

THE MOSSLANDS SCHOOL
PRESENTS

REWIND

A RETROSPECTIVE

A HISTORY OF
THE MOSSLANDS SCHOOL
1908 - 2008



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CHANGING
PLACE
CHANGING
TIME
CHANGING
THOUGHTS
CHANGING
FUTURE[®]

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INTRODUCTION

The Mosslands School has been celebrating its Centenary during the academic year 2008/09 and was fortunate to receive support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable a project called 'MosslandsREWIND' as part of The Young Roots Scheme. Young Roots aims to involve 13-25 year olds in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement.

The aim of our Project was to research, rediscover and redefine The Mosslands School Story. Odd pieces of archive material gave some indication of the changes that occurred during the last 100 years but nothing definite or conclusive.

This Book shows a snapshot of the *REWIND* journey, taking you through the various phases of the Project and is illustrated with photographs, artwork and designs contributed by those volunteers who have made MosslandsREWIND happen.

Mark Rodaway

Head Teacher

“ I had a brilliant time! All the lads were a credit to the school. Well done to them”
Andy Brizell, ex-Student



TRAINING & EQUIPMENT

Initially, we needed to purchase various pieces of equipment to enable us to begin our project, such as computers, digital sound recorders and a state-of-the-art film camera. For most of the items we bought, we needed professional support to learn how to use them correctly.

North West Sound Archives came to deliver sessions on how to take and record an interview effectively. Recording reminiscences from people would form the basis of our research to establish our 100 year timeline.



“It’s about being taken seriously. The funding will allow us to use the right equipment and get professional help, so that we can do a project that we want to do properly”

Stephen Smith, 16



*“ Thank you for a great afternoon.
The team made it a pleasurable time”*
Andy Liston, ex-Student

INTERVIEWS

We had planned to record oral histories from past pupils, past staff and other associates who could tell us their story and allow us to piece together a timeline of dates, events and changes connected to our school.

We held two open days to which we invited people to tell us their reminiscences. This was also an opportunity for donating original or copies of personal memorabilia to our new archive collection.

A key observation during this process was how peoples' recollection of dates and events differ hugely. This highlighted the need for further detailed research and evidence before we could include information on our timeline.



“I attended the interview days to help out with teas and had a great time chatting to the old boys. Their memories were wonderful to listen to and the stories were brilliant. Every one of them seemed to enjoy their time at Mosslands - as my two boys currently do. I got addicted to reading the ‘punishment books’, which I found positively fascinating - so I’m not sure what that says about me! Mosslands and REWIND is an excellent school and project - long may it continue that way.”

Margaret Hughes, PTA

*“I thought the children were really professional and
I am looking forward to seeing the final film”*

Ron Wood, ex-Student - P.S. Please make sure Ruskin get the most House points!



RESEARCH

To help acquire the skills necessary for our project, we visited the Wirral Archives. Here, the pupils learnt about how to archive and how to retrieve data.

Using examples held there such as old local newspapers, portrait collections and early photographs we were able to find out pieces of information that were both interesting and helpful. The Wirral Archives helped move the *REWIND* Project forward.

Our prize discovery was a log book dated from 1908 which details the official opening of the school which allowed us to confirm significant people and important dates during the first thirty years of school life. We also managed to retrieve nearly thirty years of school magazines dating from 1953 which formed another key piece of evidence for our research.

We were fortunate to have official project partners including the Williamson Art Gallery, The Wirral Archives and Wallasey Central Library to assist in activities.



“Children and young people enjoy using archives to find out about how people used to live – it is an accessible introduction to learning about history, and how the past influences the present and the future”

William Meredith, Archivist, Wirral Archives Service



“I’ve always loved films and REWIND has helped me understand the processes in creating one. It’s been fantastic!”

Phil Lunt, Lower Sixth

CAPTAIN ALBERT RICHARDS

In one of the school magazines it tells us of a former pupil by the name of Captain Albert Richards who was an official war artist, killed in action during World War Two. Apparently original artwork was held in the vaults at the Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead.

We wanted to find out more about the life and work of Captain Richards. We were privileged to be allowed access to the vaults in the gallery to view paintings as well as recording an interview for our film with the Curator.



“The REWIND Project at Mosslands is the sort of initiative that may plant in a young person’s mind the fact that they have a place in continuing history. The people who lived before us have created the world we live in and, in the same way, we all play a part in shaping the present to make the future. Also, however insignificant events may appear to be today, we can never judge what their long-term importance will be”

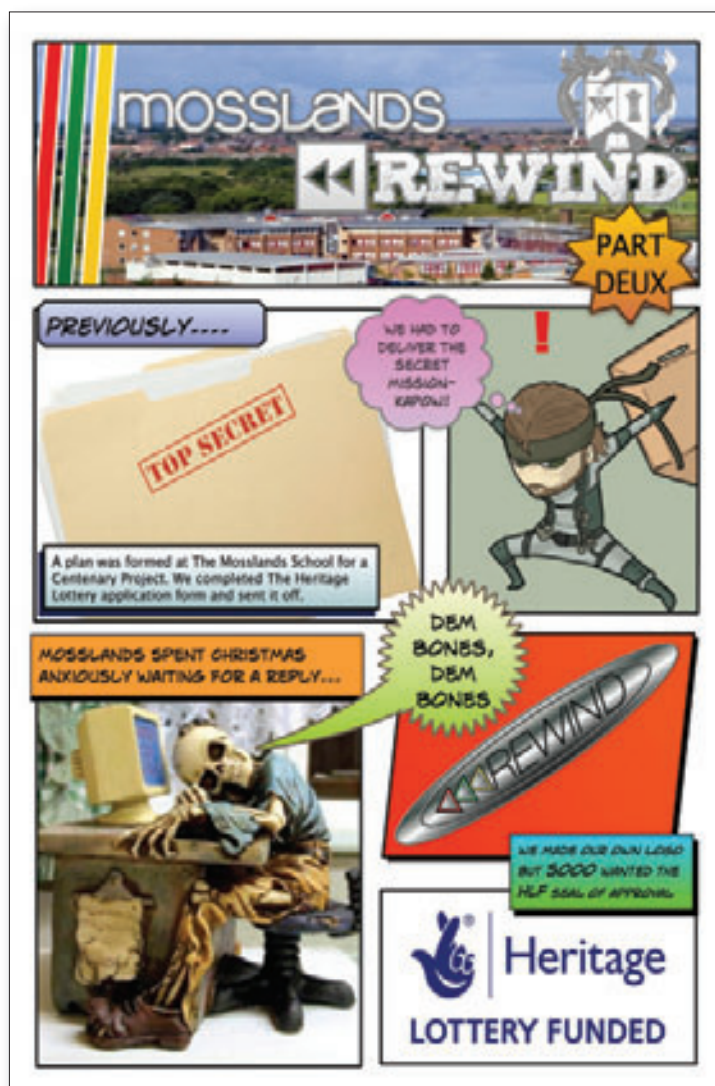
Colin Simpson, Williamson Art Gallery & Museum

“Making the comic was hectic... WHAM! BOOM! CRASH!”

Alex McCarron, 10R3

“I’ve really enjoyed participating in the REWIND Project. Designing the comic was awesome!!!”

Steve Swaby, 10R3



TEAM COMIC

With incredible wit, talent and enthusiasm, we kept volunteers informed of Project developments with our own *REWIND* comic. There was also a Comic made about The Life & Times of Captain Albert Richards.

NEWS FLASH! UNPREDICTABLE EVENTS LED US TO PAUSE ABOUT BUDGET COSTS FOR OUR PROJECT. BUT WE FOLLOWED OUR PLAN AND LOOKED FOR SOME ALTERNATIVES...

THE CREDIT

CRUNCH

"HOW BOUT SOME OF THOSE ZBOX 720'S?"

ONCE WE HAD OUR SACKETS, IT WAS OBVIOUS WE NEEDED HELP...

DON'T KNOW WE WERE BUYING A PHONE??

TRAIN YOU I SHALL

...TO TRAIN OUR YOUNG PADAWANS

NEXT GAVE PHASE 2...

children - WHAT ABOUT THE TIMELINE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ASSIST IN THE MISSION?

AHH, WE WENT TO THE WIRRAL ARCHIVES...

THEY FOUND GUYS LIKE ME WHO USED TO COME TO THE SCHOOL... THEY INTERVIEWED US... THEY WERE RUTHLESS!!

IT'S ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE - YOU WILL BE A HERITAGE HERO!

WE RESEARCHED DIVERSED ARCHIVALISM AND CREATED AN ARCHIVE FOR ITEMS...

I WISH ARCHIVE BLOWERS CAME IN DIFFERENT COLOURS

ISSUES FOR OUR HERITAGE ZEDS AND NOT UNDERWAY... 08/09

The timeline is coming together nicely and we are reaching our milestones - whoop whoop!

WE'VE BEEN STARTED PLUNGING IN PLACES SUCH AS THE WHURLWIND 80' GALLERY. YOU WANT A TOP?

I SHOULD'VE GONE TO SPECSAVERS

SO, HOLD ON TIGHT... REWIND PHASE 3 - THIS IS THE ONE...TBC

*“I enjoyed the activity..it was great to see the lads helping out,
for which they deserve immense credit.”*

Mr. Hellier, Staff



HERITAGE DAYS

The timetable at school was collapsed for three days to allow students to participate in heritage themed and *REWIND* activities. Students were on and off site, some recreating events from days gone by at the school.

There used to be an annual competition called The Dunn Challenge - a trophy always presented to the winners. Many of these challenges took place at the end of term at Harrison Drive and New Brighton beaches. Some staff & students during Heritage Days went to the beach for 'Sun, Sand & Sports', finishing the day with the distribution of awards.

We found photographs during our Open Days of formal dinners held by the 'Old Boys' network. One activity held during Heritage Days was a meal prepared by students for former staff and pupils as a gesture of thanks for assisting us with our interview sessions and research.



“It was good to relive the past and talk to the modern Mosslands students. It’s amazing what you can remember of your own experiences and how they correspond or differ from the present situation. Being invited to the Great British Lunch was a genuine pleasure”

Eric Fenna – Ex student /Staff



“It’s been a cool time but tough coming in for 9.30am during school holidays! Seriously, it’s all been worth it though!”

Elliott Potter, 11F2



MUSIC



Music to accompany the film was produced during Heritage days. Traditionally the school had a song, which is now outdated and had not been performed for years. It seemed appropriate to base the soundtrack to the film on a new school song, using the timeline research for the lyrics.



As is often the case with many cultural references, the popular music of the day plays an important part. For the final *REWIND* Celebration Event, current Students & 'Old Boys' will collaborate to present a musical review.

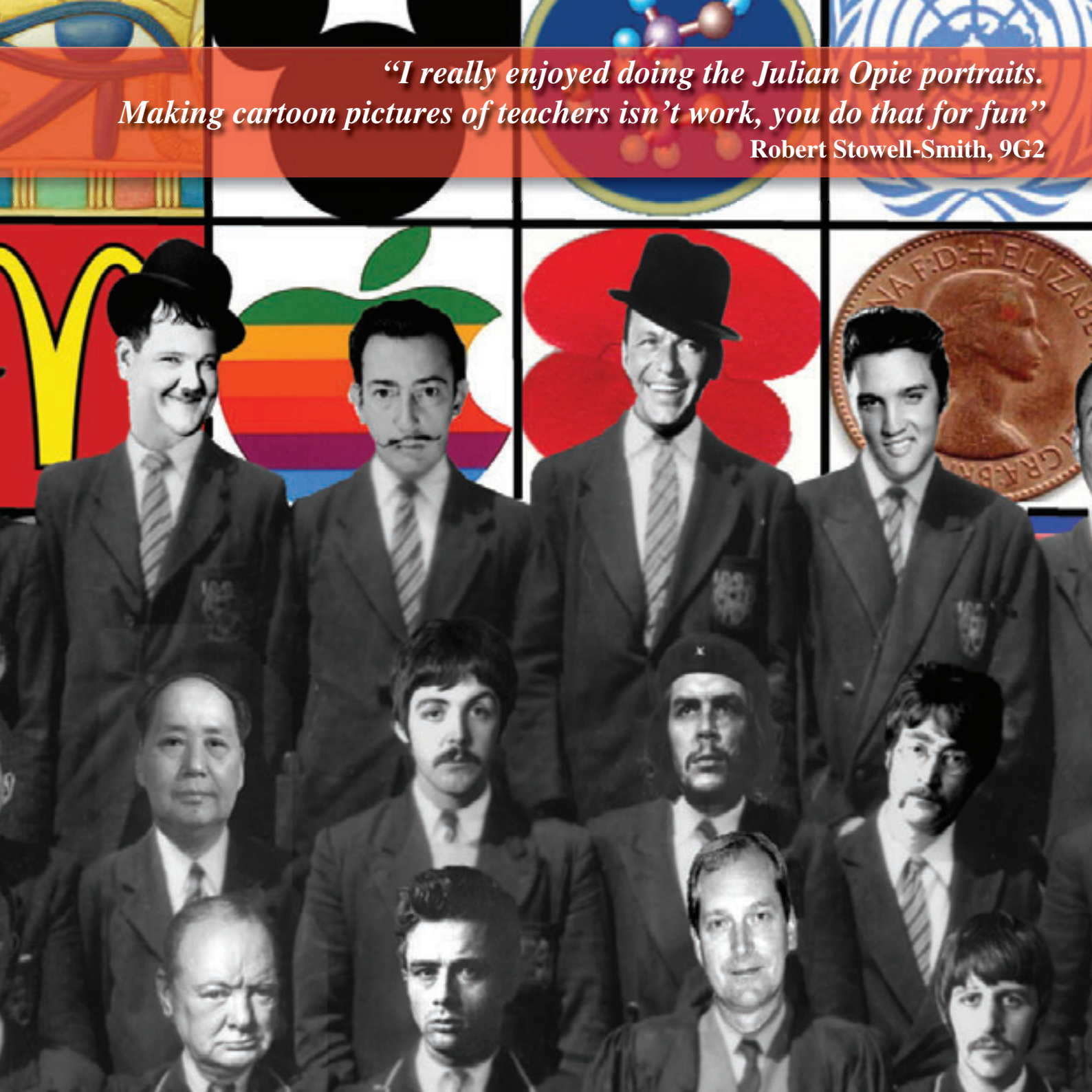


“The REWIND Project took me right back to my school days at Mosslands (The Tech)... it was a pleasure to be involved – even if it illustrated how fast time goes by”

Don Woods, Ruskin House, 1956-1961

*“I really enjoyed doing the Julian Opie portraits.
Making cartoon pictures of teachers isn't work, you do that for fun”*

Robert Stowell-Smith, 9G2



MURAL & EXHIBITION

Following an exhibition at The Tate Gallery Liverpool, Pop Art became a focus and a theme for a large collaborative piece of work to celebrate the school's centenary. Peter Blake's 'Sergeant Pepper' album cover seemed to be a perfect choice for us to visually represent our Centenary.

The Exhibition for our Celebration Event would display not only the Mural but Julian Opie style portraits of Head Teachers, archive memorabilia and original paintings by Captain Albert Richards on loan from The Williamson.



"When I got to the end of this Project and having had the opportunity to use new digital software, I wonder who has learnt the most? The pupils or me?"

Mr. Fife, Head of Creative Arts

*“ Being part of REWIND was amazing....
meeting past pupils and being involved with the film was great!”*

Mark Houghton, Upper Sixth



FILMING

To make history come alive we wanted to show all of our written research and evidence in an accessible form and present it to as many people as possible.

A film would allow us to document the hundred year history of the school, people and it's environment in an interesting and exciting media.

A professional Scriptwriter (Christina Condron) helped transform the written timeline, archive research and recorded interviews into a visual story. All the filming, lighting, sound, editing and acting was delivered by Mosslands School students.



“I appreciate cinematography but usually concentrate on typical fast-action movies. I didn’t ever imagine we could shoot a film about history and make it exciting...but we have”

Sam Jenkins, 11R3

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STUDENTS: *GeorgeJones*KurtisGentry*DannyDavis*CarlGardener*JackWilliams*JakeMills*NathanJones*JordanGarbutt *Adam Collinson
*RobertHenery*MatthewWinter*MatthewThornton*JackMcDowell*AndrewBlanshand*JayWashington*MatthewSwindles ChrisParry*LiamTimlin
*OliverHall*StevenSwaby*JackBird*JackMountford*AlexMcCarron*RobertWatts*DanielPeek*LukeMurphy* Luke Dunderdale*AhmadWilkinson
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*AlfieBanford*BenBethell*AdamBirch*LiamBooth*WilliamCandeland*AdamCollinson*NathanDodd*JonathanFulton*DanielHartDavies
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*STAFF: MarkRodaway*KayHiggins*TonyMair*PaulFife*VeronicaLee*GillKenyon*JanetCooper*SteveDavies*PaulHellier*SimonRyder*Dave*Jon
*PamJones*SueCook*RoyWood*AndrewBoyle*DavePrice*SarahJames*MandyMorgan*JillTharby*LucileNewman*JuliaGreen*JaneGoalen*JasonPotts
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*CraigHenderson*IainHenderson*AndrewListon*GarethLloyd*NormanLovely*SeanMcMinn-Davies*BillMitchell*SteveMyers*MikeNickson
*ChrisPhilips*AdamPrice*MikePriest*PaulReilly*ChrisRobinson*AdamScott*JonShudall*ArnieSmith*VicThompson*GeorgeTytherleigh*MikeWhite
*DavidWilliams*RonWood*DonWoods*. OTHER THANKS: NewBrightonPrimary*JennaFife*BenMachin*KieranWardle*ShirleyJones*HarryJones
*RupertShoebridge*RustyKeane*ambersyard*MartinRushworth*RazzleDazzle*AcePA*Governors*PTA*MargaretHughes*SteveHoughton
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Numerous people helped make MosslandsREWIND happen; from volunteering 10 minutes or a helping hand, to giving days & days (& nights!) of their time but always with the constant focus of collating, securing and celebrating The Mosslands School Centenary. Sorry if we've missed you from the list above!

THANK YOU EVERYONE!



MosslandsREWIND 2009