

Balshaw's C E High School

Formerly Balshaw's Grammar School

Spring 2014



Non Sibi Sed Aliis

Aiming At Excellence

Old Balshavians please take note that our reunion meeting will be in

*****Balshaw's School on Friday 20th June at 7.00pm for 7.30pm *****

for a buffet in the dining room and a presentation afterwards in the hall.

This year **we are having our re-union earlier than usual** so that we can say **thank you to Miss Venn** who is retiring as Head Teacher of the school at the end of the summer term. Jo Venn has been a wonderful head for almost 20 years (she must have enjoyed it) and will be a tough act to follow.

This reunion is intended for **every** old Balshavian no matter how young so if you are afraid that you will not know anybody then invite a few of your contemporaries to come along with you. I am sure that when you get here you will remember quite a number of the older Balshavians.

There is a form to complete at the end of this letter to be returned to Barbara Wright nee Ward (Head Girl 1952/53) who is handling all the applications.

We are very sad to report the death of one of our oldest Old Balshavians. Marjorie Lawrie nee McKittrick lived to the wonderful age of 97 and throughout her later years was very mentally alert.

Gold Medalist Bob Jameson

Another super fit old Balshavian has just come to my notice. Bob Jameson (1942 – 1947) who lives in Shropshire, has played Hockey for most of his life and as he advanced in age carried on to play in the Masters class – i.e. over 65yrs. He continued to play at such a high level that, just months short of his 80th birthday, he received his first call-up to play for England in the sport's Veteran's World Cup in South Africa which England, with Bob's help, won. Despite a gruelling schedule of seven games in nine days playing opponents almost 20 years younger than him Bob picked up a GOLD medal . Not only that he also was presented with another Gold medal for being the oldest player in the whole tournament. The success formed part of a clean sweep for England which won Gold in all five sections of the tournament. Below, a picture of Bob with his Gold Medal. Apologies for that crease line under Bob's nose.

Veteran strikes Cape gold

Hockey victory is Bob's ears 80

Shropshire hockeyer who received his first call-up to play for England months short of his 80th birthday has returned from the sport's veterans' World Cup with a gold medal.

Bob Jameson, of Clun, represented England over the second string in the Grand Masters' World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa.

Despite a gruelling schedule of seven games in nine days playing opponents almost 20 years younger, Bob picked up a gold medal during his side's win.

He was only called up two weeks before the tournament, after impressing in a pre-season warm-up game.

He said: "I'm absolutely delighted to bits about it. I'm not a very handsome fellow, and I then got an ovation at the medal ceremony for being the oldest player in the whole tournament."

His win was part of a clean sweep for England, who won gold in all five sections of the tournament.

Bob Jameson, from Clun, with his gold medal



Bob has no end of talents. Here he is pictured in his own vinyard holding a couple of bottles of his own vintage which contains a small quantity of Melissa Officinalis which is claimed by a 16th century Hebalist/Philosopher Paracelsus to be an elixir of life, a cure for impotency and early ageing. By the above record of achievements I think that he must be drinking a good quantity of his own production.



Clun Carnival
& Show Trophies
August 2013

Here is a picture of Bob and his wife proudly holding their trophies won at Clun Carnival and Festival in 2013

Another Famous Old Balshavian

Thanks to Roger Clayden, Marian's husband, for his patience and finding the time to let me have the following information.



Marian (Bolton) Clayden

Born in Preston she went to Balshaw's Grammar School in c.1948 and from there studied painting at the Nottingham school of Art at the University and prepared for a career as a primary school teacher.

Her passion for painting developed as an interest in textiles-as-art while living in Australia with her young family. Their move to California in 1967 led to collaborations with stage/television designer Bob Mackie in Los Angeles and the New York fashion designers, Georgio di Sant'Angelo and Mary McFadden. Under her own label "Clayden Inc" she forged a high profile list of clients for her evening wear, including Lisa Marie Presley, Meryl Streep, Sigourney Weaver and Catherine Zeta Jones. From Dying fabrics for costumes and hangings for nine touring companies of the musical Hair, in 1970, to producing an atelier collection of hand-dyed garments and accessories under her own label from 1981 – 2005, Marian Clayden's unique and luxurious designs are virtuoso Bohemian chic.

Marian Clayden's uniquely sensuous clothes are brilliant examples of how art and fashion can converge. Her couture fashion collections take the soul and vision of an artist and blend them with the dramatic flair of a fashion designer. An internationally acclaimed textile-artist, Marian designs most of the printed silks, cut-velvets and lace fabrics that are the basis of her magical garments. This is style beyond fashion.

- Luxury in Ready-to-Wear Ladies Fashion
- "After-Five" clothes for that most important evening
- Beautiful garments for the special occasion - weddings, and other dressy social events
- Artistic treatment of fabrics - Shibori hand-dyeing, painting, and aging
- Innovative styling with unique trimmings and quality craftsmanship
- Sizes Petite through Large, many styles also in larger sizes

"My designs," says Marian, "allow a woman to enhance her individuality and free-spirited attitude and let her feel totally luxurious and modern."

Look for Marian Clayden in the more exclusive specialty stores and on the couture or designer floor of major fashion retailers.



[Shadow Camisole & Coat](#)



[1106 -Park Cami](#)

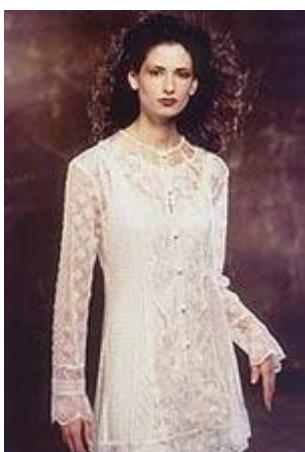


[1137 - Bristol Jacket](#)

Marian Clayden operated her business from the small town of Los Gatos, in northern California, just south of San Francisco, and nestled at the base of the picturesque Santa Cruz Mountains.

Marian Clayden Inc, is a small family-owned company with people from eleven nations around the world that proudly combine their talents to create her special garments. Many of the fabrics are designed here and then woven or printed in Europe, predominantly France and Italy. But, before a garment can be cut, the fabric will often be hand-dyed, distressed, or painted again in the studio. The enriched fabric is then ready for cutting and sewing. Finally special trims, beads, and buttons that Marian finds throughout the world, are carefully added to complete another beautiful creation. All this work is performed by specially trained and highly experienced craftswomen, who dedicate their skills to making the finest quality garments for the most discriminating customer. Unlike much of today's throwaway fashion, the work is painstaking and labour intensive for the sole purpose of creating something wonderful that its owner will want to wear forever.

The company sells through better retailers throughout North America, and has in the past exported to Europe and Japan. There is also a small by-appointment retail operation at the company offices in Los Gatos, which you are welcome to visit if you are nearby. Please call ahead for an appointment - (408) 354-4747.



[9039 - Necklace Jacket](#)



[Float Dress](#)



[9023 - Veranda Coat](#)

Marian has organised three exhibitions in the U.K. The first one at the Bonnington Gallery, Nottingham University from 23rd April to 16th May 2014, the second one at the Harris Museum, Preston, 20th September to December 2014 and the final one at the Fashion and Textile Museum in London, Spring 2015.

Marian, who unfortunately had problems with a brain tumour a while ago, suffered a setback when she developed diverticulitis and had to spend a week in hospital having it treated. Unfortunately the stress of the illness affected her recovery so much so that Marian is hardly able to walk at the moment and her speech has also been affected. It is hoped that Marion will have recovered sufficiently to attend the planned exhibitions.

If any of you remember Marian at school and would like to send her a message, then send it to me by email and I will make sure that she will get it (ed). I hope that you will all give your support to an old Balshavian by making the effort to visit any of these exhibitions.

If you google "Bonnington Gallery Nottingham University" you will find the first exhibition advertised.

With apologies to Lana (Matoff) der Parthogh for missing this little gem of her memories last time.

I had a strange sounding name, Svetlana Matoff, but no-one seemed to take much notice, except for some boys who called me Sultana or Sweatlana. Our English teacher called Mr Wilson took great delight in rolling my name around his tongue "Svett-Laaaaana", pointing at me with his long index finger and announcing to the whole class of 1A that I had once again got top marks in English even though my mother tongue was not English. He probably meant well but I cringed. By the second form I chopped off the first syllable of my first name and insisted that everyone called me Lana. There was only one other girl at school that was not British and that was Eva Fleishmann in the upper sixth. She was very kind and generous to me and invited my parents and I to meet her parents in Preston.

I don't know whom we were terrified of more in that first year, the prefects who picked on us constantly or the fiercesome teachers with their gowns flapping behind them as they swept through the corridors like crows.

As the years passed we found out that they were just ordinary human beings and had our favourites. My 'good' subjects were English and History and everything I have achieved in my life I owe to the dedicated teachers who brought those subjects alive.

Mr Morgan, who galloped through ancient Greece and Rome to Mediaeval England in our first years, then guided us through European History in the lower V1 and C.S.Hilditch, the gruff, pug-faced Labour Trade-unionist who made us think and analyse better than any university professor.

Mr Wilson for English was followed by A.J.Bull in 3A. He would read articles out of the Manchester Guardian to us and, as I understand, wrote poetry. Walking home with Gwyneth Kirkham and Beryl Walkden we would pass his house. He never shut the curtains and we could see full bookcases and more books piled up everywhere, even on the floor. Then Miss M.A Rahill, scatty but determined to make us understand and enjoy Chaucer and Shakespeare. She discreetly praised my essays and encouraged me to write.

Others added to my all round education: Miss Whewell introduced me to Art, even though I could never do the lettering we needed for the GCE but I got a pass anyway; Mr Black played us the music from the film Limelight and then Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto to illustrate how musical themes could be adapted; He also told me, quietly, that I should never sing in public because I was always out of tune, something I kept in mind for ever.

The Latin under Mr Leathley has stayed embedded in my mind and, like ancient Greek, has helped me to write better English. I didn't think much of Miss Bromley's French accent (I had attended a French Convent School in Egypt) however she efficiently drummed grammar and vocabulary into our heads and they stuck.

Maths was definitely not one of my best subjects. Ditto the Sciences. How I ever managed to pass eight GCEs I have no idea and put it down to the teachers we had.

I was never much good at sports but managed to play in the hockey and rounders leagues and knockouts for my house – Worden – and enjoyed playing tennis, unless playing against Ruth Hosker who would gleefully thrash me. Gym I hated, however I could climb the ropes and would shin up one during Pirates and stayed there while everyone else was tagged.

As for V.U.Oldland, does anyone realise that he actually went through the entire Bible, from Genesis to the Acts of the Apostles, in the years of R.I. What he probably did not know was that besides throwing stuff at each other when he left us alone we also discovered the psalms he left out from our reading assignments and learned quite a lot about biblical sex.

Societies, 3-4pm every Friday, were a bit of a hit and miss affair in the first years when the best ones were already filled before it was our turn. So it was Arts and Crafts in 1A (winding wool round four pins stuck in a cotton reel), followed by Pen Pals (Foreign Correspondence) in 2A. Delia Norris and I found our niche in the School Library, first as Orderlies and then as Library Assistants, spending free periods there and not having to go out into the cold during breaks any more. By the way if anyone knows what happened to Delia I would love to know. I lost touch with her in the mid-1960s and even the indefatigable Judith Burrell couldn't trace her for the 1990 reunion.

I did keep in touch with Jackie Hindle, now Herrmann, who emigrated to Australia at the same time I returned to Cyprus. She has visited me twice and we had a mini-reunion with Gwyneth Kirkham and June Bailey in Paphos. After the 1990 reunion I also renewed close school friendships with Betty Hayes, Judith Burrell, Janet Fairclough and Marion Ashcroft. We had a fantastic get-together when I stopped off in Leyland on my way to visit my granddaughter in Dundee in 2009. Six elderly women having an uproarious time were asked to move into the hotel lobby because we had overstayed our time in the restaurant.

A final thought. I once interviewed the historian Sir Steven Runciman and he told me the crucial years for learning are from the ages of 4-12 'when the brain is like a sponge, absorbing everything, after that it is just a matter of fine tuning'. I think Balshaw's did a very good job at the fine tuning.

Thank you Lana for your entertaining memories.

During a commentary on the Winter Olympics at Sochi in Russia the name Leyland was heard and from that we were able to track down a very proud Old Balshavian grandmother whose grandson (Dave Ryding) came in at 17th in the men's Slalom at Sochi. The grandparents are Gary and Muriel (Anderton) Ryding. Muriel attended Balshaw's from 1951 - 56 Dave Ryding is the British Number 1 in the Slalom discipline and last year won the European cup Slalom series. As Dave was living in the Bretherton/Croston area he had to attend the Bishop Rawstorne school for his secondary education. Picture of Dave in Action.



Muriel Anderton started her teaching career at Balshaw's from 1970 to 1979 being promoted to Head of History and Careers.

She moved to Baines School, Poulton – Le – Fylde first as Deputy Head from 1979 to 1987 then as Head Teacher from 1987 to 2000.

Well done Muriel.

I have to report sad news again. Maureen Lane Nee Hodson (1950 - ?) was on her way home from visiting relatives in New Zealand with husband Tom when she died suddenly. Turpin Green Methodist Church was full to overflowing with mourners for the service. Very late news – Gladys Jones Nee Priestley (1950 - ?)was found dead in her home at Leyland Lane, Leyland.

Year 11 have produced some wonderful results in the examinations

GCSE Results – Congratulations Year 11 2013

It must be wonderful to be amongst the highest ever performing year group at Balshaw's, well done Year 11.

71% of you achieved 5 A*/C including English and Maths at GCSE, that's 129 pupils. Even better 70% of you achieved 8 A*/C including English and Maths, an incredible 128 pupils.

28% of you achieved 5 A*/A passes at GCSE, that's 51 pupils and 19% of you achieved 8 A*/A, an amazing 35 pupils.

30% of you qualify for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), that's 55 pupils and big increase on last year.

We all hope that you make the most of this success and you do well in the future, be it in further education or in the world of work. Whatever you choose to do 'Be the best you can be'.

Mr Melling – Asst Head.

Balshaw's Rotary Youth Speaks Team

Congratulations are once again in order as the Balshaws Rotary youth speaks team won their regional final and now progress to the Northwest/North Wales part of the competition. Anna, Anya and Emma competed against 11 other teams including those from sixth form colleges. Anna won the award as best speaker, Emma won best vote of thanks. It was an amazing team performance. The team have also been asked to go to Newcastle and speak in front of 350 Rotarians.

The New Head Teacher

Miss Jo Venn is to retire in the Summer, having been the head teacher since January 1995. The Christian leadership by Jo has seen the school develop and grow, as a church school and also as a place of excellence. The recent Ofsted report reflects the impact she has had on the school, its standards and achievements.

'The wise, dedicated and outstanding leadership of the headteacher is instrumental in allowing all students to achieve success and staff to flourish at this school.' (Ofsted report September 2013)

The governors were diligent in their search for a replacement Head Teacher. Throughout 2013 they met with Diocesan Director of Education and Lancashire's Senior Advisor and others, to plan the recruitment process. The headship was advertised nationally before Christmas and interviews were

held in mid January. Pupils and staff members were involved in the interview process and the Balshaw's foundation was also involved.

The new head teacher, who will take up his post in September, is Mr Steven Haycocks. Steven will be the 14th headteacher of Balshaw's since the school first opened its doors. He is currently the Deputy Head Teacher of Skipton Girl's High School. Prior to that he taught at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School. Mr Haycocks lives with his wife and two young children in Blaco near Nelson.

A History Of Balshaw's 1981 - 2014

Timed to coincide with the retirement of Jo Venn, the updated 'History Of Balshaw's' covers the period from 1981 to the present day . It follows on from the book written by George Birtill which covers the first two hundred years of Balshaw's history. The new book, which will be launched on the Founders Day (14th June), includes chapters on the development of the building, changes in the curriculum and the daily life of the school. It includes memories of former pupils and staff as well as records of sporting and other achievements.

The book will be available from school, priced around £5.00.

With grateful thanks to "our man on the inside" Keith Woodcock who is also the author of the book.

Old Balshavian's Reunion 2014

In school on Friday 20th June

Commencing at 7.00pm

Name of old Balshavian	Maiden name
Address	
Year Started Balshaw's	Year finished at Balshaw's
Make cheque out to Mrs B Wright for £15 and send to 3, Kings Drive, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 3HN - don't forget stamps if you are not on Email!	
Barbara's email address is bwrig03@alive.co.uk and tel 01772 719018	

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Grateful thanks to Barbara Wright for using her sharp eyes to proof read this edition for me – Ed..