

JOHN GREENWOOD AND HIS JOURNEY TO JOURNALISM

THE DEPUTY EDITOR of the Todmorden News (John Greenwood) recently visited year 6 at Shade School and answered questions asked by the children who have been studying journalistic text over the last few weeks. This is their account of the session.

John Greenwood as a child wasn't that good at writing, but his favourite lesson by far had to be English.

When John was accepted at Lancaster University he began to study History, but surprisingly not English! At the age of 22 he noticed an interesting advertisement in the Halifax Evening Courier for an apprentice which was as follows, 'If you make a good article first time round you can keep your job.'

He added, "Even though I only studied History at University I still applied for the position. I beat many others challenging for the post. I was amazed when I received the letter of confirmation."

Todmorden News has had many brilliant articles since it began 155 years ago. In the early days it was mainly used for sending information during the first and Second World War. But from the 1960's onwards newspapers, including Todmorden's have become bigger and brighter and a lot more pictures have been included.

Recently an Internet version has been set up and as technology advances who knows what will happen in the future: no doubt there will be even more changes to the newspaper.

Over many years of looking at the Todmorden news and T.V. John has come to understand that not all things in print are always true.

When asked about this, John

Greenwood had this to say, "I have never known someone in my office to deliberately write something that is a lie. If I were ever to encounter something of this nature to occur I assure you that I would not be very pleased."

There are many different types of shorthand used by journalists when collecting information but the easiest type to learn is Teeline which John has used for many years.

John would rather not work for a national paper. I wonder why?

In a national paper you have to have a special skill in tabloid, but John doesn't think that's his strongest skill. He also says it's mostly gossip about embarrassed celebrities and lot's of other un-important things, like the new celebrities styles, but there are also very important news items. "I'd have to move to a big city" John exclaimed "and I don't want to."

The main job of a deputy-editor is to re-arrange and decide where everything goes. Also he creates the headlines for every column, and which item of 'hard news will appear on the front page. In addition he writes a few articles himself, including Clarets Corner.

Clarets corner began in 1994 but was not actually John's idea, although John thoroughly enjoys writing the article. The article 'Clarets Corner' was first thought of when Burnley won the FA cup at Wembley Stadium.

The children really enjoyed his visit and had pictures taken with him at the end and he quoted, 'I feel like a pop-star! Overall this day was fantastic and everyone enjoyed it. We would really like to say thank you. As a result many year six children are now thinking of including journalism as a possible future career!

By Year Six Pupils at Shade School