

Engineering

ISSUE 18 // OCTOBER 2017



# TRANSFORM

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

## CONTENTS

- 2 Hair Cut for Charity; Ben & Ryan's Charity Zip Wire
- 3 The Sophie Scholl Award; Year 8 Rounders Team
- 4 Living Learning Theatre Production; History of Balshaw's Book
- 5 Royal Maundy Service; Tisha Merry
- 6 40 Years of Academic Excellence; National Gymnastics Championships
- 7 Opening of the MUGA; Runshaw College Award
- 8 South Ribble's Involvement in the Great War
- 10 Class of 1994 School Reunion; Gardening Team
- 11 Recollections of Gladys Sumner; Year 10 Rounders Team
- 12 Tessellations; Alex Moran
- 13 The Great Fairtrade Bakeoff; Year 10 Football Team
- 14 Balshaw's STEM Week
- 15 Interschool Bridge Building; STEM Girls Make National Finalists
- 16 Tomorrow's Engineers Visit; Perfect Athlete STEM Week

Dear Reader,  
I am delighted to write my first editorial of Transform which really impressed me when I applied for the Headship and since.

I have enjoyed reading articles written by past and present Balshavians and getting a flavour of the myriad of activities that we as a school get involved in.

This edition is no different, especially as we remember the 23 former Balshavians who gave their lives for us in the 1914–18 war and the national and local celebrations of these events.

This together with the Queen's visit to Blackburn for Maundy Thursday and the 40th Anniversary of one of our sponsors, Runshaw College, means that there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Please enjoy reading the 18th edition.

Yours sincerely

S Haycocks, Headteacher



# HAIR CUT FOR CHARITY

■ DURING OUR SPRING FAIR ON 10TH MAY A YEAR 7 GIRL, ELEANOR VINCE, HAD HER BEAUTIFUL AUBURN HAIR CUT FOR CHARITY.

The charity she chose was the Ross Tomlinson Memorial Fund. As Ross was one of our students who sadly died, his mum Linda came in with a special t-shirt and a banner to advertise this.

Eleanor had 13 inches cut off and this is going to The Little Princesses Trust, who make wigs for children with cancer.

Lots of people watched Eleanor have her hair cut by Jackie Hudson, a professional hairdresser from 'Blowout' hair salon.

£400+ was collected and donated.

Mrs Tomlinson told us that they have collected over £60,000 so far and £55,000 has been spent on a new ward especially for young cancer sufferers.

Headteacher, Jo Venn, said that she was very proud of Eleanor, who not only raised the money for the Ross Tomlinson Memorial Fund, but also thought of others who would receive her hair.



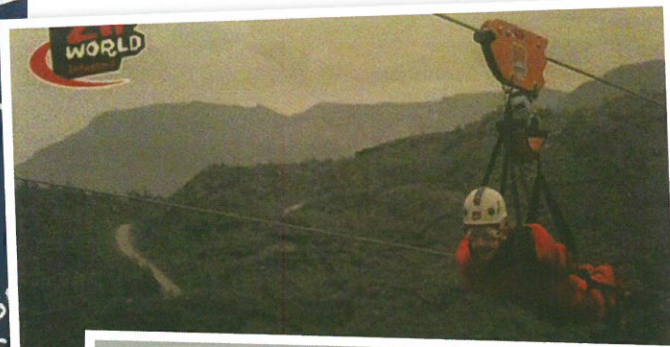
## BEN AND RYAN'S CHARITY ZIP WIRE

■ CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO OF OUR YEAR 7 PUPILS, BEN HOUSTON AND HIS FRIEND RYAN HARDIMAN, WHO DECIDED THAT

they wanted to raise money for two charities close to their hearts — Ben for Sue Ryder home as his grandma was cared for by the wonderful team at Sue Ryder for 15 years and Ryan for PSP which is a condition from which his grandma died. They have raised over £500 so far for their charities and money is still coming in.

They very bravely completed the longest zip wire in Europe (over 1 mile long) reaching speeds of up to 100mph, and travelling 500ft above the mountain lake. This is in North Wales over a valley. As you can see from the photos they were up to the challenge.

Well done.





# THE SOPHIE SCHOLL AWARD

■ **THIS IS THE PIECE OF WRITTEN WORK BY NATALIE GOADBY THAT WON A HIGHLY COMMENDED PRIZE IN THE SOPHIE SCHOLL AWARD AT RUNSHAW.**

The Sophie Scholl Award is a competition run by Runshaw College to commemorate the life of a young girl in Germany

during WW2 who stood up against Nazi tyranny. Sophie was a member of the "WHITE ROSE" movement. She was convicted and executed aged 21 in February 1943. Her independent mind and spirit were strong even when faced with the oppressive dictatorship under Hitler. Her story is a fine example of courage and opposition to repression and censorship.

## THE POWER OF 1

*I am a voice, a choice,  
A movement, a confidence,  
A way of thinking, a way of living,  
I am something new, showing what **one** can do.*

*I am a ghost, a minority against the most,  
Even though we'll never meet, together and united we will beat,  
The forces that seem so strong, even when the road is long,  
Giving up is not an option, stand up against the corruption,  
I am showing something new, showing what **one** can do.*

*I stood up against the Germans, and all of their unethical sermons,  
I stood out and paid the price, but it's better than sitting like cowardly mice,  
Even though I may die, doesn't mean we shouldn't try,  
I stood up against them then, one girl against many men.*

*I am Sophie Scholl, fed up of being a rag doll,  
I stood up, I spoke out,  
I stand up for what is right, may my message bring to light,  
The problem of power misused, for a person with opposing views  
Don't let my death be in vain, help those suffering and in pain.*

*Let the question still remain;  
What will **you** do to show what **one** can do?*

## YEAR 8 ROUNDERS TEAM

■ **A MASSIVE WELL DONE TO THE YEAR 8 ROUNDERS TEAM WHO, ON THE 19TH JUNE, WON THE SOUTH RIBBLE TOURNAMENT,** beating Brownedge St Mary's, Worden, Penwortham Girls and Priory. This is a huge achievement for the girls who have put in a lot of time and effort at training. Special mention to

Team Captain, Laura Flemming-Saunby who won 'Teacher's Player' and 'Players' Player' of the tournament. Well done, Girls — bring on next year!



D Gladki



# LIVING LEARNING THEATRE PRODUCTION

■ ON TUESDAY 1ST JULY, YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 PUPILS WERE THE AUDIENCE TO A

Mathematical Theatre Production by Living Learning. This was a love story that used maths and the help of the pupils to solve the problems encountered. Pupils had to answer problems to earn points for their characters on maths topics such as Ratio and Proportion, Area and Volume and Number. The actors involved truly entertained as they raced around the hall becoming different characters. Pupils were fully engaged and really enjoyed the show, laughter and excitement filled the hall. A very good environment to learn a lot of different maths in real life ways!

Miss McDade

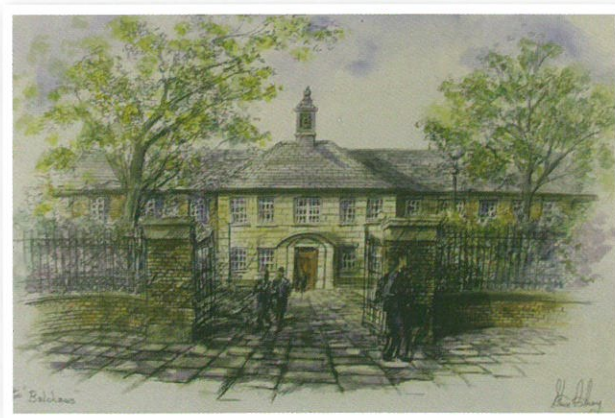


## HISTORY OF BALSHAW'S BOOK

■ YOU MAY HAVE READ IN THE LEYLAND GUARDIAN, THAT MR WOODCOCK WAS UPDATING THE HISTORY OF BALSHAW'S BOOK

written by local historian George Birtill and published in 1982. The book covered the school's history and traditions over the first 200 years.

The new book, which covers all aspects of the school from 1981 to 2014, is now in print and available from the school at £5.00 per copy. During the period covered by the book, the school has been very ably lead by two headteachers – Mr. Paul Ingram and Miss Jo Venn. Included in the book are memories and accounts from former pupils and staff such as Clarke Carlisle, football commentator, Phil Jones, Manchester United player and the playwright Tom Bidwell. Characters like Jean Abbott, who has patrolled the Church Road crossing for 36 years, and cleaners Pat Waterston, Pauline Eubank and Ruth Harrison, who together have served the



school for more than 100 years, are also included in the book.

Headteacher Jo Venn comments, "This is a magnificent book which really captures the spirit of Balshaw's over the past 30 years. All associated with Balshaw's will enjoy reading it."



# ROYAL MAUNDY SERVICE

## ■ ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL 2014, REV DAVID GIBB AND JO VENN WERE INVITED AS CANONS TO THE ROYAL MAUNDY SERVICE

at Blackburn Cathedral where the Queen was giving out Maundy Money. The Royal Maundy can be traced back in England at least to the 13th Century and there are records that date back to the first distribution by King John in 1210. The word Maundy comes from the Latin word 'mandatum' meaning commandment, as on that day Jesus said to his disciples that he gave them a "new commandment" — to love one another.

From the fifteenth century, the number of recipients has been related to the years of the Sovereign's life so 88 men and 88 women received 88 coins. They were given to pensioners who had given Christian service to the Community.

The recipients are given a red purse which has a nominal

allowance for clothing and provisions. It had a 1914 silver £5 coin and a 1914 new 50p piece. The white purse has 88 Maundy coins; 22 x 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p in silver. These are legal tender.

The Queen walked along each of the rows in the Cathedral so everyone had a good look at her (she is much smaller than you think). The Chapel Royal Choir sang together with the Blackburn Cathedral choirs. These have been in existence since at least the Battle of Agincourt. The Queen's Body Guard (the Yeomen of the Guard) created in 1485 by King Henry VII was also at the Service.

The Queen has visited most of the Cathedrals in England since her coronation in 1953. She gave the money out first at St. Paul's Cathedral.

It was a great service and one to remember.



## BALSHAW'S FORMER PUPIL PLAYS THE ROLE OF STEPH IN LONG-RUNNING SOAP 'CORONATION STREET'

### ■ TISHA MERRY (WHO LEFT BALSHAW'S IN 2009) RETURNED TO HER OLD SCHOOL RECENTLY TO SHARE HER STORIES OF LIFE AS

an actor on 'Coronation Street'.

Tisha studied Drama for five years at Balshaw's gaining a top grade at GCSE. She was signed by a local agent Melanie Ash of Mel@drama and gained a role in BBC Drama 'Brinkburn Street' at the age of 17. Her career has gone from strength to strength since then. Her old teachers

from Balshaw's, Mrs Boardman and Mrs Whittam, were so impressed that Tisha was still such a positive, grounded person. She explained the process of auditioning for roles and how she had learned not to see rejection as failure but how to learn from it. Balshaw's pupils enjoyed meeting her and it was very good of her to come back to her old school at a time when she has a very busy and demanding schedule of filming.

Mrs Whittam



BALSHAW'S ORIGINALLY HAD A SIXTH FORM BUT IN 1974 IT BECAME AN 11-16 SCHOOL AND THE SIXTH FORMERS TRANSFERRED TO RUNSHAW COLLEGE, WHO CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR.

# 40 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

## ■ RUNSHAW COLLEGE IS SET TO MARK 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE.

The college which is split over three sites in Leyland and Chorley, first opened back in 1974 — at the same time as South Ribble Borough Council was formed.

It has continued to go from strength to strength — earning itself a reputation as the best performing college in the country.

In fact, Ofsted, which inspects all educational facilities, has rated Runshaw as “outstanding” for 20 years.

The college, which has its main campus in Langdale Road, began life catering solely for school leavers from Balshaw's High School in Leyland, and Parklands High School in Chorley. In the early years Runshaw expanded at a gentle rate as it built a reputation for high quality education.

However, the 1990s saw the college grow rapidly as it undertook an extensive building programme to accommodate increasing student numbers under the leadership of Principal Bernard O'Connell, who was later knighted for his services to the college and education.

After the millennium the college secured Investors in People Awards, grade one inspections and superb links with the country's top universities, with more and more students securing places at Oxford and Cambridge.

Today, the college continues to build on the success of the last 40 years and is now regarded as the finest provider of further education in the sector, attracting students from across

the North West.

This has been boosted further by a glowing report from Ofsted, a record 19 students with offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge in 2014 and the fact that Runshaw once again topped the Government's league tables.

Principal Simon Partington said: “We are incredibly proud of the achievements, history and tradition of this college and we are looking forward to another 40 years of success.

“Meeting the needs of our students and providing them with an unrivalled education experience will always be our primary goal so we were delighted when Ofsted visited the college in November 2013 and said that support for students at the college was in a different league.”

Simon also described the college's plans for improving its facilities even further.

He added: “Last year we completed the refurbishment of our library and new students' study zones and we are now adding extra classroom and practical space to our Hawkshead sports hall.

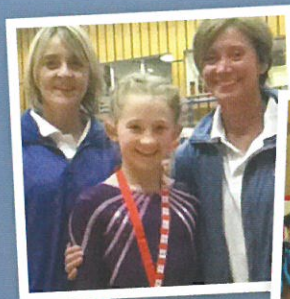
“The idea is quite simple really — we have outstanding students and they deserve to continue to have outstanding facilities for another 40 years!”

The college is now preparing to create a time capsule to mark their 40th anniversary and held a big birthday bash in September.

If you haven't contacted Runshaw and were part of the original group, please get in touch with them.

## NATIONAL GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

■ CONGRATULATIONS TO TERI WILLIAMS WHO REPRESENTED ENGLAND AT THE NATIONAL GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ROBIN PARK AT WIGAN AND WON A SILVER MEDAL.





# OPENING OF THE MUGA



## ■ ON TUESDAY 15TH JULY BALSHAW'S CE HIGH SCHOOL SAW THE OPENING OF ITS BRAND NEW MULTI-USE GAMES AREA. THIS

new facility is a 3G synthetic turf and will allow for multiple sports to be conducted even in poor weather conditions. This was officially opened by County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, who is a former governor and parent at the school.

There were a variety of guests including neighbours of the school, the Balshaw's Association who raised £35,000 towards this and members of the Planning Committee and former Balshavians.

Mark Davidson, Head of PE said that he was delighted with the new facilities and that the pupils would have a lot more opportunities open to them in terms of sport.

The MUGA cost over £350,000 and has been a goal since the drainage of the fields failed to improve them.

Jo Venn, Headteacher, commented that the Opening went really well and she was delighted that it was constructed and in use before she retired in the summer. We have worked with our neighbours and have assured them that it will be



for Balshaw's pupils and will not become a problem in the evenings. It will enable our pupils to go from strength to strength with their sporting prowess and ensure that sport continues to be the high priority that it has always been at Balshaw's.

## RUNSHAW COLLEGE AWARD

### ■ GEORGE DOBSON, A FORMER PUPIL, HAS BEEN AWARDED A RUNSHAW COLLEGE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORKPLACE — EMPLOYER AWARD

George has just successfully achieved his Business and Administration Level 4 Higher Level Apprenticeship which included achieving his HNC in Business Studies. The awards evening was held on Tuesday 17th June and George beat off competition from six others in his category to win the award

which was for his positive impact in the workplace supporting the success of the company he works for.



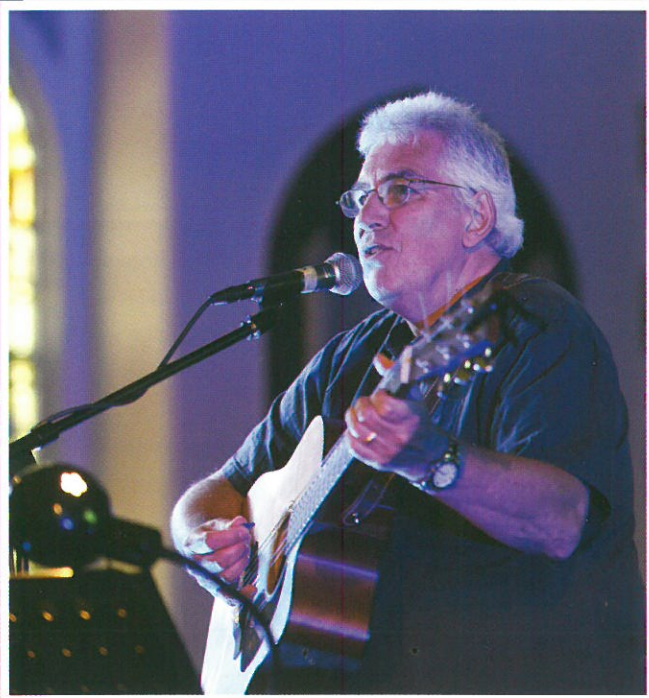


# SOUTH RIBBLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE GREAT WAR

■ ON FRIDAY 13TH JUNE, MR OTTER, MR BARRETT AND MISS VENN ATTENDED THE PREMIER OF OUR LIVES, WHICH IS A

commemorative musical documentary of South Ribble's involvement in the Great War. It was a magnificent occasion including a documentary containing specially written music and pictures which show stories of how local people from South Ribble were affected by the Great War 1914–18. It was opened by the Mayor of South Ribble and then we went to the South Ribble Museum for entertainment by the Leyland Morris Men and to view the museum displays. There were '1914' refreshments on offer including corned beef sandwiches, jam sandwiches and Marmite sandwiches, followed by an authentic recipe of Trench Cake sent to the soldiers in the trenches. This was all washed down with Dandelion and Burdock or Elderflower.

Amongst the original songs performed by individuals was this one:



Performer at the premier of *Our Lives*

## BACK BY CHRISTMAS DAY WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY BOB FRASER

*My Name is Private Ernest Todd, I come from Turpin Green  
I've worked at Leyland Motors since the age of just fifteen  
I've worked on every chassis for the Leyland trucks and trams  
The double decker omnibus and people's cars and vans*

*We got the call when war broke out, we joined the Lancashires  
We had to go to Preston to enlist as volunteers  
We marched back home in uniform to sounds of booted feet  
We crossed the River Ribble as the people lined the street  
We're away, we're away, to a victory at the Western Front they say  
We're away, we're away, but we'll be back by Christmas day  
In Penwortham and Lostock Hall the people gathered there  
Through Farrington they cheered us through to Leyland Market  
Square  
The union flags were waving and we felt like royalty  
We'd no idea what lay ahead and all that was to be  
We're away, we're away, to a victory at the Western Front they say  
We're away, we're away, but we'll be back by Christmas day*

*When we got to the Western Front the fields were thick with blood  
The Kaiser's bombs kept dropping with a constant mighty thud  
And everywhere reminders of the place I left behind  
Yes, Leyland armoured trucks were bringing the soldiers to the line  
Two hundred men or more we were in all from Leyland town  
We left these shores like heroes yes for glory we were bound  
But one by one the friends I knew lay fallen in the field  
The wounds of war an open sore that never would be healed*

*We're away, we're away, to a victory at the Western Front they say  
We're away, we're away, but we'll be back by Christmas day*



This is what we have found out about our old boys who were Killed in Action or Died of Wounds:

(KIA – Killed in Action, DOW – Died of Wounds)

- **BANNISTER, HARRY** Private 102317 67th Battalion Canadian Infantry KIA 11th October 1916 The Somme, France. *He left Leyland ten years ago when he lived at Broad Street and where his mother still lives (1916) at No. 5. Harry was 38 years old, and married with two children.*
- **BARNES, JIMMY** Private S/343199 Royal Army Service Corps. *Died age 21 at Fulwood Military Hospital Saturday 3rd May 1919 and was buried on Tuesday the 6th with full military honours at St. Andrew's cemetery. He was the younger son of Mr Robert Barnes of the Queen's Hotel, Leyland.*
- **BERRY, OSWALD WILLIAM** 2nd Lieutenant The King's Own Scottish Borderers Attached The Royal Flying Corps 48 Squadron KIA 8th April 1917 France. *The son of Elias Sumner Berry and Margaret Ann his wife. This is the family that owned the Mount Pleasant cotton mill at Seven Stars and lived at Lostock Grove.*
- **BREHERTON, JACK** 16851 Air Mechanic 1st Class Royal Flying Corps. *Died at Sea – Mediterranean. 'H(ired) T(ransport) Aragon' was torpedoed at entrance to Alexandria harbour. Age 21, Jack was the son of Thomas and Charlotte Bretherton of 37, Hastings Road, Leyland.*
- **HAMPSON, WILLIE** Lance/Corporal 53682 19th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry KIA 20th July 1917. *29 years old, the youngest son of Cecily and the late John Hampson. William Hampson's name is on the Wesleyan/Methodist 'Roll of Honour' which is in the South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre, Church Road, Leyland.*
- **IDDON, STANLEY** Flight Cadet with RAF. *Killed in training 6th September 1918. Aged 18. Youngest son of Thomas and Ellen. Buried at St Leonard's Higher Walton.*
- **JACKMAN, HAROLD** 2nd Lieutenant/Acting Captain 7th Battalion The King's Royal Rifle Corps KIA 21st March 1918. *27 years of age, he was the grandson of Mr Thomas Jackman of Chorley. In 1912 Harold went to Canada but joined up in the Canadian forces the day after war broke out coming to England with the Canadian Contingent. He won the Military Cross for acts of gallantry in January 1918. He was Killed in Action 21st March 1918, the first day of the German Spring Offensive — known as the Battle of St. Quentin.*
- **MARSDEN, WILLIE** 24659 Lance Corporal 9th Battalion The Loyal North Lancs Regiment KIA 10th August 1917. *Age 19, the son of William and Mary Marsden of Beatrice Terrace, Leyland (late of the Farington Corn Mill). On August the 10th the 9th Loyals was involved in the action which resulted in the capture of Windhoek Ridge — presumably this is where Willie Marsden was killed in action.*
- **MILL, SIDNEY** With 25th Battalion, Manchester Regiment, Lancashire. *Killed 23rd April 1917. Served in France and Flanders.*
- **PARKER, ARTHUR** 14811 Sergeant 12th Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment) KIA 1st May 1917. *Age 22, the son of William James and Emily Parker of Brook Cottage, Leyland Lane, Leyland. Although he had a battlefield grave, like many others, at the end of the war his grave could not be found: his name is now on the Thièpvall Memorial at Thièpvall village on the Somme. This commemorates the 72,085 men who fell on this battlefield and have no known grave.*
- **PIERCE, ERIC** 113457 Corporal Royal Engineers KIA 1st July 1916. *Age 21, the son of Captain William Pierce of Chapel House, Rivington, Bolton and the late M. H. Pierce.*
- **ROBINSON, EDGAR** Private with 16th Battalion, Manchester Regiment. *Killed in action 25th August 1918. Served at France and Flanders.*
- **ROSE, CHARLES** 185014 Private The Machine Gun Corps. *Died 2nd November 1918 of influenza at Rugeley Military Hospital, Staffordshire. Age 23, the son of James Baron and Agnes Rose. He was buried at St. Andrew's, Leyland, on November the 9th.*
- **SOUTHWORTH, HAROLD** 10650 Guardsman 1st Battalion The Scots Guards KIA 25th January 1915. *21 years of age, he was the son of Mr and Mrs Southworth of Clarence Street. Harold was killed in action along with two other Leyland men in what was known as the First Action of Givenchy: they were killed with many others by a German mine.*
- **WOOD, LESLIE** 2nd Lieutenant/Acting Captain 15th Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers KIA 7th May 1917. *Age 20, the youngest son of James and Minnie Elizabeth Wood. On leaving Balshaw's Leslie went to Manchester University where he joined the Officers Training Unit. His father James was headmaster of the St. Andrew's Schools and it was Leslie's ambition to follow his father in the profession — sadly it was not to be: he was killed by a sniper fighting in the Yprès salient and now lies in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery, Essex Farm. This is in the village of Boezinge which is 1.5km North of Ieper (Yprès) town centre.*

We are still looking for information on 8 of our old boys:

- Willie Rigby
- Frank Waring
- Howard Gleave
- Matthew Whittaker
- Percy Wignall
- Bert Cank
- Willie Southworth
- Albert Clayton

Jo Venn



# CLASS OF 1994 TWENTY YEAR SCHOOL REUNION

## ■ ON FRIDAY 13TH JUNE OVER TWENTY LEAVERS FROM 1994 HELD A REUNION IN SCHOOL. THEY WERE VERY PLEASED TO

meet some of their former teachers including Phil Banks, Martin Barrett, Sheila Hotham, Kath Lowe, Julie Nolan, Dave Robertson, Chris Snell and Keith Woodcock.

After drinks in the Dining Hall chatting with friends, the former pupils were taken on a guided tour of the school. Many were excited to see the 'new' mathematics, art and technology wing of the school together with the recently completed M.U.G.A.

The former Balshavians completed their evening with further reminiscences at the Eagle and Child on Church Road. Thanks should go to Michelle Loftus for arranging the reunion.

*From the left: Kirstie Hallerou, Becky Bisby, Michelle Loftus, Helen Johnson, Alison Hamer, Liz Cathey, Stewart Morris, Anne Woodcock, Nicola Valverde, David Edmondson, Graham Lowe, Mr. Woodcock, Russ Hitchen, Robert Wood.*

Keith Woodcock



## GARDENING TEAM

### ■ IN APRIL MEMBERS OF THE BALSHAW'S GARDENING TEAM AND THEIR LEADER MRS THORP, HAD A TRIP TO HOLDEN CLOUGH

Nursery to collect their prize for winning Lancashire Life School Garden of the Year, which they won in December 2013.

The group was given over £500 worth of trees and plants for the prize winning Memorial Garden and raised beds.

The group was treated to a tour of the centre, home-made refreshments in the café and a gift of a glass wellington boot to remember their trip. Their guide was John Foley, BBC Young Gardener of the Year. He also awarded the prize.

Headteacher Jo Venn said, "We all had a wonderful time and John was so generous and kind to our pupils. He has inspired many of them to want to become gardeners and

landscapers. If you want a lovely day out, Holden Clough in the Forest of Bowland, is beautiful and well worth a visit."





# RECOLLECTIONS OF GLADYS SUMNER

## ■ WE OFTEN GET SENT MEMORABILIA FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE AT BALSRAW'S SCHOOL WHEN IT WAS A GRAMMAR SCHOOL. WE

were recently given a blazer from a former pupil. The blazer dates back to 1937 and the owner had won their school colours.

Miss Venn was recently sent the recollections of Gladys Sumner (1899–1959) who was believed to be the sister of Leslie Sumner PhD and resident of Overdale, Chorley. This was given by Joan Dickinson from the Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society. She joined Balshaw's in 1906.

This is what she remembers:

Balshaw's School: I went in 1906, a few years after the new school was built on Golden Hill.

Teachers: Head Mr. F. Jackson, became M.A. on writing a thesis — Top Forms. Mrs. Jackson, Degree in Music. Miss Kay, both forms 1 & 2. Mr. Clements M.A. form 1V taught Maths. Mr. Stubbs B.Sc. Form 111 taught science. In 1907 Miss Dodd B.A. joined staff to teach French. I was in form 111 and then from 1V.

Co-educational: boys had not to speak to girls or they

received Order Marks and vice versa. No speaking in cloakrooms except in French. Gloves to be worn by girls before leaving school premises. Most pupils were fee paying.

Chemistry Laboratory and Cookery room, converted from old Grammar school. Only girls in forms 111 and 1V had cookery lessons. Mrs. Jackson took cookery classes, no domestic science teacher. Other girls had needlework. Drawing was of geometrical figures in groups viz. cube, cone, pyramid etc. No organised games in curriculum. Drill in the hall with Miss Kay. No P.E. teacher. Trapeze and rings, all girls together.

Miss Kay and Mr. Jackson taught French before Miss Dodd came. Scripture was examined by Diocesan Inspector. I won 2nd form prizes in 1907 and 1908.

Gladys went on to be a student teacher herself, then a teacher and she recalls how education has changed. Her memories relate to education in and around the Chorley area from 1899–1959.

Mr and Mrs Woodcock's book will help people remember. History of Balshaw's from 1981–2014. Copies on sale at school for £5.

## YEAR 10 ROUNDERS TEAM

### ■ A HUGE WELL DONE TO THE YEAR 10 ROUNDERS TEAM WHO ARE SOUTH RIBBLE CHAMPIONS FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING!

*Back (left to right) Faye Forshaw, Cait Woodrow-Smith, Emily Walmsley, Hollie Dalton, Molly Scanlon, Gabriella Corbridge, Rebecca Talbot*

*Front (left to right) Katie Mote (Captain), Lucy Bailey, Phoebe Wareing, Jade Eccleston, Charis Moon, Mary Barnsley*

The girls did superbly well to win the tournament - beating the following schools:

Brownedge St Mary's, Leyland St Mary's, Priory, Worden, Penwortham Girls High School and All Hallows.

A massive well done to all involved from the PE Department and all at Balshaws!

Miss Gladki





# TESSELATIONS

■ ON MONDAY 16TH JUNE I, ALONG WITH JEMMA GOUGH, MARCUS WALMSLEY AND OLIVIA FOSTER, WENT TO WHITTLE-LE-

Woods Primary School to teach the juniors about tessellations. We taught four different classes, but the lessons were the same — Mrs Bishop did a starter activity, explained what a tessellation was and then either me or the other pupils



would explain what we were doing.

There were some very imaginative tessellations — we had ghosts, cats, even some castles! In all of the classes, everyone we taught managed to make a good tessellation. It was fun not only for them but also for us; teaching instead of being taught was a nice change.

We had fun and we hope the pupils had fun, it was a great day out and we had a great time!

One of the schools we visited sent the following message to Mrs Bishop:

Thank you so much for visiting school today and bringing your 4 pupils as well. They were polite, enthusiastic and engaging. Please pass on my praises to Miss Venn. My children really enjoyed your tessellation activity and I've heard fantastic reports from the other KS2 classes. I hope we can work together in the future.

By Josh Seed

## FORMER PUPIL ALEX MORAN SHINES IN NATIONAL THEATRE PRODUCTION OF THE DECADE: 'WAR HORSE'

■ ON MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 2ND, A COACH LOAD OF PUPILS, STAFF, FAMILY, GOVERNORS AND FRIENDS SET OFF TO WATCH THE

widely-acclaimed play 'War Horse'. It was especially exciting as we got to meet up with a former Balshaw's pupil, Alex Moran, who plays David, before he went on stage. Mr Woodcock presented his former pupil with a copy of his book.

Alex took part in many productions when he was at Balshaw's and gained an A\* in his Drama GCSE. He went on to study Acting and gained a First Class Honours degree. He was recognised for his talent and gained the Manchester Evening News Award for the Best Newcomer. Those of us who taught him were especially thrilled when he told Mrs Whittam that he had landed a role in 'War Horse'. This is a play based on the popular story by Michael Morpurgo which the Sunday Times critics dubbed 'the play of the decade'. The use of huge, life-like puppet horses and the sheer quality



of the production and acting totally captured the audience's imagination. We were all very proud to see Alex's wonderful performance.

Mrs Whittam



# THE GREAT FAIRTRADE BAKEOFF

## IN ASSOCIATION WITH PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE FAIRTRADE GROUP

### ■ BALSHAW'S AGAIN TOOK PART IN THE FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT ACTIVITIES WITH PRESTON AND SOUTH RIBBLE FAIRTRADE

association. During their technology lessons pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 were given the following instructions to carry out at home:

- Bake a cup cake using at least 2 Fairtrade ingredients. These may include sugar, cocoa, coffee, bananas, tea, dried fruit etc.
- Decorate in some way to portray a Fairtrade message.
- Cakes may be presented on a small paper plate and should include a small card clearly marked with pupil's name, school Year group and list of Fairtrade ingredients. This should be suitable for display alongside the cake.

The cakes were judged in school on Thursday 27th February and collected by a representative of South Ribble Fairtrade group on Friday. They were then displayed at the St George's Centre in Preston on Saturday 1st March. Our winner for Year 7 was Becky Clough and the two winners for Year 8 were Heather Watson and Cara Gold. Heather and Becky along with David Shorrocks and Becky Elliott attended the judging on Saturday and Heather and Becky spoke to the Mayor of Preston. They will receive a prize in school for winning the school competition.

Thank you to everyone who took part in school and attended the judging on the Saturday.



## YEAR 10 FOOTBALL TEAM

### ■ "HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 10 FOOTBALL TEAM WHO HAVE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL SEASON. THEY HAVE WON

the South Ribble Schools cup beating All Hallows 3-1 in the final after a fantastic performance. They are also South Ribble League Champions. Well done to all the boys who have represented the school this year."

Mr Davidson





# STEM

## BALSHAW'S STEM WEEK

■ THERE WAS AN EXCITING LINE UP OF EVENTS TO INSPIRE IN THIS YEAR'S STEM WEEK AT BALSHAW'S.

Monday kicked it off with Dr John Vale, the 'snake catcher and creepy crawlies expert,' giving talks to year 7 to 9 pupils. Many students got to hold a number of creatures including snakes around necks, tarantulas in their hands and a range of insects on their heads! Dr Vale captured pupils' imaginations with passionate tales of his many adventures.

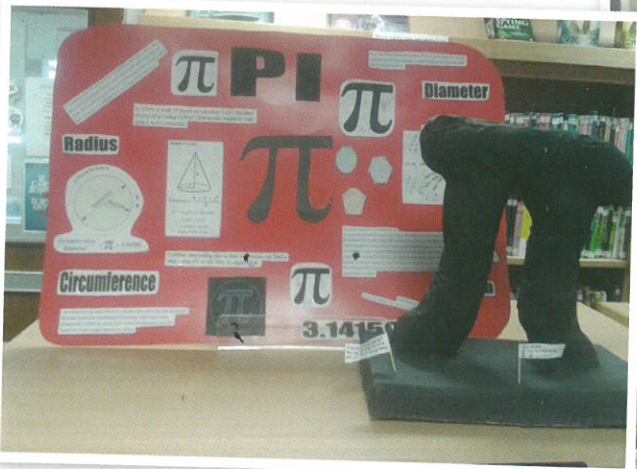
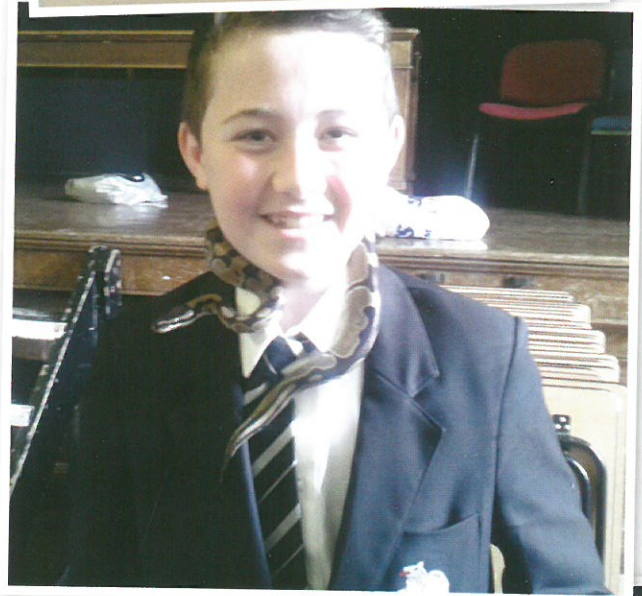
We also saw the start of Space activities in Maths, Science and Technology lessons.

Tuesday was the day of the interschool bridge building competition held by Balshaw's for Chorley and South Ribble Schools. There was a lot of fierce competition with Worden Academy being the overall winners.

On Wednesday a local engineer, Helen Heggie, came in to talk to us about her work as a tester for Ford. She hosted a range of practical activities with Year 8, all of which were very engaging.

On Thursday Miss Venn and the Governors judged the entries for the Mathematical and Scientific discoveries competition. The overall winner was Heather Watson in year 8, who received a £15 Argos voucher for her incredible project and model all about Pi.

A very busy but thoroughly enjoyable week! Thank you to everyone involved.





# INTERSCHOOL BRIDGE BUILDING

## ■ AS PART OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHS (STEM) WEEK FOR BALSHAW'S A NEW INTERSCHOOL BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION WAS ORGANISED.

All schools in South Ribble and Chorley were invited. The afternoon was filled with creativity and excitement as pupils had to design, make and work out accounts for a bridge build. The only materials to be used were newspaper and sticky tape. Their challenge was to design a bridge to

span one metre for a remote control car to cross. It had to be strong enough to hold as many books as possible.

There were some fantastic designs and the teams worked really hard together.

The winning team in this fierce battle was from Worden Academy. Their design showed a super build and they had budgeted well for all costs.

A fun time was had by all and we hope to make this an annual event!



# STEM GIRLS MAKE NATIONAL FINALISTS

## ■ YEAR 8 STEM CLUB GIRLS OLIVIA FOSTER, JEMMA GOUGH, MADISON BOLTON, HEATHER MULGREW, ELEANOR BIRD AND RUBY HILL

entered a national competition, run by Talent 2030, aimed at encouraging more girls into STEM subjects.

The brief was to investigate how engineers could help solve problems in the 21st century. The pupils came up with many different ideas ranging from cancer treatments and care to dealing with the effects of drought and flooding.

One group researched and designed a model which took water from a flooded area, through an underground storage unit where it was purified. The water was then transported to drought stricken areas. The project was included amongst the 15 teams to gain a place in the National Finals. The girls had to showcase their project at the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham. Their presentation received great feedback from the public. They were also inspired by the many stalls occupied by STEM businesses, getting really involved in activities such as making your own lip-gloss and trying to beat Usain Bolt's starting time.





# TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS VISIT

■ ON THE 23/03/14, YEAR 8 AND 9 PUPILS TOOK PART IN TWO LESSONS DELIVERED BY TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS.

David Lewis from the company, which is sponsored by BAE Systems, took pupils through a journey of engineering triumphs giving practical demonstrations that the pupils really enjoyed. As part of the show pupil's made electricity using copper coils, looked at advances in travel and witnessed explosions showing internal combustion that makes cars move and looked at how Carbon Fibre is made. They also learned about problems engineers faced

particularly about recycling and fossil fuels and how they could help in the solution by being future engineers. Pupils were truly inspired and a good time was had by all!

H McDade



# PERFECT ATHLETE STEM WEEK

■ ON JUNE 16TH, 15 YEAR 7 AND 8 PUPILS TOOK PART IN A WEEK OF AFTER SCHOOL STEM ACTIVITIES BASED ON ATHLETICS.

On Monday, pupils commenced the week in Science with Miss Preston. They looked at the effects of sports drinks on performance.

Tuesday saw the turn of Technology with Mr Wood, where pupils designed and made javelins out of newspapers and tested their performance to find the best design.

On Wednesday, pupils carried out athletics activities in PE with Mr Davidson and graphed their performances to show

any changes.

The week was finished off by a Mathematics session on the Thursday with Miss McDade, where pupils took part in sprints and shuttle runs and worked out their averages and range of times and decided who the Perfect Athlete was!

Pupils had lots of fun learning about STEM within sport and gave very positive feedback. Well done to everyone who was involved!

H McDade