News from the Balshaw's Archive

An education for all

Balshaw's has always exceeded expectation and limitation by aspiration and determination. From its lowly beginnings as a charitable school set up in 1782 for the education of "children of the poor of this (Leyland) parish" and accepting girls for education from 1790, Balshaw's has always bucked the inequities of the world and became a trail blazer not only for gender equality throughout its history but also resisted the attempt to make it a "middle class school" by a Mr. Tootell in the 1890s. He was vehemently rebuffed by a Balshaw's trustee, Mr Stanning, who claimed that the intention of Richard Balshaw was always to provide education for free to the children of the poor of Leyland and now education was free to all by virtue of the 1870 Education Act, Balshaw's should provide a higher education for the children of the working classes of Leyland:

"The very flower of the working classes," he said, "were willing to make sacrifices for the benefit of their children and now they had a chance of higher education would perhaps be able to send their children to colleges and University". He added, "that his father had made sacrifices for him and he wished every man imbued with that spirit."²

And so it was that the Charitable School on Golden Hill Lane began to provide an education that would enable its students to take examinations. This sort of school became known as a Grammar School after 1898.

Meanwhile, the old Grammar School, on the corner of the church yard of St. Andrews Church, by contrast had dwindling numbers and in "1865 a critical report from the Enquiry Commission stated amongst other things 'reading and spelling were not very good...Geography and English grammar were poor.' The writing was on the wall" ³ and nine years later the school closed in 1874. Despite the recommendations of the Schools' Inspector, Mr. James Bryce, in 1865 that Balshaw's should merge with the Grammar School, the trustees of Balshaw's repeatedly resisted a merger because they were well-run and better endowed financially than the Grammar School. However, petitions were guaranteed, finally, by the Education Department in 1897 and by Queen Victoria in Council in May, 1898⁴ and the merger took place.

Although locally The Golden Hill School was known as "Balshaw's Grammar," the transformation of Balshaw's to a "proper" Grammar School didn't happen until the move from Golden Hill Lane to Church Road was completed. The Church Road site was planned in 1928 and built by 1931 to be opened to students – both girls and boys – in 1932.

Trailblazing for gender equality in 1932

This mixed education, though still separate in the classroom, was at this time extremely unusual and to offer examinations to both genders was almost unheard of for a public (with a small p) school until at least after the 1944 Education Act. The role of Balshavian girls and the Old Balshavians, not only academically but also in local sports leagues, is notable. Balshaw's Grammar School Old Girls were "the ones to beat" and dramatically won the Lancashire Central Women's Hockey League from 1931 to 1934 against opposition as hallowed as the Dick Kerr Ladies.

Steve Bolton, whose Granny played football for the Dick Kerr Ladies throughout the 1930s, is currently writing a book about this



Letter from Max Gelder donating his mother's Balshaw's Grammar School blazer badge circa 1914

¹ George Birtall, *Balshaw's School 1782-1982*, p 12.

² ibid

³ https://lancashirepast.com/2015/09/05/leylands-tudor-grammar-school-south-ribble-museum/

⁴ Raymond N. Cash, A History of Leyland Free Grammar School 1524-1874, (May, 1967), p 84.

⁵ Mark Evans (Hockey researcher for the Hockey Museum, Woking) in conversation with Naomi Breen, July 2020.

period not only of their football, but their foré into hockey. He contacted Balshaw's and Dr. Breen provided some of the archival documents relating to the school's hockey seasons in the 1930s and he stated that "Balshaw's...GSOGs were so fundamental to starting and running the league." Liv Cooke, football trickster and recent Balshaw's Old Girl, has obviously come from a long line of strong female sports stars. It will be the centenary of the 1921 F.A. ban of Women's Football next year; thus, recent growth in interest in women's football in the modern game has a long rebellious history in Lancashire as the superstar teams lie the Dick-Kerr Ladies were renowned internationally in the 1920s and 30s. The archive revealed Balshaw's link to this history over and over.



1931-32 cup-winning team

DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS (*became PREMIER DIV. 1993-94)				
1930-31	Winckley Square Old Girls			
1931-32	Balshaws Grammar School Old Girls			
1932-33	Balshaws Grammar School Old Girls			
1933-34	Balshaws Grammar School Old Girls			
1934-35	Leyland Motors			
1935-36	Leyland Motors			
1936-37	Kerrs			
1937-38	Kerrs			
1938-39	Kerrs			
1939-40	Kerrs			
1940-41	Kerrs			
1941-42	Kerrs			
1942-43	Leyland Motors			
1943-44	Leyland Motors			
1944-45	Preston & District			
1945-46	Leyland Motors			
1946-47	Preston & District			

 $^{^{6}\,\}underline{\text{https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/football/lily-parramateur-cricketer-hockey-player-footballermy-tribute-to-my-granny-lizzy-ashcrofts-great-friend/}$

⁷ Steve Bolton, Women's Hockey in the 1930s Project Update, 11th July, 2020.

DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONS (* hosping DIVISION 1 1993 04)				
(* became DIVISION 1. 1993-94)				
1931-32	Kerrs			
1932-33	Leyland Social club			
1933-34	Balshaws G.S.O.G.2			
1934-35	Glovers Court School			
1935-36	Kerrs			
1936-37	Balshaws G.S.O.G.2			
1937-38	Whittingham GMH			
1938-39	Brook Mill			
1939-40	Leyland			



 $A full set of the \ Lancashire \ Central \ Ladies' \ Hockey \ League \ Champions \ Badges \ from \ 1933-34 \ donated \ to \ the \ school \ archive \ by \ the \ Lingards.$

OLD GIRLS' HOCKEY NOTES

We have been very fortunate in obtaining our Old School pitch for Hockey this Season.

We are again running two teams in the Lancashire Central Ladies' Hockey League. The first team is doing good work in the 1st Division, having, so far, played 9 matches, won 7 and drawn 2.

Two of our players were chosen to play for the League team against the Liverpool League on October 14th last; they were Miss E. Rowcroft and Miss E. Smithies. Our heartiest congratulations to them both.

Our second team have entered the 2nd Division and are more interested in their games this season; consequently they are greatly improved. Owing to the increase of members the players have been assigned, as far as possible, to certain positions, and the result is better combination.

There is likely to be some keen competition this season for both Trophies, as both our teams are heading their respective divisions so far.

A Dance was held in the School Hall on Saturday, January, 20th, 1934, in connection with the Hockey Section of the Association, and this was a great success. The object of the dance was to provide funds for "goal nets" for the team.

MATCH RESULTS UP TO JANUARY 20th, 1934.

1s	t Division.			
Sept.	16— Winckley Square O.G	A	14	4
	23—*Blackpool Secondary O.G	A	3	1
- 11	30— Dick Kerr's Ladies	A	5	3
Oct.	7— Longton Ladies	H	8	2
***	21—*Old Ashtonians	H	6	4
***	28— Leyland Motors Ladies	H	4	4
Nov.	4— Leyland Social Club Ladies	H	4	0
,,	11— Blakey Moor O.G.	A	9	2
,,	25— Old Chorleians	A	6	0
Dec.	2— Hesketh Bank Ladies	A	2	2
,,	9—*Balshaw's Grammar School	H	6	0
19	34			
Jan.	6— Dick Kerr's Ladies	H	4	2
2r	d Division.			
Sept.	16— Whittle-le-Woods	Н	6	1
"	23— Garstang Ladies	H	6	4
***	30- L.M.S. (Manchester)	H	3	3
Oct.	14—*Blackpool Secondary 2nd XI	A	3	2
**	21— Glover's Court School	A	3	2
**	28— Leyland Wesleyans	A	4	0

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The Balshavian Magazine, Spring Term 1934.

Balshaw's Grammar School Old Girls' Association

President: Miss Rahill, B.A.

Vice-Presidents: Miss Royle, B.A.; Miss Brindle, B.A.

Hon. Secretary: Miss J. Vause.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss K. Sheehan.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

During the past few months a number of socials and dances have taken place in the School Hall which have been well supported by Old Students and friends.

The Ball held in the Public Hall on April 6th, was a great success and we were pleased to see a number of new faces and it is to be hoped that these girls will join the Association in the near future.

TENNIS.

It is hoped to arrange a series of matches this season, but this can only be achieved by the continued support of all members who are keen on the game, and thus we rely on the Old Girls to come forward and thus enable the Old Balshavians to present a good team.

CONGRATULATIONS.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to the 1st and 2nd Eleven Hockey Teams who are the respective championship winners for the Lancashire Central Ladies Hockey League.

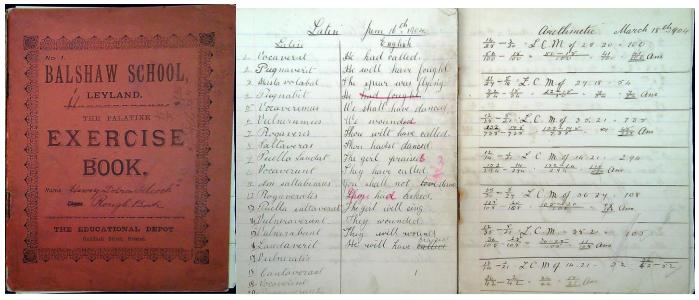
The Balshavian Magazine, Summer Term, 1934.

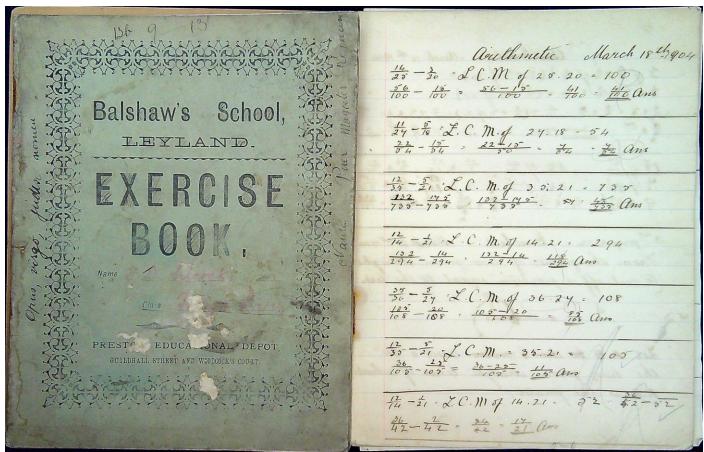
It is amazing the connection the ex-pupils of Balshaw's have to their old school: like the school's old motto STRENUE (strength). From far and wide the Old Balshavian's send in their school badges, caps, sashes, school books and mementoes. Perhaps this is less surprising when one ex-pupil wrote into school to say she had found the receipt from her mother's personal effects for the Balshaw's uniform for her and her brother from 1948. It came to a grand total of £30, 15 shillings and 8d which is £1,128.26p in today's money!





Boater sash & Boys' school cap (unknown date, circa 1930s due to the change in motto from STRENUE to Non Sibi Sed Aliis – Not for themselves but for others)





Balshaw's Exercise Books and Rough Book from 1904. Donated to the School Archive by Mrs Maureen Nickson of Lostock Hall.

Travels in Nazi Germany and beyond

Balshavians were always well-travelled but some of the accounts of their travels that appeared in the Balshavian magazine are beyond belief. The school visited Naples and Pompeii in summer 1935 and there was the account of a cycling tour through Nazi Germany in the 1936 edition of the Balshavian Magazine! This article is extremely objective and positive in terms of the German people as a whole although the knowledge of concentration camps and coercive government is also acknowledged which seems astonishing of the time. There are accounts of trips to the Middle East by boat, as well as a year in the United States, motor cycling through Hungary and Czechoslovakia and holidays in France and Belgium to name but a few. There were also annual school camps to Derwent Water as well as farm camps in the summer holidays throughout the war where Balshaw's students volunteered to work the harvest for the war effort every August.

GERMANY

My first impressions of Germany were provided by an all-day railway journey through it from Brussels to Prague. It was Sunday. At Aachen on the frontier we were tumbled out on to the platform at five in the morning to show our passports and luggage, and to declare our money. An hour later we were at Cologne, with its streets bedecked with long red flags bearing black swastikas, and its railway station full of Hitler youths in brown shirts. Then came the lovely Rhine from Koblenz to Mainz including, of course, the famous Lorelei Rock. At Bingerbrook a brass band came on to the platform and performed. Then Frankfurt and Nürnberg and, finally, the lovely cottages and clean countryside of Bavaria.

I returned to Germany later. My first experiences on the second occasion were rather more unpleasant. I arrived in Nürnberg one evening at a time of a National Socialist Congress. The hotels were full and I walked street after street, carrying a heavy suitcase. I found a hotel eventually by adopting the expedient of boarding a tramcar and travelling to its terminus. But even here the manager informed me next morning that my room was wanted that night.

Nevertheless, Germany is the best country in the world for the traveller. It has lovely moorland landscapes, wooded hill range and stupendous mountain scenery dotted with lakes and castles. It has great modern cities with great modern buildings, mediaeval cities and villages completely unspoilt, university cities and art cities. It has the Rhine and half-adozen other beautiful rivers. It has great architecture. It has the best music in the world.

It is, too, except possibly for Switzerland, the cleanest country in the world. This passion embraces soap, in which Germany's consumption per head is far ahead of other lands. Paint is brought out of hiding as soon as anything begin to looks rusty. The streets and public buildings are universally clean; if you throw a paper in the gutter it stamps you as a foreigner immediately. Along your route of travel look at the stations and try to find one that is unkempt or down-at-heel. Look at the conductors and guards, even the sandwich boys, and try to find one whose uniform is not neat and whose shoes are not polished. And when you hunt hotels in Germany, no matter how humble the hostelry, it will certainly be clean.

Post Offices in Germany call for special comment. You leave the station at a new city. Soon you see a clean, handsome, imposing building. Is it the Town Hall or the State Theatre? No, it is merely the Post Office! Generally speaking, continental post offices are my pet aversion. I have spent too many hours in too many lands waiting in line, working slowly up to a window, only to find that I was at the wrong window or that I had not

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Spring Term, 1936.

supplied myself with some printed form or other. In Germany it is a positive joy to transact postal business. There are enough counters and enough clerks. There are enough writing desks and enough automatic stamp, post-card and envelope machines.

No one can travel about Germany without being made aware of the Nazi organisation. This organisation is as follows:—Parteigenossen (male and true party members); Parteigenossinen (the female counterpart); S.S. men (Storm Troopers and picked men who wear black uniform); S.A. men (Brown Shirts who may or may not be true party members); H.J. (Hitler-Jugend or Hitler Youths—boys who automatically pass into the Party at eighteen); B.D.M. (Bünd Deutscher Mädchen, or organisation of German girls); and lastly the Frauenschaft which is an organisation of mothers. It is important to note that the only people who are admitted to true Nazi membership are the trusted and reliable ones, and boys and girls from the H.J. and B.D.M. The present writer is acquainted with many men over thirty who have worked for years in the Nazi cause and yet have not been admitted to true party membership. Hitler, like Mussolini, knows that the persons most to be trusted are the young who have been trained on fascist lines at school.

Everyone is exhorted to join in sports and athletics—boys and girls being expected to drill on Saturdays and evenings. One Sunday I wanted to see a big gymnastic display at the Frankfurt Sportfeld—to be given as I thought by men. Walking along the Avenue (about half-a-mile long) to the Stadium I was somewhat astonished to find myself among hundreds of young girls in gym. vests and shorts who were chatting in groups the whole length of the Avenue. They took absolutely no notice of me though I must have looked somewhat incongruous, being apparently the only male for miles around. It dawned upon me

presently that the display I had come to see was to be given by girls. I stopped and asked one girl if this was so. She explained that the display was to be given by the B.D.M. "Are the public admitted?" I asked, feeling something like Alice must have felt in Wonderland. "Yes," she replied, "but only a few parents ever come." I walked on to the Stadium, threading my way among a crowd of chattering girls and presently found myself watching a massed drill display by 6,000 of them. The audience consisted of a few parents and about 4,000 boys in brown shirts. I appeared to be the only foreigner present.

The Stadium is but a portion of a vast Sportfeld set in the woods just outside the city. There is also a swimming pool, the largest in Europe. On a summer afternoon literally thousands of people sunbathe or swim. Business men actually take their typists there to transact the day's business, occasionally breaking off to have a bathe. Boys come round with ices, mineral waters, cakes and sweets. It is an incredible scene, but all in keeping with the new Germany's desire for health.

One day I was taken round a welfare centre by an unemployed man who had been a prisoner in England during the War. Welfare centres, organised in every town in Germany, are run chiefly by unemployed Brownshirts, though the heads of the branches are, of course, true Nazis. It is the business of each centre to collect food and money from each household in its district (as my guide explained, quite seriously, householders are not compelled to give, but there are several ways of persuading them to do so). Each householder has a card

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on which is written the amount he has given; a replica of this card is kept by the officials. People in need visit the centre and request relief. Each centre has a warehouse (most welfare buildings, by the way, are wealthy houses, abandoned by their owners during the Nazi revolution). One warehouse I visited in Frankfurt presented a curious spectacle—hundreds of packets of different foods neatly stacked on shelves, stacks of coal, tins of fruit and meat, old jackets and trousers, a pile of eggs and a perambulator. Undoubtedly this system of relief is cunningly devised. The poor and needy are kept by the mass of people, thus relieving the taxpayers; moreover, many thousands of unemployed have something to occupy their time. These men give their services quite freely—probably many of them hope to obtain admission to true party membership as a reward. Anyhow, the result is that Germany is the only country I know in which one is not accosted by beggars.

And now to a more grim topic—the concentration camps. In these there are four different categories of prisoners—professional prisoners, political prisoners, Jews, and prisoners known as Para 175—men whose influence on Hitler youths is considered undesirable. The number of camps is nominally four—Dachau (the "show camp" near Munich), the Kolumbia Haus at Berlin, the Esterwegen and lastly the Lichtenburg. (It is generally admitted, however, that there are more than four camps in existence). The Berlin camp acts as a distributing agent for the various camps, and suspects are detained here until the secret police have completed their investigations, the nature of which are not open to examination by the foreigner.

Except in cases of solitary confinement (an additional punishment) the prisoners sleep four in a cell. Prisoners' heads are completely shaved, and clogs are worn for footwear. On the inside of the surrounding wall of the camp are painted targets of men running, which the S.S. guards use for rifle practice. The guards themselves, wearing the black S.S. uniform with helmet and carbine, are fellows of about twenty years of age. Since the foreign visitor is not allowed to converse privately with any prisoner it is impossible to gain an insight into their treatment.

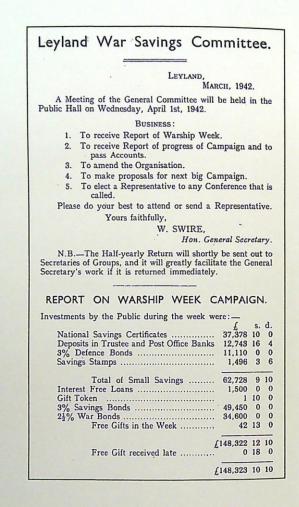
What are my most vivid memories of Germany? Taken at random I should say:

- The landlady at Frankfurt who ran to the window and shouted "Heil Hitler!" every time she heard the march of brownshirts outside.
- The landlady at Dresden who kept me up most of the night showing me pictures of Hitler.
- 3.—The station of Aha in the Black Forest where, when the conductor first shouted out the name I thought he had suddenly gone mad.
 - 4.—The castle at Heidelberg.
- 5.—The Dance Hall at Munich full of numbered tables with a telephone on each. If you wanted to dance with a girl on table 46 (say), you dialled 46 on the telephone and saked her!.

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Before moving to Berkshire to be near her son, Judith Todd brought various items to the school to donate for the archive including exercise books, her domestic science recipe book from 1947 and an apron she had hand sewn in 1949. She said the blue and green floral sections of the patchwork apron actually came from the summer uniform of the Balshaw's girls from the 1930s! (see below) She shared her memories of the school with Dr. Breen and the Headteacher, Mr. Steven Haycocks, in 2019; especially her memories of how the charity work the school did (and still does) was central to the school and she said that Leyland raised enough money during the Second World War to buy a battleship for the British Navy! Along with Leyland Senior Council School, Balshaw's were the top for fund-raising for Warship Week in Scheme 1 in March, 1942.



Who will volunteer?	-							
Who is sufficiently patriotic?-		-						
Who in this way will fight the	Nine	21	he					
the Huns?	rups	ali	Iu					
The fine work done by the Groups may be seen from the following Returns received by the Secretary.								
SCHEME 1.	£	S.	d.					
1. Balshaw's Grammar School	1,358	17	6					
2. Leyland Senior Council School		10	6					
3. Farington Council School	6	19	2					
4. Messrs. G. Damp & Sons	165		6					
5. M. A. Simmons' Employees	556	0	0					
6. Leyland C.C.I. (Proof. Lab.)	42	1	0					
7. Messrs. J. Stanning & Son	255 255	18	0					
9. Leyland Women's Gas Council	210	16	0					
10. Leyland Lane Methodist Sunday School	1	9	6					
11. Messrs, F. Swann & Co.	290	0	6					
11. Messrs. F. Swann & Co	584	16	0					
13. Leyland St. James Mothers' Union	53	7	0					
14. Fox Lane Group	1,100	5	0					
16. Leyland Lane Methodist Married Ladies	25	10	0					
17. Leyland C.I.A.	120	11	6					
20. Leyland Lynton Estate	35	10	0					
23. Pearson Group 24. St. Ambrose Mothers' Union	13	15	0					
25. Canberra Road	61	5	0					
26. Crawford Avenue	157	8	6					
27. Westwood Road	100	4	6					
28. Hampden Road	86	6	6					
29. Argyle Road	21	10	0					
30. Cowling Lane	120	0	0					
31. Carlton Road	350	0	0					
33. Clifton Avenue	43	12	6					
34. Church Road	62	3	0					
35. The Crescent 38. Hall Lane, Golden Hill Lane	80	4	6					
	73	10	0					
39. Meadow Street 41. Slater Lane	13	5	0					
42. Regent Road	63	0	0					
43. Vevey Street	321	13	6					
44. Young Avenue	27	0	0					
45. Marlyn Place	2	14	6					
46. Balcarres Road (1)	67	0	0					
47. Balcarres Road (2)	379	0	0					
48. Mead Avenue	72	0	0					



Judith Todd's Apron, Domestic Science & Textiles Exercise books, 1947.

There are so many "finds" from the archive that are as yet undiscovered but not for much longer. We will keep you updated on the process of publication to the Balshaw's School Website and also repeat the request to have a look through your old school things to see if there's anything you'd like to add to the school archives.