



School facelift uncovers Civil War link to famous historian ex-pupil

Mark Branagan

A MULTI-million-pound facelift of York's Bootham School has been completed and has unearthed an intriguing mystery being linked to one of its most famous ex-pupils, the historian AJP Taylor.

Students returning for the new term found the site transformed – from the boarding accommodation, to the dining room and kitchens and creation of a new drama studio.

Development manager Stuart Wakefield said painstaking work was needed to keep the historical features of the listed buildings intact.

He said, "Many of the rooms have period fireplaces, moulded cornices and in one case, an unusual Yorkshire sash window, complete with its original glass etched pictures of rural scenes."

"It has been really great to see the buildings brought back to life, including a newly restored Georgian ballroom which for

decades lay undiscovered behind partition walls."

Under a bedroom floorboard in the boys' boarding house Fox House, a builder found a stone ball identified by history teacher Sarah Shells as ammunition for a Civil War cannon.

She thinks it may have been hidden there by AJP Taylor, a pupil between 1919-24 who boarded in Fox House. He was known to have kept things under the floor, including some diaries already found by the school.



PUZZLE: Housemaster Mike Shaw and pupil Gilbert Gilbertson, 11, with the mystery cannonball found at Bootham School. It may have been hidden by a famous school old boy, historian AJP Taylor, above.



THE Press

19th November 2009

A NEW musical opened at Bootham School, York, on Tuesday. Talent has been written by father-and-son team David and Joe Tindale. Joe, a sixth form student, has written the original score for the school's full orchestra. The musical takes as its theme the obsession with TV talent shows.

David Tindale said: "About a year ago we were glued to The X Factor as usual when the idea came to us. It's a perfect fit for a musical because it's full of drama but with a very cynical undertone."

The show can be seen tonight at 7.15pm (tickets: 01904 623261)

Picture: Frank Dwyer

Talent goes on show



Test ace drops in

TIPS from the top were passed on to Bootham School pupils at a visit from former England Test cricket captain Alec Stewart.

Stewart, the former Surrey wicketkeeper-batsman is pictured at the York school, where he addressed pupils and answered their questions.

Head of PE Lis Hooley said: "This is a tremendous opportunity for our budding cricketers and those studying GCSE PE."

"Cricket has a long tradition here at Bootham and continues to be a major summer sport with a full fixture list."

Picture: Nigel Holland

THE Press

23rd May 2009



HISTORY: Pupils at Bootham Junior School dress up in 17th century costume to celebrate National Quaker Week, from left, Sumiah Sinclair-Shaw, Emma Hodgson and Hannah Long

Picture: Nigel Holland

History in the making

A YORK independent school has been celebrating National Quaker Week.

Every class at Bootham Junior School produced a colourful array of peace banners in traditional bunting style.

Head teacher Sue Ratcliffe said: "Each class has had great fun producing these, but behind the colourful display there lies the important Quaker message about the role of peace and our constant striving for a peaceful resolution of conflict."

"Both the senior and the junior schools have used National Quaker Week to focus on the values and principles which underpin all we stand for."



BOOTHAM

THE Press

12th October 2009



BOOTHAM



School restoration work uncovers rare Georgian gem

Ballroom bliss



LOOKING AHEAD: Jonathan Taylor, head teacher of Bootham School, in front of boarding detailing the restoration project at the school

YORK'S local residents and visitors have been intrigued to see a mushrooming of scaffolding and building work taking place along Bootham in the historic buildings occupied by the famous Quaker school. Bootham School is currently engaged in a major development project to restore and upgrade ten of its Georgian mansions which, together, form the main part of the senior school, in the heart of York.

Headmaster Jonathan Taylor said: "In order to keep everyone aware of what's going on, we have put up a number of information boards along the school frontage to explain what we are doing and, more interestingly, to give some historical background on the buildings themselves."

The school moved to No 51, Bootham in 1846 from its original site in Lawrence Street – a move propelled by the unhealthy surroundings of Foss Islands. The swampy land had necessitated the schoolmasters of the day to keep a pistol handy for shooting rats who frequently visited the classrooms. Boys were posted as lookouts and when a rat was spotted, the teacher would throw down the chalk and blast away with the firearm.

Occasionally, if the lesson was at a critical point, the young lookout would be given the chance to try his hand at vermin dispatch. Finally, an outbreak of cholera forced the governors of the day to abandon Lawrence Street in favour of the clean air of Bootham.

Over the succeeding decades, the school acquired more buildings, including No 49, the home of Joseph Rowntree, the well-known philanthropist and social reformer, whose private fortune set up the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

No 45 Bootham was bought in 1948

and used as staff flats during the post-war housing shortage. But this building held a secret which has only recently revealed itself to the School's authorities. Hidden within partitioned walls on the first floor of the building is a beautiful Georgian ballroom.

This room had remained undiscovered until the school's recent development planning processes revealed the size and scale of the room.

Mr Taylor said: "This has been a really exciting discovery. The whole building has been described as having benefited from 'benign neglect', and consequently many of the original features are still intact – including some very impressive ceiling plasterwork and cornice, pictured *ten*."

York's Georgian Society has been informed about the "discovery" and is keenly interested in the development plans.

Darrell Buttery, a member of York Civic Trust, described the room as "an undiscovered sleeping princess" and declared himself to be very excited about the prospect of seeing the room brought back to life.

He said: "This room is of a size and style that are all too rare in York."

Mr Taylor said: "The room is to be known as the Bootham Recital Room. It will make a wonderful space for music, for drama, for talks and for meetings and we are restoring it with both the school and the city in mind."

More information about the other buildings and their proposed uses can be gleaned from the new display boards which shroud the street level scaffolding.

Other enquirers are welcome to phone the school on 01904 623261 or visit the website at boothamschool.com/trust where pictures of the ballroom restoration may be viewed.



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SMALL BUT SPACIOUS: Drawings in the adjacent information board are, from left, plans of the ballroom, the school, and the school's new display boards.



Bootham School successes stand on the scaffolding as the school is restored. From left, Matthew Wray, Mollie Borthwick, Jordan Street, Jessie Drew and Joe Hetmanski

Students build on firm foundations

HIGH fliers at Bootham School in York are building for the future.

The top performers at the York private school included Jessica Drew, who was delighted with six A grade passes, including A/S level Latin, plus a distinction in her English literature extension paper. Matthew Wray, who plans to read natural sciences at Cambridge, notched up five straight A grades to add to his 10 A*s at GCSE. They were amongst a dozen of the school's top performing students who had each been awarded four or more A grades.

Head teacher, Jonathan Taylor, said: "Bootham's results have brought huge delight and satisfaction to individual students and their teachers and this is being repeated in schools across the country.

"No debate about subject value or easier pass marks can ever take away from all the personal effort and determination which have gone into producing this year's set of marks."

Bootham's students did have to face one set of final hurdles before they could be given their results, and that was in picking their way through all the builders who are involved in the school's major refurbishment programme.

For weeks during the summer, the ten Georgian mansion houses which make up the school's main estate along Bootham have been swathed in scaffolding.

Some of those who came into school to receive their results were treated to a sneak preview of the building work.



Leap for Joy:
Lindsay Rose,
Caitlin Borthwick,
Xavier Edmonds-Allen
and
Sophie Edmonds-Allen
celebrate at
Bootham School, York

Izzy added: "We know what each other's strengths and weaknesses are."

Results day had a real family feel at Bootham School, an independent Quaker school in York, as a group of grade A students matched the efforts of their elder brothers and sister.

Caitlin Borthwick achieved 11 top GCSE grades a week after her elder sister Molly had picked up four As at A-level while Lindsay Rose's 11 top grades were cheered on by her elder brother Doug who achieved four A grades in A and AS-levels at the school last week.

The 16-year-olds from York put their double success down to self-motivation, encouragement from their parents and because they found studying for their exams to be fun.

Sophie, who got A*s in triple science, geography, history, design and technology, art, French and maths and got As in history, English language and English literature, said: "It was good to get under the surface of the subjects more than in earlier years."

Xavier added: "We didn't study together really, we're quite self-motivated."

"Most of the teachers are very, very good at motivating you too."

He matched his sister's results, gaining A*s in triple science, maths, English literature, music, geography, history and Latin and As in French and English language.

He said he spent a lot of time swimming in order to relax after studying and revision and also dedicated time to music. Sophie added that her biggest worry was the thought that she'd written in blue ink rather than the compulsory black during one of her exams.

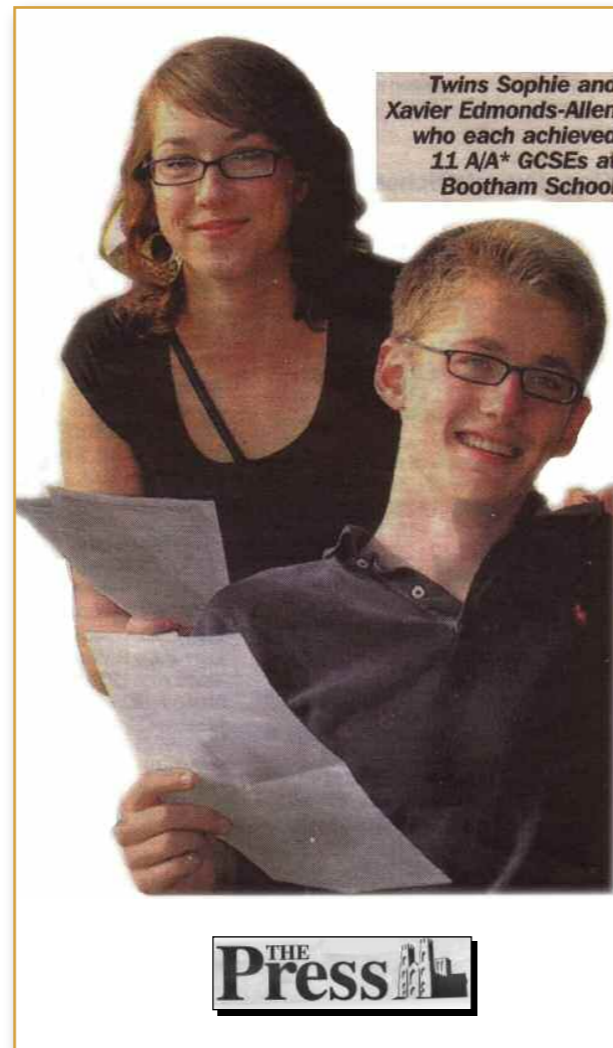
The duo will both go on to study A-levels at Bootham - Xavier in maths, physics, history and one other and Sophie in geography, design and technology, English and biology.

Bootham's headmaster Jonathan Taylor said: "It has been a super set of results and gives our students a very firm foundation. Congratulations to them all."

"We are delighted with our results and really looking forward to joining the sixth form."

Bootham pupil James Aubrey achieved 11A or A*s following in the footsteps of his elder brother Harry who picked up five As at A or AS-level at the school seven days ago.

The school also saw twins celebrating success as Sophie and Xavier Edmonds-Allen, received a combined total of 17 A*s and five grade As yesterday.



Twins Sophie and Xavier Edmonds-Allen who each achieved 11 A/A* GCSEs at Bootham School

School in peace vigil

A QUAKER school put its beliefs into action with a silent vigil in support of world peace.

Students and staff staged their vigil outside the newly restored main frontage of Bootham School, York.

The event took place to mark United Nations International Peace Day, aimed at getting those involved in conflicts to observe a ceasefire for those 24 hours.

Participants lined up behind a massive peace banner, as they sought to draw attention to the day's aims.

Deputy headmaster Graham Ralph said: "As a Quaker school, the peaceful resolution of conflict is an important aspiration for us, be it in the political arena or in our day-to-day dealings with other people."



LIVING BANNER: Bootham School pupils and staff mark United Nations International Peace Day, with a silent vigil outside the newly restored main school frontage
23/9/09 YK Press. Picture: Mike Tipping

23rd September 2009

Fauré's a jolly good cello... and so say all the judges



A SCHOOLBOY from York has been named The Most Promising Young Musician at a prestigious music festival.

Louis Baily, pictured, a pupil at Bootham School, was also awarded the Patricia Price Memorial Trophy at the Wharfedale Music Festival after performing *Élégie* by Fauré on the cello in the U13 string class.

Paul Feehan, director of Music at Bootham School, said Louis has taken on "quite an advanced repertoire" for the competition.

Mr Feehan said: "Naturally, I'm delighted that Louis has been awarded this trophy."

"He is a performer with great potential and, as he is only in Year 8, I'm looking forward very much to hearing him in future years."

Picture: Nigel Holland

26th June 2009



School's cover story

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF: Bootham School head teacher Jonathan Taylor with pupils, from left, William Ashbridge, Emma Paul, Ruairi Lewis and Helena Anderson, and the school's new book detailing 175 years of the school's Natural History Society. *16/5/09 YR Press* Picture: Mike Tipping

PUPILS at a York independent school are bringing natural history to book

Natural History At Bootham - The Early Years is the title of the book launched at Bootham School.

Published in partnership with The Sessions Book Trust, it marks 175 years of the school's Natural History Society - the oldest, continuously running, school science society in the country and probably the world.

Headmaster Jonathan Taylor, said: "This claim goes back to the mists of time.

"Bootham's headmaster of the period, John Ford, was a keen educational theorist and was in contact with and the illustrious Matthew Arnold, famous 19th century headmaster of Rugby School.

"Although the two disagreed on the commonly held view that intellectual and moral excellence were necessarily found together, Ford was keen

to see that education covered more than learning the classics by rote and following elaborate systems of rules. Ford encouraged the then newly popular study of the natural sciences to flourish at Bootham, and in the age of Darwinism, the Natural History Society at Bootham took root."

The book, priced £12, is available from Amazon.com or from Bootham School. Phone Jane Peake on 01904 623261.



16th May 2009

Bootham School

A Ackerley (11), N Anderson (11), A Atiyah (11), J Aubrey (11), P Bage (11), H Barrell (11), C Borthwick (11), J Botterell (11), D Brooke (12), C Brooksbank (11), B Brown (11), J Burn (11), E Bussell (11), A Cantrill (12), F Casimir (11), S Chan (12), F Charteris (11), J Clark (11), P Clark (12), A Clayton (11), S Clayton (11), K Coombes (11), G Coupe (11), O Cowling (10), B Dawton (11), F Digby (11), J Digby (11), S Edmonds-Allen (11), X Edmonds-Allen (11), J Elliot (10), L Evans (11), Y Fan (12), E Gladwin (11), N Gunson (11), C Hall (11), D Harker (11), S Hawksford White (11), L Herman (11), C Ho (12), R Houghton-Prinn (10), J Howard (11), G Hudson (11), S Jenkins (10), S Kennedy (11), A Lam (11), T Lamb (11), S Lambert (10), Y Li (10), P Lindley (10), C Liu (10), R Love (11), H Luk (12), D McGregor (11), T McInnis (11), E McManaman (10), A McVicar (11), C Miller (11), P Mitchell (11), F Mytum (11), C Noon (11), M O'Connor (11), M Platt (11), J Ramsey (11), J Rodgers (11), L Rose (11), A Sheppard (11), E Sims (11), A Thompson (11), I Tomlin-Kent (11), H Ung (10), D Walker (11), R Webster (11), S Windross (11), J Wong (12), R Woolley (11), B Wright (11).

Nobel prize inspires debate among pupils



LEARNING FROM HISTORY: Bootham School's debating team with the Nobel Peace Prize medal that was won by former pupil Philip Noel-Baker. Pictured, front from left, Oliver Meacock, Tony Wu, Alex Odagiu and Elise Ashby. Back from left, head teacher Jonathan Taylor, Sean Zheng, Charlotte Yeldon, and Tom Waller. *Picture: David Harrison*

PUPILS at a York private school have celebrated the 50th anniversary of a former pupil winning the Nobel Peace Prize with a debate.

Youngsters at Bootham School chose to celebrate the achievements of Philip Noel-Baker, who helped to draft the United Nations Charter and captained the England athletics team from 1920 to 1924. Parliamentarian Mr Noel received the award on November 6, 1959, following tireless campaigning for disarmament.

The Quaker school invited neighbouring schools, former

pupils and past friends to join debates on political issues related to peace.

Jonathan Taylor, head teacher of Bootham School, said: "We remembered a great man from history, but his ideals and achievement are as relevant now as they were in the last century."

Bootham pupils had recently been learning about the prize, as the school is twinned with Washington DC's Sidwell School, which is attended by the daughters of US President Barack Obama. President Obama was awarded the accolade last month.



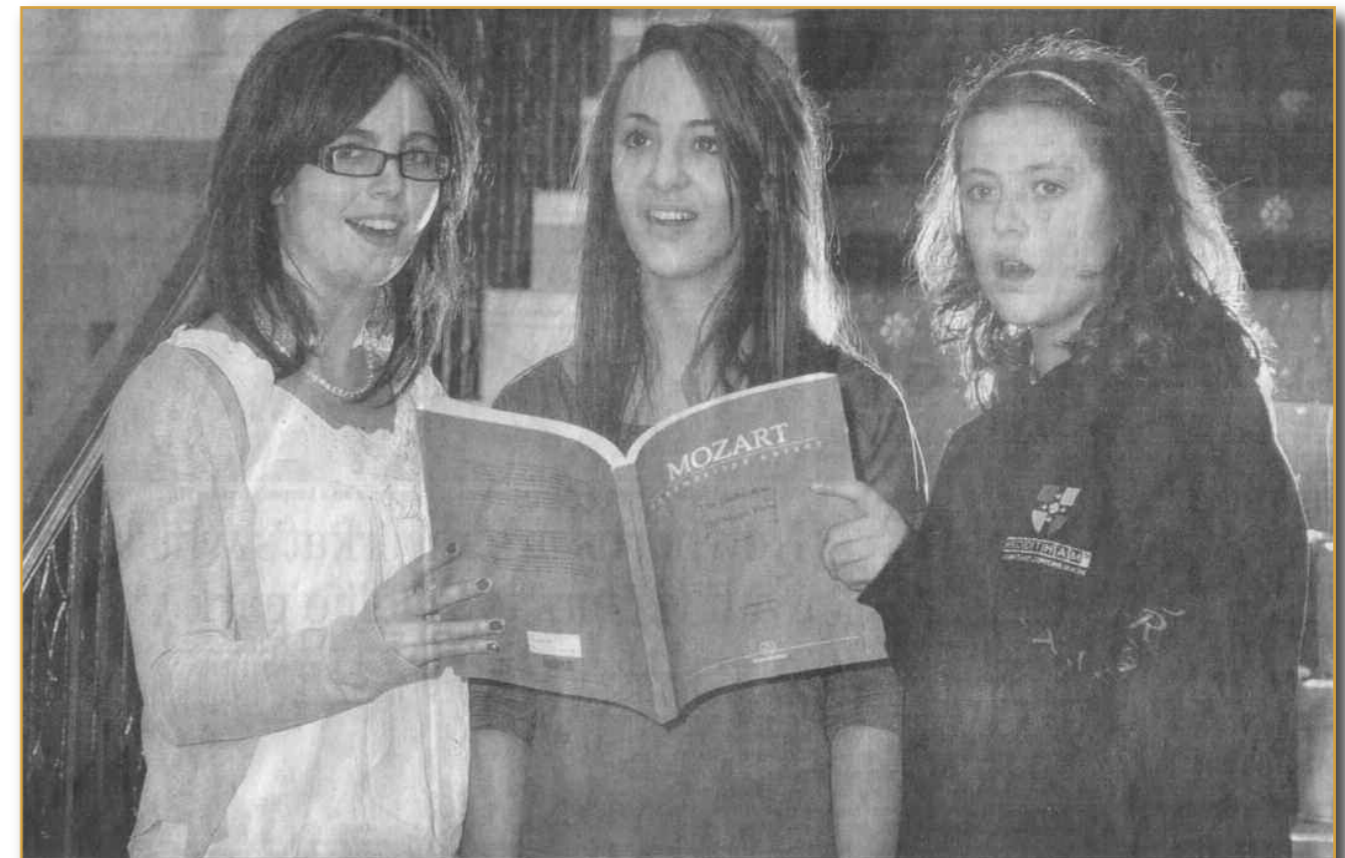
BOOTHAM

WINNERS: Pupils from Bootham School won the Top Of The Bench UK Chemistry Champions competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Pictured from left are Owen Duffey, Oliver Manners, James Paul, Kelvin Wong

Picture: Frank Dwyer



16th May 2009



Schoolgirl singers get roles in Mozart classic

Three members of Bootham School Choir have been invited to take part in a special production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* alongside professional singers from Covent Garden, Glyndebourne and Opera North.

Left to right, Charlotte Levesley and Jessie Acton, both 17 and Annie Howard, 13, have been invited to sing in a farewell performance for the Artistic Director of the

Ryedale Festival Justin Doyle, who this year ran events which saw 7,000 tickets sold for 43 concerts in 24 venues.

Mr Doyle, a former choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge, who was the first person to be awarded a conductor fellowship with the BBC Singers, was so impressed with the Bootham Choir's performance at the Ryedale Festival, that he invited three students from the choir to join the farewell concert.

Yorkshire Post 3 Nov '09

They were chosen by Bootham's director of music, Pa Feehan, who said: "This is a great opportunity for the three singers and wonderful recognition for the whole choir."

Yesterday the three students joined Mr Doyle at Bootham School in York for rehearsals for the concert, which is being held in St Peter's Church at Norton, Malton on Sunday.

Picture: Mike Cow



BOOTHAM