



*Born in 1928, Sir Brian Cubbon was a Kay Scholar at Bury Grammar School and School Vice Captain, going on to read Classics at Trinity College Cambridge. Joining the Home Office in 1951, he dealt with the police, penal policy and prisons. In 1976 he was appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State of the Northern Ireland Office and in 1979 Permanent Secretary of the Home Office. Sir Brian is one of Britain's most well-respected former senior civil servants. We were thrilled when he agreed to work on our behalf as a Patron of our Appeal.*

I was very pleased, and greatly honoured, to become a Patron of the Schools' Appeal. I was at the school throughout the 1939-45 war. On Founders' Day we marched with particular pride past the old Drill Hall to the Parish Church and listened to the names of the Founders and original Benefactors. The air raids, or rather the air raid warnings, disturbed our lessons, and masters disappeared to the war. But the School coped. Art and Music suffered a little, but we were given a good grounding in the essentials: accuracy in Latin and Greek; logic in Maths and Physics, and creativity in English. In the Sixth Form we had a good number of Free Periods, but we learned the virtues of self-help.

I owe everything I have achieved since to this education at BGS, and especially to L C Lord, the headmaster, who put me up for a scholarship to one of the best Cambridge colleges. I was a Kay scholar at Bury, and my education cost not a penny, at Bury or Cambridge.

I have had a good career in the government service. It has been interesting, useful and surprisingly adventurous. I dealt with the accession to the Common Market as it then was; with Northern Ireland; and with many bits of the Home Office – mainly police and prisons. Since retiring, I have had 20 even more adventurous years, helping to establish a new company which provides commercial intelligence. I have been a member of the Press Complaints Commission, and its Ombudsman. I have converted two oast houses. I am paid by the Rural Payments Agency to let sheep graze in my 17 acres.

My family connections with Bury stopped over 40 years ago, but I regularly attended the Annual Dinner of the Old Clavians in London, and met a variety of headmasters, who attended.

All this came together in 2008 when I helped Steven Harvey arrange for Douglas Hurd, the biographer of Robert Peel, to be the Guest of Honour at Prizegiving. Lord Hurd was the last Home Secretary during my nine years as Permanent Secretary at the Home Office. Another BGS connexion with my career is that two of my closest colleagues as Permanent Secretaries corrected their Home Counties origins by taking BGS Old Girls as their partners. I have also got to know Bobby Georgiou, and I endorse the general assessment that the two Heads are quite outstanding.

Should a young boy or girl today be given the same benefits that I had, and a free education that could not be bettered? Certainly, and for benefit of our country and its future. A special education will always have a special effect. The bursaries provided from the Appeal are a wholly good thing but need to be financed.

These days we do not always find it easy to provide money for immediate donations, but a legacy is one solution. It costs nothing during our lifetime, and it is tax free, for us and for the school. I have seen how much commitment and drive Derek Calrow, with Francine Healey, are putting into this side of the Appeal, and Francine can give all the help needed with the formalities of a legacy. Read her recent Brochure about this.

I urge readers to join me in using this way of putting something back into the school: add a BGS legacy to your will and so become a member of the *Roger Kay Society*.

*For further information about the Appeal, please contact Francine Healey, Development Officer on 0161 7641733 email. [francine@bgsdev.demon.co.uk](mailto:francine@bgsdev.demon.co.uk)*