of clubs including Leeds, Watford, Burnley and Preston. He gained 3 caps for the England Under 21 team.

He has been dubbed "England's brainiest footballer" and before he retired in 2013 was Chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association.

So, it was a wet, windy night in September when 2 of his former teachers turned up in Blackpool to support his book signing. I actually taught Clarke Computer Studies and Maths, Chris Snell was his P.E. teacher. Obviously then Clarke can thank me for being so intelligent and Chris for his football career. "Taught him everything he knew!"

Another of his teachers was upset to have missed the evening - Mr Woodcock, his Physics teacher. He was distraught at missing the signing especially as it was at his beloved Blackpool FC. Miss Venn also missed the evening as the dreaded OFSTED inspectors were in the following morning!

Clarke mentioned in his talk that all the pupils had to do on a Monday morning, in "sir's" lesson, was to ask how Blackpool went on. This got Mr Woodcock to waste half the lesson (technically in teacher talk that is now called a "starter")!

Anyway, I digress. The evening started with an introduction

and then a well known radio journalist, (I forget his name), conducted a question and answer session with our famed celebrity. Clarke outlined his early life, then briefly mentioned the fact that his two teachers were on the front row. When the round of booing stopped, I actually complimented Clarke on his school career, contradicting Mr Snell who seemed to have a different opinion!

The interesting part of the evening was Clarke's football memories. His favourite managers .. Owen Coyle, Ian Holloway, Sam Allardyce, Tony Nolan and Dave Croft (see you two - told you a tenner would get you a mention!). His worst managers were not a surprise (Graham Westley at PNE and Kevin Blackwell at Leeds) as he did not last long with them!

Not surprisingly, a good deal of time was spent talking about his depression and the reasons why that came about. His BBC documentary was an excellent insight into the problems footballers can face when they retire. (Not many footballers can cite the problems of Ferrari or Lamborghini, second house in LA or Barbados?)

Needless to say, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and we all managed to get our books signed.

Clarke now has a (recommended) book to his name, a contract with ITV soccer and a bright future to look forward to: and it is all down to Balshaw's (obviously)!!

P A Banks

International Aid Trust

Christian Compassion For A Hurting World

Mrs J Ruller
Balshaws C of E High School
Church Road
Leyland
PR25 3AH

18th December 2013

Dear friends

We at International Aid Trust are most grateful to you and your school for your donation of shoe boxes. Please find enclosed a certificate of thanks for this kind donation.

For many, young and old these boxes provide an essential part of their lives as for some it will be the only gift they will receive this year. I have personally delivered many boxes to old and young in the Ukraine and can vouch for the immense joy they bring to those who receive them.

We are currently loading a container destined for the Philippines where those who survived the typhoon are now struggling to survive the aftermath of the events that have shattered their lives. We expect the container to arrive at the Philippines port of Cebu around January 24th 2014 and we pray for its safe arrival.

The need for Christian compassion and help is not restricted to disaster areas like this; sadly it is a daily reality in so many places. So thank you for the part you play in this work, may God bless you for your generosity and support over the years. There are so many who have nothing and the items we are able to send them make such a difference, not just materially but because they get a sense of love and being cared for, which gives them hope.

Yours sincerely

(C E Crawforth: Trustee)



International
Aid Trust
Christian Compassion For A Hurting World

On Behalf of those we have been able to help
we thank:

Balshaws CE High School for The Donation of Gift Boxes

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him,
"Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed" but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? (James 2:14)

Rev Rtn Bernard Cocker
Founder & CEO

December 2013

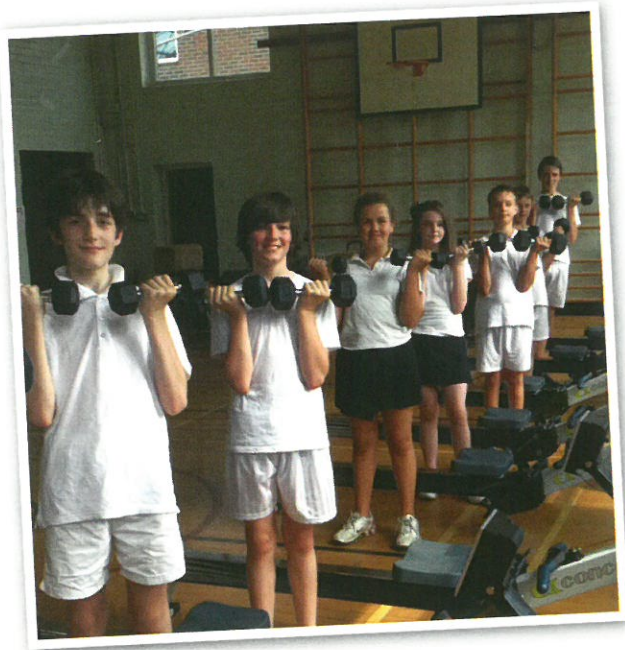
Charity Registration No. 1086597
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"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up". Galatians 6:9

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Visit our web site: www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk

BALSHAW'S PE WIN THE LOTTERY WITH FITNESS EQUIPMENT



■ AT THE END OF THE SUMMER TERM THE PE DEPARTMENT WAS DELIGHTED TO FINALLY RECEIVE A SET OF 8 STATE OF THE

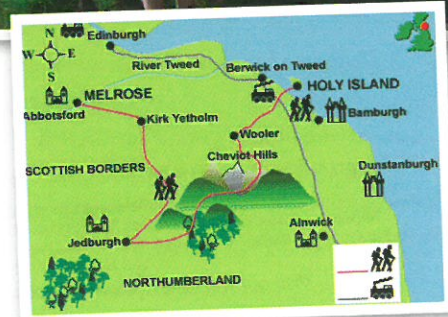
art rowing machines and weights for pupils at the school to use. The overall cost of the equipment was £8000.00 and the pupils can look forward to experiencing the health benefits associated with the fitness equipment as well as enjoying using some of the most advanced equipment available. The rowing machines come complete with Heart Rate Monitors so pupils can track how hard they are working in relation to their training zones and the rowers can be linked together so that they can compete against each other in individual and house competitions in the future. The school will also be entering the National Indoor Rowing Schools Leagues in September so come and give it a try and see if you can earn yourself a place in the team!

NORTHUMBRIA PILGRIMAGE TRIP

■ DURING JULY, BALSHAW'S WAS ONE OF ONLY THREE SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN A

pilgrimage trip around Northumbria. Four pupils along with Sarah, our School Chaplain and Mr Riley, one of our RE teachers, set off for the Holy Island of Lindisfarne to 'follow in the footsteps of the saints'. Lindisfarne was the site of an early monastery founded by St Aiden. It later became home to St Cuthbert. These two men, along with many others, helped to spread the Christian message around the North of England. During our trip we followed the path St Cuthbert walked as he went about his missionary task of spreading the Good News about Jesus. We began at Melrose Abbey, crossed the sands to Lindisfarne, visited St Cuthbert's cave and ended in Durham with a tour of Durham Cathedral and a look at the famous Lindisfarne gospels.

The pupils enjoyed learning about the Christian history of the area and did amazingly well completing nearly 20 miles in 2 days over some very steep hills!



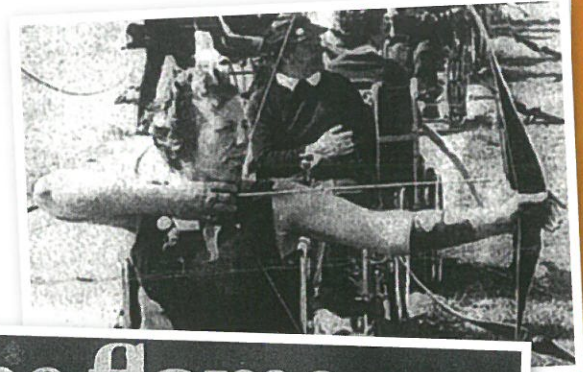
MARGARET MAUGHAN

■ FORMER PUPILS OF BALSRAW'S GET EVERYWHERE. DID YOU KNOW THAT BRITAIN'S FIRST PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

hero was a Balshavian. Margaret Maughan, 84 from Much Hoole, won two gold medals at the Inaugural Paralympic Games in Rome in 1960 in archery and in the 50 metres backstroke. She then went on to compete in a further four Paralympic Games.

Margaret had the honour of lighting the cauldron at the Paralympic Games in 2012, and this was discussed at the October 2013 reunion of those who left school in the 40's and 50's. Her sister was Head Girl in 1951-52 and Margaret started Balshaw's in 1939 at the start of the Second World War.

Margaret says about her experience of lighting the cauldron, "It was terrific. It is a lovely thing to have done. I am extremely proud."



U13 GIRLS FOOTBALL

■ A MASSIVE WELL DONE TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE U13 GIRLS

Football Tournament on 7th November at Blackburn Rovers FC: Phoebe Wragg, Laura Flemming-Saunby, Jess Pilkington, Chloe May, Mia Topping, Lauren Hall and Amy Oxley. The girls played 4 matches, winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 1. Well done to Mia Topping who was top scorer for Balshaws!

D C Gladki



NATIONAL POETRY DAY

■ THE SCHOOL CELEBRATED NATIONAL POETRY DAY IN OCTOBER BY SETTING YEAR 9 A CHALLENGE TO WRITE A POEM ABOUT

water. They had the stimulus of photographs and poems about the sea by Thomas Ruth and William Otto.

The winner was Rachel Bowles who wrote the following and won £10. Well done Rachel.



WATER

*A ripple of creativity,
It makes you shiver,
So graceful and calm,
You might even quiver,
Water*

*Glistens in the distance,
A wave of blue,
Splashes of joy,
Beautiful in all it do,
Water*

*A tear of emotion,
So pure and clear,
The perfect sight,
Upon the pier,
Water*

*Underneath a secret,
So desperate to hide,
Eerie and mysterious,
Disguised by the tide,
Water*

VISITOR FROM FINLAND

■ IN OCTOBER 2013 BALSHAW'S WAS LUCKY TO HOST A VISIT FROM ANNALEENA KANGAS FROM

a High School in Finland. She came to see how our high schools work and learn about the British education system, as well as tell us about schooling in Finland. Annaleena was linked to our school through the European teachers' visit to Portugal in October 2012, when 12 teachers including Annaleena and Miss Molyneux took part in an Astronomy CPD course. Annaleena got in touch with us at Balshaw's to take in some experiences of British education during her holiday in the UK.

Annaleena spent time in school and taught some Year 7 classes Finnish, which they thoroughly enjoyed. She then joined the prefects for one of their trips; a meal and the cinema. She commented on how she had enjoyed the company of our mature and well behaved Year 11's. While she was here she gave a talk about how the Finnish education system works. It fascinated our



staff. In Finland there is no inspection process for schools and there are no GCSEs! The teachers are asked to teach a specific curriculum and are left to do this over several years! Very different to the UK system! Thanks to Annaleena for her visit and we hope to come to Finland in the future.

PHIL JONES VISIT TO BALSHAW'S

■ **AS ALWAYS BALSHAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL WAS DELIGHTED TO WELCOME BACK FORMER PUPIL PHIL JONES TO VISIT THE SCHOOL. HE** brought in an amazing football kit for the school teams.

The new Year 7 football team, who had had trials earlier in the week was excited to meet this superstar and hero. Phil was interviewed by the National Press and then watched the Year 7's show off their sporting skills in our gym.

He also answered questions such as: "Which do you prefer playing for – Man Utd or England?" and "Did you dream of being world class when you were at school?"

Phil modestly said that he was very much a team member, and remembers with pride when Balshaw's won the Lancashire Cup.



After signing the boots of all Year 7 players, lots of memorabilia and Man Utd photos he departed, leaving the school so proud to know this outstanding man just happens to play football for Man Utd.

As Miss Venn often says, "Once a Balshavian always a Balshavian".

Miss Venn and Mrs Thomas followed up his visit to us by going to watch him play for Manchester United against Arsenal, and they won 1-0. It was an excellent game and Phil was rated 9/10 for his performance by the press.



SOLAR POWERED DRAGSTERS – YEAR 8

■ **A NUMBER OF YEAR 8 PUPILS HAVE TAKEN PART IN STEM CLUB. THEY EMBARKED ON A PROJECT, IN TEAMS, TO BUILD A SOLAR**

Powered Dragster. The pupils relished the challenge of the portfolio, build, testing and Dragon's Den pitch.

The pupils worked hard and very strong teamwork skills were demonstrated. Along the way, their experts in different areas were given lessons in Maths, Technology and Science to feed into their work. The designs and portfolios were superb and all their hard work came together in the Dragon's Den pitch at the end of the sessions. The Dragons who were made up of members of the STEM committee and teachers in the school were very impressed.

The winning team received Go-Karting vouchers and certificates. All the pupils are also going on a trip to the Big

Bang Road-show as a reward. The pupils have also earned nationally recognised Bronze CREST Awards.



LOWER SCHOOL QUIZ

■ ON 24TH OCTOBER, THE ANNUAL LOWER SCHOOL QUIZ WAS HELD. NORMALLY THIS IS IN THE DINING ROOM, BUT THERE WERE

record numbers taking part. 27 teams from Years 7 and 8 took part, with Worden having the most with 8 teams. There were 8 rounds ranging from Celebrities, TV Themes and Logos to History, Geography, Science, Religion and even Spelling, with questions as diverse as 'what is the chemical symbol for lead?' through to Shakespeare plays (as it is the 50th Anniversary of the National Theatre).

OVERALL WINNERS WERE:

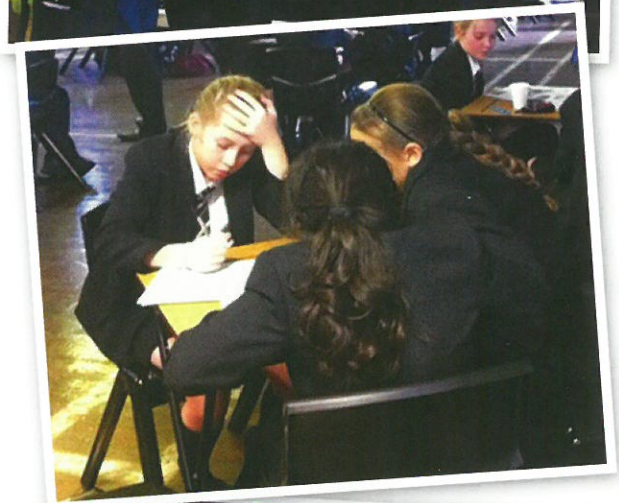
1ST PLACE

CU2 TEAM 1 = 77 POINTS

2ND PLACE

CL4 TEAM 1
FN2 TEAM 2
WN2 TEAM 2 } ALL WITH 71 POINTS

So you can see, all our Houses are equal in their general knowledge. Thank you to Miss Chisholm and the Lower School Council Prefects Zoe Wells, Becky Elliott, Yvonne Fox and Grace Eccles.



MEMORIAL GARDEN IN LANCASHIRE LIFE

■ BALSHAW'S MEMORIAL GARDEN WAS FEATURED IN DECEMBER'S LANCASHIRE LIFE HAVING WON THEIR BEST SCHOOL GARDEN

competition. If you have not yet visited our garden it is a delight and a really productive horticultural area, being spiritual, therapeutic and reflective.

Created in 2005 after Ryan Masterman was killed cycling, it has grown and developed and comprises of raised floral beds containing fragrant pollinating flowers.

Our Eco Gardening Club have worked on the raised beds and grown a variety of vegetables which we enjoyed at the 'Big Lunch'.

One of our gardeners Tom Clarkson was a "Highly Commended" nominee in the Royal Horticultural Society's Young School Gardener Competition 2013.

We have also been involved in the Big Dig and given vegetable parcels to the residents of Chestnut Court.

The Balshaw's Memorial Garden is a place of tranquillity that embraces love and life providing food to celebrate and share. It is an inspiring place which provides opportunities for young horticulturists of the future, giving them a hobby for life. This is an area to 'nurture nature' in an otherwise hectic environment.

For all these reasons we were delighted when the editor came to school with John Foley from Holden Clough Nursery and we look forward to spending the £500 prize.



WILLIAM ARTHUR BLYTH

■ WE ARE DELIGHTED WHEN WE RECEIVE LETTERS FROM FORMER PUPILS LIKE THIS ONE:

Dear Miss Venn,

I attended Balshaw's from 1943 to 1951 and have many happy memories of my time there. I was particularly influenced by Mr Bennison the chemistry teacher who allowed me to develop my love of chemistry by

experimenting, often alone, on the mineral content of plants. Mr Downer the Latin teacher gave wise advice, and the maths teacher introduced music Beethoven's 8th symphony for instance. In other words Balshaw's education stood me in very good stead and was a key ingredient in my becoming a research scientist. Thank you Balshaw's.

William Arthur Blyth
Email: ppblyte@mbzonline.net

ICELAND FOR SOUTH RIBBLE GEOGRAPHY AND SCIENCE TEACHERS

■ ALTHOUGH IT WAS SUMMER IN THE UK, IT CERTAINLY DIDN'T FEEL LIKE SUMMER IN ICELAND THIS AUGUST. MRS BRIERLEY

and Miss Molyneux were joined by colleagues Jonathan Allcock from St Michaels CE High School and Alison Cooper from All Hallows RC High School to learn all about the ways in which Iceland uses their natural resources to generate enough energy to make the island self-sustainable.

During a 3 day visit sponsored by Balshaw's and TREX Travel, the teachers visited a hydroelectric power plant driven by a huge waterfall, a geothermal centre which harnesses the amazing heat generated by Iceland's underground volcanic activity and the site of the 2010 ash cloud eruption of volcano Eyjafjallajökull, where tourists still flock to buy bags of the ash that descended from the volcano!

There were amazing people who had set up their own business growing tomatoes, farming and even providing a heated

swimming pool using the natural resources that Iceland is blessed with.

The highlight of the trip was a hike to a real Icelandic glacier, which Mrs Brierley said was one of her all time ambitions achieved.

A huge thanks must go to TREX for organising the trip and we can recommend a trip to Iceland to anyone...just make sure you take warm clothes!



SCIENCE GIRL LECTURE EVENT!

■ IN OCTOBER THE NORTH WEST COMMITTEE OF "SCIENCE GIRL"; AN ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO INCREASING THE

participation of girls into STEM Subjects, hosted Brian Cox for an out of this world lecture at the University of Manchester.

Students from across the North West came along to listen to Professor Cox talk about cosmic microwave background radiation (CMBR), the large hadron collider (LHC) at CERN and why Science...is for EVERYONE!

Miss Molyneux is a member of the North West Science Girl committee and was lucky enough to meet Professor Brian Cox at the event!



CPD VISIT TO KING RICHARD AND ST JOHN'S SCHOOLS, HM BRITISH ARMY BASE, CYPRUS!

■ IN OCTOBER 2013 MARTIN AINSWORTH, HEADTEACHER OF THE FEDERATION OF KING RICHARD AND ST JOHN'S SCHOOLS AT THE

British Army Bases in Cyprus invited Jo Venn and Caroline Molyneux to visit his school to provide CPD to teachers and Senior Leaders in his schools.

Jo Venn met with the Senior Leadership team at both schools to provide CPD on preparing for Headship and spoke to aspiring Senior Leaders to help with their career progression. Caroline Molyneux provided CPD for teachers in the Science Departments, in her role as Lead Educator for the National Space Centre. Resources and expertise

were exchanged both ways as the schools in Cyprus, whilst different in their weather, number of students and facilities, still share the same curriculum and of course British pupils!

It's fair to say that the Year 10's were stunned with Miss Molyneux's rendition of her version of Cliff Richard's classic "Congratulations" with the words changed to explain heat loss by evaporation!

A huge thanks to Martin and Veronica Ainsworth for their warm welcome to their school and to their British Army home. It was a fantastic experience and so much was learned by these two Outstanding schools joining forces to learn from each other!



ASTROFEST 2013!

MISS MOLYNEUX AND THIS YEAR'S CROP OF SCIENCE AMBASSADORS WERE INVITED TO HOST A STALL AT THE FIRST NORTH WEST

Astronomy Festival held in Runcorn in October. The festival featured some inspirational speakers from the field of Astronomy and Space Science, a great hall full of telescopes and night sky viewing equipment to try out as well as fun activities for delegates young and old. Isobel Gold, Freya Duviau, Sophie Davis and Enya Davis manned the Balshaw's desk all day, providing exciting experiments and demonstrations for younger children. They created edible constellations, made teabags fly and launched straw rockets. The Festival was a fantastic success and we have been invited again next year to take part in the event!



Sophie Davis helps a young Astronomer to launch her "straw rocket"

By Royal hospital appointment . . .

By **BRIAN ELLIS**
brian.ellis@jpress.co.uk
@LEPONLINE

TOM Rhimes' call-up to play football at Buckingham Palace ended by Royal hospital appointment.

The Lancashire teacher finished the historic game on Her Majesty's back lawn on the losing side, in agony and in A&E.

"It was worth it - I had a fantastic time," said Tom from Clayton-le-Woods near Leyland. "OK, it didn't quite turn out as I would have liked, but I wouldn't have swapped it for the world."

The 25-year-old was in goal for Civil Service FC for the historic fixture to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the



LAID UP: Tom in hospital

Football Association. Opponents Polytechnic FC won the game 2-1, with Tom insisting he didn't stand a chance with either of the goals. But as the

teams made their way back to the Civil Service clubhouse in Chiswick for an after-match drink he was on his way to spend the night in a local hospital.

"On the coach my hip started to swell up quite dramatically," said Tom. "When I got there they said it was a haematoma - bleeding in the hip - and they kept me in overnight. It's painful, but fortunately it didn't stop me playing the whole game, meeting Prince William and enjoying a great day out at the Palace.

"It was something I'll never forget, an amazing day. I let two in, but I didn't really have a chance with either. Overall I thought I had a decent game. Prince William said he thought

one save I made in the first half was a cracker and it had kept us in the game."

The teams, two of the oldest in the country, were invited to mark the FA's big day. World Cup Final referee Howard Webb refereed the match and former England striker Michael Owen was on hand to give both sides a few tips.

"It was surreal looking over to the touchline during the game and seeing the future King shouting encouragement. I don't think there was any bad language, but he really got involved.

"He was great, he came over to every player and had a chat. My parents were in the crowd and I could see Dad had tears in his eyes."

Keeper Tom gets Palace call-up

By **BRIAN ELLIS**

brian.ellis@jpress.co.uk

@LEPONLINE

TOM Rhimes' first visit to Buckingham Palace on Monday will be no garden party.

The teacher from Clayton-le-Woods near Leyland will be stepping out on the famous lawns at the back of the Queen's official London residence... to play football!

Tom, 25, will be in goal for the first ever match played at the palace - a local league fixture between two of the country's oldest teams - to mark the 150th anniversary of the Football Association. The game will be refereed by World Cup whistle-blower Howard Webb, with Prince William and David Beckham amongst the spectators.

"It's an unbelievable honour to be part of this, it hasn't really sunk in yet," said Tom. "Fingers crossed I don't have a stinker and get one in through my legs."

The former Balshaw High School and Runshaw College student only moved to London in



IN GOAL: The lawns at Buckingham Palace

September and plays on a Saturday for Civil Service FC, sole survivors of the 11 clubs who formed the FA back in 1863.

The club's Southern Amateur League game with Polytechnic FC, formed in 1875, was due to be played on a school field at Chiswick. Instead it has been switched to Buckingham Palace to

celebrate the FA's anniversary. A pitch has been marked out on the palace lawns where royal garden parties are normally held.

"We were meant to play an FA select team but Prince William wanted it to be a proper competitive fixture," said Tom. "So our league match with Polytechnic was chosen."

BALSHAW'S BOOK

THE STORY OF THE FIRST 200 YEARS OF BALSHAW'S SCHOOL WAS DESCRIBED BY GEORGE BIRTILL IN HIS BOOK PUBLISHED

in 1982 as part of the bicentenary celebrations. Jo Venn expressed a wish for this to be updated, prior to her retirement in 2014. She was able to recruit Keith Woodcock to undertake this task. Keith, together with his wife Ollie, have spent the past 12 months searching through files and cupboards in school, gathering photographs and information from a variety of sources, including former pupils and staff.

Balshaw's Church of England High School

A further history

1981 to 2014

Compiled and edited by

Keith and Ollie Woodcock

The book is now ready for publication. It will be launched on Saturday 14th June at the Reunion Event for those who left in 1994. This is an auspicious day in the history



of Balshaw's as it was on 14th June 1782 that the school's founder, Richard Balshaw, established the trust which set up the school.

Keith hopes that all those who have been involved with the school during the period from 1981 to the present day, will find the book interesting and entertaining. It features memories of people and events as well as information about school life, the building programme and former staff and pupils.

Keith Woodcock

UK BEAVER COMPUTING CHALLENGE

DURING THE WEEK OF THE 11TH NOVEMBER 2013, YEAR 9 PUPILS TOOK PART IN THE UK BEAVER COMPUTING CHALLENGE.

The Beaver Computing Challenge (BCC) introduces

computer science to students and is designed to get students excited about computing. The BCC is a problem solving contest with a focus on computational and logical thinking. Over 21,000 pupils took part in the competition throughout the UK.

Computational thinking involves using a set of problem-solving

skills and techniques that software engineers use to write programs and apps. Examples of these techniques would include the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalisation and abstraction.

Questions are inspired by topics in computer science but only require some basic reasoning ability. Pupils had to answer 15 questions in a 45 minute time period. The questions had varying degrees of difficulty and the points awarded reflect this.

95 Year 9 pupils from Balshaw's took part in the competition. The 'Best In School' winner was Molly Wyatt with 152 points. The top 25% received a 'Certificate of Distinction' and everyone who entered the competition received a 'Certificate of Participation'.



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