

## Batley Grammar School

### Old Batelians' Association Newsletter

June 2007

It is unusual to start our newsletter with the obituary page, but this has been a very sad and distressing year for the school, particularly with the deaths this year of two serving teachers. Old Batelians may not have known Pauline Jeffrey, our year 4 teacher in Priestley House, who died suddenly during the February half term holiday, but most former pupils will be very familiar with Peter Wilby, who died at the age of 55, very unexpectedly, on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

We also lost during the Spring Bank holiday one of the great mainstays of the OBA Committee, John Wright, who was President of the OBA in 1994/5.

#### Peter Wilby (1951-2007, BGS 1974-2007)

Peter joined the school as a French Teacher in 1974, after brief spells at Bradford College, Huddersfield Technical College and Pontefract High School. The vast majority of his teaching career, almost 33 years, was at BGS. Peter became an officer in the RAF Section of the CCF in 1975, and ran the section until he took over from Colin Ryder as Commanding Officer of the contingent, a post he held for 30 years. Peter achieved the rank of Wing Commander, a rare achievement in school cadet forces. In 2001 Peter was appointed Head of Careers, and he expanded the work of the Careers Service in the school, to the great benefit of our pupils. Peter was also Common Room Chairman, Visits Co-ordinator, Examiner in French for the exam boards and organiser of many adventurous activities: camps, expeditions, ski trips, visits to France. When called upon, he was happy to teach English, Music and Religious Studies.

Peter was known in school for the rigorous efficiency of his administration, and for his drive and determination. His organisational skills were of the highest order. He took great pride in his work, especially the success of the CCF, and he took equal pride in the achievements of his pupils. Many serving officers in the Armed Forces owe the direction of their professional lives to Peter Wilby. At the 2007 CCF Annual Inspection, the Inspecting Officer gave a public commendation to the cadets on parade, commenting on the excellence of what he had seen- a fitting tribute to Peter's work.

Outside school Peter was a singing member of the Huddersfield Choral Society, and was Secretary of the Youth Choir. He loved music and was a thoughtful pianist himself. He loved travel, not only to France, but to many parts of the world. He had travelled to Canada with the cadets at Easter, and was planning a major expedition to Namibia in the summer. He will be greatly missed at BGS.

#### Dr. John R.Wright (1940-2007, BGS 1951-58)

At school, John not only excelled academically, but he was also a county athlete and a fine rugby player. After leaving school, he was at Leeds University Medical School from 1958 to 1964. Before settling into a GP practice in North Leeds, and later in Ossett, he spent some years as Medical Officer in the RAF, serving in Scotland, Malta and Sierra Leone. Later in life he obtained an MA from Leeds University in Health Service Management and went to Romania at the behest of the British Council to report on the medical provision in that country. He was President of Batley Round Table, on two

occasions President of the Rotary Club of Batley, and President of the OBA. John would not be disappointed to be remembered as a forthright and loud personality, the heckler at most OBA dinners, but he had a kind and personable side to his character, and he was extremely proud and privileged to have been a pupil at BGS.

#### Trayton WG (Tommy) Ashdown

Died in December 2006, aged 72. Trayton left BGS at the age of 16 to work as a laboratory technician at Leeds University. He then studied for a degree in textile technology. His MSc research won him the offer of a post with woollen spinners Todd and Kinross in Scotland. Later he became managing director and deputy chairman of the Leeds Group plc. He was associated with Bradford University for 34 years, and became Pro-Chancellor. He was a member of the University Council from 1977, and became its Chair on the retirement of Baroness Lockwood.

#### D.J.Bennett.

Died in 2006, aged 91, having lived in Leeds since his marriage in 1943.

#### Jeffrey W. Burrows

Died on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2007, aged 72. Jeffrey was the founder of the well-known bed manufacturer Jay-Be, and chair manufacturers Shackletons and HSL. He worked with the Samaritans in the 1970s, and served as chairman of Wakefield MS Society from 1985-87. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Dewsbury, and was President in 2002-3.

#### Richard Butler

Died on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007, aged 79

#### John Kenneth Gibson (BGS 1938-45)

Died on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2006. After three years in the Royal Navy, John was awarded a B.Eng at Leeds University. He worked in the heavy engineering division of General Electric in Rugby. A keen rugby player and supporter, and a church organiser in Rugby.

#### George D.T.Hemingway (BGS 1936-42)

Died on 16th April 2006 in Australia. David was in National Service in the Army from 1946 to 1948, and then studied at Leeds University 1948-51, where he met wife Wendy. Emigrated to Australia in 1965, where he was a lecturer at Deakin University Geelong. Retired in 1986.

#### David G. Humphreys

Died on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007

#### Harry Leach (BGS 1936-42)

School Vice-Captain in 1941/2. Had been Chairman of Viyella.

Alan Roy Needham (BGS 1941-47)

Passed away in Ottawa, Canada on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007, aged 76. Former Captain of the Batley Celtics Club. Married for 57 years to Rita.

Stephen J. Salter (BGS 1962-69)

Died 5 March 2005, aged 54. Stephen left BGS to study at Lincoln College, Oxford. He had been a lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University

Jonathan Smith (BGS 1981-88)

Died suddenly in January 2007, at home in Chapel Allerton.

Colin E Spedding (BGS 1940-48)

Died in August 2006, after a long battle with cancer. The United Reform Church Tettenhall Wood in the West Midlands was filled with family, members of the Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club, of the engineering world of GKN and of his local church.

Old Batelians' News

James Allinson (1990-07)

Graduated in 2000 from University of East Anglia with a BSc in Business Management. Applied for the RAF, but was judged too tall to proceed as a pilot, so pursued a career in commercial aviation. Trained in Oxford and the USA in 2003/4, and was appointed to his current flying post with bmibaby, flying Boeing 737s

Paul Baines (1984-91)

Currently Senior Lecturer in Marketing and Director, MSc in Marketing at Cranfield University

Sam Balderstone (1984-89)

Left BGS for Huddersfield New College, and subsequently studied Marketing at UMIST. Now Head of Music at Inspired Broadcast Networks, London.

Omer Bhatti (1996-2001)

Graduated in Economics from University of Lancashire, then took the role of headhunter and recruitment consultant at Leeds University 2004-5. Relocated to London and is now a trader for an FX and trading company. Has appeared on CNBC Europe for weekly market summaries and analysis.

Mark Bradley (1988-95)

After nine years of study at Cambridge, Mark was appointed in 2004 as Lecturer in Ancient History at Nottingham University. He is writing a book about ancient colour perception, and is starting a new project on concepts of pollution in the Roman world. He is currently living in Rome during his sabbatical year. Would be very glad to hear from old friends at [Mark.Bradley@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Mark.Bradley@nottingham.ac.uk)

Fred Butler (1958-63)

Retired from teaching in 1996. The proud author of the Shoddy Town Trilogy- humorous tales about living, growing up and working in the Heavy Woollen District. Gives amusing talks to local groups, and is raising funds for Kirkwood Hospice, Huddersfield.

Richard Caine (1995-2002)

Graduated from Leicester University in 2006 with an MGeol in Applied and Environmental Geology 2:1

Ian Chappell (1962-69)

Lives near Manchester and runs his own training consultancy business. He stood at the 2005 parliamentary election as a Lib Dem candidate.

Sean Conway (1991-96)

Has been shortlisted by Film 4 and Vertigo to make MySpace's first feature film. He will pitch a script idea to a panel of celebrity judges before the list is cut to the final three candidates. The winner will be announced on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Andrew Cordingley (1986-94)

Currently working for Swansea Council and the Welsh Assembly in Student Finance. Married to Eleni, and now has two children.

Mark Donoghue (1995-2002)

Graduated from Durham University in 2006 with an MENG Honours degree in Engineering, 2:1

John Etty (1937-43)

Went with wife Kath last November on a Rugby League Supporters' Tour of New Zealand and Australia in order to support the GB team in the Tri-Nations Tournament. One of his guides was Neil Fox, who played with John for Wakefield Trinity in the Challenge Cup Final of 1960.

Gareth Evans (1963-70)

Studied Agriculture at Oxford, and did a PhD in Reproductive Physiology in Sydney, Australia. Is Professor of Animal Reproduction at the University of Sydney, and has been Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Veterinary Science for four years. Also Secretary of the International Congress on Animal Reproduction. Has two young sons developing their sporting talents! Visited the school in the summer of 2006

Aaron Frazer (1990-95)

Currently a Special Investigator for RBS Insurance, involved in the investigation of staff fraud and criminal activity. Working towards a degree in counter-fraud studies. Married Francesca in Las Vegas in 2004.

Paul Green (1962-69)

Has a landscape artist practice in York, and is a Senior Lecturer at Askham Bryan College

Philip Greening-Jackson (1967-71)

Left Kuwait three years ago, and is now teaching the International Baccalaureate in a private school near Chengdu, in the foothills of the Himalayas

Richard Hatt (1962-69)

Works part-time with Lloyds TSB Private Banking, and also manages his own health store business with partner Gilly in Gosport, Hampshire. See [www.solhealth.co.uk](http://www.solhealth.co.uk) for details

Sally Herbert (1996-2003)

Graduated from Newcastle University in 2006 with BA Hons in Sociology and Social Policy.

Michael Howarth (1992-99)

Still working as a radio presenter for the Forces' Station BFBS Radio 1. Currently based in Cyprus, but has worked in Gibraltar, Bosnia and the Falkland Islands.

Robert Jackson (1993-2000)

Has been granted a Short Service Commission with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

David Kitchen (1957-64)

Has been working on earthquake resistant buildings in Kashmir, where he visited three times in 2006. His work was mentioned in Prime Minister's Questions in Parliament on 25 October 2006.

Dr. Bernard Knowles MBE (Staff 1969-1996)

Bernard has received two prestigious awards this year. He was awarded the Cross of St Augustine by the Archbishop of Canterbury for his work at St Mary's Church, South Elmsall, where he has been organist for 50 years. The Archbishop said of Bernard, 'He has contributed towards raising the spirits of South Elmsall in a way that has helped to transcend some of the post-industrial trauma of the town.' There are only 180 holders of the Cross of St Augustine.

Shortly afterwards Bernard received the MBE for his service to the community.

Bernard is also a Governor of the school.

Ian Marlow (1976-84)

Living and working in Nottingham for Boots, leading the testing of all Boots products in clinical studies. Still a keen hill-walker and camper (started in his DofE days at School!)

Neil Marsden (1962-69)

Works in the Environment Health Services division of Leeds City Council., and lives in Otley.

Dr. John W. Marshall CBE (1942-49)

Retired in 2006 as Chairman of Governors of Durham School

Daniel Martin (1987-95)

After leaving university, Daniel started his journalist career at the Dewsbury Reporter, followed by a stint at the Barnet Press in London, where he rose to the position of news editor. Since then he has worked on a succession of titles about social policy, including 'Inside Housing' and 'Health Service Journal'. In 2005 he won the award for best news story at the Medical Journalism Awards, which led to him being appointed as the current Health Correspondent of the Daily Mail.

Ben Mason (1986-93)

After BGS, took a Modern Apprenticeship in IT with ICL Computers, who took him on as a developer. Eventually returned North, and took a web developer job with a small IT company in Leeds, where he rose to the post of project manager. Currently working for Rolls Royce as a freelance developer, and has also founded his own company AdventureX, which organises adventurous holidays.

Andrew Mountain (1980-87)

Runs a newly-formed company, Enviroform, developing a new range of environmentally friendly construction products, which are used to protect river banks, river beds and offshore installations from the effects of scour.

Christopher Myers (1970-76)

Has moved to Northampton, where he is Group Survey Manager for Waste Recycling Group

Colonel Stephen Padgett OBE (1972-79)

Returned from his appointment as Commander British Forces Afghanistan in March 2006 to resume his post at the Joint Headquarters in Rheindahlen, Germany. Now promoted to full Colonel, and has moved to the US Strategic Command Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. Works within the American chain of command running a branch responsible to Strategic Communications.

Amy Sanderson(1996-2003)

Graduated from Newcastle University in 2006 with BA Hons in English Language and Literature. After completing her PGCE, will teach English in a school in Durham, from September 2007.

Andrew Sheldon (1967-74)

Left BGS in 1974, and studied Biology at the University of East Anglia. Completed a second degree in Canada at Laval University in 1982. Having worked for some of the larger pharmaceutical companies, now manages a biotech company in Quebec City.

Christopher Storrs (1986-93)

After leaving BGS, studied at Loughborough University, including a year out working for Bosch in Germany. After graduating, joined Ford Motor Company, where he still works. Is now Material Planning and Logistics Manager, planning engine production for the European plants. Travels regularly to France and Germany. Married in 2004 and moved from South Wales to Essex

Keith Swailes (1966-73)

Now lives in Perth, Western Australia, where he emigrated in 2000. Left England in 1982 after studying Maths at Exeter University and after living in Tunbridge Wells for six years. Whilst living in Hong Kong, New York, Indonesia and Singapore, he worked as an actuary with William Mercer and Watson Wyatt, and other life insurers. Now has a second career as a lecturer in finance at Edith Cowan University.

Visited Batley in 2006, and caught up with old friend David Ramsbottom. Would welcome news of others at [kswailes@bigpond.com](mailto:kswailes@bigpond.com)

Stanley Tolson (1939-47)

Has heard from Billy Bragg, but would like to hear from others who appeared in the 1947 TV programme 'Grammar School Boy'. Can be contacted on 01722 325557.

Lawrence Tomlinson (1975-80)

Chairman of the LNT Group, which, apart from being a leading building firm locally, are also owners of the Ginetta racing car marque. Accounts of Lawrence's driving exploits for Team LNT can be viewed on [www.teamlnt.com](http://www.teamlnt.com)

David Wainwright (1955-60)

Was a fingerprint expert with the Metropolitan Police before his retirement to North Wales

Brian Wallis (1950-57)

Is seeking contact with others of his era. Can be contacted at [brian\\_wallis@hotmail.com](mailto:brian_wallis@hotmail.com)

Louis Wilde (staff 1958-67)

Louis taught Art at BGS, before becoming Principal of Halifax College of Art, where he stayed until retirement in 1986. At the age of 86, and after seven years of study, he has just completed a PhD at Leeds Metropolitan University in 'An Investigation into Mathematical Orders in Painting, Leading to the Production of Paintings Suggesting Contemplative Serenity'.