

Bangor Grammar School Old Boys' Association

The Grammarian

Magazine 2018



Olympic Gold Medallist
Stephen Martin MBE at launch
of Sporting Wall of Fame

See pages 12-13

Also featuring
Nelson Mandela
Edward Heath
Dad's Army and...
Kylie Minogue

(All appear in our past pupils' contributions)

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Chairman's Message

Terence Bowman

Fellow Grammarians,

It is my great privilege to pen these notes as chairman of Bangor Grammarians, not only as successor to Geoffrey Miller who held the office with distinction for three years – the Sporting Wall of Fame (reported elsewhere in this edition) will be a lasting testimony to his time as chairman – but also when I see the many past post-holders since our organisation was founded in the 1928/29 academic year.

The names of industrialists, academics, medical, financial and legal figures, even a few sporting heroes, appear in gold lettering on a board outside the Principal's office, but I suspect I am the first journalist to serve as chairman. Not only that, I am very likely among a small number who opted for a career without pursuing the traditional Bangor Grammar School route of four or more years at university. I was already earning a living at 19 (married and buying a house four years later) while many of my Class of 1975 contemporaries were still settling in at their chosen place of continuing education.

That said, I suspect the timing of my election as chairman coincides perfectly with the great changes we are witnessing in both education and employment. How many times have we heard in recent years the suggestion that if you want to pursue a financially rewarding career, then train to be a plumber, an electrician or a car mechanic? Perhaps a slight exaggeration but the reality is that the Careers Department at the Bangor Grammar School of 2018 is already looking beyond the traditional university route, especially with the uncertain post-Brexit era that awaits us all.

Careers conventions – the first was held as recently as 2015 – involve exhibitors covering just about every area of the employment market, including Belfast Metropolitan College, South Eastern Regional College, Sainsbury's, Randox, Denroy, Kainos, Citigroup, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, in addition to Queen's University and Ulster University. This complements the excellent careers forum established several years ago by London-based Bangor Grammarian Mike McConnell via the LinkedIn online networking site, which encourages former pupils to offer work experience and careers guidance to students nearing the end of their years at the School.

While it goes without saying that excellent academic standards must be maintained to prepare the boys for whatever career they choose, all this reflects a multitude of changes in modern life, not least in terms of scientific and technological advances.

I wholeheartedly endorse the Alumni project, brainchild of Board of Governors chairman Paul Blair, which he describes thus: "A number of schools in the province have recently developed Alumni associations. Their purpose is to engage with the wider school community and become a hub for communications with past pupils and friends of the school. Pupils from this school have established

themselves in many different careers and it is important that current pupils are made aware of, and indeed inspired by, their noteworthy achievements.

"In many schools their Alumni associations have become an essential part of building a sustainable fundraising programme to allow schools to support and develop a range of extracurricular activities and also fund more major long-term projects. These activities are becoming increasingly difficult to fund in the current financial climate and many schools have been forced to reduce their extracurricular opportunities for pupils significantly.

"The Board of Governors agreed to support and develop an Alumni association for Bangor Grammar School and we are delighted that the Grammarians are also supportive of this important venture. The Alumni website, which can be accessed via the Grammarians and the school's websites, will go live later this year and we hope many of our past pupils will use it to renew their association with the school. We have already received some generous bequests from past pupils that are now funding activities in the Music and Sports departments and we look forward to formalising such support in a more structured manner in this new venture."

In closing, I trust you will enjoy reading the 2018 *Grammarian*, whether in its printed or digital version. This is the fourth edition it has been my honour to edit since taking over the reins from my multi-tasking predecessor Jim Claney. While the magazine has changed considerably in page numbers and appearance since 2014, the basic premiss remains the same – you, the past pupils of Bangor Grammar School, are its main contributors and for that I am most grateful.

By a noteworthy coincidence, one of the contributors, businessman Terry Neill, shares the same name as a prominent figure on our Sporting Wall of Fame. Both were born in the 1940s: one became a captain of industry on the world stage, having gained rugby and cricket Colours at the School, the other a hero to many as former captain and manager of both Northern Ireland and Arsenal. How appropriate, therefore, that 2018 should have witnessed not only the launch of the Alumni project but also the School reaching its first-ever soccer final!



Outgoing chairman Geoffrey Miller (left) hands over the chain of office to successor Terence Bowman. Picture by Ken Best

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1947/1948 F A Reid	1966/1967 J Curry	1985/1986 J B Adrain	

* Ken Best's cover photograph shows Stephen Martin MBE at the newly-unveiled Sporting Wall of Fame in the School's Sports Department. Stephen – guest speaker at this year's Bangor Dinner – won a Gold Medal with the Great Britain field hockey team at the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988, as well as Bronze at Los Angeles in 1984. He is holding the BBC Sports Personality of the Year team award which was presented to the GB hockey team in 1988.



Principal's Report

Elizabeth Huddleson

The 2017/2018 academic year proved to be a considerably calmer and more straightforward one than its predecessor, even with the continued absence of an Education Minister at Stormont.

The year culminated in a team of 40 pupils travelling to Uganda under the care of Mr Myles Christy, Mrs Catherine Henry, Mr Paul O'Reilly and Mrs Rosemary Shaw, to continue the building project BGS started three years ago. On the previous visit the teams contributed to the building of a much-needed primary school in Gulu. This time they extended the building to include a nursery, which, very fittingly, is being named after Mrs Claire Greenaway who sadly passed away in November 2016. She was a huge supporter of Abaana and contributed significantly to their charity work in her time at the school.

The pupils split their time between street work in Kampala and the building project at Gulu. Whilst incredibly challenging, the boys embraced their work with the street children, their stark living conditions being a humbling reminder of the many blessings and comforts we have in the western world.



Members of the BGS party who travelled to Uganda

The past academic year breathed fresh life into the house system through the talents of the Heads of House and their deputies. The highly competitive house activities and the build-up to each were played out via Twitter – a social media platform very much in use through a number of school accounts. All credit goes to this year's team – Matthew Boggs/ Sam Urey (Ward), Daniel Young/ Matthew Mingout (School), Zach Kerr/ Daniel McCreanor (Dufferin), and Matthew Quinn/ Zach McKee (Crosby).

As ever, many of our pupils have experienced extra-curricular success. The highlight of the year for me was seeing our 1st XI football team make BGS sporting history by progressing to the final of the BDASFA Cup. This team, which included Head Boy Jamie Stewart and one of his deputies, Louis Gault-Reid, sadly lost out to St Malachy's, Belfast, in what proved to be a very enjoyable, skilful and fast-paced match to watch. It was also my first football match – an experience I hope I get to repeat! Ironically, our most talented footballer, Lewis McKinnon, wasn't old enough to play on that team. He has been signed by Rangers FC and has also been playing for the Club NI team this year (BGS Under-18 team picture - page 46).

The winter season witnessed relatively good success for



The hockey 1st XI, winners of the Subsidiary Plate (above) and the Medallion XV, winners of the Bowl competition (below)



many of our other teams. Highlights included the hockey 1st XI playing exceptionally well against Sullivan in the Burney Cup but sadly being beaten 2-1. However, they did win the Subsidiary Plate competition. The 1st XV reached the Schools' Cup quarter-finals, losing to the powerhouse that is Methodist College, Belfast. The Medallion XV won the Bowl competition, beating Limavady Grammar in the final.

Our badminton teams performed very well – yet again! Ben Dempster reached the quarter-finals of the Leinster Senior Open, the quarter-finals of the Ulster Grade A and the semi-finals of the Grade D National Championships. He is currently ranked 23rd in the Irish senior listing (adults). The Minor team of Nathan Belshaw, Ross Fulton, Rory Patterson and Ethan Mairs won the Division A Minor Boys' League against Friends' School at the Ulster finals. This was a tremendous achievement and the team went on to represent Ulster at the Irish finals in Co. Meath. Disappointingly for them, the Senior teams lost both the league and cup finals to Friends' School.

Tennis remains very strong within the school with BGS boasting the current Ulster junior and senior champions. The successful senior players were Harry Ellsemere, John Ewing, Ryan Lyall and Harry Templeton, with the junior players being Jamie Lyall, Nathan Belshaw, James Skelton and Max Skelton.

Our CCF continues to be the largest and most successful in Northern Ireland and one of the best in the UK. Kent Sampson, Matthew Mingout, Billy Pollock, Shoshanna Hull (GCS), Mate Zoltan and Ross O'Boyle won the Military



Successful cadets Michael Dempster and Tom Campbell

Skills competition – the military equivalent of the Schools’ Cup. There was much celebration when the huge shield was presented at a whole school assembly. It was even more fitting that I had another female to accompany me on the stage that morning.



CCF success in the Military Shield competition

In May, 17 CCF athletes competed in the RAF 100 Cadet Forces Athletics competition against 20 other cadet units. The team won 12 gold, eight silver and six bronze medals. They also won Best Unit, the Under-17 Boys’ trophy and the Best Overall

Unit trophy. CCF continues to be one of the best aspects of our extra-curricular activity, where pupils can develop a significant number of relevant skills for not only the workplace but also for life.

Individual pupils continue to excel across a variety of disciplines. We have pupils currently representing Ulster/Ireland in hockey (Harry Dow, Stephen Hamill, Jamie Lyall), rugby (Zack Kerr, Aaron Sexton, Riley Westwood, Ben McCrossan, Gareth Wells), chess (Adam Rushe, Samuel Todd), badminton (Ben Dempster), tennis (Harry Ellsemere), water polo (Ben Escott), swimming (Mark Stoops, Jack Angus), rowing (Ryan Atwell) and archery (Ryan Leathem), with Ulster/ Irish champions in athletics (Aaron Sexton), golf (Jude Devlin), table tennis (Max and James Sexton) and sailing (Dan McGaughey).



Aaron Sexton

One pupil deserves special mention, given his achievements in the past year. Aaron Sexton, then just shy of his 17th birthday, became the Junior Commonwealth Champion for 200 metres in a winning time of 21.57 seconds. He is currently the fastest boy in Ireland across both 100m and 200m. Given his athletic talents, he is also incredibly useful on the rugby pitch and I was delighted to receive news during the summer break that, having been involved with the Ulster Development Squad, he had been called up for the Ulster team in their pre-season game against Gloucester

on 18 August. Having just turned 18 he was the youngest player ever on the Ulster squad.

We continue to focus on high quality teaching and learning through a child-centred curriculum. One creative area of development this year has centred around the transition from P7 to Year 8 to better support our youngest boys as they adjust to new learning environments. In the summer term we used a ‘teacher swap’ to allow P7 teachers

to take the lead in the Year 8 classroom and vice versa. Both sets of staff thoroughly enjoyed being in different work placements over a number of days and learnt a significant amount about how their practices could be adjusted to make the transition easier for the pupils.

We very much welcome and appreciate the input and support from our past pupils. The Grammarians Committee has done sterling work this year on behalf of the school, culminating in the launch of the Sporting Wall of Fame. Part of the lower corridor has photographs of all ex-pupils who reached full international status in their chosen sporting disciplines. Geoffrey Miller was instrumental in driving forward this initiative; thanks should go to him and also Head of PE David Kennedy for all their hard work in sourcing the photographs and organising the event. It is our intention to dedicate other areas of the school in a similar fashion to celebrate the successes of other old boys who have excelled within their chosen fields.

We wish to continue strengthening our alumni connections and to actively market the school through this avenue. We also want, for a variety of reasons, to keep in better touch with those who have left BGS – to track career paths and leaver destinations, to continue to tap into professional knowledge about individual careers, and to allow those who wish to actively support the school to do so. Development of our website is currently under way to allow for a dedicated alumni section. We will communicate with you when this goes ‘live’.

Our main areas of development within the school currently centre on actively marketing it within our local community, developing (in partnership with the three post-primary schools in Bangor) a mental health strategy to better support our young people, and introducing an effective online and digital media strategy. Our young people are living and growing up in an environment where the use of technology is becoming more and more prevalent.

Whilst there are many advantages of growing up in a technologically advanced society, within a school context there can be many disadvantages. We are starting to see an over-reliance on phones. Increasingly, I see shoulders hunched at social times with attention acutely fixed on mobile phone screens, as pupils become more and more absorbed by the content of what is in front of them. Our behaviour records show mobile phones are increasingly being misused with automatic defaults being to action the camera/ video function, to post on Snapchat and Instagram – resulting in a 24/7 culture, where, for some, sleep routines are being disrupted, gaming is becoming as important as breathing, with the need to be ‘liked’ and to receive ‘likes’ becoming overwhelming.

In my daily working life, when I have reason to remove a mobile phone from a pupil that is the time when I will see composure weakening, tears, levels of anxiety rising – ‘but Mrs Huddleson I NEED my phone...’. In an effort to address our concerns, in the new academic year we will be requiring all pupils to switch their phones off for the entirety of the school day. We would hope to reduce the ‘reliance’ too many of our boys have on them, but more importantly to encourage them to actually talk to each other during social times. Is the art of effective communication in danger of being lost? For some I think it potentially is.



Dates for your Diary

Edinburgh Dinner The venue for the 2018 Edinburgh Dinner, on Saturday 27 October, will again be the Scott Room at the Royal Scots Club, Abercromby Place. Visit the Bangor Grammarians website or Facebook page for updates or email dinners@grammarians.co.uk for further information.

Bangor Dinner This ever-popular past pupil gathering will be held on Friday 9 November at the Marine Court Hotel, Bangor, with guest speaker Stephen Martin MBE. A booking form is included with this magazine or email dinners@grammarians.co.uk for further information.

Grammarians AGM A good attendance is anticipated

for this important meeting on Monday 3 December (6.30pm) at the School.

Boxing Day hockey matches The BGS pitches at Gransha Road will be the venue on Wednesday 26 December – the perfect remedy for any Christmas Day excesses!

London Dinner The 34rd annual London Dinner will be held on Friday 22 March 2019 at the Carlton Club in St James's Street. See report for details.

For updates on these and other events, please visit www.grammarians.co.uk or the Bangor Grammarians Facebook page.

Secretary's report Peter Blair

The committee of Bangor Grammarians, under new chairman Terence Bowman, met on a regular basis throughout the year.

The Bangor Dinner was held at the Marine Court Hotel on Friday 10 November 2017, with a good attendance of more than 80 Grammarians being entertained by guest speaker Sir Patrick Coghlin.

The London Dinner was held at the Carlton Club on 16 March 2018. There were 37 Grammarians in attendance and the guest speaker was Adam Best. Thanks go to Stephen Montgomery for organising the very successful event.

After a lengthy break the Edinburgh Dinner was revived this year and took place at the city's Royal Scots Club on 27 October, with nine Grammarians in attendance. It is hoped this number will increase in future years, given the large number of former pupils living in Scotland.

The usual sporting events took place during the year. The annual Boxing Day hockey fixtures at the school attracted a large crowd, with two matches being played. The golf outing took place at Bangor Golf Club on Friday 8 September (2017) with 25 golfers taking part.

The launch of the Grammarians-funded Sporting Wall of Fame took place at the school on Tuesday 20 March.

Present were 19 out of a possible 29 inductees represented on the wall, and an overall attendance of 150 enjoyed a most successful evening.

The *Grammarian* magazine, once again compiled and edited by Terence Bowman, is an excellent publication containing articles on notable events at the school, the many and diverse activities of the old boys and the work of the association. This year the magazine is once again available in electronic format to new schoolboy members and overseas recipients. It will also be available for everyone to download (via the website) from the end of the year.

The Grammarians website, under the management of Russell Moore and his team, continues to be very popular, providing up to date news and photographs of Grammarian and school events. It also offers Grammarians the opportunity to stay in touch with each other.

In conclusion, may I pass on the thanks of the Grammarians Committee to the Board of Governors for granting permission to use the school facilities for our meetings and activities. Thanks also to the Principal and to the teaching and administrative staff for all their support over the past year.

Treasurer's report Norman Irwin

Due to printing deadlines this report details our transactions between 1 September 2017 and 10 July 2018 (the financial year for the Grammarians runs from 1 September to 31 August). The major items of income related to the Bangor Dinner and advertising, with £2,280 and £1,780 received respectively, while the ballot at the dinner brought in £355. Schoolboy membership monies had not been received from the school at the time of writing.

On the expenditure side, the cost of running the Bangor Dinner amounted to £1,874. The Grammarians donated £2,756 to fund the impressive Sporting Wall of Fame in the school's PE Department.

Travel and accommodation costs for the chairman to the London and Edinburgh Dinners amounted to £234, while insurance costs remained competitively priced at £403. Postage costs also remained low at £295 due to the hand delivery of this magazine by committee members and volunteers.

The balance in the bank on 10 July 2018 stood at £5,513. My thanks to the school for collecting and collating Schoolboy membership scheme monies, also to John Adrain and Clive Briggs for auditing the accounts.

The audited accounts for the 2017/18 financial year will be available at the AGM in December.



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'Don't tell him, Pike!'

Gerald Stephens

Gerald Stephens, who attended Bangor Grammar School between 1975 and 1982, went on to study accountancy at Jordanstown and Manchester. He started his career in finance and was with Land Rover for 13 years before moving on to work for Laithwaite's Wine. A move north to Aberdeen found him briefly in the oil industry before becoming FD for Mackie's Ice Cream for the past decade. A keen cyclist, over two days in August he undertook the 'Ride the North' challenge of 175 miles.



Contributor Gerald Stephens as a young Bangor Grammar School pupil in the mid-1970s

War and soldiers seemed to be unavoidable growing up in Northern Ireland in the 1970s and going to an all-boys school. We had troops on the streets, and when we got to school we had historical campaigns and battles and Shakespeare's Henry V to keep the fires stoked – no wonder we had a popular CCF!

That said, it was not war but the poetry of Owen, Sassoon and Graves that pricked my interest in the First World War. This sat in

my subconscious for 30 years or so until a chance remark with some friends uncovered that we all had a common interest in WW1.

And so it was that Allan Smith, Brian Service and I



Each of the cyclists on the trip to the First World War battlefields was assigned a character from Dad's Army



The original cast from Dad's Army (it's very hard to tell the difference!)

(Class 1D 1975, all ex-CCF) and four friends laid plans to go to the Somme. The trip included cycling around the battlefields there, followed by a day at Passchendaele and Ypres on the journey home. Our theme was 'Dad's Army' (what else for a bunch of 50+ year-old men?). Each of us was assigned a character from Dad's Army – I was Private Walker with Smith as Pte Pike and Service as Pte Godfrey.

Our start point was Vimy Ridge where the battle was fought in April 1917. Four divisions of the Canadian Corps achieved their objective to take control of the high ridge close to Arras. We were fortunate to have arrived on the day of a burial of a Canadian soldier who had died in the battle and whose remains had only recently been discovered. It was a strange privilege to attend the funeral of a soldier who died 100 years ago. He was given a full military guard of honour and finally laid to rest in a military cemetery rather than in some corner of a foreign field.

From Vimy we headed west-southwest to our accommodation, Castle Neuville, a marvellous chateau due north of Amiens. This was a fantastic base to explore the Somme.

The next day we set off on our bikes to explore north of the River Ancre. This was a tour of the sites of some of the most famous images of the Somme, taking in Gommecourt Wood, Newfoundland Park at Beaumont-Hamel, as well as Hawthorn Ridge and sunken lane. The Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont-Hamel is a well-preserved battlefield and place of remembrance for the Newfoundland Regiment, who were almost wiped out in their attack on the German lines on 1st July 1916. The blowing of the Hawthorn Ridge mine at 07.20, 10 minutes before the attack, gave the enemy the chance to come out of their heavily-protected trenches and prepare their guns for the onslaught.

We then cycled the short distance to the Hawthorn Ridge Cemetery, near the mine crater. We were followed by a young man in a car who was accompanied by a Vizsla dog. After some time of looking around, I struck up a conversation with the man who was from Germany and was researching his great-grandfather's memoirs from WW1. He had a manuscript of the places where his great-grandfather had fought as well as some photographs of him in uniform. This was a poignant meeting as the grandfather of one of our party, Graham (Frazer), had fought and been wounded at the Somme. There was a slim chance they could have faced each other in opposing trenches.

The young man was very happy to tell us his story and invited us to sign his manuscript – it was at this point the classic phrase 'Don't tell him, Pike!' was heard. We joked about the man taking his manuscript back and telling everyone how he had met these chaps Mainwaring, Jones, Frazer, Godfrey, Walker, Hodges and Pike!

Day two involved a route south of the Ancre and including the towns of Fricourt, Mametz, La Boisselle,

Poizieres and Thiepval. One of the highlights was the Devonshire Cemetery near Mametz, where most of A Coy 9 Devons are buried in the trench from which they started the attack. Many of the casualties were inflicted by a German machine gun post set up in a shrine in the public cemetery in Mametz.

From there we progressed to the Lochnagar Crater, formed when 27,000kg of explosives were detonated under the German front lines. This was part of the mine and tunnelling warfare that existed on both sides. Then it was on to Thiepval and the massive memorial designed by Sir Edwin Luytens, which commemorates more than 72,000 men missing at the Somme.

A short ride took us to the Ulster Memorial Tower, a



The Ulster Tower, a memorial to the men of the 36th (Ulster) Division who died at the Somme

memorial to the men of the 36th (Ulster) Division who died at the Somme. The tower is a replica of Helen's Tower on the Dufferin Estate at Clondeboye, which was the centre of the 36th Division's training camp before going off to war. Near the tower are two cemeteries, Connaught and Mill Road, and it was in the latter that we found the grave of Lieutenant Holt Montgomery Hewitt, one of three sons from Bangor who all died in the war.

Holt and younger brother William were both killed on the first day of the Somme, while his elder brother Ernest (ex-BGS) had been killed in action a year earlier. They are remembered on the Bangor War Memorial and the St Comgall's Church memorial.

Holt and younger brother William were both killed on the first



Gerald Stephens, Brian Service and Allan Smith at the Mill Road cemetery

On our final day we travelled to Belgium to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the Passchendaele Memorial Museum and then on to the Menin Gate at Ypres. This was another special day as Allan's wife's grandfather had fought at Passchendaele. Finally, it was off to Ypres for a bit of R&R before the very moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, the memorial to the missing of the Ypres Salient. It has been performed every day at 8pm since July 1928.

Our journey home was quite eventful as the van had little if any brake padding left on the rear. It was a fantastic trip spent with a great band of brothers and we are already planning our next trip.



The grave of Bangor man Lt. Holt Hewitt



Lt. Holt Hewitt

Uncle remembered at BGS Remembrance Day service

Brothers Colin and Alastair Walker (pictured here) represented Bangor Grammarians at the annual Service of Remembrance in the Assembly Hall on Friday 10 November 2017.

Their uncle, Norman Hanna, who attended Bangor Grammar School from 1934 until the late 1930s, emigrated to join his brother in Canada, surviving the sinking of The Athenia on 3 September 1939 on the way.

He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was posted to Castle Archdale in Fermanagh, flying Sunderland flying boats from Lough Erne to attack U-boats in the Atlantic. Unfortunately he was lost when his plane disappeared in December 1943 en route to Gibraltar.

Norman Hanna's name is recorded as one of the School's 'Deathless Dead' on the Second World War memorial plaque in the Assembly Hall. Colin Walker attended BGS from 1948 to 1955, serving as Head Boy for a year, while Alastair was a pupil at the School from 1955 to 1962.





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Past pupils who have brought acclaim to the School attend launch of Sporting Wall of Fame



Terence Bowman

Sporting stars of the past six decades gathered in the Atrium at Bangor Grammar School on 20 March 2018 for the launch of the new Sporting Wall of Fame.

No fewer than 32 faces appear on the Wall (located in the sports department corridor), beginning with rugby international George McIlldowie, who gained four caps for Ireland between 1906 and 1910, and ending (for now) with current international Stuart McCloskey, who gained his second cap in Ireland's recent 23-20 win over Fiji.

Nineteen of the Wall 'inductees' attended the launch, along with Byrom Bramwell, great nephew of Thomas Bramwell, another rugby player, who appeared for Ireland against France back in 1928.

The Wall was conceived by immediate past chairman Geoffrey Miller, funded by Bangor Grammarians, and brought to fruition over a number of months in co-operation with the School itself. The aim was to collate and celebrate those sportsmen who had gained full senior international honours in their chosen field.

No fewer than 10 different sports are featured on the Wall of Fame: rugby (12), cricket (4), sailing (4), hockey (3), golf (3) and football (2), with one each from rowing, squash, swimming and tennis.

In advance of the formal proceedings, the 'inductees' were taken on a guided tour of the sports department. Former Northern Ireland and Arsenal captain Terry Neill, who had flown over that morning from London, rubbed shoulders with Dick Milliken, who captained the first Schools' Cup-winning team in 1969 (before going on to play for both Ireland and the British Lions). Golfers Brian Kissock and Garth McGimpsey, cricketers John Elder, Brian Millar and Mark Hutchinson, and hockey Olympic Gold and Bronze Medallist Stephen Martin all joined in the tour.

Other rugby stars in attendance included Roger Clegg, David Morrow and Kenneth Hooks, Olympic sailors Bill O'Hara, Conrad Simpson and Stephen Milne, while squash, rowing and tennis were represented by Jeff Hearst, David Gray and Peter Minnis respectively. Completing the line-up were Bill Whisker, the school's only sailing World Champion (the GP14 class in 1975), and swimmer Steven McQuillan, who set seven new Irish individual records between 2008 and 2010.

There were apologies from 10 past pupils who were unable to attend – David McManus (hockey), David Feherty (golf), Michael Rea (cricket), Don Whittle (rugby), Mark Cummings (swimming), Mark McCall (rugby), Keith Gillespie (football), Kieron Dawson (rugby), Chris Cargo (hockey), and the aforementioned Stuart McCloskey. In many instances they were represented by family members and all expressed the desire to view the Wall for themselves during a future visit to Bangor Grammar School.

Proceedings back in the Atrium commenced with introductions by Board of Governors chairman Paul Blair. He thanked the Grammarians for providing the funding and all those who had made the evening possible, also the school's jazz band, pupils who had helped with the tours to view the Wall, and the catering staff. There was praise too for the "unsung" work of the sports coaches, past and present. He also mentioned the forthcoming Alumni Project, stressing the important role played by Alumni in inspiring current pupils and supporting the school.



Sporting Wall of Fame inductees are pictured with Principal Elizabeth Huddleson, Grammarians chairman Terence Bowman (back row, third from left) and Paul Blair, Board of Governors chairman (back row, fifth from right). Back row: Garth McGimpsey, Stephen Martin, Conrad Simpson, Mark Hutchinson, John Elder, Brian Millar, Stephen Milne, David Morrow, Peter Minnis, Brian Kissock, Terry Neill, Jeff Hearst. Front row: Roger Clegg, Byrom Bramwell (representing his great uncle Thomas Bramwell), Dick Milliken, David Gray, Steven McQuillan, Kenny Hooks and Bill O'Hara. Picture by Ken Best



Kenny Hooks with Bill O'Hara (Spectator picture)

Grammarians chairman Terence Bowman commended predecessor Geoffrey Miller for proposing the idea of the Wall of Fame and explained that while every effort had been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, thanks to the sterling efforts of recently retired BGS Archivist Barry Greenaway and historian Trevor Gray, the Grammarians fully intended to update the Wall in the event of new details coming to light or new internationals emerging.

It was also their intention in future years to help fund further Walls of Fame around the campus to recognise other areas where past pupils have brought great honour to the school.

Concluding, he told in brief the story of George McIldowie, who was not represented at the launch. He had a very famous cousin, the Hollywood actress Dame Angela Lansbury, while in his working life he had served as Resident Engineer on the Silent Valley reservoir construction project in the Mourne back in the 1920s and 1930s.

The main speaker was Olympic Gold Medal winner Stephen Martin who highlighted the rich history of sporting success in the school and said it was important that future generations of pupils should be reminded of such achievements.

“School sport was very important to each and every one of us,” he stated, “and that passion for sport continued long after we left Bangor Grammar. Indeed our experiences helped shape how we live our lives today.”

He added: “We were all blessed to have teachers with the knowledge and enthusiasm to guide and encourage our talents in both sport and academic lessons. On nights like this we can take great pride in our achievements and remember the positive influence Bangor Grammar School had on all of us.”



Terry Neill and his sister Phyllis
(Spectator picture)

Refreshments were served during which visitors were also taken on conducted tours of the Sporting Wall of Fame.

Terry Neill returned to his old school the following morning for a Question and Answer session with pupils.

Who is on the BGS Sporting Wall of Fame?

George McIldowie, rugby, 1906-10, 4 Ireland caps

Thomas Bramwell, rugby, 1928, 1 Ireland cap

Hugh Greer, rugby, 1942, 1 Ireland cap

Terry Neill, football, 1961-73, 59 Northern Ireland caps

Brian Kissock, golf, 1962-68

David McManus, hockey, 1970-71, 6 Ireland caps

Roger Clegg, rugby, 1973-75, 5 Ireland caps

Dick Milliken, rugby, 1973-75, 14 Ireland caps, 4 Lions Test caps

Bill Whisker, sailing, World GP14 Champion 1975, Irish Helmsman Champion 1980

David Feherty, golf, 1980-92, Ryder Cup team 1991

John Elder, cricket, 1973-85, 37 Ireland caps

Stephen Martin, hockey, 1980-92, 135 Ireland caps, 94 Great Britain caps, Gold and Bronze Olympic Medallist

Peter Minnis, tennis, 1983, Davis Cup v USA

David Gray, Ireland rowing, 1984 Los Angeles Olympics

Kenneth Hooks, rugby, 1981-91, 6 Ireland caps

Jeff Hearst, squash, Ireland, 1982-89

Bill O'Hara, Oly., sailing, 1984 (Los Angeles), 1988 (Seoul)

Garth McGimpsey, golf, 1985-2005, Walker Cup teams

Michael Rea, cricket, 1985-94, 52 Ireland caps

David Morrow, rugby, 1986, 3 Ireland caps

Don Whittle, rugby, 1988, 1 Ireland cap

Conrad Simpson, sailing, Irish Olympic Team, 1988 (Seoul), 1992 (Barcelona)

Mark Cummings, swimming, Ireland team, 1990

Mark McCall, rugby, 1992-98, 13 Ireland caps

Brian Millar, cricket, 1992-95, 20 Ireland caps

Keith Gillespie, football, 1994-2008, 86 Northern Ireland caps

Mark Hutchinson, cricket, 2005, 1 Ireland cap

Kieron Dawson, rugby, 1997-2003, 21 Ireland caps

Stephen Milne, Ireland Sailing, 2008 Beijing Olympics

Chris Cargo, hockey, 2009-present, 167 caps

Steven McQuillan, swimming, 2008-10, set 7 new individual Irish records

Stuart McCloskey, rugby, Ireland, 2 caps



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We hope you'll like the Christmas and New Year Programme we've planned for you this year. Our aim is to offer the very best of holiday dining and entertainment in a warm and festive atmosphere, being looked after by staff who are genuinely pleased to see you.

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Enjoy a delicious lunch and music from our resident DJ in the Ballroom from 12noon-4.00pm.

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Join Santa and Party Dee Jay NI in our Ballroom. Experience our relaxed family carvery lunch served 12.30-2.30pm with disco until 4.00pm.

The kids can take part in games with prizes and get their faces painted.

Sunday 9th & Sunday 16th December, adults £19.95, kids 5-12 years £7.95, under 5 Eat Free.

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS

Eat, Drink and be Merry with your friends, family and colleagues this Christmas! Enjoy a tasty Festive 3 course dinner served 7.00-7.30pm in our Ballroom and Party the night away with our Resident DJ or Live

Entertainment on selected nights until 1.00am, from £27.50-£35.00 per person.

CHRISTMAS DINING IN OUR RESTAURANT

Relish an appetising Festive Meal in our Restaurant located on the 1st floor of the hotel with stunning views across Bangor Marina with Live Singer every Saturday evening throughout the month of December. 3 Course Lunch from £16.95-£19.95 and 3 Course Dinner from £21.95-£25.95 per person.

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Join us for a mouth-watering 3 course Carvery Lunch served in the Ballroom from 12.30-2.30pm, with Live

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Bangor Grammarians welcome Sir Patrick Coghlin as guest speaker at annual dinner

The 88th annual Bangor Grammar School Old Boys' dinner was held on Friday 10 November 2017 at the Marine Court Hotel, where the guest speaker was Sir Patrick Coghlin, who is chairing the ongoing independent public inquiry into the Renewable Heating Incentive.

Although not a past pupil himself, Sir Patrick has lived in Bangor for much of his life and his son Richard is a former Head Boy of the School. Cambridge-educated Sir Patrick's anecdote-packed address touched on his own extensive legal career, which saw him being called to the Northern Ireland Bar in 1970 and rising to membership of the Court of Appeal.

He was introduced by outgoing Grammarians chairman Geoffrey Miller who thanked fellow committee colleagues for their support during his three years in the position and said he looked forward to working with his successor for the continued betterment of Bangor Grammar School.

Mr Miller drew attention to the new 'Sporting Wall of Fame' project – which benefited from the proceeds of a very successful raffle.

Attendance honours on the night went to the Classes of 1975 (15 members present), 1951 (14) and 1992 (11), but it is necessary to point out the School had a much smaller pupil population in the 1950s. For Class of 1951 organiser Jim Claney to achieve such an excellent turnout is no small tribute to him and also to the willingness of his 'classmates' to set aside this special night each year.

Also very welcome was the presence of a number of past staff members, including Bertie Styles, Maurice McCord, John Smyth, Bob McLroy, Irwin Bonar and Chris Harte, as well as current staff member (and past pupil) Myles Christy.

Principal Elizabeth Huddleson was accompanied by Head Boy Jamie Stewart, Zach Kerr, Captain of Rugby, Matthew Torrens, Captain of Soccer, Matthew Armstrong-Sanchez, Captain of Hockey and Athletics, and Matthew Quinn, Captain of Cricket.

During the course of her wide-ranging address, Mrs Huddleson paid a fulsome tribute to former teacher Barry Greenaway following his retirement after giving an additional two decades of service to BGS as School Archivist.



Principal Elizabeth Huddleson with (from left): guest speaker Sir Patrick Coghlin, Geoffrey Miller, outgoing chairman of Bangor Grammarians, and Paul Blair, chairman of the Board of Governors



An excellent turnout as ever by the Class of 1951, including Wesley Allen, Raymond Boyd, Jim Claney, Ronnie Drury, Pat Hayes, James Hamilton, Ben Livingston, Stanley McCormick, Billy Martin, Peter Radcliffe, Jim Scott, Frank Shane, Jack Thompson and Maurice Watson



Former staff members who were welcome dinner guests (back, from left): William Cree, Bob McLroy, Chris Harte. Front: Maurice McCord, Bertie Styles, Irwin Bonar and John Smyth.



Members of the Class of 1975 who attended the dinner. Back (from left): Peter Blair, Colin Loughhead, Billy McCoubrey, Andrew McCormick, David Greene, Jonathan Mercer, Sam Beckett, Iain Stewart, Terence Bowman. Front (from left): Ronnie Patton, Martin Kennedy, Alan Black, John Lowdon, Colin Jones and Paul Blair.



Principal Elizabeth Huddleson and outgoing Grammarians chairman Geoffrey Miller with Head Boy Jamie Stewart, Zach Kerr, Captain of Rugby, Matthew Torrens, Captain of Soccer, Matthew Armstrong-Sanchez, Captain of Hockey and Athletics, and Matthew Quinn, Captain of Cricket



Members of the Class of 1992, who were marking 25 years since their departure from Bangor Grammar School. Back (from left): Rory McBurney, Bill Hichens, Adrian Beattie, Chris Taylor, Niall Keenan. Front (from left): Jamie Drennan, Craig Warnock, Richard McCord, Stephen Thurley, Michael Jackson and Bertie Styles.



Trevor Gray, Noel Graham and James O'Fee, from the Class of 1967

All pictures courtesy of the County Down Spectator

A career and a life based on my education at Bangor Grammar School



David Roulston

David Roulston attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 1945-54. Following graduation from Queen's University his first job was with the Admiralty establishment at Portland in Dorset – prompting an academic career involving the study of semiconductor circuits and devices that has taken him to Canada, France and Oxford where in 1988 he was invited as a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College with many extended return visits.



David in 1951

When I was invited to write an article for the *Grammarians'* magazine I inevitably reflected on my life at Bangor Grammar School and its connection with my career. I started at Connor House in 1945 when Maurice Wilkins was still Headmaster and moved through the later forms at College Avenue.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive from editor Terence Bowman copies of articles I had written for the *Gryphon* magazine on my hobbies of building wireless

sets, listening to ships on these sets, visiting ships in Bangor or anchored in Bangor Bay, and also taking photographs and developing and printing them in the darkroom (above the Barn as I recall) of the Photographic Society run by Henry Rea.



Members of Bangor Grammar School's Photographic Society are pictured in 1953/54 with Headmaster Col. W. J. Ricketts (at rear) and teacher Henry Rea. Back (from left): T. R. R. Houston, D. C. F. Drew, A. S. Johnston, K. McClements, D. J. Roulston, G. Ashe, R. R. Rae. Front: D. J. Smyth, C. Campbell, G. M. Glass and C. E. Ronaldson.

I recently re-established contact with an old school friend, Wil Smith (in Fifth Form together, now living in New Zealand), thanks to finding one of my photographs of the coal boat SS Whin arriving at Bangor pier, which he had posted on a 'Ships Nostalgia' website. I had pursued

this interest in ships with Wil and we travelled to Preston and Glasgow on the Whin, after listening to the skipper on the ship's radio on the intership frequency (Wil and I both had *Gryphon* articles on these activities when in Fifth Form). So thank you to the Photographic Society!



David's picture of the SS Whin entering Bangor harbour

My first *Gryphon* article in form 3A was entitled 'How to build a crystal set'. A year or so after that I started to build a one-valve radio and my physics teacher, Mr. McKeown, kindly offered to help. This was a great inducement to follow his physics course, which I did meticulously for the rest of my time at the school. In the mid-1980s (from memory), after an invitation received during one of the few annual school dinners which I attended in London, I re-visited the school in College Avenue. To my delight, Mr McKeown (in his 90s, I think) turned up to meet me and we very much enjoyed chatting as we walked around the school, much changed since my time there.

Heeding the advice of the Headmaster (Col. Ricketts), I went to Queen's University to study Electronics and Communications with a first year option in Physics, which later became essential to my career. My second long vacation job from Queen's was four months in Berne, Switzerland, where my two years learning German with Mr. Rea for Junior Certificate became extremely useful, even though the Berne Swiss accent (and vocabulary) was not exactly the High German taught in school.

On graduating, my first job was with the Admiralty establishment in Portland, Dorset, working on the electronics of Asdic underwater detection equipment.



The cover of the December 1948 edition of the *Gryphon* magazine (top) and 'How to build a crystal set' – penned by David Roulston and pointing towards his future career path

I chose the Admiralty because I hoped to be close to the sea and to sail (my early interest in ships and the sea had not evaporated). Soon after arrival I discovered the establishment had two 14ft. RN dinghies which I quickly learnt to handle, so I spent my summer sailing in Portland Harbour and Weymouth Bay. This fulfilled my long-held ambition from weekends spent at Ballyholme Yacht Club hoping to get a crewing position for the yacht races, but without any luck!

I realised when working at Portland that I really wanted to study more seriously the physics of transistors so I enrolled at Imperial College, London and completed a Ph.D. on semiconductor devices. By the time I was writing my thesis I knew my career would definitely involve this fascinating new field and for the next five years I worked in Paris on industrial research and development projects using semiconductor devices. During the year which preceded my move to Paris I attended French evening classes at the Institut Français in Kensington, thinking of the years spent in College Avenue with Mr O'Donovan, with whom I had the pleasure of taking French up to A-Level, not realising at the time how extremely useful it would be in later life.

This remark also applies strongly to Mr Hawtin's classes of Latin (two years) and English (up to Sixth Form) and his encouragement to join the Debating Society – an equally useful activity over the years. My time in Paris was full of interests outside my professional activities, with an active cultural life that mixed museum visits, reading French literature of the existentialist movement, including Sartre and Camus, and going to concerts to hear the French singers of the period, from Georges Brassens to Juliette Gréco. I am convinced that without my many years of French at school I would not have been able to benefit from the cultural life of Paris.

Whilst working there I had written many technical reports (in French), published a number of articles on semiconductor circuits and devices and taken out a number of patents on various inventions. This prompted an invitation to join a Canadian University as an eight-month visiting professor. It was in 1966 that my wife and I and our two children took the SS France to New York, flying to Toronto and then onwards by road to the University of Waterloo in Ontario. It did not take me long to realise that academic life suited me, and the eight months eventually became 30 years as a professor. I was also invited to become a consultant to my old French firm; this involved making three visits a year to France, with a week in the research laboratories at Orsay south of Paris, a few days at the silicon chip branch in Grenoble (with the



A picture from 1994 when David was a professor at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada

snow-capped mountains nearby, where I soon started to ski) and a few days at the power semiconductor division in Aix-en-Provence (within sight of Cézanne's Sainte Victoire which I grew to love on long weekend walks). I could hardly believe my good fortune – three of my favourite cities in the world which I had to visit for consulting work whilst continuing my research and lecturing in Canada. It was a marvellous combination of intellectually stimulating work and pleasure.

As a consultant I was asked to work on developing some computer code to simulate electron flow in semiconductors. This was my introduction to computing and involved finding a way to solve sets of nonlinear differential equations and understand how a transistor really worked and how for industrial purposes device performance could be improved as technology evolved. This use of coding for solving physics and calculus problems frequently made me think of my school years with Mr McKeown for physics and Col. Ricketts, who taught me A-Level calculus (from his teaching, I still remember how he stimulated my interest by explaining the practical uses of differentiation in calculus). This software project grew over the years, with an industrial agreement between the French firm (now ST Microelectronics) and the University of Waterloo. The software (called Bipole3) was used extensively by firms in Silicon Valley in California with which I collaborated during many visits. As a result of my published research papers and the software, I also accepted invitations to act as consultant to a UN development project in India, which I visited several times, as well as many other countries including Japan.

As an academic I spent sabbatical leaves in France (combining my consulting work and research) and in 1980 at Southampton University, living in Lyminster. There I bought my first yacht and kept her at Bucklers Hard in the Beaulieu River. I would travel subsequently from Canada every summer to sail, with my children (now two daughters and a son, all willing sailors) as crew – it was their annual holiday! In 1988 I unexpectedly received an invitation to spend a sabbatical year in the Department of Materials in Oxford University, and as a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College where I completed my first book on semiconductor devices.



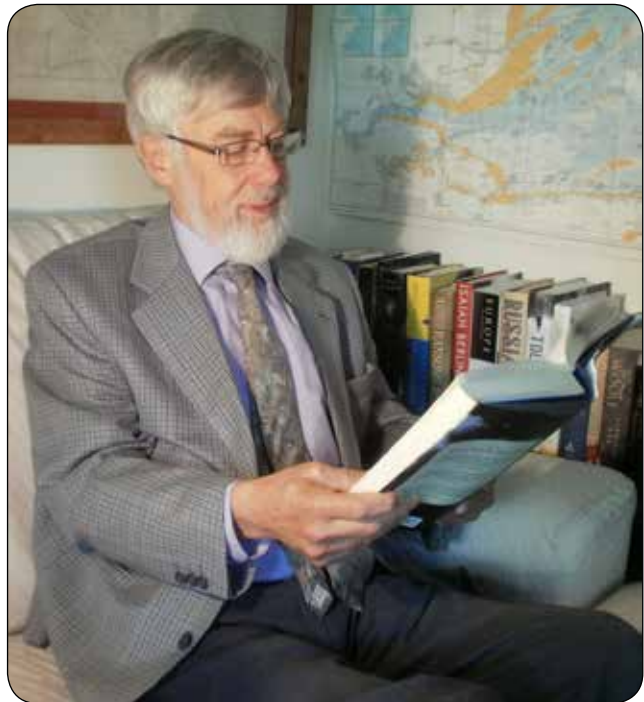
David enjoying his hobby of sailing in 2002 off the Needles Lighthouse

This was the start of a new phase in my life. I could hardly believe my good luck in having an Oxford connection and

I returned every year for some months of research. It was easy to combine this with my consulting activities in France (where I was now also giving lectures and being external examiner for doctoral theses). As a result of published research papers on the physics of semiconductor devices I was awarded a Doctor of Science Degree in 1994 from the University of London. The crystal set detector I described in the *Gryphon* in form 3A would now be described as a metal-semiconductor device, so between the ages of 12 and 60 my interests had come full circle!

I took early retirement (aged 59) and moved to Oxford, based at Wolfson College. I created a simplified version of my software which is still available from the Bipole3 website and used by universities as a research tool and teaching aid. I continued research and visits to France for several years, and bought a seaworthy 50-year-old four-berth wooden ketch, in which I sailed with my wife every year to France or Holland or the lovely stretches on the English South and East coast.

Work as an academic never seemed to cease completely in retirement, with occasional updates to my software and a recent invitation to give an opening speech at a conference in Delhi on 'Collaboration in International Research in Semiconductor Devices'. I was also invited to the University of Waterloo to receive an honorary doctorate in engineering. It was a joy to find that many of my PhD students had made the trip from distant parts of Canada and Silicon Valley to celebrate with me; even more importantly my three children were there, all in mid careers in Vancouver, London Ontario and Montreal (having been at various times at school in France, Canada and England, due to my career moves).



David relaxes at home in Oxford

There is no doubt in my mind that although serendipity is always a factor in one's life and career path, the education I received at Bangor Grammar School was key to my stimulating career and led to a most interesting personal life in which I was incredibly fortunate to live and work in different countries and absorb their cultures.

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The Class of 2017

Charlie Blair

Charlie Blair, like father Paul before him, served as Head Boy during his final year. He attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 2003-17 and is now studying Law at St John's College, Durham

It felt rather surreal to be classed as an 'old boy' at the Grammarians' London dinner earlier this year, as I can still vividly remember when I threw my cap on the roof of Connor House and had my first day at BGS in College Avenue. Despite it being a mere year since our year group left, all the boys I bump into reminisce about their brilliant time at the School and remind me of some hilarious memories it's probably best I do not divulge!

Personally, I've found the past year studying Law at St John's College, Durham, to have been really enjoyable. The work has ranged from being genuinely interesting to mind-numbingly boring, but as a whole it has been engaging. When not struggling through case law I play rugby for Durham University, I attempt to play football and darts for my college and I work on the college bar. It has been a pleasure to have my two peers, Matthew Graham and Joseph McLarnon, in Durham and to enjoy a £1.60 pint together in one of the college bars.

As members of the 'Class of 2017' have immersed themselves in all walks of life, both at home and abroad, it would be impossible to track and note what everyone has been up to. However, I hope this will give you a flavour of how some are doing.

Numerous boys from our year have excelled in sport. Matthew Agnew, contrary to the accompanying photograph, is not pursuing a career in modelling, but has been given an academy contract by Ulster Rugby and has represented Ulster 'A' frequently. Recently, Matthew started for Ireland in all their games at the U20 World Cup in the south of



Matthew Agnew played for Ireland in the U20 World Cup

France, being coached by none other than Paul O'Connell. Lewis Bret travelled to Auckland, New Zealand, to play for Ponsonby Rugby Club's U20s during his gap year. Andrew Creane is representing Team Ireland in Italy for the Roller Hockey World Championships.

Our year group has consistently performed well academically – as demonstrated by Scott McIlroy, incoming president of the Queen's University (Belfast) Geography Society. Moreover, Patrick Eves and Bertie Parkinson are studying Medicine at Edinburgh and Liverpool respectively. Patrick has joined the sailing club at Edinburgh, as relief from a heavy workload, and has competed in many races.

David Torrens has continued the Grammarian tradition of excelling in Drama, being accepted into the acclaimed National Youth Theatre. It seems his hilariously accurate impressions of teachers throughout his school years have paid off!

Many boys are now excelling outside academia after deciding to enter the world of work and to eschew the cushy student life. Bryn Crawford works as a mechanical engineer for Simpson Consulting, while several contemporaries have joined the Armed Forces – very much a testament to the exceptional CCF department at BGS. During his gap year Chris Goldthorpe travelled to the Philippines, where he offered service to under-privileged communities and spread the gospel.

Attending the London dinner back in March tangibly showed me what it means to be a Grammarian and how, in truth, it's a fantastic close-knit community which offers support and friendship. I would encourage all members of my year group to continue to keep in contact and attend such events. Coverage of the past pupil dinners in London, Edinburgh and Bangor can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

I wish all my peers every success in the future and hope Bangor Grammar School has given you life-long skills, memories and friendships. Floreat Bangoria!

Revived Edinburgh Dinner an unqualified success



Guests at the Edinburgh Dinner (from left): Mark Galloway, Peter McIlwaine, Andrew Fynn, Mike Watts, Geoffrey Miller, Alastair Webb, Chris Boston, Ivan Warwick and Mark Sargaison

Thanks to the excellent organisational endeavours of past pupil Ivan Warwick, the revived Edinburgh Dinner, held on Friday 27 October 2017, proved an unqualified success.

The venue was the Scott Room at the Royal Scots Club in the city's Abercromby Place and there was a short speech of welcome by outgoing Grammarians chairman Geoffrey Miller. Afterwards all expressed a desire to attend future Edinburgh Dinners and the date for the 2018 gathering has been set for Saturday 27 October, again at the Royal Scots Club. Watch the website and Facebook page for updated information or contact dinners@grammarians.co.uk.

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Prestigious venue for annual London Dinner

The 33rd annual London Dinner, held on Friday 16 March at a new venue, the Carlton Club in St James's Street, attracted an excellent attendance – aged from 19 to 91 – the prospect of a famous Grand Slam victory for the Irish over England at Twickenham the following afternoon helping to ensure the wintry weather conditions did not take their toll on numbers.

School Principal Elizabeth Huddleson, Board of Governors chairman Paul Blair (along with three of his sons) and recently-elected Grammarians chairman Terence Bowman all travelled over from Northern Ireland that morning to attend the dinner. Guest speaker was past pupil Adam Best, who attended BGS from 1994 to 2001. After graduating from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in 2004, he moved to London where he has been pursuing a career as an actor (with appearances on programmes like *Holby City*, *Silent Witness*, *Waking the Dead* and *The Bill*). Adam's anecdote-packed address was very well received, earning him loud applause.

Organiser Stephen Montgomery is to be commended on his endeavours which ensured the London Dinner made a modest but very welcome profit. Plans are already in hand for next year's Dinner, at the same venue, on 22 March 2019. For further information contact Stephen via his LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephenmmontgomery/> or send an email to grammarians@btconnect.com and it will be forwarded to him.



Proud dad Paul Blair and sons Charlie, Michael and Harry with Jamie McKenzie



Principal Elizabeth Huddleson in conversation with Brian Thompson (left) and Ross Jones



Paul Bryans, Joe Butler Sloss and Stuart Ritchie



Marvin Lee, William Glover and Charlie Blair



Gareth Ritchie, Gavin Knox and Gavin Best



Mike McConnell (left) with London Dinner organiser Stephen Montgomery



Definitely not a comment on the London Dinner!



Guest speaker Adam Best has an attentive audience



Principal Elizabeth Huddleson with Board of Governors chairman Paul Blair and Grammarians chairman Terence Bowman

If you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Grammarian magazine, please write to editor@grammarians.co.uk

Privileged foundations built along College Avenue



Terry Neill

Terry Neill attended Bangor Grammar School from 1956-64 and was Head Boy in his final year. He gained 1st XV and 1st XI Colours in 1962, 1963 and 1964; played Ulster Schools cricket in the same years and Irish Schools in 1963 and 1964. He believes everyone – especially those in privileged positions – should feel a responsibility for creating a future in which their children and grandchildren will flourish.



Bangor Grammar School Prefects in 1963/64 (back, from left): J. C. Oettinger, D. Savage, Headmaster Randall Clarke, J. A. McWha, C. D. Jones, B. Thompson. Front: N. Walker, D. Patterson, R. J. McComb, T. Neill (Head Boy), J. Nixon, C. O. Jones and P. Gay.

Should it be depressing to reflect that it is 54 years since I left Bangor Grammar School – after seven years which provided the foundations of a privileged life? I think I scraped through the 11-Plus, and the consequences were profound. It is good to reflect on, and be grateful for, schooldays at Bangor Grammar – and how they equipped me for life in Dublin, Chicago, London – and Dublin again.

I was lucky. My talents, such as they were, aligned happily with what the school valued – good exam results, rugby, cricket... and some opinionation at Mr Hawtin's debating society. I always did well in Miss Tipping's 'history game', which was the signal that end of term was upon us. Jimmy Welch coached us to winning a Schools' Cup quarter-final against Campbell in Mike Gibson's last year there (and then we 'just didn't turn up' against Dalriada).

Mr Eadie was my housemaster. Stern but fair. I played cricket with him for Bangor CC. In the year of his captaincy it was fine – I could call him 'skipper'. In other years, I was in trouble. I don't think I could address him as 'Harry' even if he was still around today!

Randall Clarke was headmaster – also stern, but always generous and supporting to me. He made me Head Boy, gave me responsibilities, and encouraged and supported the year's work that led to a generous scholarship at Trinity College Dublin.

Four great years at Trinity, where there were then a number

of other Bangorians, provided a wide social life (sometimes to a fault!) and a reasonable degree in Physics. Cricket colours, Knight of the Campanile (Trinity sporting types will know), social rugby and the beginning of a rugby refereeing career under the tutelage of John West.

Almost by accident, I attended a recruiting presentation for Arthur Andersen. I was smitten by their values, their international breadth and the fine quality of professional people who introduced themselves to me. They held open the job offer while I spent two years taking an MBA at London Business School.



'Neill hits first century of the season' – his opening partner in this 1960s university match was Chris Harte, a future teacher at BGS

A professional career

Back to Dublin in 1970 to join Andersen's nascent consulting practice; a decade later I was asked to be practice head. We somehow did well enough for me to be given a leadership role in the global practice – which meant a family move to Chicago in 1986, and the next 20 years spent in Chicago and London. In my role as head, inter alia, of global marketing I helped launch Andersen Consulting (as we then became) into the world of golf sponsorship. As a consequence my pro-am partners included Nicklaus, Faldo, Olazabal – as well as Clarke and McGinley (not to mention a magical dinner in Hawaii with Nicklaus, Player, Palmer, Irwin and their partners. Privilege indeed!). Other treats included two three-day trips to stay and play at the Augusta National Golf Club.

Andersen Consulting became Accenture. I was responsible for practices in nearly 40 countries. That, combined with the chairmanship of Andersen Worldwide, meant record-



Former Prime Minister Ted Heath with members of the Andersen Worldwide board, including Terry Neill (second from right)



On the 12th hole of the Augusta National Golf Club

breaking air miles as well as the joys of working with fine professionals of many nationalities – and of virtually every faith, and none.

I joined an emerging consulting practice of about a thousand people worldwide. Accenture today has some 440,000 people around the world, in an organisation in which British and Irish men and women have ‘punched way above their weight’.

I was part of the small team which ‘floated’ Accenture on the New York Stock Exchange in 2001. Creating a successful public company was a happy bookend to an enormously satisfying global career. It was time for a bit less travel. I became a Governor of London Business School, which is now consistently ranked in the world’s top five. I have had main board director roles at Bank of Ireland Group, CRH plc and UBM plc; chaired a Finnish software company and a UK software company which had William Hague as a fellow board member.



Terry and Marjorie Neill with internationally renowned pianist and conductor Barry Douglas

Barry Douglas asked me to be chairman of Camerata Ireland around 2003 – I enjoyed 10 years basking in the glow of his extraordinary talent as the orchestra built a reputation around the world. I was chairman of Co-operation Ireland in Great Britain through most of the

1990s – and relished supporting various Secretaries of State in their efforts towards peace in Northern Ireland.

These days I am chairman of the Council of Wexford Festival Opera; a member of the Provost’s Cabinet in Trinity;



Terry and his wife Marjorie with Prof Patrick Prendergast, Trinity Provost, at the opening of the Neill Lecture Theatre at TCD

and a member of the board of the Institute of International & European Affairs (IIEA).

I also re-discovered the magic of top class hurling. I have been, and remain, a rugby person all my life. (I am very proud of rugby’s role in building

friendships across the island of Ireland.) Gaelic Football I can take or leave, but I think top class hurling is probably the best field game there is. It’s just a pity that none of the northern counties are any good at it!

The really important

I met Marjorie in Trinity. Next year we will celebrate 50 years of marriage – four great children and spouses... and nine wonderful grandchildren. First advice for a privileged life: ‘Marry well’ (!).

Conor is a professor at IESE in Barcelona (Spain’s top-ranked business school); Deirdre is an artist and mother; Aidan is CEO of the technology business he founded in London; and Cormac has a senior role in Accenture in Ireland.

We live in strained and sometimes contentious times. North and south we are fortunate to live in parliamentary democracies. The people should determine their governance structures. However, everyone – especially those in privileged positions – should feel a responsibility for creating on the island a future in which our children and grandchildren will flourish.

There are founts of goodwill to be tapped. I share with the Trinity Provost a wish that more young people from Northern Ireland (especially Bangor!) would come again to Trinity – to help bridgebuilding and mutual support. We share too small a patch of earth to do other than help each other.

I have been away for 54 years, but I do visit most years – for the Clondeboye Festival and the odd birthday and (sad to say) funeral. But I remain enormously grateful for everything that Bangor Grammar School gave me. If anyone has ideas on how I can give back, I hope they will get in touch.



Terry (right) with Gavin Caldwell, a friend since university, who was Captain of the R&A in 2017



Terry and Marjorie Neill with sons Aidan, Cormac and Conor and daughter Deirdre in France in 2015



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Boxing Day hockey an outstanding success

The traditional Boxing Day hockey fixtures at Bangor Grammar School's Gransha Road campus proved an outstanding success, thanks to the excellent endeavours of George Wilson, who arranged the games, teams, umpires, etc. and also Vice Principal Stephen Robinson, who helped to make it all possible. Whilst somewhat chilly, the sunny weather (very welcome after the wet conditions on Christmas Day), coupled with the customary seasonal fayre, ensured it was a day that will long be remembered.



Boxing Day hockey participants.
Picture by Ken Best

Younger competitors shine at annual golf outing

The 2017 Grammarians golf tournament took place on Friday 8 September at Bangor Golf Club. Once again the event was blessed with good golfing weather and there was also an excellent turnout of 26 players, with ages ranging from 19 to 78 years young!

First and second place overall went to two of the younger competitors, Connor Bodhanya and Harvey Carlin. Both scored 44 points, Connor winning on countback. In third place, upholding the honour of the slightly older Grammarians, was Eric Kyle.

The team competition was won by the School team of Jude Devlin, Darren Scott, Adam Smith and Lewis Goody, with the Grammarians and Staff teams a distant second and third. Longest Drive was won by Neal Nowotarski, with Nearest the Pin by John Lowdon.

Our thanks go to Bangor Golf Club for use of the course and for the excellent post-golf meal and refreshments.



David Morrow and Russell Moore



Peter Blair, Paul Blair, John Lowdon and Colin Jones



Warren Bool, Jonathan McNaught, Ed Mason and Paul Wimpres



Connor Bodhanya, Harvey Carlin and Jamie Fulton



Neal Nowotarski, Brian Johnston, Phillip Cartmill and Eric Kyle



Adam Smith, Lewis Goody, Jonny Todd and Dowie Holley

Bangor Grammarians would welcome new committee members at the annual general meeting on Monday 3 December at the School. If you have a little time to spare and would be interested in putting your name forward, please contact any committee member (see list with addresses on page 4).



John Neill, Jude Devlin, Paul Weir and Darren Scott

The Troggs, Ray Charles, Kylie... and Nelson Mandela – my busy life in music



Joe Creighton

Joe Creighton attended Bangor Grammar School from 1961-66, moving with his family to Australia in 1967. Music has always figured prominently in his life – from school band The A-Side to a career that has taken him around the world. He has met many famous people, including Nelson Mandela, and has played with stars including Ray Charles, Olivia Newton-John and Kylie Minogue.

I am honoured to have been asked to contribute to the *Grammarians* as I still think back so fondly on my years at Bangor Grammar School. Although I was probably a less than perfect student, I did learn some valuable life lessons and gained some lifelong friends.

It was also at this time that my fondness for music was cultivated. A group of us, namely Charlie Whisker, Hayden McClenahan and Robin McClelland, used to sneak into Hayden's brother's room when he was out and listen to his blues and jazz records. We were trying to be cool and hip but the nature of the music took hold somehow and formed an appetite for something with a little more depth than the Pop playing on the radio at the time.

To this day I still listen to blues, roots and jazz music and it has greatly influenced the direction of my song writing. I am aware that Charlie Whisker, in his time as an art director at Windmill Lane Studios in Dublin, influenced his friend Bono by introducing him to the blues. U2 went on to release *Rattle and Hum*, collaborating with BB King. The album was more blues-influenced than their earlier music, so you could say our little blues and jazz sessions had a 'butterfly effect' on current popular music!



The A-Side from the mid-1960s: Jon Brown, Paul Lyttle, Mike Harrison, Len McCormick and Joe Creighton

With Paul Lyttle, Len McCormick, Jon 'Jonas' Brown (RIP) and Mike Harrison (RIP) we had our school band, The A-Side. Playing R&B, blues and soul, we supported The Troggs and Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Titch. We even had a dodgy manager at one point who wanted to take us

to Liverpool to play at the famous Cavern Club.

That was my first sojourn into the world of music. We were, of course, influenced by Van Morrison and saw him perform many times with his band Them. The Sixties was a very exciting time for live music in Northern Ireland.

In 1967 my family moved to Australia and I soon became involved in the Australian music industry. After a period of paying my dues as a musician, some overseas travel, as well as a few years living in Japan, I started to make a name for myself as a recording session bassist and backing singer.

Throughout this time I worked in my own bands as lead singer, bassist and songwriter. I released my first solo album, *Holywell*, in 1993 to very positive reviews. It was not by any means a great commercial success but it did wonders for my reputation as a singer songwriter.

<http://www.joecreighton.com/14/Reviews/Reviews.html>

Australian icon John Farnham covered one of the tracks, 'The Time Has Come', from the *Holywell* album.

<https://youtu.be/as-26k5zMZ4>

Since then I have recorded three more solo albums, the latest being 'Running Free'. The title song is about growing up in Bangor and what a wonderful place it was to be, as a young person.

<https://youtu.be/BsYPUMwKyXg>

I have been very fortunate to have toured the world with some great Australian artists, including John Farnham, Olivia Newton-John and Kylie Minogue. I also shared the stage with Ray Charles, doing backing vocals as a Raellette. https://youtu.be/5_zWldVMwgI,

I even got to meet the great Nelson Mandela when my band, The Revelators, played at a function where he was speaking.

These days I do a show called 'Into The Mystic: The Music of Van Morrison'. Having grown up watching Van play at The Maritime Club, The Crypt and other local venues around Northern Ireland, I felt qualified to do a



Having fun with Olivia Newton-John on a concert tour in the USA. Joe used to do a duet with Olivia on 'You're The One That I Want'. On the last night of an eight-month tour he arrived on stage wearing a wig. Olivia was laughing so much she could hardly sing!



Joe played on the 'Impossible Princess' tour with Kylie Minogue in 1997/98 and appeared in the subsequent live DVD. "Kylie is a really vivacious and exciting person to be around," he recalled. "Everywhere we would go, London, Sydney, Melbourne, local clubs would turn it on for us. Roped off areas, drinks on the house she is the elite of the elite rock princess and she deserves every bit of success she has."



Joe (third from left) and the Revelators with South African leader Nelson Mandela



Joe relaxes before a recent gig in Newcastle, New South Wales

show featuring his music and sharing a few tales of my life growing up at home.

I have had great success with the show for the past six years and I continue to fill venues, mostly in Melbourne and from time to time interstate throughout Australia. The Aussies love Van The Man and thankfully they like my interpretation too. Check here for some videos of the show:

<http://www.joecreighton.com/267/Videos/Videos.html>

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=joe+creighton

All in all I am very grateful for the opportunities I have had in life and it comes back to those life skills I learned back in my time at Bangor Grammar School. My last report card from 'Nobby' Clarke was probably not exactly what my parents wanted to hear:

Joseph Creighton was a pupil at this school from September 1961 to June 1966, when he obtained his GCE in Art and Mathematics. He was of a cheerful and carefree disposition, but he was not academically inclined. I think he would be successful in a post where his talent for mixing well with people could be given scope. Randall Clarke, 11 April 1966

Well, I guess I did end up getting that post. For more stories and information check out my website, www.joecreighton.com. Anyone wishing to say hello please feel free to contact me on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/joe.creighton.750>

<https://www.facebook.com/INTOTHEMYSTIC1/>



Joe with Sting at the Rock am Ring festival, staged at the Nürburgring sports complex in 1991



Joe's Hofner guitar is signed (in 1998) by legendary Beatles producer Sir George Martin. He added: 'Best Hofner player since Paul'.



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Going boldly where no Grammarian has gone before (with the British National Debate Team)



Richard Hunter

Richard Hunter left Bangor Grammar School in 2013 and subsequently graduated with a MA (Hons) in Modern History from the University of St Andrews. He is currently studying for an MSc in Contemporary History at the University of Edinburgh.

When I started my debating career, in a sunny after-school Junior Debate in Room 144 on College Avenue, I never quite imagined I'd find myself being introduced into an auditorium filled with over a thousand people, a few thousand miles away, as a member of the 'British National Debate Team.'

The title was grand and a little inaccurate — neither I nor my compatriot Becki Howarth had won any kind of competition to earn it — but the two of us had been selected to represent the United Kingdom on a two-month tour of the United States. We were following a tradition dating back to 1922, when the English-Speaking Union sent their first pair of debaters off with nothing more than a boat ticket, some currency, the name of their host, and a letter of recommendation. Thankfully, organisation has improved somewhat.

Tour alumni over the years have included a future Prime

Minister (Edward Heath in 1939), as well as two future Chancellors of the Exchequer, two Leaders of the Opposition, an Archbishop of Canterbury, and dozens of judges, broadcasters and politicians. Few have been Northern Irish; none, as far as I can discern, have been Grammarians.

I can therefore say with some confidence that I was going boldly where no Grammarian had gone before — debating across the entire continent, from a first stop in New York to a conclusion in Dallas, Texas, via Utah,



Richard addresses the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Affairs in Lincoln, Nebraska

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Richard Hunter at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated



Richard and compatriot Becki Howarth (right) with Prof Ted Sheckels and the debaters from Randolph-Macon College, Virginia

— whether at venerable and historic societies, or among students just trying to start their own — reminding the two of us, as experienced as we were, of how powerful this hobby can be.

In America, debating is not done as an extra-curricular activity, as it is in schools and universities in the United Kingdom — instead it is taught as part of a wide variety of subjects, under the umbrella of ‘Communications’. It is taught in high schools, community colleges and universities, giving a wider variety of young people a



Richard and Becki Howarth (centre), with Dr Jan Hoffman (left) and the debaters from Georgia College

California, Oklahoma, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, South Dakota, Mississippi and Georgia.

We truly saw the breadth of the entire continent, from the snowy peaks of the Rockies outside Salt Lake City to the beaches of Santa Monica; from the vast plains of Texas to the mountains of Appalachia. Everywhere we went we found more than generous hospitality, with students and faculties alike going out of their way to make us feel at home.

Beyond that, though, we found innovative ways of engaging people in the activity with which we thought we were familiar — introducing debating to pupils at schools in less fortunate areas, integrating with elements of drama and performing arts, and introducing elements of cross-examination which resembled a courtroom. The enthusiasm for debating was infectious

grounding in public speaking, as well as argumentation, visual communication and various forms of debate.

‘Communications’ therefore becomes much more than just debating, instead reaching into the particulars of language, rhetoric and argumentation. With full-time staff teaching it, and academics researching and discussing it, it has become a vast and dense field of study, which our final stop, at the National Communications Association annual conference, showed us.

We discovered that the America we had seen, and the fantastic staff and students we had met, represented just a small fraction of the whole network of thousands of teachers and lecturers, all working on researching, teaching and growing a subject that, two months earlier, we were completely unfamiliar with.

We had the privilege of sharing our experiences and skills with them, but what we truly learned was the value of doing the same at home, of getting more people involved, and teaching those skills in a different way.

This was especially relevant in our particular cultural moment – we heard at every stop laments over American political division and the current state of political discourse, whether the topic was immigration, climate change, economic policy, the opioid crisis, race relations or gun control. The last would cast a long shadow over the trip, with two mass shootings while we were there, the second, at a church in Texas, coming just two weeks after we’d attended a Sunday church service in Texas.

I cannot say I truly understand anything more about these issues now than I did then, but having met so many Americans, young and old, all passionate about expanding a student’s ability to understand complex ideas and articulate his or her point of view, I cannot help but be more optimistic about the future of the country, however bleak the current situation might be.

If the future of America lies with the people we met, and the values they hold, then I can only be optimistic about it. To bring a little part of Northern Ireland, and more than a little of my experiences at Bangor Grammar, to that audience was a privilege, and I am overwhelmingly grateful to have had the opportunity to do so.



Promotional material for a debate at Howard Payne University in Texas

Due to new data protection regulations we are unable to request email addresses and other personal contact details from the School. If you don't receive our occasional communications about dinners and other past pupil-related events, please write to info@grammarians.co.uk, including your email address, as we would like to keep in touch.



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Archives Report

Terence Bowman

Current chairman of Bangor Grammarians and editor of this magazine, Terence Bowman attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 1962-75. He joined the Mourne Observer (Newcastle, Co Down) as a junior reporter in 1976, becoming editor in the mid-1980s and remaining in that position until stepping down in 2011. He has penned three well-received books about Bangor (in the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties).

Pending the appointment of a successor to Barry Greenaway as School Archivist, ideally someone resident in the Bangor area with even a modest percentage of the wonderful enthusiasm Barry put into the position over many years, I have been responding, where possible, to enquiries from past pupils and from within BGS itself.

I will gladly support the new Archivist, forensic research work being second nature to me after a lifetime (or two) in journalism. Working together we can show how relevant Bangor Grammar School's past is to the brave new world that lies ahead.

Acquisitions over the year included a set of rugby-dominated scrapbooks compiled over some four decades by the late Ronnie Boston (1941-46) and kindly donated by son Christopher (1966-73) and his mother Cynthia.

Also received was a copy of the programme for the 1968 stage production of *The Merchant of Venice*, courtesy of Dr Alan G. Knox (1957-69), Emeritus Head of Museums at the University of Aberdeen. Set design was by his elder brother Brian (1956-66), who was then working at the newly-opened Lyric Theatre in Belfast.



The programme from the 1968 stage production of *The Merchant of Venice*

Principal Elizabeth Huddleson was responsible for one of the most involved searches for information during the past year. Back in mid-September 2017 she had welcomed the father and grandfather of two past pupils to the School after he arrived with a beautiful shield he had spotted in an antique shop in Ballinamallard. He had purchased the shield and wished to donate it back to the School. It was the 'Bangor Grammar School Inter-House Shield' and the names of the winning Houses ran from 1932 until 1939, with Dufferin seemingly the final winners.

Mrs Huddleson was intrigued to know how it had ended up in County Fermanagh and if there was any significance in the last date also marking the start of the Second World War. She also hoped there might be a photograph of the shield in the Archives so a missing piece could be replaced.



The Inter-House Shield, which was awarded from 1932-49, is now back at Bangor Grammar School

It was already known that the shield, awarded for the best all-round performance in athletics, rugby and cricket, was presented by the Old Boys' Association in 1932. Having trawled through County Down Spectator reports from 1939 through to 1955, I was able to state with certainty that it was still being awarded as 'recently' as 1949, a full decade after the inscriptions ceased.

By that stage, however, BGS athletes were competing for the new Maurice Young (Memorial) Cup, presented by his grieving family a couple of years earlier (he was killed during the war and is commemorated on the Second World War memorial plaque in the Assembly Hall). After 1950 only the Maurice Young Cup remained at Sports Day, since the terms of reference for the two trophies were largely the same. How appropriate it was to replace the 17-year-old Inter-House Shield with a cup honouring an illustrious Old Boy.

Dufferin were also the final winners of the Inter-House Shield in 1949, following which it was lost, stored, sold or very possibly retained by the House Captain. Regrettably, there are no references to House Captains in any of the early editions of the *Gryphon* magazine covering the period in question, nor do any photographs show the shield.

The keen sense of nostalgia that exists today was not the same then; it was just a shield and it had been replaced by another honouring one of the School's 'Deathless Dead.' Just how it ended up in a far-off antiques shop is a mystery we may never resolve.

Mrs Huddleson, in advance of Prize Day in September 2017, was also keen to know more about the J. N. Hamilton Memorial Prize for Sport (a small cash award). Who, she wondered, was J. N. Hamilton and in what sport or sports had he excelled?

My own researches led me to ascertain that John Nelson Hamilton was a member of the Pioneer Corps who died on



The BGS 1st XV in 1920/21. Back (from left): N. M. Anderson, F. J. Bramwell, N. Neely, J. N. Hamilton, W. Quee, R. Crockett, B. Jamison, N. Townsend. Seated: W. T. Strain, A. McCleery, A. H. Larmour, J. N. McFeeters (captain), W. Polley, H. J. Polley, J. Bramwell. Front: B. J. P. Kelly, D. Strain and J. McWilliams.

active service in Belfast (during a German air raid) on 5 May 1941. His birth certificate showed he was born on 19 March 1905, so he was 36 at the time of his death (which would explain why he did not feature among the heartfelt tributes penned by 1940s Headmaster Maurice Wilkins).

I was able to track down two photographs that featured him while a pupil of the School. He was a member of the 1st XV in both 1919/20 and 1920/21, indicating a proficiency in rugby.

More information was revealed by local historian Barry Niblock (who compiled the special First World War supplement that accompanied the 2014 edition of the *Grammarian*). John Nelson (Jack) Hamilton was educated at Main Street Public Elementary School and then Bangor Grammar School from 1917 until 1921. There his school friends elected him to receive the medal awarded annually to the most popular boy in the school. He played cricket and rugby for the school and then he played for Bangor Rugby

Club's 1st XV. He played golf at Fortwilliam and was a member of their Ulster Cup team. Jack joined the Army and after training was gazetted to the Pioneer Corps. Following his death he was buried in Bangor (Newtownards Road) Cemetery.

Also in September 2017, John Lowry wrote from Belleville in Ontario, Canada, stating that his father, Desmond H. D. Lowry, who was born in August 1926 and attended Bangor Grammar School 'in the 1930s', was writing his life story and hoped to include a picture of the school from around that period.

Past Grammarians chairman Trevor Gray, who penned an authoritative history of the School over a number of years, supplied Mr Lowry with copies of a postcard from the collection of Harding Watson (1945-50) and a photograph taken by Dr. E. M. Patterson (1932-38). Both showed the school as it was from 1914 until 1960.

School records showed Mr Lowry (Sen.) attended BGS between 1935 and 1937, indicating he was among the more junior pupils at that time. His father was promoted to manager of the Shaftsbury Square Ulster Bank around that time and so the family moved to Belfast.

At the beginning of February 2018 David McClay, wrote from Ferry Quarter, Strangford, on behalf of his cousin, Robert Edmund McClay, who wanted to know more about his father Hamish's schooling in the early years of the Twentieth Century.

Regrettably, records from the turn of the 20th Century are scant. However, an obituary for his grandfather, Robert McClay, was sourced from the County Down Spectator of 21 November 1936 and was forwarded to Mr McClay to share with his cousin.

Copies of the tributes to past pupils killed during the Second World War, penned by Headmaster Maurice Wilkins, were supplied to researcher Vernon Clegg in mid-June 2017, along with photographs of the WW2 Memorial in the Assembly Hall. Mr Clegg was assisting former Dean of Belfast Houston McKelvey with research into Royal Navy losses during the War. Regrettably, he passed away in June 2018 – my sympathies go to the Clegg family circle.

Past pupil James McWha, formerly of Portavo, called at the School, also in June 2017, while on a visit from his home in New Zealand. During a guided tour of the new buildings he enquired if the Archives might hold any photographs from his schooldays. A search revealed prefect groups from 1963/64, 1964/65 and 1965/66 with James appearing in all of them (as Head Boy in the final picture).

One of the most frequent requests to the BGS Archives relates to those 'panoramic' pictures that showed all the pupils and teachers of a particular generation. In more recent times they were taken every six or seven years to ensure each pupil was featured at least once during their time at the School.

The Archives hold a large collection of framed School photographs dating back to the 1920s (and indeed earlier) right up to the present day, although by the 1990s, with greater pupil numbers, it often became necessary to split the boys into Junior and Senior groups.

It is well-nigh impossible to copy them in the way that enquiring past pupils would desire, namely as exact duplicates of the original. Only a small number of 'spares' exist in rolled-up form, mainly the most recent, so requests for copies inevitably end in disappointment. However, in March 2018



Part of an early 1960s panoramic picture

one past pupil, Richard McCombe, went the extra mile by having his year group picture from 1991 cleaned and reframed after retaining the services of specialist copiers. This could very well serve as a template for others seeking copies of the panoramic pictures. Well done Richard!

Incidentally, stories abound of mischievous pupils running from one end to the other while the special panoramic camera was slowly capturing the entire group, thereby appearing at both ends in the finished picture. Can anyone point to 'both' themselves in a panoramic picture or is this Bangor Grammar School's equivalent to an urban myth?

Keeping the 'Archives' ball rolling

Love it, hate it or indifferent, the School made an impact on everyone passing through its corridors. Memories can be altered with rose-tinted glasses but our Archives never lie as I was to find out when this uncombed and shaggy-haired 11-year-old Allan Smith appeared alongside my article in the *Grammarians* last year. My mate from 1D in 1976, Gerald Stephens, seems much better groomed in his article this year.

The Archives did not happen by magic and are down to the unstinting service and loyalty of Barry (room 144) Greenaway. Barry's roles in the School could never limit his enthusiasm and commitment: Head of the CCF, Head of Crosby House, English teacher, Librarian, MC-ing at school galas and sound technician at school plays. Then we have his voluntary work for decades, establishing and building the Archives.



Eleven-year-old Allan Smith



Barry Greenaway (front, left) enjoys a dinner with Old Boys in 2016

In time the benefits will unfold as the Archives don't lie and surely this abundance of resources must be preserved and built on. I dearly hope someone with ambition, vision and commitment to the School will come forward to keep the ball rolling – it will be a great volunteering opportunity. The magnificent foyer of the new school building can then hold periodic glimpses into the past, reunions can benefit, and future generations can look back.

One hundred years from now some great great grandchild may even discover that first form picture of me. Thank you Barry for all you have done for the School and your decades of service – it has been magnificent.

Allan Smith, June 2018



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The late Graham Wallace

Past pupil Graham Wallace was regarded as 'the father of public health' in Zambia

The Grammarian wishes to pay a richly deserved, albeit belated tribute to past pupil Graham Wallace, who was a pioneer of environmental health in Zambia. Indeed, after his death on 12 December 2016 he was described as 'the father of public health' in the African country, where he had helped to save the lives of many thousands of people.

Graham Dudley Wallace, who was born on 15 August 1933, joined Bangor Grammar School in 1948. In his senior years he played rugby for the 1st XV and also swam for the school team. Both were enduring interests – he enjoyed swimming in the sea all year round and also played rugby for the town side.



Graham Wallace was a member of Bangor Grammar School's 1st XV in 1949/50 and 1950/51. Back (from left) is the former team: Mr W. Shanks, G. Wallace, W. Briggs, N. D. Brookes, J. Cardwell, R. Simms, C. K. Carter, Col. W. J. Ricketts (Headmaster). Middle: J. B. Lyttle, D. Cairns, R. McGimpsey, B. J. Mairs (Capt.), F. Watt, T. F. Spratt, W. Crosbie. Front: A. E. Reid, B. Moore, W. C. Stewart, A. Robinson, J. Finlay and D. J. Sinclair.

He trained to be a health inspector, holding a senior position with Antrim County Council from 1954-57. He moved to Kenya with his wife Ann in 1957, commencing the three-day journey to Africa on the day of their marriage! In time Graham was appointed County Health Inspector for Sirikwa Council, covering an area the size of Wales and with a population of 550,000. He set up environmental health centres and was part of the programme that eliminated smallpox.

It was, however, the role he would subsequently play in Zambia that earned him the greatest acclaim. At a memorial service, held at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka on 14 January 2017, Yoram Siulapwa, representing the Dean of the University of Zambia's School of Public Health and the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health, said they regarded Graham as "a legend, pioneer and father of Environmental Health" in the country.

Graham had arrived in Zambia from Kenya in 1966. The Zambian Government recruited him to spearhead training for Health Inspectors at Evelyn Hone College. In time four more expatriate Health Inspectors were recruited from the UK to assist with the newly-introduced training programme, which met the requirements of the UK Royal Society of Health (and would ultimately become a degree course).

Mr Siulapwa completed his training in just the second class, in 1970, and four years later was persuaded by Graham to join him as the first Zambian lecturer in Public Health Inspection at the College.

During their 12 years together he found his colleague to be "extremely punctual, hardworking and honest, a decent man and a wonderful man to work with." Mr Siulapwa continued: "He had a great passion for environmental health and would not do anything to compromise the quality of training."

He added: "Over 80% of health problems presented at health clinics and hospitals in Zambia are attributed to preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and malaria, to mention just a few, and yet these diseases can be eradicated by keeping the environment clean and healthy. This is what Mr Wallace spent most of his life doing in Zambia – training us to keep our environment clean and healthy."

Following Graham's retirement in 1989, he continued assisting health professionals in many ways; as a result the Environmental Health Block at the University of Zambia was named 'Graham Wallace House' in his honour.

His many other interests included serving as Deputy Commissioner of the St John Ambulance (1983-89) and as Managing Director of the Tobacco Association of Zambia (1989-99). He was a stalwart of the Zambian Agricultural and Commercial Show, holding the position of chairman from 1986-88 and meeting both the Queen and Prince Philip, as well as many African presidents.



In his role as chairman from 1986-88, Graham welcomed President Kenneth Kaunda to the Zambian Agricultural and Commercial Show

Also speaking at the memorial service, son Michael recounted many episodes from his father's busy life. He could brew his own beer and was an accomplished photographer. The many trees he planted, including palms and baobabs, would serve as a further lasting memory. He developed an equestrian centre in Lusaka that is still going today.

When his children's bicycles were stolen he followed the thieves' tracks while armed with a Maasai spear and managed to retrieve them. On the other side of the coin, Graham was shot and wounded by armed robbers (a worker beside him was killed) while building the family home, but he never considered leaving Zambia, his home for more than 50 years.

"We can say with hands on our hearts that our father had a positive effect on us, his family, on the people around him, and on this country," Michael added.

Graham was devoted to wife Ann, daughters Cathie and Karen, son Michael and the wider family circle. Sympathy is extended to them all and also to brother Jim (in Bangor) and sister Elizabeth (South Carolina, USA) on their loss.

Terence Bowman

JOHN LANGTRY MBE

John Carl Langtry, who attended Bangor Grammar School between 1972 and 1979, lost a bravely-fought battle against cancer on 21 November 2017. He was just 57.

A 30-year veteran of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (until his retirement in April 2011), he was awarded the MBE in 2002 for his role in the aftermath of the 1998 Omagh bomb attack, in which 29 people, as well as two unborn twins, were killed. He had been appointed Station Officer for Omagh and Newtownstewart in 1995.

Interviewed at the time by the County Down Spectator, John said the award was recognition of the work of all the firefighters in his team. "I was one of the first officers at the scene," he recalled. "A number of my friends were injured and I knew a lot of people who lost loved ones. I am very honoured but it's really an award for everyone here. You can't do this job alone."

John had, over many years, dedicated himself to the study of critical incident stress management and post-traumatic stress, graduating from the Open University with a Bachelor's Degree (1st Class Hons) in Psychology in 2000, followed in 2010 by a Master's Degree, also in Psychology, also from the OU. He received a Certificate in Leadership from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2005 and in September 2013 he commenced studying for a Psychology Research Doctorate at the University of Ulster.

Away from his busy working life, John, nicknamed Digger, was renowned for his long involvement with Bangor Rugby Club, playing from the late 1970s as a tight head prop at all levels, while in more recent times he coached seniors, ladies and youth teams. He also served as president during the 2015/16 season. Always cool, calm and collected, John is remembered fondly by all at the club.

His interest in rugby dated back to schooldays. He was a member of the BGS 1st XV which, as trophy holders, lost narrowly to Methodist College in the 1979 Schools' Cup final.



John Langtry (from the Bangor RFC website)



John Langtry (back row, second from left) was a member of the 1st XV which reached the Schools' Cup final in 1979. Included with Headmaster Dr Robert Rodgers and coaches Jimmy Welch and George Cameron are (back): E. Coulter, J. Langtry, D. Whittle, T. Richards, R. Wilson. Middle: M. Keenan, M. Wilson, M. McKee, R. Blackie, A. Webb, J. Byers. Front: G. Maxwell, G. Halliday, D. Larmour, N. Hamilton, M. Hunter, R. Hewitt and D. Hooks.

John served as an Assistant Scout Leader for 1st Omagh from 1998 until 2005 and was also a member of the Board of Governors of Priory Integrated College, Holywood (2004).

He passed away at the Marie Curie Hospice in Belfast. A year earlier,

in August 2016, John made a searingly honest online appeal for the immunotherapy drug he was taking, Nivolumab, to be given NHS approval by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Explaining how his body had become resistant to a previous treatment, he wrote: "I'm worried. I'm facing a real First World dilemma, one that has the potential to lead to my death. Three years of a cycle of upset stomach, high blood pressure, effects on my hands and feet that made it difficult to walk, nausea and fatigue. This new drug not only stopped my cancer but is shrinking it. My tumours have very noticeably abated and I can breathe properly for the first time since Christmas. My broken bones are healing and everyone says I'm a new man. I feel it!"

"I'm dedicating the rest of my life to helping others through counselling, I hoped it would be a long and fulfilling life but that is up to NICE. The committee must understand how important it is for me, and the many others suffering my fate, that they approve this fantastic drug." (There is now limited NHS availability of Nivolumab while further evidence is being gathered on its use).



John Langtry as a senior BGS pupil

John, whose late father Bill was a popular member of staff at Bangor Grammar School, holding the positions of Head of Chemistry and Senior Master at the time of his retirement in 1994, is survived by his wife Sharon, children Amy-Jane and Ethan, step-children Sarah, Richard, Sophie and Alexander, also brother Simon, sister Alison and the wider family circle.

Terence Bowman

JOHN VINCENT PRESTON

Grammarians, among many others, were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Vincent Preston, one of the great characters of Bangor Grammar School during his time there between 1960 and 1967. He died on 21 January 2018 after a long illness which he had endured with courage and dignity.

John was born on 31 December 1948 and was educated at Bangor Central and Clondeboyne Road Primary Schools before entering Bangor Grammar School. He later graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with a degree in History. Subsequently he attained a PGCE from Stranmillis College after which he secured a teaching post in Portavogie Primary School, a position he held for



John Preston as a young BGS pupil

28 years, latterly as Vice Principal. John developed a great love and respect for the families associated with the school and was highly respected in the local Portavogie community. Following retirement he was much in demand as a coach for pupils undertaking the Transfer Procedure and many parents would testify to his patience and to his effectiveness as a tutor.

Throughout his life John was a committed Christian and a devoted and loyal member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bangor. There



John Preston in recent times

he took up an amazing variety of roles, which, among many other unsung tasks, included being a faithful Elder, Sunday School teacher, Boys' Brigade Officer and Child Protection Officer. For many years the Boys' Brigade played a significant part in John's life, initially as a Company member and latterly as an officer and highly effective 'factotum'. In addition to his weekly commitments, he frequently volunteered to lead summer camps where he was renowned for his cooking skills.

John retained great warmth and charm; in his own words he was a 'people person'. From school to the end of his life he retained his own unique turn of phrase, which always brought a smile to his listeners and without exception endeared him to the members of the church and the wider community. John was ordained as an Elder in Trinity in January 1980. He served on the Kirk Session with unwavering faithfulness for 38 years and was in attendance there until a few months before his death.

In spite of the difficulties associated with his illness, John managed in June 2017 to attend the 'Class of '67 or Thereabouts Re-Union Dinner' held as part of its 50-year anniversary. He enjoyed himself immensely amongst his old colleagues with many a timeless story told of schooldays long gone.

The esteem in which he was held was evident in the large number of former BB boys, former pupils, church members and folk from a whole range of community interests who attended John's funeral in his beloved Trinity Presbyterian Church on 24 January. We are the poorer for his passing and extend our condolences to his widow Rosemary and son Alan.

David E. K. Carson

ROBERT GIBSON

Former pupil Robert Gibson passed away in England on 18 December 2017. Robert, who was just 36, attended Bangor Grammar School from 1992-99. After graduating from Durham University, he commenced his career in journalism with the County Down Spectator. His talent was recognised early on when he won the Press Gazette's Student Feature of the Year Award.



Robert Gibson

Robert subsequently moved to the north of England, joining the Hexham Courant and then The Journal in Newcastle. More recently he had worked for IT firm Hedgehog Lab, also in Newcastle, as a content strategist.

Courant editor Colin Tapping said: "He was a first class journalist, very well liked by his newsroom colleagues and much respected in the local community."

GODFREY LINDSAY

Bangor Grammar School stalwart Godfrey Lindsay, formerly of Princetown Road, passed away on 26 September 2017 at the Holywood Nursing Home, having reached the advanced age of 97.

He maintained a close link with his alma mater throughout his long life, regularly attending the AGM of the Grammarians Association well into his 90s. He played a particularly fitting role back in 2011, when, in the



Godfrey Lindsay

company of two Year 8 pupils, he cut the first sod on the Gransha Road site, thus providing a tangible bridge between the old and new schools.

Born Edward Godfrey Lindsay on 9 June 1920, he attended Bangor Grammar School from 1930-37. His late younger brother Charles was also a pupil at the school (1930-35). Godfrey subsequently studied Modern History and Political Science at Trinity College in Dublin. Following wartime service, which included a spell in Egypt, he commenced a long career in the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Much of his time while still at work and also following his retirement was devoted to the well-being of Bangor Grammar School. He was also, for many years, president of Bangor's Royal British Legion branch.

Four years ago, at the age of 93, he was reunited with former classmate Jim Gibson, a retired GP from Newcastle, County Down. Although they hadn't seen each other for more than 75 years, within a short time they were sharing memories of life during the seven years they both spent at the school.

BRIAN McCANCE

Brian McCance, who was 77 at the time of his death on 22 September 2017, attended Bangor Grammar School from 1951-57. He joined the McNeill Group with the aim of becoming a draughtsman. He found he had a talent for sales and this led to him joining Gamble Steel. Eventually he would become a director of Gamble Sims.



Brian McCance

In 1976 he and a business partner, John Jeffers, established McCance Steel; following the death of Mr Jeffers he became sole owner and managing director. He was still active in the business almost up to the time of his death. He was a former president of the National Association of Steel Stockholders for the UK and Ireland.

Brian was also closely associated, for many years, with Clondeboye Golf Club. He was captain in 1994 and a trustee. He was particularly active in the Past Captains' Association. (With thanks to County Down Spectator)

ARTHUR WILLIAM ROSE

Arthur William (Willie) Rose, who passed away in October 2017, was a former headmaster of Scrabo Secondary School in Newtownards.

Born on 12 August 1935, he attended Bangor Grammar School between 1948 and 1953, before qualifying at Stranmillis as a PE teacher. He subsequently gained a degree in Economics at Queen's University and then completed a Masters in Education at the Ulster University. Following many happy years as vice-principal of Dundonald High School he moved to the senior post at Scrabo. Following his retirement he taught history for two days a week at Belfast High.

Willie had a passion for sport in all its forms, playing basketball in the Senior League for Stranmillis, football for Civil Service, and was a member of Clondeboye Golf Club for many years. (With thanks to County Down Spectator)



Willie Rose

We extend our sympathies to the families of these former pupils

Derek John Lawson died aged 74 on 9 March 2017. He attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 1950-60.

Colin Frederick McStea died (abroad) aged 59 on 30 August 2017. He attended Bangor Grammar School from 1970-76.

Walter Lightbody died aged 68 on 11 October 2017. He attended Bangor Grammar School from 1960-65.

John Camlin Stevenson died aged 85 on 18 October 2017. He attended Bangor Grammar School in the academic year 1942/43.

Colin Jamison died aged 51 on 19 October 2017. He attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 1970-83.

David John Herron died aged 73 on 6 November 2017. He attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 1954-63.

Kenneth James McKinley died aged 63 on 24 November 2017. He attended Bangor Grammar School from 1965-73.

Terence (Terry) John Dillon died aged 61 on 26 November 2017. He attended Bangor Grammar School from 1968-75.

Brian John Mairs died aged 87 on 29 January 2018. He attended Bangor Grammar School from 1943-50, captaining the 1st XI and 1st XV in 1949-50.

William Patrick Campbell Rice died aged 87 on 1 February 2018. He attended Bangor Grammar School from 1941-48.

Adrian Hynes died aged 83 (in Glasgow) on 12 April 2018. He attended Bangor Grammar School from 1947-51.

Donald (Don) Ritchie died aged 75 on 27 April 2018. He attended Bangor Grammar School from 1953-60.

Hugh Cairns died aged 54 on 19 June 2018. He attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 1967-81.

William Alexander (Bill) Boomer died aged 78 on 27 July 2018. He attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 1949-58.



Derek J. Lawson



Colin McStea



Walter Lightbody



Colin Jamison



David J. Herron



Kenneth McKinley



Terry Dillon



Brian Mairs



Campbell Rice



Adrian Hynes



Don Ritchie



Hugh Cairns



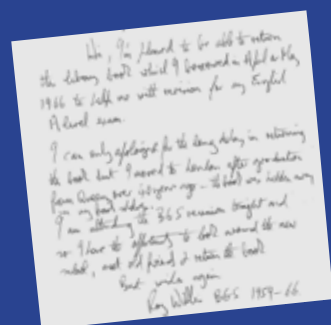
Bill Boomer

We will include more tributes to past pupils, including a number of the above, in the 2019 Grammarian magazine or (before then) by way of our grammarians.co.uk website. While we endeavour to maintain a comprehensive record of former pupil deaths, we greatly appreciate notification of some from family or friends. Please contact editor@grammarians.co.uk.

It's never too late to return a book from the School Library

Many thanks to past pupil Roy Willis for allowing us to share with our members this story of the library book he recently returned to Bangor Grammar School – a mere 51 years late!

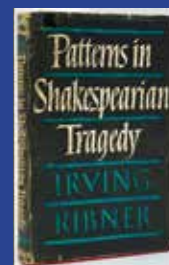
As the accompanying letter, which Roy delivered (with the book) to library staff while in town to attend a big 50-year reunion dinner in June 2017, explains, he borrowed the book around April or May 1966 to help with revision for his English A-Level examination.



Roy moved to London more than 40 years ago after graduating from Queen's University. The book, *Patterns in Shakespearian Tragedy* by Irving Ribner, ended up being hidden away on a bookshelf.

Now, however, it has been reunited with Bangor Grammar School – and Roy was able to return home to England after taking a look around the new School at Gransha Road and meeting up with many old friends. Very much a result, as the young folk of today would say!

Needless to say if anyone else out there has any old books from the School Library, or for that matter cups and trophies that would look better in the School Archive, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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Past pupil, teacher and 1st XV coach who achieved an unprecedented trio of Schools' Cup victories



Dougie Rea

Dougie Rea, who attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School from 1954-66, returned to the School in 1978 as a Physics teacher. His enduring interest in rugby – he had played for the 1st XV at BGS and Queen's University and was club captain at Bangor RFC in 1973/74 – saw him taking over coaching responsibilities from Jimmy Welch in the 1980s. The team reached four Schools' Cup finals in a row during the decade, recording victories in 1985, 1986 and 1988.



I was the youngest member of an academic family – my father had an honours degree in Modern Languages from Cambridge University and my mother had an honours degree in English from QUB. However, this talent in the Arts was not inherited by my elder brother, Michael, or me

– we both went on to do degrees in Physics! Before I was a year old our family moved from Belfast to Bangor as my father, Henry (a name familiar to many readers), had been appointed the School's Head of Modern Languages in 1948 and remained in that position until 1977.

I am proud to say my education actually began at Glenlola, where I spent three years in the preparatory department at Ward Avenue before moving on to Connor House (which at the time had no classes before P4). Connor House was then located in the grounds of the former Tonic Cinema but sadly both buildings no longer exist. My first day as a pupil coincided with Gordon Thomson's own first day as headmaster.



Bangor Grammar School Debating Society members pictured in 1965/66 with Headmaster Mr Clarke, Society president Mr Hawtin and Mr McCord. Back (from left): D. Rea, A. Haynes, R. Rowley. Front: D. Carson and J. O'Fee.

In 1959 I 'graduated' to Bangor Grammar School in College Avenue. A number of young teachers were commencing their long careers around that time, including Irwin Bonar, Maurice McCord, Errol Steele and Bob McIlroy. I spent seven enjoyable years at BGS, eventually becoming a prefect, joint Head of House and serving on the committees of the rugby and cricket clubs and the debating society. An early memory was the school being given a half-day due to the 1st XV defeating Campbell College in the first round of the Schools' Cup!

I played for the 1st XV for three years, as well as the 1st XI (cricket) and the badminton and tennis teams. Rugby, played then at Bloomfield under coach Jimmy Welch, was becoming very successful with Schools' Cup glory only a few years away. Our team did play at Ravenhill once, although it was in the second round as the ground of our opponents and cup winners that season, Campbell again, was unplayable due to frost!

I went on to Queen's to study Physics, graduating with a first class BSc honours degree. Having greatly enjoyed my student days, I stayed for another two years to do research and was awarded an MSc by thesis in theoretical Physics. Rugby was again a large part of my life. I'd joined the university's rugby club as a fresher, being the only old boy of BGS there at that time. Over the next few years I was joined by a number of others and after graduation we joined Bangor RFC, bringing a number of other former university players with us. This influx, along with the captaincy of Roger Clegg, helped Bangor along the road to many successes in future years.

I played on the Queen's 1st XV for four years, serving as club secretary for the final two years. That period involved a lot of communications as we had to abandon plans to tour South Africa due to its apartheid policy (which didn't



Members of the 1st XV in 1965/66 with Mr Clarke, Mr Styles and Mr Welch. Back (from left): A. Bryans, K. Murphy, P. Davidson, R. Clegg, J. O'Fee, J. B. Martin. Seated: T. Oliver, N. Milne, J. Kirk, G. Duncan (captain), W. McCready, D. Rea, D. Carson. Front: D. Alexander and W. Davidson.

stop the British and Irish Lions three years later!). However, we did go on a very successful tour to Alberta and British Columbia, where we were undefeated. While at Queen's I also represented both the Irish and British Universities rugby teams in fixtures at Lansdowne Road and Llanelli in Wales.

After six years as a student it was time to find full-time employment and I was fortunate to be successful with my first job application – as a Physics master in Methodist College. It was a baptism of fire as I had no teaching experience – a Diploma in Education was not needed – and term had already begun while I was still on tour in Canada. I managed to survive and during my time at Methody I taught Physics to all classes from First Form to A-Level and university scholarship, some mathematics, and I was also involved in coaching sport.

Despite a busy playing schedule at Bangor RFC, where I was club captain in 1973-74, a season when the Firsts finished runners-up in both the Ulster Senior Cup and Senior League, I managed to find time to be assistant coach of the MCB 1st XV under the legendary David Wells for three years. It proved a great learning experience and during that time MCB won the Schools' Cup twice. I also learned to ski at the school and assisted with several ski trips to the continent.

In 1978 I moved back to Bangor Grammar School, which by then had the reputation of being one of the top schools in the province, both academically and in sport. I was appointed by the late Dr Robert Rodgers to teach Physics – a very popular subject with at least 70 boys taking it for A-Level. After becoming Senior Physics master I was appointed as Head of Science and remained in that post until retirement in 2005. (I also had two short spells as acting Headmaster in that time!)

Along with academic responsibilities, I was an elected teacher governor for four years and in that role proposed, amongst other things, that the Sixth Form should have a formal dance. As a result of that bright idea I was responsible for the organisation of the formal for the next nine years and it is now an established part of the school calendar. I also introduced skiing to the sport curriculum and organised the school's first ski trips.

Schools' Cup Success

Rugby by then was at Ballymacormick and my main responsibility in the 1980s began when my own former coach, Jimmy Welch, asked me to take charge of the 1st XV. This resulted in an amazing seven years when, assisted by first Vic Swain, briefly Stephen Blake-Knox and finally Duncan Macpherson, we had a phenomenal run of Schools' Cup success. In my first season we reached the semi-final, the next year we lost to eventual winners Grosvenor HS after a replay, and then in 1983-84 we made it to Ravenhill, albeit in the final of the Subsidiary Shield, drawing with Belfast HS. The valuable experience gained from that final contributed greatly to the next four seasons' run of success.

Season 1984-85 was the most successful in the School's rugby history, with victory in both the Schools' Cup, under captain Michael Webb, and the Medallion Shield. Michael was an outstanding leader and represented Irish Schools on the wing although he played wing forward for the school.

Now the Senior Ulster team's doctor, his Schools' Cup team had a very enjoyable reunion three years ago. Two other noteworthy members of that side were Mark McCall and Stephen McKinty. Mark subsequently captained Ulster and Irish Schools, as well as the Ulster team which won the European Cup in 1999. He went on to play for Ireland and is currently director of rugby at Saracens, one of Europe's top rugby teams. Stephen also represented Ulster numerous times, including the European Cup triumph.

Under Mark McCall's captaincy we retained the cup in 1986; indeed at the end of that season the 1st XV was judged to be the schools team of the month throughout the British Isles by *Rugby International* magazine. This side also defeated the full Ulster Schools XV in a floodlit game organised as part of Bangor RFC's centenary programme.

We were only denied a hat-trick of wins in 1987 after conceding a very late score in the final to lose 10-9 to MCB. This team was captained by Darryl Flanagan and two members, Gavin Ellis and Sean Crowther, played for Ulster Schools and toured Australia with Irish Schools.

Sean was captain in 1988 and led the team to another win, this time against Coleraine AI. He had the distinction of captaining both Medallion Shield and Schools Cup-winning teams, as well as captaining Irish Schools. Together with Jonathan Mawhinney, Simon McKenna and Chris Kerr, he toured Zimbabwe with Ulster Schools. *Rugby World* magazine judged this cup-winning team to be the Irish Club of the month, all schools and clubs in Ireland being considered.

During these years valuable coaching contributions were made by Jimmy McCoy, Terry McMaster, Davy Morrow, Dick Milliken and Roger Clegg. Their input was greatly appreciated by staff and boys alike. Also very evident was the interest and support shown by the Board of Governors, old boys, parents and the town itself. Receptions in both the School and the Town Hall were annual events and on one occasion we were invited to visit Stormont by our local MP.

An interesting footnote to the 1988 final is that 30 years previously I'd attended my first final as a young spectator and saw Sean Crowther's father, John, play for the only Annadale GS team to win the cup, beating a Campbell side that included a certain Tom Patton! It is hard to believe BGS has not won the cup since 1988, especially with the facilities now available.



The Schools' Cup-winning team of 1985/86 with coaches Mr McPherson and Mr Rea and Headmaster Mr Patton. Back (from left): J. M. Davis, J. R. Mawhinney, D. Cooke, R. A. Brown, K. A. Esdalle, S. M. Crowther, J. R. Bennett, S. C. McGookin. Middle: G. Ellis, D. R. N. Flanagan, B. J. Wickens, K. Woods, C. M. McCall, D. G. Lindsay, R. J. Blackmore, W. Johnston, C. Jackson. Front: S. C. McKenna, B. M. Hawkins, J. D. Bennett, I. Thompson.

After seven intense years, which included organising tours to France (the School's first overseas rugby tour with both the 1st XV and the U-14 XV travelling), England and various parts of Ireland, it was time to call a halt to my involvement in 1st XV rugby. While I remained a member of the Ulster Schools rugby committee and an Ulster Schools selector for a few more years, with a young family and academic work to occupy me it was not possible to devote the time and energy needed.

That said, I continued to look after 2nd and 3rd XVs for the rest of my career, one highlight being when the former won their one-day competition and reached the final of the 2nd XV Cup, at Ravenhill again, in the 1995-96 season. I also was a staff member on the BGS rugby tour to South Africa in 2000. The highlight was watching South Africa defeat New Zealand 46-40 at Ellis Park, Johannesburg.

During my final years at BGS I took charge of golf following Errol Steele's retirement. I only took up the game after leaving school as a pupil and although I did at one time achieve a single-figure handicap, I now only play social golf.



Dougie Rea today

In my five years in charge, the team reached the finals of both the Ulster Schools League and the Ulster Schools Championship. Defeat in the latter was hardly a disgrace against a team that included the current Bangor head professional and a young Rory McIlroy!

I continued to play rugby for Bangor until the early 1980s,

including a year as 2nd XV captain. During those playing years I travelled on further tours to Scotland and the USA.

Life Now

I always enjoyed staff social activities and was part of a group who made many annual pilgrimages to watch Ireland play in the Six Nations. Three of us, the others being Noel Riddell and David Napier, still travel to matches. I also attend the retired staff coffee mornings when possible.

Physics remains part of my life and I have worked for the Cambridge International exam board, briefly, and NICCEA for the past 40 years. I have been an assistant, then chief examiner in O-Level/ GCSE Physics. Currently I am an assistant examiner and reviser at A-Level and also mark the AQE exams.

The academic tradition has been followed by my wife Elsbeth and sons Andrew, Stephen and Michael, who have a wide range of degrees from Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow Caledonian, Northumbria, Canada and Cranfield. Elsbeth and I travel abroad frequently and in the past decade alone we have visited son Stephen and his wife Sarah in Dubai and son Michael and his fiancée Stacey in Vancouver Island as often as possible.

We have also managed holidays in New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Lanzarote, Tuscany, Venice, Amsterdam, Portugal, Croatia and Majorca. A particularly enjoyable trip was to Buckingham Palace where Elsbeth received her OBE from the Queen. Now with two young grandchildren, the offspring of eldest son Andrew and his wife Sam, to visit, life is never dull!

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1978 Schools' Cup winners hold reunion

Kenny Hooks



The Schools' Cup-winning team of 1978 with coaches George Cameron (left) and Jimmy Welch (right), along with Headmaster Dr Robert Rodgers. Middle (from left): Derek Larmour, Rickie Blackie, Ronnie McCombe, Jim Coffey, Andrew McAuley, John Henderson, Donald Thompson, Neil Hamilton. Front: Garth Maxwell, Gordon Halliday, David Hooks, Kenny Hooks (captain), John McMaster, Robert Yourston, Mark Nolan, Colin Rodgers. Front: Michael Wilson and Alastair Webb.

Kenny Hooks attended Bangor Grammar School from 1971-78. During his rugby career he represented Ulster and Ireland and when his playing days were over he went on to coach The Royal School Armagh to Schools' Cup success in 2004. He is currently Vice Principal at The Royal School, where he has taught for 35 years.

Members of Bangor Grammar School's 1st XV from 1978 held a well-attended reunion at the Royal Ulster Yacht Club on 17 March past to celebrate their Schools' Cup victory exactly 40 years earlier.

Regrettably, coaches Jimmy Welch and George Cameron were absent; Jimmy has not been enjoying good health of late, whilst George now lives in Australia. The latter, however, had made contact with each squad member and hopes to catch up with them in person when he visits Northern Ireland this autumn. The only squad absentees were Rickie Blackie, who lives in Borneo, and Michael Wilson, who had business commitments.

The school was represented by former Vice-Principal Bertie Styles and former Head of Chemistry Bob McIlroy. Bob is still infamous for the occasion in 1976 when he was touch judge for a semi-final encounter between BGS and Campbell College at Ballymacormick. Bangor scored a try in the corner which would have taken the team to their second final. However, as the try was scored Bob jumped up and down with excitement and the referee disallowed it, thinking the Bangor player was in touch. BGS went on to lose the replay. But for the fact that Bob was, and still is, a charming gentleman some might have been reluctant to forgive him!

After short speeches by Bertie, Bob, Andrew McAuley and Kenny Hooks, each squad member was presented with an engraved glass to mark the occasion. A loud but tuneless rendition of the School Song was followed by a sumptuous meal which was enjoyed by all. The remainder of the evening was kept free for reminiscing.

The team had reunited just once before and that was back in 1998. Conversation then had centred on the players' children; 20 years on and it was about their grandchildren!

It was also fascinating to learn of the varied career paths followed, ranging from No. 8, Wing Commander Andrew McAuley, who has worked all over the world and moved in influential circles, to Donald Thompson, who remains a proud pillar of the local business community. Amongst others, scrum half John 'Titch' McMaster took delight in telling all he had now retired from his position as Danske Bank manager in Bangor.

Memories of the 1978 Cup campaign remain vivid. All agreed they were fortunate to have attended a school where Headmaster Dr Rodgers had established an ethos that encouraged high achievement but not at all costs. Players were particularly grateful to Jimmy Welch and George Cameron, both 'excellent' coaches who, more importantly, had 'transmitted' their infectious love of rugby to the boys. Neither had sought the limelight and both had proved themselves to be 'truly great' teachers.

Conversation stretched long into the night, with numerous memories of scrums, tackles and tries –all of which had improved significantly with the passage of time! However, one thing that hadn't changed was the bond between the players, built on foundations of treasured memories and experiences. All agreed they were privileged to have been part of a unique band of brothers.

As the evening wore on the veneer of respectability began to slip and the old pecking order was re-established. Former Head Boy Ronnie McCombe and the Headmaster's son, Colin Rodgers, are still revered while David Hooks continues to refuse to take instructions from his brother. On the other hand Neil Hamilton, Garth Maxwell and Robert Yourston received much criticism for still appearing young and fit enough to play, while John Henderson freely admitted he had never been fit, not even in 1978!

In conclusion it would be remiss not to thank a few people, including Donald Thompson for arranging the event at RUYC, Jim Coffey for organising the commemorative glasses, and Neil Hamilton and Garth Maxwell for contacting individuals. Particular thanks must go to John McMaster, the driving force behind the reunion, whose hard work ensured a special evening was enjoyed by all.



Members of the 1978 team with special guests Bob McIlroy and Bertie Styles at the reunion. Back (from left): John Henderson, Mark Nolan, Jim Coffey, Alastair Webb, Bob McIlroy, David Hooks, Tim Richards, Neil Hamilton, Derek Larmour, Gordon Halliday, Davy Lennon, Donald Thompson. Front: Bertie Styles, Ronnie McCombe, John McMaster, Kenny Hooks, Garth Maxwell, Robert Yourston, Andrew McAuley and Colin Rodgers.

Of days gone by

Michael (MDM) Rea



Michael Rea, who was awarded an OBE for services to education in 2001, attended Connor House and Bangor Grammar School between 1948 and 1959. After graduating from QUB he taught Physics at BRA for eight years before spending the remainder of his career in education administration. Although his own rugby career was brought to a premature end by a knee injury, Michael became a referee at international level, including matches in the (then) Five Nations Championship.



Memories, memories... the Barn (X and Y rooms), classrooms heated by coal fires, cricket on the back field at College Avenue, the long trek to the Bloomfield Road playing fields on games afternoons, watching TV for the first time in my life (the 1953 FA Cup final in W. T. W. Johnston's Ashley Park home thanks to his son Mike, now resident in Australia),

learning to swim on the end of a rope at Pickie Pool...

Having survived the Belfast Blitz (in my case as a baby placed in the oven for extra safety), we moved home from Belfast to Bangor in 1948 after my father Henry was appointed Head of Modern Languages at BGS (he had been teaching in MCB).



Members of the Connor House (Crosby House) soccer team from 1951-52. Back (from left): Roger Killiner, Michael McMullen, Eugen Barkatullah, Billy McMillan, Michael Rea, Ian Laughlin, John Barry. Front (from left): Jim Brice, Tim McMillan, Rory Greer and Stephen McKay.

I then attended Connor House for four years before moving on to the 'Big School' in 1952 after negotiating the 11+ selection procedure (one maths and two English exams taken in the course of one day). As I write this I have in front of me a circular letter that Randall Clarke sent to parents in December 1955, and any present day BGS pupil would not credit what it had to say about school uniform:

"School uniform consists of: school cap and tie; school blazer or black coat with grey flannel trousers; black shoes; white shirt and collar. Two caps must be available. The full

uniform must be worn at all times on weekdays, including Saturdays. On Sundays a school cap must be worn and it may be combined with a dark suit and a dark or school tie."

Both Bangor and BGS were much smaller in those days. Bangor West Station and Reid's garage on the Newtownards Road (still a petrol station today) were on the outer extremities of the town, while the newly acquired Bloomfield Road playing fields were bordered by farm fields on three sides. All Bangor's sports pitches were located in Ward Park, making it easy for 'Pot' Mansfield – then nearing retirement as a teacher at Connor House – to gather Saturday's rugby, football and hockey results for the Ireland's Saturday Night (a must-read on Saturday evenings for all local sports aficionados, but now sadly a relic of the past).

The school itself consisted of the Old Building that survives to this day, the Barn (presumably so called because that's what it was originally) and alongside it the Canteen, while Glenlola School was over the hedge at the back. For indoor PE classes we had to walk to the Good Templar Hall on Hamilton Road, where showers were an unheard-of luxury. Nowadays it also seems hard to credit that some of the classrooms on the first floor of the Old Building were heated by open coal fires – so much for health and safety!

While rugby and cricket were the main extra-curricular activities, my fondest memories are of the School Debating Society which met at 6.15pm each Friday evening through the winter. Two main speakers for the motion and two against, with the debate then opened to the House which was presided over so ably by Mr Hawtin. Skills that have lasted a lifetime were picked up there.

Like father, like son (and indeed like my younger brother Douglas) – after four carefree years at Queen's, intermingled with summers spent working as a bus conductor in Eastbourne, I taught Physics at Belfast Royal Academy for eight years. After that I entered the world of education administration, where I spent the rest of my working life; all of which sounds somewhat mundane until you factor in the Troubles and the geographical location of the areas in which I worked – Belfast North, South, East and West.

It may be of interest to some to learn that while at BRA, another BGS Old Boy, Roy (RF) Thompson, and I coached the Medallion team that was beaten in the Shield semi-final at Bloomfield Road by Dick Milliken's competition-winning team.



Douglas Wylie (left) and Michael Rea open the batting for School House in a 1952 Junior House match



Michael has fond memories of his involvement with the Debating Society at Bangor Grammar School. This picture, featuring Headmaster Randall Clarke (rear) and Society President A. L. Hawtin, dates from 1958/59. Back (from left): Nicholas Leroux, David McMurray, Michael Rea. Front: Peter Fullerton and Ian Adair.

Outside work I started to referee rugby at the lowest level in 1965, following a knee injury that had ended my own mediocre playing career. One thing led to another (more by accident than anything else) and 15 years later I found myself refereeing in the Five (now Six) Nations Championship. Those were, of course, the years when my namesake, Michael Rea (Sen.), carried all before him on the cricket fields of Ulster – during the summer I received the telephone calls congratulating him on his cricketing triumphs, while in the winter he fielded the calls abusing me for my latest refereeing blunders!

Hard though it may be to believe, it was 1966 before a French referee was first appointed to a Five Nations game, while on the local scene at that time referees had to share the home team's changing room because few clubs provided them with separate accommodation. Following a particularly tense Ballymena v Dungannon encounter – one of those days when my whistle was my only friend – I let it slip that it was my wedding anniversary. As I left the Ballymena changing room to head for home all I heard was one of their players complaining: "I bet that bloody idiot Rea blows his wife up for offside in bed."

While the rugby scene in England and Scotland was the same as that at home in those days, I found something different when I travelled to Wales with whistle at the ready. A Llanelli v Swansea derby, played in front of 12,000 biased spectators, created an intimidating atmosphere, and with the game only 10 minutes old a home supporter, incensed at some early penalty decisions, screamed: "Open your eyes ref – you're missing a good game." Later in the same game, when the natives were baying for more blood, Welsh international centre Ray Gravell raced over to ask: "Did you ever drink at Davy Byrnes in Dublin ref?"

For the referee the ideal outcome to a game is one where the players have accepted all the decisions without a murmur, the penalty count has been low and the post-match discussions in the bar make no reference to the referee. In my case such a game (I thought) was one I refereed between Leinster and Munster at Lansdowne Road. As I basked in self-congratulatory glory after the match, Leinster coach Mick Doyle (subsequently to coach Ireland to Triple Crown success in 1985) approached.

"Michael," he declared, "I was going to complain to you in strong terms about the way you let the Munster forwards away with so many infringements at the line out, but I've just had a word with our boy Willie (Duggan) who told me he was getting away with even more." Referees are never winners!



Michael Rea (extreme left) with members of the Scottish team in his days as an international rugby referee

By far the most unforgettable experience refereeing gave me was the chance to travel behind the Iron Curtain to referee Romania v France. For those brought up since the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 it would be impossible to envisage the restrictions on personal freedom and travel that existed under the autocratic dictatorships of Eastern Europe. It was very much a venture into the unknown, the more so given that my only pre-match communication had been a single line telegram from Romania telling me to collect my air ticket at the BA office in Belfast (and that turned out to be a one way only ticket!).

As I flew into Bucharest the security was mind-boggling – soldiers manning gun turrets the whole length of the runway and nearly two hours required to get through passport control, etc. despite the fact I was one of only a few passengers trying to do so. My spirits matched the late afternoon gloom when I eventually made contact with two local alickadoos in the airport concourse. As we exchanged pleasantries in faltering French (my father would have been ashamed of my efforts!) I suddenly became aware of an attractive young woman at my elbow speaking faultless English: "Good afternoon Mr Rea, we hope you have enjoyed your flight from London. My name is Helena and I am here to interpret for you during your stay in Bucharest."

Had whistle, could travel... anywhere, any time...



Michael Rea today

Do you have a view about this edition of the Grammarian magazine? Write to editor@grammarians.co.uk and let us know.

Andy Massey reflects on his journey from Clandeboye Park to Anfield



Keith Bailie

Keith Bailie attended Bangor Grammar School between 1997 and 2004. He went on to study Politics at Queen's University Belfast and Journalism at Belfast Met. He has worked for the Belfast Telegraph and Sunday Life, covering Irish League football and the Northern Ireland national team. He is now sports editor of the County Down Spectator and the Newtownards Chronicle.

Bangor Grammar School and football have not always made for the perfect match. For generations, the school did not play competitive football with only a handful of former pupils making the grade at professional level. It took a new century and a new outlook for the school to finally embrace the beautiful game.



Famous footballing son Keith Gillespie, on the BGS Sporting Wall of Fame

The school's two most famous footballing sons are arguably Terry Neill and Keith Gillespie, with Neill managing Arsenal to three FA Cup finals while Gillespie won 86 caps for Northern Ireland. But in truth, Neill only spent a year at Bangor Grammar (1954-55), while Gillespie (1986-91) was critical of the school's hierarchy.



The 2017/18 BGS soccer team, Belfast and District Schools' Cup finalists



Andy Massey as a young BGS pupil

Which begs the question, has Bangor Grammar School had any impact on high-level football? Well, if it hadn't been for the help of one former Grammar student then Egyptian superstar Mo Salah might not have made it to the past summer's World Cup.

Dr. Andrew Massey, who attended Bangor Grammar School from 1990-97, is Liverpool Football Club's



New Dufferin House arrivals in September 1990: C. N. Patton, M. P. Bowden, G. S. Davis, A. Massey, G. T. Bownes, M. Baird, G. J. McCullough, E. T. W. Ward, B. E. Reading, J. S. Hill, M. H. Downie, P. G. Veal, M. A. Magee, C. C. McClean, N. K. Brittain, B. Angus, N. G. Coulter, R. J. Millar, R. J. Hutchinson, M. J. McAvoy, P. K. Hamilton, S. J. A. Shields, M. J. McKeown, N. Tyrie, D. A. Maginnes, M. A. McNeill, M. D. Smallman, M. T. Francis, D. Meanley, A. A. Kropl, S. Stewart, A. P. McFeeters, K. W. J. Brown, D. W. White, T. H. Cully. Absent: J. R. Ogle.

team doctor. During May's Champions League final, he helped Salah off the field after the talented forward injured his shoulder during Liverpool's defeat at the hands of Real Madrid in Kiev.

Andy was a footballer himself. A powerful centre-back, he broke into the Bangor team whilst still attending Bangor Grammar, before earning a move to Linfield at the age of 18. Although he didn't make the grade at Windsor Park, he went on to win a First Division title with Ards, before returning to his hometown club of Bangor, where he won both the Steel & Sons Cup and the old Intermediate League Cup (aka the Daily Mirror Trophy).

While a decent Irish League defender, Massey didn't quite possess the ability to make it as a professional. However, he did excel in the field of medicine. Andy, now 40, studied physiotherapy at the University of Ulster and medicine at



School prefects in 1996/97 (back, from left): N. Harrison, B. Reading, N. Manogue, A. Massey, R. Mason, G. Coey, P. Thompson, G. Bownes, K. Butler, C. McCracken. Middle: G. Rainey, P. Lynas, N. McCreadie, J. Tomalin, M. McAvoy, G. Gordon, J. Reynolds, K. Douglas, G. Grant, C. Patton, A. Fleck. Front: R. Mayne, S. Garrett, M. Hutchinson, J. Harte, R. Coghlin, Dr. P. L. Moore (Vice Principal), Mr. T. W. Patton (Headmaster), Mr. J. V. Smyth (Vice Principal), G. Best, P. Veal, R. Eakin, R. Neely and R. Stewart.



Above and below, Spectator coverage of the two cup successes in 2004, with captain Andy Massey holding the trophies aloft.



Queen's University. He combined his medical skills with his knowledge of sport to work with a variety of teams, including Linfield, Aussie Rules team the Adelaide Crows, the Belfast Giants, the Northern Ireland national team, and now Premier League club Liverpool. Andy is the Anfield club's head of medical services.

His move into medicine was inspired by a recurring groin injury that hampered his Irish League career. Andy explained: "I got an injury when I was playing and somebody told me it would take about a year to recover. I couldn't get my head around the fact that anything takes a year to recover from. The best way to figure that out was to study and I came from quite a sporty family, so I always wanted to stay involved in sport. So I got the injury and decided to go and do my A-Levels to see if I could get into physio."

After holding a number of jobs in his native Northern Ireland, Andy landed his current role with Liverpool five years ago. "They advertised for an Academy doctor," he

recalled, "and were actually one of the first clubs in the country to have a full-time Academy doctor. One of the people I'd been close to, a recruiter, told me to go for it. I wasn't quite sure what a full-time Academy role would entail, but I went over, spoke to them and fell in love with the role straight away. Even now I'd say it's the best job I've ever had, the role at the Academy. I loved it."

Andy then progressed to working with the first team in 2015. "I head up the physio and sports science departments as well as the medicine department, so I'm looking at the overall performance side of things while also still doing the first-team doctor job."

His role includes liaising with Liverpool's German manager Jürgen Klopp. "Jürgen's philosophy is very much that we've got to run further, run faster, run quicker than every other team because if we can do that then the skill will take over. So we've got to put the players in a position where they can do that. When Jürgen first came into the club, we tried to put that in there but the boys weren't yet up to that physical level to meet the demands.

"At one stage, we had 13 hamstring injuries but now, with the benefit of two pre-seasons, we're seeing the boys work so much harder and they look like they're more protected."



Dr Andy Massey of Liverpool FC

Andy, a married father of three, is the son of Billy Massey who worked as physio for Bangor Football Club for over two decades.

His sister Eva was a top class shot putter, who represented Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games.

He now combines his work at Anfield with his studies. He is currently working on a PhD at John Moore's University. So while Bangor Grammar School has not created many professional footballers, nobody can say it has not had an impact on the game's upper echelons!



From Terry Neill in the 1950s, via David McMillan, Peter Dornan, Billy McCoubrey, Jeff McNamara, David Eddis, Andy Massey, Alastair McCombe and Grant Dunlop, amongst others, to Brett Widdowson and Ethan Boylan on the current team, all are former pupils of Bangor Grammar School. With Bangor FC celebrating its centenary in 2018, can you help us to compile a complete list for a future feature? Contact editor@grammarians.co.uk

Indoor Football

During the winter a group of old boys play indoor football on a Thursday night, commencing in September. The school at Gransha Road provides a great hall which can accommodate five-a-side and seven-a-side matches. The games are competitive but are played in good spirit. If you'd like to take part please ring Norman Irwin on (028) 9145 9826.



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Chris Buckler (1979-93), a familiar face for a number of years on our television screens, has been settling in as one of the BBC's team of correspondents in the American capital. His 'patch' includes the White House, where he covers President Donald Trump's engagements and press conferences.



Chris Buckler

The journalist learned his trade at Belfast Community Radio, which later became Citybeat and is now known as Q Radio. It was there he first worked with Stephen Nolan, producing his evening show while a student at Queen's University. Chris then worked at the Belfast Telegraph before earning a spot on the BBC news trainee scheme and eventually taking up the role of Ireland Correspondent.

He has worked on many high profile stories, including the manhunt for the Boston Marathon bomber, which developed while he was on holiday in America.

Omar Zatriqi, who left Bangor Grammar School in 2006, has been named as 2018 winner of the Peter Rosser Composition Award, which was established in 2016 by Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble and the Peter Rosser Foundation.

Peter was a composer, writer, educator and catalyst for the Arts in Northern Ireland. He was born in London and moved to Belfast in 1990 where he studied composition with David Morris at the University of Ulster and was awarded a DPhil in 1997.

His music has featured at the Spitalfields Festival in London, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, the Belfast Festival at Queen's, the Between the Lines Literary Festival, the Dartington International Summer School and the Crash Festival in Dublin. Peter died from cancer, aged 44, in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital on 24 November 2014.

Omar studied academic music throughout his school career and also specialised in clarinet and piano. He is a graduate of Queen's University: BMus, First Class Honours; MA, Composition; PhD, (School of Creative Arts).

Adrian Beattie (1985-92) is co-owner of local communications business Navigator Blue, which won five Publicity Association of Northern Ireland awards at a ceremony in the Culloden Hotel in October 2017, including two gold awards for Best Use of Social Media and Best Healthcare Campaign.

Neil McKittrick, who joined Bangor Grammar School as a First Former in 1991, has received one of the Red Cross's highest honours, the Lady McCorkell Award. He worked for the charity as its local manager for eight years, establishing its refugee services in Northern Ireland, before moving on to a new role with Barnardo's, where he continues to work with Syrian refugees.

The award is presented to a Red Cross member who fully enacts the movement's fundamental principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality in the course of their work.

Ballyholme shopkeeper and sub-postmaster **Roy Nesbitt** (1985-92) won the prestigious title of Newsagent of the Year at the annual National Federation of Retail Newsagents awards ceremony in London on 22 November 2017.



Roy Nesbitt

King Cedar is the new name on the lips of the alternative-folk community; behind the alter-ego is former pupil **Stephen Macartney** (1982-89). He has been a mainstay of the Northern Ireland music scene for many years, honing his craft in bars, backrooms and festival stages.

His debut single as King Cedar, the Nashville-influenced 'Hey I'm Stephen', has been described as 'essential listening' and 'an honest confessional.' A four-track EP is also available. Visit the King Cedar Facebook page for more information.

Local fans were able to catch him in action during the summer's Open House Festival. The line-up featured several other past pupils, including: **Colin Bateman** (1973-78), interviewing John Lydon, aka Johnny Rotten, storyteller **David Lennon** (1973-80) and mentalist **Joel Mawhinney** (2009-16).

Among Bangor Lawn Tennis Club members who represented Ulster at May's Super Senior Inter-Pros in Cork was **Gordon Boal** (1972-79), in the over-55 men's section.

Civil engineer **Simon Cummings**, who joined Bangor Grammar School as a First Former in 1981, contributed two chapters to the 'Pearson BTEC National Construction Student Book,' which was published by Pearson Education Ltd. in September 2017. A core text book for students studying for the BTEC Level 3 Construction and the Built Environment qualification, it features real-life construction case studies and projects from across Northern Ireland. Simon has spent many years with South Eastern Regional College.

County Down Spectator sports journalist **Keith Bailie**, who joined Bangor Grammar School's First Form in 1997, has been appointed chairman of the Northern Ireland Football Writers' Association.

Stephen Bell (1973-87) became the first person from Northern Ireland with a Motor Neurone Disease diagnosis to undertake a 10,000ft. charity skydive. The recently retired chartered surveyor, who undertook the daredevil feat at the end of September 2017, was



Stephen Bell

raising funds for the MND Fund. The inspirational rugby, cricket, cycling and golf enthusiast, who had received the devastating diagnosis earlier in the year, is anxious to raise greater awareness of the disease, which affects the brain and spinal cord, attacking the nerves that control movement and causing muscles to cease functioning.

Johnny Hamilton, whose Bangor Grammar School life began as a four-year-old at Connor House in 1987, is now working as a freelance fitness trainer, while also modelling and serving as an ambassador for the global Better Bodies clothing brand. His high profile career took off after he responded to a Game of Thrones production company request for a 'built, swarthy-skinned bearded male' and was offered a featured role as a Dothraki warrior in the first season (2011).

Donaghadee native **Michael Geddis** (1972-78), who enjoyed a 25-year career as a veterinary surgeon until ill-health prompted his early retirement, is now gaining a considerable reputation as an artist. He was 50 when he made the decision to go back to school (the Ulster University) to study fine art, painting and drawing.

Since graduating in 2013, Michael's work has been showcased in the RDS Visual Arts Awards in Dublin (where he won the James White Drawing Award, which included a £3,000 cash prize), he has received considerable support from Ards and North Down Borough Council, his work has featured regularly in the Royal Ulster Academy exhibition at the Ulster Museum, and his paintings and drawings have been selling for up to £1,000 a piece.

Saracens director of rugby **Mark McCall** (1979-86), who guided the club to their fourth premiership title with a 27-10 victory over Exeter on 26 May 2018, has signed a contract extension. Pundits place him as one of the favourites to succeed England boss Eddie Jones who is due to relinquish that post in 2021.

Ex-Irish rugby international **David Morrow** (1968-75) put together a brilliant gross 72 (best of the day), net 62, to win the Craigavon Cup at Bangor Golf Club in May. Another former pupil, **Brian Kissock** (1954-59), won the low section in the same competition.

Bangor's former town centre manager, **Stephen Dunlop** (1970-75), has announced his intention to stand as a Green Party candidate in the 2019 Local Government elections. He will aim to win the backing of voters in the Bangor Central ward. During an extensive career he also co-ordinated London's reconstruction programme following the 1996 Docklands bombing.



Stephen Dunlop

Drinking Bird Experiment, a band formed in Scotland in 2012 while member **Gary McMahon** (1969-82) was living in Glasgow, released their debut album Killer Diller in April 2018. Gary, who plays bass and synthesiser, did the production work in Bangor. In the past he played in various local bands, as well as the South Eastern Youth Orchestra, the Studio Symphony Orchestra and the Belfast Jazz Orchestra.

A posthumous collection of poetry by **Jack McCoy** (1961-68) was privately published in June 2018. Jack, who passed away in 1987, was a graduate in English Literature at QUB and a talented writer.



Jack McCoy in student days (as featured on the booklet's back cover)

In his professional life he was a librarian. He pioneered the post of Local Studies Librarian, being based in SEELB Library HQ, Ballynahinch, and was solely responsible for compiling indexes to a number of local newspapers, including the Spectator, Mourne Observer and Down Recorder – essential resources down the years for many hundreds of researchers.

Jack Irwin, who joined Bangor Grammar School as a Year 8 pupil in 1990, has travelled in recent months to some of the world's most remote locations, including Antarctica and the Falkland Islands, as chief officer with the British Atlantic Survey ship RRS Ernest Shackleton. The ship's role is to take essential resources to people working on remote scientific bases. Jack, who joined the Merchant Navy after leaving the School, worked on gas tankers for eight years before being offered a position with the Atlantic Survey in 2017. During home visits he is a valued member of the Bangor Lifeboat crew.

Ballyholme Yacht Club member **Stephen Polly** (1968-75), accompanied on board Storm by fellow BYC sailors John Gunning and David Kelso, won the RS Elite Irish National Championship event at Carrickfergus over the weekend 16/17 June 2018.

Chris Gray (1982-96), who is Director of Music at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, was conductor for two BBC Radio 3 broadcasts on consecutive days, 11 and 12 July 2018. The first was Choral Evensong and the second was a concert. Another past pupil, French horn player Tom Kane (1993-2001), played Shostakovich's 7th Symphony, 'The Leningrad', with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at the BBC Proms on 16 July past.



Chris Gray

AND FINALLY... the current chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of Bangor Grammarians, **Terence Bowman**, **Alan Black** and **Peter Blair** respectively, along with **Paul Blair**, chairman of the Board of Governors, all started their BGS 'careers' in 1962 in the same Connor House P2 class, under legendary teacher Miss Maureen Fetherstonhaugh, going on to become members of the slightly less legendary Class of 1975. All the more remarkable is the fact their names appeared one after the other in the P2 roll book: Black, Blair, Blair and Bowman... "Present, Miss!" "Present, Miss!" "Present, Miss!" "Present, Miss!"



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