

# OLD BEXLEIANS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER  
26  
SUMMER 2010

## EDITORIAL

.....the end of one chapter in OBA history.....and on into the next.....

This is to be the **final newsletter** of the current series, begun in January 1999. Editing and producing each issue has been an interesting and rewarding exercise and I remain most grateful to all those OBs, pupils and staff, who have contributed in so many ways; without this co-operation, nothing would have been possible. I hope that readers will have found and enjoyed something of interest and feel that this has proved one way of maintaining contact with BGS past and present.

All editors must ride off into the sunset sooner or later and the new-style OBA website will enable this contact with former colleagues and with the School to be maintained; news of former pupils and staff, together with the type of articles which have appeared in past editions will now be posted directly onto the website. [And I have still to conclude and add some features such as the final part of the history of the Old Bexleians' Football Club.]

Eventually, it is proposed to add all previous issues to the website. And, there were earlier OBA newsletters which, if they can be traced, could also be added. I have a few of these, but an incomplete set, dating from 1979 to 1991 : is anyone able to provide more information about this earlier series?

And so, please...

- keep an eye on the OBA website
- advise the Secretary of changes to e-mail addresses as, from time to time, the OBA will wish to contact everyone on its e-mail list
- send in news about yourself and encourage other OBs to do the same - including up-dates
- produce articles which may interest other readers e.g. as Terry Cook will continue to do so about the OB Golf Society competitions
- note that requests to make contact with past colleagues can be entertained provided they can be scanned, let's start a photo gallery of past pupils and events - with the necessary who, when, where details
- submit anecdotes for the 'Alternative History' of BGS i.e. items which didn't make it into Robin Ackerley's superb book
- consider supporting the '100 Club' - now, the OBA's only source of income

Finally, as these newsletters are now to end, it will no longer be possible to produce paper copies for those without computer facilities : I trust such recipients will understand - but my apologies if this breaks their connection with BGS.

Au revoir.....David Jones

## Else-Lore Whaley



**Else-Lore Whaley**

14th October 1923 - 3rd December 2009

Else-Lore, better known to most as Ello, – was born in Buer in southern Westphalia, Germany, on 14 October 1923. Her life was complex and it was marked in numerous ways by the great upheavals that convulsed Germany during the first half of the twentieth century. Those events accompanied Ello's upbringing and education and she remained preoccupied by them for the rest of her life.

Buer was not one of the most romantic places in Germany.

Since the 1850s it had developed as a coal mining centre. Our mother's family who were small shopkeepers and craftsmen had prospered there and in neighbouring towns such as Essen. Yet many of them would have suffered greatly from the economic turbulence that followed the First World War. This came to a head in the year of Ello's birth when French troops moved in to Buer and the surrounding areas to force the Germans to hand over the region's entire coal production as reparations for damage inflicted on France during the war. The resulting general strike prompted the government to print money to pay the miners' wages, and the consequent inflationary spiral in the autumn and winter of 1923 ruined both the miners and the shopkeepers and craftsmen who depended on their custom.

Ello's immediate family was also destabilised. The small café on which her parents had pinned their hopes for the future failed ...but, remarkably, Ello seems not to have been held back by this. When she spoke of her childhood, she spoke of a network of mutually supportive families and friends, of happy times spent with this or that aunt or uncle, or among innumerable cousins and acquaintances. Above all she thrived at school and when the family moved to Düsseldorf in 1938 she easily secured a place at the prestigious Luisenschule, the leading girls' senior school. All education in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, especially in the humanities, was suffused with the ideological currents of National Socialism. Ello's family background was solidly Catholic but divided politically between opponents and supporters of the regime. Ello herself was fully caught up in the moral ambiguities of the times. Like many bright young people, she was enthused by the idea of a new Germany. Under the influence of her teachers, however, she both remained loyal to her faith and decided to go to university with the aim of eventually becoming a teacher. In 1942 she began to study History, German literature and English at Cologne. The following year allied bombing forced the closure of the University of Cologne and Ello transferred to Tübingen, where she also studied Philosophy. There her progress was interrupted again from the summer of 1944 until the winter of 1946. She resumed as soon as the university was reopened and finally graduated in 1949, having submitted a final dissertation on Tom Paine and late eighteenth-century English radicalism. After two years of teaching practice, at Düsseldorf and at the County Grammar School for Girls in Folkestone, she became fully qualified as a teacher.

Through all of this, two other experiences were fundamental. Firstly, through the war years and immediately after, Ello remained absolutely committed to her studies. A few years ago, when I was sorting through the books that our parents had amassed, I was struck by how many originated with Ello rather than with John. As a student she collected large numbers of books on literature, from medieval to modern, in German, French and English, as well as on history, philosophy, theology, philology and art. The range of her interests was quite incredible

That brings us to the second outcome of the war for Ello's life. It was in Tübingen in the spring of 1947 that she first encountered John who had just begun a period of study there after completing his degree in German at University College London in 1946. From the outset they shared a common interest in ideas, in particular a passion for literature and music. Their relationship flourished while John did military service and Ello completed her training as a teacher. They were married in September 1951.

Ello's wealth of experience and intellectual range were to be seen in the way she lived her life in England. This had four major strands: her family, her teaching, her extensive and continually growing network of friends, and her spirituality.

Her family consumed most of her time initially and remained her focus throughout her life. .

2 By 1956 Ello had four young children to whom she was utterly devoted. She took great pride

and joy in everything that they achieved. Later, the same love and pride was extended to her grandchildren in Dartford, in New York and in California. Nothing was ever too much trouble. Whether it was hosting grandchildren for a holiday in Welling or flying to New York or Berkeley to babysit for a week, she was always enthusiastic and willing, always eager to make every family event a success.

Ello's young family distracted her from her professional vocation for many years and this was often a source of deep frustration. In 1963, however, she took a short-term post at Blackheath High School and enjoyed this so much that she leapt at the opportunity to apply for a post at Bexley Grammar School, where she remained until she retired in 1987. She was by all accounts a gifted teacher. Her letter of reference from Blackheath echoed the sentiments expressed by those who observed her earlier as a trainee teacher. It noted that 'her wide and deep knowledge, her scholarship and her insistence on high academic standards have been greatly appreciated'. She excelled with the Sixth Form but with the lower age-groups too she showed 'great interest in individuals and their difficulties'. These qualities were very much in evidence during her two decades at Bexley. She was passionate about her subject and passionate about her pupils. She was fiercely proud of being a member of a highly professional and successful community of teachers. She would have been thrilled to learn that in 2002 the school was designated a specialist language college.

The third strand in Ello's life was friendship. She had an extraordinary number of friends - the relatives among she had grown up, from her own school and university days, and post-war Germany...as did Margaret Mabbs, whom Ello met in at a school in Bromley where she was briefly a language assistant shortly after she married and settled in England. And so it went on. Every new stage of Ello's life, each new experience brought new friends, with whom ideas were exchanged and fun was experienced, whether on short coffee visits or shared outings, preferably an exhausting day-long hike. Her appetite for friendship, a concentrated form of her intellectual curiosity and zest for life generally, did not diminish with age. Whenever she came back from New York or California [after visiting daughters Ruth and Birgit and their families, for example, she invariably had tales of people that she had met on planes, in museums or just walking out and about - people whose company she had enjoyed and from whom she had gained this or that new perspective on a landscape, on a book that she was reading, on an art form, or just on life. Ello's friendships always seemed to endure and, as far as she was able, she kept them in good repair.

Ello became increasingly preoccupied with her life, with her origins in Germany and her translation to England, and she reflected intensely on the choices that she had made. As a consequence, in her fifties, she developed a new spiritual focus. She grew close to the Opus Dei movement and attended Mass daily. She immersed herself in the writings of Edith Stein and of those whom Stein herself studied: St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila; Edith Stein was to die in the gas chambers at Auschwitz in August 1942 but her life and spiritual example fascinated Ello and accompanied her on her own spiritual journey.

The final decade was marked by a slow but steady decline as Alzheimers corroded Ello's mind and ultimately much of the personality that had formerly been so powerful. Not everything was obliterated. To the last, she retained her strength of will and a quiet dignity that was apparent to all who visited her.

[I am grateful to Ello's son, Dr Joachim Whaley, for permission to quote extensively from the address he gave at her funeral in December 2009. Twin daughters Ruth and Birgit were pupils at BGS from 1970-74.]

## **An appreciation from the Rev. Margaret Mabbs, Deputy Head at BGS from 1964-81**

Mrs Whaley's pupils will remember her with warm respect and gratitude. she was a capable, enthusiastic and devoted teacher who loved her work and inspired her pupils. She patiently encouraged those who found language study difficult and stretched and challenged the more able students. her wide reading and thorough knowledge of the literary texts gave depth and scholarship to her teaching. she was hard working, careful in marking homework and always concerned for her pupils' progress. She valued parents' meetings and the chance to understand the young people more deeply. She was always delighted when those she had taught kept in touch and was pleased to hear of their continuing language studies.

Mrs Whaley enjoyed our common room and the friendship of her colleagues. She took an active part in school activities, notably the old people's party, and supported all the social occasions with staff members, joining in country walks. She was truly satisfied at home in Bexley and made many friends on the staff. Always hospitable, she loved cooking, offering splendid meals to her visitors.

She was a loyal friend, keeping in touch with many folk, among them a former teacher from her German school who sometimes joined family holidays. her family was important and central for her. She took care of her mother when she grew old, but mainly she was kept busy caring for her four children - at one stage all of them were under four years old with twins as her youngest. They had a happy life, swimming, walking, and visiting museums. They all enjoyed her cooking. The splendid Christmas biscuits were favourites amongst us all - various flavours and shapes were baked and were offered as lovely presents.

Her wide interests outside her work contributed to her teaching. She loved music and she also visited art galleries and museums. Her understanding of much cultural and literary work made her a good companion when we visited exhibitions or national Trust houses.

Holidays in Suffolk saw her walking strongly on long hikes and swimming in the North Sea. There were foreign holidays, too, in France, Germany and California. She always showed a lively interest in new places and new people.

[Elselore Whaley, continued]

Underpinning her whole life, especially with the family, was her devout Roman Catholic faith. She treasured the sacrament and found joy as a Eucharistic minister giving the chalice to communicants in St. Stephens. Her courage and patience in her illness were strengthened by her faith and trust in God and we give thanks for this. Sadly, in the past ten years she suffered from a form of Alzheimer's disease and gradually lost contact with people. She was well cared for in two different homes. She was a dignified and grateful patient able to smile her thanks.

Fortunately, friends from her church and the clergy saw her faithfully and her eldest daughter Elizabeth was a devoted and regular visitor and friend on whom she greatly depended.

We send our sympathy to all who mourn her death.

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## Mrs Audrey Phillips

In Robin Ackerley's superb book detailing the history of BGS, there is a photograph showing the original staff of the school when it opened in 1955.

An (almost) youthful Edward Le Feuvre, the instantly recognisable John Collins, the lofty John Barrett and the cheery Margaret Johnson are all in evidence, and so too is Mrs. Audrey Phillips, who at that stage, held the position known as Clerical Assistant. This was shortly amended to that of School Secretary, but in either role, she was still my aunt!

A few years older than my father, she was actually known as Betty in the family. I could never quite understand this as a youngster. Apparently my grandmother wanted to call her Audrey, but my grandfather wanted to call her Elizabeth. In a sense, both got their own way, because she was baptised as Audrey, but was known as Elizabeth (in abbreviated form!) all her family life.

Born and educated in Eltham, Audrey chose to qualify in "matters secretarial" whilst a pupil at Eltham Central School, and acquired the skills of typing and shorthand which would serve her well in the years ahead.

I recall her telling me how, having obtained her first secretarial post in the City, she and a friend made a trial train journey the day before she started, and stood all the way, just to be certain they could do so!

Promotion followed in the years immediately before the Second World War, and Audrey moved down to South Wales, working there for a relatively short time, before joining the ATS, as Robin Ackerley has described in his book. During her training at Sandhurst, she became acquainted with the then well-known Sergeant Major Britton, who was said to possess the loudest voice in the British Army!

Whilst attached to Lord Mountbatten's staff, she also spent some time in Singapore, where completely "out of the blue", she and her younger brother (my father!) who was in the Royal Navy, met in the street!

After the War, Audrey was employed by the United Nations in Geneva for a while, and then on her return to England and marriage to William Phillips, by the London School of Economics, before joining BGS in 1955.

In the early '70s, Audrey's hEven before I joined the school in 1959, it was fairly obvious that she was a member of the Edward le Feuvre Fan Club, and in the ensuing years, it was apparent that, in her opinion, "The Head" could do no wrong! Looking back, I suppose that this would have been because of their mutual efficiency in matters administrative! As a pupil, having an aunt in such a position was certainly not an advantage, as it seemed that every little spot of bother involving me (and there were plenty!) was noted and often reported home!

In the mid '60s, Audrey decided to retire and spend time looking after my grandmother, but after only a couple of years, "The Head" persuaded her to return. Just a few years later, she began driving lessons and bought a rather tatty Austin A.40. When home from college, I would often "sit in" with her while she practised her driving, and also carried out some repairs to the car. After a couple of unsuccessful attempts, she passed her test and bought a much newer Morris 1100 – and I bought the old A.40 from her. This tatty but reliable old car served me very well during my teacher training in Yorkshire; although based in York, because I was mobile, I was sent to Middlesbrough and Scarborough for my teaching practices.

Husband Will. died following an operation. Left with an aging mother to care for, she continued to serve at BGS until the end of the Autumn term in 1982, some time after "EF le F" had retired and David Jones assumed leadership. For several years, she continued living next door to her elder sister, but, it seems, gradually lost contact with her friends and colleagues. She gave up driving and scarcely ever went further than the little corner shop, despite my father's efforts to take her shopping and to visit any of her friends. (He did take her to visit "The Head" at Horsham on one occasion, and was himself made very welcome). Her attitude to life, once so precise and efficient, became one of "can't be bothered".

Audrey had always been a great patron of the tobacco industry, and despite medical advice, refused to give up smoking. Sadly, complications thus exacerbated, finally led to her passing in 1994.

Alec Hithersay, BGS 59-66



at Buckingham Palace in 1997 when Derek Burman received the MBE for his work with the Ministry of Defence  
John Burman 84-91, Sarah Burman, Derek Burman, Claire Burman 85-92

## **An appreciation of Sarah Burman, School Secretary 1988 - 2002**

I first met Sarah when I was being interviewed for the Headship at Bexley; I particularly remember a conversation, in what was then the careers room (now the visitors room), when she explained that having been at the school for a number of years, her children having finished their education and also her being so fond of working with David Jones, she didn't really feel that she wanted to take on the challenge of 'training up' a new head, so she would not be staying on. Sarah instantly struck me as somebody who knew so much, had such a wealth of experience and wisdom and as a compassionate, sympathetic professional; so I was clear from the outset that the school would be the poorer and my time as head would be diminished without her support. Very fortunately for me and for the school, Sarah decided that she could work a few more years and that she would take on the 'training up' of the Headmaster.

What a delight Sarah was to work with, always cheerful and positive, someone's whose judgement we all could depend on and a thoroughly reliable colleague. Mind you, there was that time when the applications for a Maths post went missing.....then again, Sarah and I had similar thoughts about what really happened there I feel. A story for another day, but as usual when working with Sarah, an opportunity for some humour.

I and so many staff, parents and children at Bexley Grammar found Sarah to be a good confidant, a great friend and a tremendous colleague. Sarah managed to do so many things at once; she seemed to know everybody and could find things out about anybody. She knew when to interrupt the flow of events, to suggest that perhaps people should think again and as a Head, I was constantly indebted to her gentle but prescient prompts as to what I should be doing and how I should be seeing things.

There is much that goes into making a school a caring and effective community for all, the key is of course, the relationships. The way in which people are dealt with and the care taken for the individual is central to a great school; Sarah personified that care and was a role model for us all. She was also great fun to be with, one of her favourite party tricks was touch typing at speed and talking at the same time about a totally different topic. Once or twice I would test her by reading what she was typing; of course it was always word perfect! She loved giving pleasure to other people and caring for others both students and staff.

Sarah helped the school in so many ways, she was vital and a lively member of the parents association for so many years, she was an excellent school secretary and Headmaster's PA, she was a tremendous colleague and I am sure those who were around at the time will remember with mixed emotions her retirement. She was so looking forward to being able to spend more time with her grandchildren and family; at school we were conscious that we were to lose a vital daily contact in our lives and a very special member of our school community. Fortunately, upon her retirement Sarah maintained her links with us. She continued her work on the Governing body and was a consistent friend to all at the school.

Sarah Burman was a very significant figure in the history of Bexley Grammar School, doing so much behind the scenes (and occasionally publicly) to make the school the very special, caring and impressive community that it is. Individuals in the school and the community as a whole owe Sarah a great debt of appreciation. I am sure that everybody feels this and pleasingly, I think Sarah was aware of the love and admiration that she inspired. As Head of the School, Sarah was my PA for six years, I am personally very much aware of the difference she made to the quality of my life and my ability to function as a Head. We are all going to miss Sarah hugely; she was a vibrant, lively and loving person and also someone with outstanding professional talents who made a vivid difference to the quality of life all who

came to know her.

Rod MacKinnon, Headmaster BGS 1996-2008



## BGS PREFECTS' 2009-10

L to R

Olufunmilayo Adekojo

Alexandra D'Sa [kneeling]

Matthew Cullum [at back]

Samantha Johnson

Rebecca McCormick [Head Prefect]

Sian Gardiner

Sean Austin [at back]

Kieran Conroy-Mckeown

"a delightful group...I'm extremely proud of them"  
John Welsh, Headmaster

### **Rebecca (Becky) McCormick, Head Prefect**

I am 18 years old and live, and have lived nearly all my life, in Bexleyheath. I have a twin sister called Alex, who also happens to be my best friend and attends Bexley Grammar too. I went to Danson Primary School, so I literally crossed a road to come to BGS! Crossing that road was honestly the best step for me as a person, and I am thankful to BGS for everything that it has done for me, and all the students academically, socially and emotionally. A key feature of my personality, I feel, is my enthusiasm for everything and anything that I do...nothing by halves! I would also like to think that I am a caring, considerate person and feel that I am the mother of the prefect team!

Subjects at school: I am studying 4 A-levels: English Literature, Theatre Studies, History and Spanish, and a Curriculum Enrichment course called the 'Foreign Language Leader Award.' This qualified me to teach Spanish to Primary School students, and recently gave me the privilege of teaching for several months at Upton Primary School which was not only very fun, but a highly rewarding experience.

Interests / Hobbies: I have played the violin since a very young age and am currently working towards my Grade 5 examination - I especially love to duet with my sister on the flute... how our parents have put up with our noise over the years I do not know! I also love to dance, and attend the Liz Burville Performing Arts Centre, where I take classes in Ballet, Modern Dance and Pointwork. I also devour books and love going to the theatre, particularly in London!

Best memory at BGS: There are simply too many to choose from! However, my favourite memories have not necessarily been on home soil. For example, trips to France and Spain throughout the years were really exciting, and oh the sun! Also, the school's productions every year are wonderful experiences and I especially enjoyed this year's show 'Crazy For You,' in which I played Tess. I made lots of new friends, and I am proud to say that we won 3 awards for all our hard work! As Head Prefect, suddenly seeing my name appear in gold gilded writing on the board in the hall comes very close to my most memorable moment too. I know that I will greatly miss BGS when I leave, and treasure the memories that I have made here forever.

### **Samantha Johnson, Deputy Head Prefect**

Having just turned 18, it's an exciting time for me! I've been at Bexley Grammar since Year 7, and went to Sherwood Park Primary School in Bexley but I actually live out in Hextable, Kent, with my dad (who coincidentally teaches History at BGS), mum and younger brother, and my older brother is in his 3rd year at Oxford University.

Subjects at school: I am taking A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, English Literature and Maths and GCSE Italian as my enrichment course. I'm an English Prefect, and so I work as a reading mentor to Year 7 pupils, and a Science Prefect, which entails helping in experiments in local Primary Schools and leading revision sessions.

Interests / Hobbies: I enjoy playing netball for a local club, and spend a lot of my spare time reading. I have also spent the past year volunteering at Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup, which was a lot of fun, and I have a part time job at John Lewis - although I don't know where I find the time!

Best memory at BGS: A favourite memory has to be the language trips I went on to France and Russia as they were great experiences. Staying with a French family was exiting, and visiting Russia was simply a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! But now being a House Captain, competitions like House Drama are even more fun, even if we get a little competitive, and it's great to work with all the year groups!

Future ambitions: I have just sent my application to study Pharmacology at Cambridge, Bath, Bristol, UCL and Nottingham Universities and have a few interviews coming up. I can't believe it's my last year at Bexley Grammar and I intend to make the most of it, before I (fingers crossed!) start my university education!

### **Olufunmilayo (Funmi) Adekojo, Deputy Head Prefect**

I am constantly smiling and have a very crazy laugh to accompany it! I'm 17 years old and treasuring each and every moment before I finally step into the big wide world of adulthood! I always put others first and try to bring out the best in everyone I meet!

Subjects at school: I study the IB - Higher Level: Chemistry, Biology and Geography. Standard Level: English, French and Maths.

Interests/Hobbies: Zumba dance and fitness (which is a combination of various Latin American dance styles) and is so much fun to do!

[Olufunmilayo - cont'd]

Best Memory at BGS: Work Experience in Brittany 2009 was the best week of my life! I truly experienced a part of the amazing French culture and learnt so much about myself as a person! (My most embarrassing moment- falling over in front of the entire school during the 300m race in Year 10 at Sports Day! Unforgettable!)

Future Ambitions: One day, very soon, you'll hopefully be calling me Dr. Funmi Adekojo as I am on course for studying medicine at university! I would also love to go back to the Atlas Mountains in Morocco – they are absolutely breathtaking!

**Sean Austin, Deputy Head Prefect**

I am 18 years old, live in Welling and went to St Stephens Primary School. I think I'm an outgoing person who takes part in just about anything!

Subjects at school: I am currently studying Economics, German, Geography and Business Studies A-Levels and also do Critical Thinking as curriculum enrichment course.

Interests/Hobbies: I enjoy any type of sport, but in particular football and cricket. I am also a season ticket holder at Millwall FC and enjoy socialising with friends!

Best memory at BGS: My best memory has to be being part of the Kent Cup winning football team in Year 12, and the languages trips throughout the school!

Future ambitions: I have applied to study Business and German at university and I hope to go on to work in the city, in particular using German.

**Matthew Cullum, Deputy Head Prefect (the only external one!)**

I am 17 years old and originally from St Thomas More Comprehensive in Eltham, where I live. I am the middle of three boys in my family and am probably much too hardworking for my own good! Subjects at school: I study the IB – Higher: Spanish, History and Biology. Standard: English, Maths studies and Chemistry.

Interests / Hobbies: The biggest interest in my life is definitely music. I play in various bands and orchestras, as well as going to live gigs of my favourite bands and artists all the time! Other than that, I enjoy doing things that any normal 17 year old would.... parties!

Best memory at BGS: My best memory in the short time I've been in BGS has been the school musical 'Crazy For You.' I was in the band and it was just amazing to take part in and see all the hard work come together in a fantastic show.

The other highlight is definitely the IB biology trip to Slapton! Future ambitions: I would like to study History at University, hopefully at either Oxford or Warwick. After that, I'd like to work in the media, preferably radio or TV.

**Sian Gardiner, Deputy Head Prefect**

I am 17 years old and currently in year 13. I am a homegrown student having been here since year 7, and I have enjoyed being part of a school that supports you both academically and beyond. I have one sister who also attended Bexley Grammar, and who is now studying history at Exeter University. I have met some fantastic people here and I would like to think being here has made me well prepared for life in the real world!

Subjects at school: I am an A-level student studying French, English Literature, History and Theatre studies. I have also completed a 'Foreign Language Leader Award' curriculum enrichment course, for which I taught French in a local primary school.

Interests / Hobbies: I enjoy reading, going to the cinema and the theatre, which I have been able to do a lot of thanks to the Culture Club we have here at BGS. When feeling energetic I also like running, and myself and a group of girls in my form completed the 'Race for Life' along with our form tutor this year, which was a big achievement.

Best memory at BGS: I have always been a part of House activities, and my commitment paid off this year when I was appointed as a House Captain (for Kirkman House, in case you were wondering). Although I wouldn't call refereeing matches in gale force winds and rain a perk of the job, the success of our Drama production has to be one of my favourite memories. All of the year 7's have vowed to be a part of it again next year, and it's great to think we played a part in their enthusiasm.

Future ambitions: This year I am applying for university to study a degree in English Literature, to extend my knowledge of a subject that I have always enjoyed. Unfortunately beyond that I don't have a clear plan, but hopefully I will go onto even bigger and better things!

**Kieran Conroy Mckeown, Deputy Head Prefect**

I'm 17 years old, and live in Eltham with my mum and dad, as my sister is currently studying history at Bristol University. I have attended Bexley Grammar School since year 7 and throughout my seven years studying here I have seen the school evolve; from a change in Head Teacher to a vast range of new courses being offered to students especially within the modern foreign languages department. Subjects at School: I am currently studying Maths, Government and Politics, Economics and German at A-level, with Critical Thinking being my enrichment subject. My favourite subjects during sixth form have been German and Government and Politics.

Interests/Hobbies: I have always enjoyed playing football and more recently I have found an interest in cycling. My interest was furthered when I completed a 3 day 250 mile charity bike ride in the summer, which me and fellow peers from Bexley Grammar organised. As well as football and cycling I enjoy keeping up date with current affairs, often leading me to read daily broadsheets cover to cover.

Best memory at BGS: It is hard to choose one specific memory at BGS, nevertheless I have recently enjoyed representing the school at the European Youth Parliament and the year 12 German trip to Frankfurt, as I was able to apply my skills from the classroom into everyday situations. Other personal highlights have been giving back to a school which has given me so much, such as my role as a deputy head prefect and a peer mentor. I also enjoyed organising and conducting Drug Awareness lessons for students in year 8.

**Alexandra (Alex) D'Sa Deputy Head Prefect:**

I'm 17 years old and live in the flourishing suburb that is Welling. I have one brother, who also goes to Bexley Grammar. I suppose an overriding personality trait of mine is my ambition and self-motivation, as well as commitment to the school (I think most days I stay here until I'm thrown out). I also like to think my quick wit adds a certain charm to the prefect meetings, but the others are likely to disagree.

Subjects at school: I do 4 A-Levels: English Literature, French, Latin and Theatre Studies and a Curriculum Enrichment course: Foreign Language Leader Award.

Interests / Hobbies: I love to write poems, screenplays, short stories etc and am passionate about acting. Besides that, I like going to the gym and playing basketball.

Best memory at BGS: Each House Event has been absolutely wonderful to be a part of- all the way through from year 7 up to year 13. Now that I am a House Captain, it's an amazing opportunity to see the enthusiasm inherent in the younger years- and a little healthy competition never did anyone any harm! My favourite memory is winning House Music in year 7 singing 'With a Little Help from my Friends'.

Future ambitions: This year I am applying to University to study English Literature, with my first choice being Cambridge. After that, I hope to go to Drama school which will eventually lead to a career in acting or screenwriting. I would love to go to America for a long period of time, but also, after having been on a World Challenge Expedition to Tanzania, return there and help more with the orphanage I am in touch with.

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## WATNEYS

**Colin Ellis 56-63** : I hope you are well. You may recall we met when I visited the school during its 50th anniversary year. Your email to Dennis Knight, who is a close friend (literally), was sent on to me. I keep in touch with the school through my contemporaries Dave Tearle, Graham French and Terry Cook whom I last met up with some two years ago in the UK. Also I have been in contact with Anne Griffiths (my former chemistry teacher). I would like to receive copies of future OB newsletters at this email address. If any of the OB's (or OG's) would like to contact me I would be happy for my contact details to be provided to them. Thanks for keeping in touch. [cpellis@iinet.net.au]

**John Chapman 58-64** : after leaving BGS in 1964 I joined Post Office Telephones in the City of London where I worked as a maintenance engineer in a telephone exchange. In 1973 joined Plessey Telecommunications Ltd and became involved in technical training. I moved up to Nottingham in 1976 to take up a post as a senior lecturer at the company's training centre. Apart from a couple of years as a technical support consultant to the sales team, my working life has been in training. Latterly I was senior training officer mainly involved with computer networks. In 2005 I took early retirement and in 2006 moved back to my native Cornwall. I am thoroughly enjoying an active retirement, serving as a town councillor learning the Cornish language and best of all being a granddad.

**Mary Ivens [Mrs Woodrow] 61-68** Went to Lincoln College of Education, became a primary school teacher and took early retirement in 1991. Since then have been living in Central Florida, working as a medical editor and trainer for a medical transcription company. Spend as much vacation time as possible travelling in the United States. Have one son still living in England and still visit England a couple of times a year.

**Tracey Tennyson-Smith [Mrs Wilby] 74-79** : I am living in Swanscombe with my second husband and two children (well adults now) from my first marriage - Laura 20 and Matt 19. Have worked for various law firms in London and am currently working at a solicitors in Dartford as conveyancing secretary.

**Janice Risby 79-86** : Two great kids, Katie and Matthew - the eldest started at BGS exactly 30 years after me! (as dictated by eldest).

**Darren Waller 79-86** : After leaving BGS, it was off to the University of Surrey for a Masters in Electronic and Electrical Engineering. Being sponsored by GEC Marconi through University, I ended-up working for them in Chelmsford for a couple of years after graduating, until my part of the company was bought-out by Mercury Communications. Moved to High Wycombe and, after a short time at AT&T, decided it was time to set-up my own company, which I did in 1997. This has allowed me to travel the world very extensively, although I've now settled down a bit since the kids came along. Still living in High Wycombe with wife Sarah and daughters Lily (nearly 7) and Charlotte (2 1/2) and 2 dogs.

**Lisa Crane [Mrs Hawkins] 80-87** : Left school and straight into the Halifax where I spent the next 10 years doing a huge variety of jobs. Took redundancy when I was pregnant with my daughter and have been childminding ever since. Married an ex BGS pupil 8 years my senior and we have 3 children, Scott 15, Jennifer 11 and Ross 3. Am very actively involved in scouting and am as scatty as ever. Love to hear from anyone as have been terrible for keeping in touch!!

**Sarah Redding 80-85** : I left to start work in advertising, then travelled with Vanessa Searle (BGS) to the states and lived in Greece, Canary Islands and back to London. Finally moving to France permanently with my four children and two step-children. Very happy, married and enjoying the life here.

**Ian Humphreys 82-89** : After graduating in Business Studies at Coventry University, I returned to Bexleyheath and worked within the membership, marketing and PR departments for English Heritage. From there I spent 9 years at the Country Landowners Association heading up the marketing and new media teams. More recently I worked at the Finance & Leasing Association, and I am now Director of Communications at the College of Optometrists. Still living in Bexleyheath, I married Nicky in 2002 and we now have 2 children.

[Watneys - cont'd]

**Steve Doyle 85-90** : I own a group of construction related companies and still keep in contact with a number of the "old school". I have a wonderful wife and 2 year old son.

**Anna Keogh [Mrs Bourn] 90-95** : I currently work as a business analyst in the City where I met my husband Ken. We're now happily settled in Bedfordshire with our two children.



from **Jim Hawkins, Head of Physics, 1958-80**

...when the time came for me to retire in 1980, I made my preparations in advance. In 1974 I joined an evening class to learn the rudiments of water colour. By 1978 we agreed on a weekend Galleon Leisure Painter class at Henley-on-Thames. We had good tuition and accommodation, weather and company and to my surprise, at the end of the course, my river scene was chosen by the tutor as "the best-of-class". He then explained to me that the first was really second but, because he could not finish in time, he could only be awarded second place [or vice versa]. However, this meant

that my painting would be exhibited in the SS Tattershall Castle which was moored beside the Hungerford Bridge. No one was aggrieved, least of all me, because my painting was sold. In future, I made sure that any potential winner would be photographed. I now have a couple of albums to flatter my ego [just a little] and include wood-carving, the making of picture frames and the use of pastels, oils and acrylics as well as watercolours amongst my hobbies...

...and my taste in hobbies has now also shifted towards calligraphy. So many aspects of writing can be studied according to mood or challenge. Lectures are regularly organised by Sussex Scribes [etc.] and humour should be cultivated...

DOWN  
WITH  
GRAVITY

CALLIGRAPHY  
IS ALL WRITE

Robert Bridges : I too will something make  
And joy in the making

and from **Cyril Abbott 55-62**

Only great minds can read this!

This is weird, but interesting!

fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can. i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltreres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat lltreer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt! if you can raed tihs forwrad it.

and one for "**The Alternative History**"

Anecdotes I have many but what about this one! In my first term at BGS, Mr LeFeuvre put a message on the Staffroom Board asking all the first year Form Masters to a meeting at morning break. During the lunch hour the Head came in to the staffroom and asked me why no-one had turned up to his meeting. Very politely, I responded by saying. 'Sorry but there are no first year Form Masters!' **[Ann Williamson, Staff 1961-71]**

## ...and the play's the thing!

How an ex-BGS pupil has turned her hand to writing.

**Angela Hickin (1975-81) (Mrs Pressland)** always enjoyed English and Drama, appearing in school musicals and the house drama competition and being commended in the Daily Mirror children's literary competition, but after leaving school writing and acting took a back seat as she first went to work for Barclays bank and then left to bring up her two sons, Matthew and Thomas.

Fast forward to 1997 and Angela's love of a TV programme "Due South" provided an unlikely kick-start to her writing career. When the BBC stopped showing "Due South" mid series Angela was one of many fans who wrote in protest and bemoaned their lot on Internet fan sites. She wrote to Channel 4's "Right to Reply" and was invited to make a piece about the issue and also go to the BBC to record an interview with the scheduler concerned.

By a quirk of fate, another "Due South" fan, who corresponded with Angela, was a budding film and TV scriptwriter. A cyber friendship was born and Angela became interested in writing scripts herself. Her friend Harriet equipped her with a scriptwriting for dummies book and Angela began writing.

By 2004/5 she was writing seriously, having begun with a short story called "The Great Escape" which won a BBC Radio Kent short story of the month competition and was broadcast. She soon discovered she had a flair for dialogue and this,

coupled with her love of theatre, made writing plays the logical next step. When the Churchill theatre in Bromley advertised a competition for new writers on the subject of space Angela took a deep breath and began writing a one-act play. Whatever she did worked-her first ever play, "The Final Frontier" came second in the competition and was performed at the theatre with the other winning entries and later at a day of drama activities in Crystal Palace Park.

Spurred on by this success Angela entered the competition again the next year and this time her comedy "Trick or Treat" won! It attracted the interest of a director who was in the audience at the Churchill and was later made into a short film, which was shown in the Short Film Corner at Cannes this year.

Angela's third play was a finalist in the Churchill's 2008 Metamorphosis competition. All shortlisted plays were workshopped with professional actors and directors and a delightfully termed "dramaturg" who assists with the development of the script. This and a writing workshop which was led by Jack Bradley, Literary Associate to Sonia Friedman Productions, proved invaluable experiences for Angela.

In January 2009, Angela entered a competition for full-length plays run by the Bench Theatre company, based in Havant in Hampshire. The company was celebrating its fortieth birthday, and to mark this occasion they were performing a series of "state of the nation" plays - one from each decade since their inception in 1969. The purpose of their competition was to find a brand new play to represent the "noughties", and as well as awarding £500 in prize money to the winner, they would perform the chosen play. Angela's entry "A Higher Education" won and received five performances at the Havant Arts Centre in September, the last two performances being part of the Havant Literary Festival.

Angela was fully involved in the process throughout. From the auditions in June, the first readthrough in July, rehearsals during August and September, and even taking a bow with the cast on the last night of run!

It was a real family affair too, with son Tom (a keen English and Drama student himself) attending rehearsals, and husband Dave (a skilled and published amateur photographer) providing the photos for the programme and the foyer display. As well as attending the prizegiving ceremony, Angela was interviewed by the Portsmouth News and reviews of the play appeared there and at remotegoat.co.uk, the latter describing Angela as "an exciting new playwright" who had written a "compelling piece of drama".

"A Higher Education" is a little controversial as it is set in a brothel, but that is merely the setting for a whole host of issues which are examined- from funding higher education, race, sexuality, relationships, guilt and consumerism to name a few! The other daunting prospect for an audience is that it is a play without an interval and, at nearly 2 hours long, that is quite a challenge, and one Angela herself had some nerves about.

However, the feedback from the audience was very positive, and everyone agreed that the story was so compelling that the time simply flew by. And having seen the play myself I'd agree that an interval would ruin the tension that builds throughout and the claustrophobic atmosphere that is essential to the plot. (Further details about the play can be found at : [www.benchtheatre.org.uk/40yearsofbench/highereducation.php](http://www.benchtheatre.org.uk/40yearsofbench/highereducation.php))

So now it's all over, how does Angela feel about the experience?

"Working with the very talented team at The Bench was the most fascinating, rewarding and educative experience for me. And writing is such a solitary activity, so it's always welcome when it leads to something more collaborative - it was great to be involved as much as I was in transferring the play from page to stage. Everyone – cast and crew – worked so hard, and I was delighted with the result. The response from the audience was excellent – both in the auditorium and in the bar afterwards. It was good to learn how much they enjoyed the play, and also that were thinking beyond what they'd seen, and asking questions about what the future might hold for the two main characters."

So what tips does she have for other budding playwrights?

"Well firstly to read as many plays and watch as many productions as possible. Another good tip is not to be in too much of a hurry to get scripts sent out. Put a newly written piece in a drawer and resist all temptation to read it again for at least a couple of weeks, after which time you'll make a much better judgement of its strengths and weaknesses".

Some people write to timetables; Angela finds she has to due to her busy lifestyle but others just write when the mood takes them-it is a case of what works best for you –

"It's so easy to find yourself talking an awful lot about writing, but never actually getting much done! I'm fairly disciplined about my writing time these days, and as a result, I'm far more productive and better at meeting deadlines".

So does anyone read what she is writing? Apparently not-in fact many of her family and friends only found out about her writing talents recently. However long term cyber pal Harriet, as a fellow writer, does sometimes offer constructive criticism along the way, and Angela returns the favour.

In an ideal world who would she like to see taking roles in her plays?

"That's easy. Jonathan Pryce, Bill Nighy, Neil Pearson, Dame Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Richard Schiff (from the West Wing)".

So what next for Angela? Well she plans to put her £500 towards a BA Hons in Theatre Studies, which she hopes to start next year, and of course, she will still keep writing. With enough competition wins and shortlistings on her C.V. now she hopes to concentrate on approaching theatres direct, although she won't give up writing for competitions entirely.

Apart from the £500, Angela has also won theatre tickets as prizes for her writing successes. For any writer though, having their play performed is the ultimate accolade and Angela is no exception.

"There's no better way to learn about this craft than by taking your work to performance level and judging an audience's reaction to it. Overall, A Higher Education is a fairly dark piece, which maintains tension

throughout – it was very satisfying to see people watching and listening intently from the edge of their seats! That said, the play is not devoid of humour, and it's always great to hear people laughing".

"Trick or Treat" is a comedy and the audience response at the Churchill theatre was better than any prize in Angela's opinion.

"People laughed- a lot - at "Trick or Treat" when it was performed" she says "and that felt really good." Angela is happy to be contacted by anyone who remembers her from BGS. Her email address is [angela.pressland@btinternet.com](mailto:angela.pressland@btinternet.com), or she can be found on Facebook (Angela Jane Pressland, London Network).



from Gillian Edwards 1975-82

## Angela

and a flyer for  
one of her plays

'A Higher  
Education'  
will shortly be  
published by  
Stagescripts Ltd.



and a recently re-discovered poem which speaks for itself!!

## MR [JOHN] COLLINS

Of all the subjects taken  
Mathematics was the one  
That gave us a few headaches  
But now it's nearly done

We've passed from First to Fifth Form  
And that is where we stop.  
We've enjoyed our Maths, we'll miss it  
And are sad to see it dropped

We're sad to leave our tangents  
And all the happy hours  
That we have spent in solving  
Sines and roots and powers

Our problems have been many  
But you were always on hand  
When we uttered the ever immortal words  
"Mr Collins we don't understand."

We'll think of you as teacher and friend  
That's why we've written to say  
For all the fun you've given us  
In our books you're Grade A !

## OLD BEXLEIAN GOLF

The OBA Golf Society was held on a gloriously sunny day on the 4th of June at the Upchurch River Valley Golf Course between Rainham and Sittingbourne. This was a new course for the Society and very few of the players had played there before so every hole was a new challenge. To add to the interest - some might say confusion - the 9-hole morning round was held on the long South Course [with one hole in excess of 600 yards] whilst the 18 holes in the afternoon were played on the Club's main course.

The format for the day was to start with a full English breakfast followed by a 9-hole Pairs Competition and the a cold meat platter lunch. In the afternoon the main 18-hole individual event was played and the day was completed with a three course evening meal. The general consensus was that at a total cost of £41 per player the package represented excellent value for money. There were however a few very tired players at the end of the day - no doubt resulting from the length of the two courses and the high ambient temperature.

The winner of the John Collins Shield this year was Don Wellman. This trophy is presented to the Old Bexleian who plays the best 18-hole round on a Stableford [handicap] basis. This was Don's fifth win over a period of 24 years. The Guest Trophy was won by Laurence Watchorn - the son of David who has been a regular guest player for several years. At the age of 11 - and on his debut with the Society - Laurence played extremely well and off a handicap of 28 won the Guest Trophy with 41 points. His handicap will be considerably reduced for next year!!

The other trophies were won as follows:-

Pairs Competition - David and Laurence Watchorn  
Least Putts - Colin Target  
Longest Drive - Martin Cunningham  
Nearest the pin - Terry Cook

In John Collins' absence, due to a clash of engagements, - the author cannot remember the last time that John missed this event - the presentations were made by Terry Cook. Photographs of the presentations to Don Wellman and Laurence Watchorn of the John Collins Shield and Guest Trophy respectively are shown below.

The Society is always looking for new - especially younger - players and a warm welcome is assured. There were 18 players in this event, let us try to make it 24 next year. The venue for 2011 has not yet been decided but the event will be held in late May or early June. Anybody interested in playing, male or female, should contact Terry Cook on [teejaycook@talktalk.net](mailto:teejaycook@talktalk.net). Why not talk to your friends and come along as a new group next year?  
Terry Cook.



## SCHOOL REPORTS

Many readers - former pupils and staff - will remember the old style blue report books which provided a twice yearly summary of a pupil's work and progress.

Below is a reminder, an example of the end of year report for a pupil in the then 2nd Year [now Year 8]

"Age...13 5m....Aver. Age of Form...13 3m.....Summer 1971  
 Form ...2 [?] Examination Position for  
 Position.....17 Term work.....17 .....No. in Form 30

SUBJECT	Examination %	Position	REMARKS
Scripture.....	36	19=	XXX is not making a serious effort to do well
English Language .....	61	19=	XXX has the ability to do much better than this, but lacks application
Literature			
History.....	39	11	XXX work has been quite good
Geography.....	32	23	A fair effort only
French.....	13	23	XXX has made little real effort
German			
Latin			
Maths. Paper 1.....64}			More effort and concentration are needed before XXX obtains the results of which he is capable. XXX result in Paper 1 reflects XXX ability
Arith. & Trig Paper 2...26}45.....19.....			
Algebra Set 2/3			
Geom.			
Chemistry.....	42	9	A fair result. XXX has made good progress during the year
Physics.....	34	20=	XXX must learn more thoroughly and make more effort
Biology.....	59	15=	A staisfactory exam result. XXX has been working with intent
Art.....	84	7=	Continues to work well
Music.....	65	7	Quite good
Metalwork.....	65	22=/24	XXX continues to make good progress
Technical Drawing			
Domestic Science			
Physical Education.....			Good. XXX is working well

House report

FORM MASTER'S REPORT.....Days absent.....5.....Times late.....2.....Detentions.....0

There is still much room for improvement. XXX has done well in Chemistry and Biology but elsewhere XXX is not making the most of his abilities.

### HEADMASTER'S COMMENTS

XXX is too idle.  
 Seen 9.9.71 "

### N.B

If you do not have your old school report book - and would like it as a memento... to keep, give to your parents or children, or to stop it getting into anyone else's hands [actually, we wouldn't do this to you!], please get in touch with the OBA Secretary as a matter of urgency...as any that are still left may soon be lost for ever.

Today's reports are quite different...[see next page]

## TODAY'S REPORTING FOR YEAR 8 PUPILS

Reports are made on the following subjects :-

Art; Chinese; Design and Technology; Drama; English; FBC&S; Geography; German; History; ICT; Latin; Mathematics; Music; PE; Science.

For each of these subjects, Grades of 0-8 are awarded using the following descriptors

i.e. for Academic Work .....Progress, Quality of Work, Approach to Study

and for Attitude to Learning.....Behaviour, Homework Punctuality, Organisation

Score	Progress	Quality of Work	Approach to Study	Behaviour	Homework Punctuality	Organisation
<b>8</b> <b>Excellent</b>	The progress made is well above expectation	The quality of work produced is consistently of a very high standard	Approaches all aspects of study with an enthusiastic attitude and determination	Always perfectly well behaved	Homework is always handed in on time	Books and all necessary equipment are always brought to every lesson
<b>6</b> <b>Good</b>	The progress made is in line with expectation	The quality of work produced reflects the ability of the student	Consistently adopts a positive attitude towards study	Usually well behaved	Homework is usually handed in on time	Books and all necessary equipment are usually brought to every lesson
<b>4</b> <b>Cause for Concern</b>	The progress made is below expectation	The quality of work produced does not usually reflect the ability of the student	The overall attitude to study is such that the student is unlikely to fulfil their academic potential	Occasional poor and disruptive behaviour hinders the learning process	Homework is frequently handed in late	Books and all necessary equipment are frequently forgotten
<b>2</b> <b>Inadequate</b>	The progress made is well below expectation	The quality of work produced is well below the ability of the student	The attitude adopted towards study indicates a lack of commitment and a reluctance to act upon advice from the teacher	Frequent poor and disruptive behaviour hinders the learning process	Homework is rarely handed in on time	Books and all necessary equipment are rarely brought to the lessons

The pupil's current National Curriculum level is reported for each of these subjects using sub levels

4c 4b 4a 5c 5b 5a 6c 6b 6a 7c 7b 7a 8c 8b 8a

All pupils are expected to reach at least level 6 by the end of Key Stage 3 i.e the end of Year 9 [the old 3rd Year]

In Modern Languages and Latin, where the majority of students begin study at a later stage, the current level may reasonably be expected to be lower than other subjects

Further information which is added :

No. of times late; Authorised absences; Unauthorised absences; Attendance %; Merits earned; Detentions [given by the Year's Director of Studies or School detentions]; and a comment given by the Form Tutor.

## FOREWORD

TWENTY-SIX of the twenty-seven poems which go to the making of this little collection are those which were considered to be the best entries received in a poetry competition organized by Eighth Army's Education Officer.

Under the title of "Plastres for Poets," the competition was announced in the Christmas 1942 number of the *Crusader*, Eighth Army's own weekly paper. It was open to all members of the Eighth Army, but only poems actually written in the Western Desert were to be submitted.

The closing date for entries to be received was February 28, 1943, and by that time a total of 403 poems from 280 different competitors had been submitted—this, let it be remembered, at the very time that the Desert Army was wholly engaged in hitting Rommel and all his forces "right out of Africa for six."

The twenty-seventh poem has a unique history. Written on a scrap of paper, it fluttered into the hands of a soldier sheltering in a slit trench, during the battle of El Agheila.

Perhaps, indeed, it is not too fanciful to see in the poems that follow something of the greatness of mind and spirit with which this valiant Army has been fired, and to which so many of its finest achievements can be attributed.

B. L. Nandapaney  
General  
Eighth Army.

Soon after the School was opened, Mr Le Feuvre bought two old 'libraries' so that the school's own library would have a number of volumes which could be borrowed...when checking on some of these early acquisitions, last year, the librarian came across a book of Second World war poems...which no-one at BGS had ever taken out...at first glance it looked as if it might be valuable - perhaps signed by 'Monty' himself...but, sent to the Army museum in Woolwich, the message came back that the signature was only a facsimile...the book has since been given to the museum...where others might enjoy it...

...but well worth a read...

### BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL A HISTORY

by  
ROBIN ACKERLEY S 70-97

now £5

available from the Finance Officer  
BGS

Danson Lane, Welling, Kent  
DA16 2BL  
0208 304 8538

[Watneys cont'd]

**Judith Allery 73-80** :BA in Economic & Social History, University of Nottingham. Postgraduate Diploma in Library & Information Studies, Ealing College of Higher Education. Assistant Librarian at Merchant Navy College, Greenwich, followed by a move to Lancashire where I worked at St. Martin's College, Lancaster and the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. After an eighteen month contract at the London College of Printing, Elephant & Castle, I moved back to the East Midlands working at De Montfort University, Leicester and Nottingham Trent University. From 2001 to 2005 I was pleased to be a member of the BGS Golden Jubilee Committee. In 2006 I returned to Welling and have since undertaken a number of short-term contracts in London. I have worked in a variety of libraries: the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn; a primary school in Vauxhall; HM Treasury Solicitor; and the British Library. However, the pinnacle of my career so far is my current temporary contract in the House of Lords Library. Since I achieved the EPA prize in both years of my Sixth Form, I hope Mr Brasher would have been pleased.

### THE SCHOOL TODAY

The Governing Body has decided to seek 'Academy' status...this should not be difficult as BGS is an 'Outstanding' school in Ofsted terms.

**Peter Spall** has retired from his teaching post at BGS after 36 years but will remain on the support staff. Congratulations on all you have achieved.

### THE '100 CLUB'

John Floyd 57-64  
will be pleased to provide  
further details  
3 Teesgate, Thornaby on Tees,  
North Yorkshire TS17 9AN  
01642 611924  
john.floyd@rya-online.net

### OBA ANNUAL DINNER

at BGS  
on Saturday 25th September

[probably the last such Dinner]

please see the OBA website  
for further details  
[www.oldbexleians.co.uk](http://www.oldbexleians.co.uk)