

# OLD BEDALLIAN NEWSLETTER 2023







## CONTACT THE ALUMNI TEAM

[alumni@bedales.org.uk](mailto:alumni@bedales.org.uk)



### Mary Hancox

Alumni & Development Manager  
01730 711695



### Tanya Darlow

Head of Development  
01730 711662



### Rob Reynolds

Director of External Relations  
01730 711577

Rob and Mary edited this issue of the OB Newsletter. Thank you to the many members of the Bedales community who have contributed content. Where Old Bedalians and former staff are mentioned, we have included dates for their times at the Bedales Schools where known. Please help us update our records if you spot any missing or inaccurate dates! And please submit comments, future articles and letters to the editors via email at [alumni@bedales.org.uk](mailto:alumni@bedales.org.uk) 📧

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# WELCOME

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## Sylvia Kahn-Freund (1964-70), Chair of the Bedales Association Steering Group



**L**iberation – more or less – from the pandemic and its restrictions! 2022 has been a year not just to catch up on some of what has been missed but also to prove the resilience of so many Bedales traditions, especially

in outward facing activities. In this newsletter you will find reports of events as diverse as lectures, Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards, memorials, reunions, fundraising and more.

The 10, 25 and 40 year reunions went ahead as usual, as well as catch-ups for some of the missed 10 and 40 years, as did the Stoner Cricket Week and the Stansted Players production. In 2023 we anticipate that the full schedule of OB reunions and other activities will be able to go ahead.

In 'A Year at Bedales' below, there are some highlights of 2022 to be particularly proud of: fundraising – for the Rural Refugee Network which raised over £50,000 in one day, for the John Badley Foundation, and for the special emergency appeal to help Ukrainian refugee children. There was also a day of working with the

Fitzroy charity understanding learning disability and autism. The response to the 'Looking Ahead' survey which contributes to developing the vision for Bedales' future showed just how many Old Bedalians continue to be engaged with the schools. The success of current Bedalians moving on to such diverse and prestigious places of further education is as always a cause for celebration.

2022 began with Will Goldsmith as Acting Head leading Bedales through the final throes of Covid. Happily he was appointed permanently in February 2022. You can read his reflections on his first 'proper' year on the next page.

Finally, many thanks as always to Rob, Mary and Tanya in External Relations who make all the OB activities happen. 🌻





## Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales

Reading this publication is a particular treat for me as it takes me back to the summer after I first visited Bedales nearly five years ago when I spent a happy week in the British Library reading everything that has ever been written about the school I could find. The stories of OBs, often wonderfully quirky, enrich my knowledge of Bedales and I am so privileged to be responsible for keeping the spirit of former students and staff alive for this generation and the next.

Of all the articles in this edition, I think the story of **Robin Hill (1912-17)** is the one that caught my eye the most, particularly in how he described this place as "a consistent blend of the rational and the romantic". That sense of balance and blend is one that resonates very strongly with me, and which I find useful as we look ahead to the next decade of growth and evolution of this community of learners.

The past year has been an eventful one, both for me personally and for the school. With a great sense of relief, 2022 saw us finally moving definitively into a post-Covid phase, at least in terms of not having to enact the restrictive measures that, while necessary, have challenged us all, old and young. The legacy of lockdowns, bubbles and masks will live on for a while to come as



we make up for lost opportunities and limitations, but we are already revelling in our ability to connect with each other in person, especially in those all-important handshakes!

Another joy was the ability to use the Head's house at 50 Church Road fully to welcome in students, staff and parents again. Andrew and I have already hosted a whole range of events – dinners, fireside book clubs with students, leavers' drinks and many more – in what is both our home and that of the whole school community. Having been lucky enough to be appointed as the permanent Head in February 2022, we have enjoyed settling in to our new home

and sharing it with others.

The war in Ukraine has reverberated even as far as these Hampshire hills, as we have taken in eight young people from that war-torn country, many hosted by Bedales families in the local area. Their addition to the school is powerful, firstly because it brings home in a very personal way the impact of the fighting on individuals, but secondly as they are such an inspiration to us. Their courage, resilience and good humour is awe-inspiring and they have already brought so much to the Bedales family, whether it be in the classroom, in the Lupton Hall and Quad when they perform or around the school as they get stuck into the opportunities made available to them here. We are particularly grateful to all those who have donated to the appeal for funding their places with such swift generosity.

There are many more things that I could write about, but the stories on the following pages do so much more eloquently and powerfully than me – Bedales is always strengthened when we prioritise the voices of many rather than a few. So, I will leave you to enjoy another bumper edition of this wonderful chronicle of the life of the school. 🍷





# OB EVENTS – REVIEW OF 2022

## Novelist inspires creative writing enrichment – 4 February 2022

Aspiring writers and journalists in Sixth Form and Block 5 were given the opportunity to hear from Teddy James, author and former Bedales parent, as part of their Creative Writing course for the A Level Enrichment programme.

With a clear enthusiasm for History, Teddy spoke about his new book, *Relique of the Sunken Day*. His first published novel, it centres around the nuclear testing carried out by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and the long-term effects this had on those directly involved. Although the historical accuracy of his fiction is fascinating in itself, Teddy managed to intertwine a motif of descriptive imagery that takes inspiration from the great English poets – particularly Coleridge – as well as exploring the ethical and moral dilemmas surrounding communism, authority and patriotism.

## Green Ribbon History Lecture – 23 March 2022

The Green Ribbon Lecture is the annual Bedales Senior History Society talk, named in honour of the Green Ribbon worn by the Levellers, radical proto-democrats of the 1640s and 1650s.

We are very grateful to **Barnaby Phillips (1982-86)** who gave the lecture entitled *The Benin Bronzes; from Africa to Britain... and back again?*

Journalist and author, Barnaby was a correspondent for the BBC and Al Jazeera for 25 years, mainly in Africa. His book *Loot: Britain and the Benin Bronzes* (2021) tells the story of how the British plundered an African kingdom in 1897, and examines the current debate about the restitution of colonial looted art. The *Financial Times* called it 'gripping ... a must read', while William Boyd said it was 'brilliant ... compelling'.



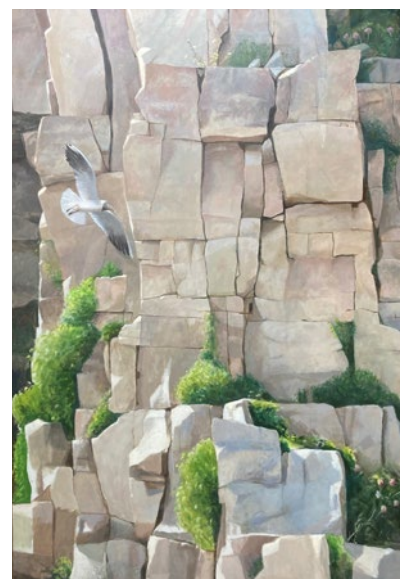
## RRN Art Sale – 8 March 2022

A group of three Block 5 students worked on an art sale over a six-month period as part of their Global Awareness Bedales Assessed Course (equivalent to a GCSE). They were joined by representatives of the Rural Refugee Network (RRN) charity and Bedales staff to plan the event.

Artwork was gathered from local artists, Old Bedalians, parents,

and students at Bedales Senior and Prep. A professional curator worked with the students to manage the display of artwork.

We are immensely grateful to all those who contributed work and bought paintings on the night (including many OBs and parents) which, together with a fundraising walk earlier in the day, raised an incredible £50,000 for the RRN.



Contributions to Art Sale by Matthew Rice (1975-80, Governor, 2008-22), Diana Armfield (1930-37) and Mark Wickham (1943-56)



**Celebrating Gold DofE at the Palace  
– 20 May 2022**

In the garden of Buckingham Palace on 20 May, the Duke of Edinburgh Award held its final of five Gold Award celebrations. Hosted by Prince Edward, the unique, verdant gardens were teeming with young men and women who, over the course of the last two years completed their Gold Award. Completing Gold is no mean feat; to do so participants must not only commit to a range of different activities, complete a residential and two expeditions in parts of Britain deemed wild country, but also document the hours they dedicate to the different sections of the award on their eDofE page and obtain assessor reports from non-family members. It is this administrative paperwork that often curtails the completion of any DofE Award.

Julia Bevan, teacher of English and 6.2 Houseparent joined **Dora Houghton (2011-18)**, who finalised the paperwork for her Gold Award during the Covid pandemic, on the camomile lawn in front of the palace after completing Bronze and Silver whilst at school. The incessant rain that fell all morning was challenging, an irony not lost on those that had managed four-day expeditions in similar conditions. Everyone wished they were wearing their expedition waterproofs, and not the summer garden party attire stipulated on their invitations. Dora is pictured with her mother, Mary-Liz Houghton (staff).



**Philip Parsons Memorial  
– 11 June 2022**

Many OBs and staff gathered in the Lupton Hall for wonderful music and readings to celebrate the life of **Philip Parsons (staff, 1979-2016)** alongside his family. Below is a poem dedicated to Philip written by **Leo Winkley (staff, 2004-10)** and delivered at the celebration by **Keith Budge (Head, 2001-18)**.



**PHILIP**

Yes, I remember Philip.  
The name. His initials. PCP.  
Not a hallucinatory drug nor a car payment plan,  
but a gentle Bedalian bird of quiet, unshowy plumage  
– comfy greys and patterned jumpers –  
Moving lightly, springily across the grassy orchard,  
with or without an imaginary dog.  
A placid, moderate, mellow bird with one eye on the past –  
His towers of history marking hugged in a precarious embrace –  
the other eye on a future lived largely and generously  
in the lives of others,  
those he taught, tutored, counselled and cared for;  
the children and the grown-ups who learned kindness  
and possibilities from him; ways round problems;  
safer places; the best habitats.  
Himself history now, mistier, farther and farther from today.  
Yet close by, in the lives and acts of others,  
Round us now as we remember him.  
What does he stand for, this PCP? Patient, caring, peaceful.  
Perceptive, compassionate, protective.  
Who willed his habitat – and those who shared it –  
to be as benign, as benevolent as himself. Who lived kindly.  
Who did very little harm.  
Whose great wisdom infused others to be better, fuller.  
Yes, I remember Philip Parsons.  
The name. His initials. PCP.  
A dear and precious bird of Hampshire. Pastoral Care: Philip.





### OB Reunions – 25 June 2022

We were delighted to welcome back OBs from the classes of 2012, 1997 and 1982 for their 10, 25 and 40 year reunions on Parents' Day. The classes of 1980 and 1981 were invited to join the 40 year reunion lunch in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch having missed their reunion due to the pandemic. An additional 10 year reunion took place in the evening for the classes of 2010 and 2011 outside the Sam Banks Pavilion.

Seeing the school estate filled once again made us realise how much we have missed over the last few years. We hope everyone enjoyed visiting again and rekindling old school friendships. Special thanks go to **Tom Kingsley Jones (2005-10)**, **Alfie Johnson (2005-10)**, **Ömer Sami (2006-11)**, **Rebecca Wilson (2007-12)** and **Susie Hall (1990-97)** for all their help with the organisation of their reunions.



### Stoner Cricket Week – 4-8 July 2022

Following a closely fought contest on Parents' Day when the first XI triumphed against a competitive Stoner XI, Bedales cricketing attention turned to the Stoner Cricket week of fixtures for the OB team on the Mem pitch against visitors including Barnes, 40 Club, East Meon and Stansted Park.

Any OBs interested in joining future games are encouraged to make contact with team captain **Albie Waterton (2012-14)**, Email: [watertonalbie@gmail.com](mailto:watertonalbie@gmail.com). More details of fixtures and match cards can be viewed at [stoner.play-cricket.com/home](http://stoner.play-cricket.com/home).

### 6.2 Leavers' BBQ – 18 August 2022

The recent 6.2 leavers of 2020 and 2021 gathered with staff in the Outdoor Work barnyard on a warm August evening for a barbecue, drinks and a long-awaited proper goodbye, having been unable to have their farewell during the Covid pandemic. It was wonderful to be able to gather socially and catch up on news.







### ***The Liars* by The Stansted Players – 31 August - 3 September 2022**

**Reviewed by Andrew Plaistowe**

**H**enry Arthur Jones, we were warned by **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** in his prologue, is 'not a name to remember'; his plays are characterised by 'slack construction' and are 'tediously drawn out'. We were, however, reassured that the whole sorry thing would be over in 87 minutes. This prologue was, of course, a piece of artful deception, for although The Stansted Players love to hunt out plays which history has sensibly forgotten, they stage them with Rapunzel-like skill, and this production of *The Liars* was no exception.

Written and set in 1897, the plot revolves around a nascent affair between the scandalously wilful and self-assured Lady Jessica (**Jessica Price, 1999-2004**) and the shamelessly egotistical hero of Empire, Edward Falkner (**Dan Rasbash, 2012-14**). The affair goes nowhere – it barely begins – and as the curtain comes down,

Lady Jessica goes dutifully back to her pompous, red-faced husband Gilbert (**Jordan Theis, 2003-10**) and Falkner goes bruised, but with dignity and reputation intact, back to Africa.

While the central relationship is pure melodrama, the other characters' attempts to dissuade the would-be lovers and prevent a public scandal are entirely comic. They are led in their efforts by the indomitable Lady Rosamund, a part surely written with a nod to Lady Bracknell, and played impressively in this production by **Esther Biddle (1994-99)**.

Her fantastically hen-pecked and inexplicably but wonderfully northern husband, Freddie was played by Harriet Thompson.

In a wafer-thin subplot, Falkner's old chum Sir Christopher (**Nicholas Tier, 1982-86**)

courts and wins the beautiful widow Beatrice Ebernöe (**Lucy Coates, 1997-2002**) thereby demonstrating to his wayward friend what marriage should be. Saccharine and superficial as the scene was, the actors managed to inject it with a wry irony. This was the case with all the performers throughout; they turned a potentially turgid melodrama into a sparkling satire of Victorian marriage.

Minor roles were played for big laughs: **Julien Allen (1975-90)** playing





Falkner's suspicious brother had plenty of melodramatic outbursts before storming off stage; **Rebecca Langlands (1979-90)** as the notorious gossip Mrs Crespin caused much eye-rolling and forced politeness; poor Dolly Coke (**Serena Brett, 2003-11**), innocent and guileless, got herself in a proper pickle over a tomato salad; and Alastair Langlands as the French waiter added a touch of 'Allo 'Allo! to the whole thing.

**Nick Gleed (staff, 1990-2017)** was in charge of all things musical, the company showing themselves to be not only excellent actors but singers and musicians as well. Special mention must go to the youngest member of the cast, **Annia Grey (2018-20)** playing a singing cockney maid, who stopped the action for a powerful spot-lit moment before returning to her drudgery. Lady Rosamund whipped out her tenor saxophone for a G&S number and **Simon Fothergill (1986-2000)** as the chef served up not the long-awaited and much-vaunted 'sauce arcadienne',



but a delicious trombone solo instead. After a slapstick, strobe-lit punch up, the cast broke into Toto's 80s classic *Africa* to send Falkner on his way.

The play was expertly lit by **Janet Auty (staff, 1990-2015)**, Simon Auty and Simon Fothergill; Joanne Greenwood provided wonderful costumes from the Bedales Wardrobe; and **Dan Wheeler (1986-2000)**, **Alice Wheeler (née Clarke, 1998-2006)**

and Eve Hemingway smoothly ran the domestic side of things.

A key factor in the success of the production must surely be that The Stansted Players are a group of actors who enjoy each other's company. Rehearsed and staged from scratch in nine days of communal living, this was a slick, witty performance; it was a pleasure to share the joy these OBs clearly took in pulling off their 31st production.



### Reunion for the Classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972 – Badley Day 21 September 2022

We very much enjoyed seeing OBs back for their combined 50, 51 and 52 year reunion in September on Badley Day. Will Goldsmith welcomed them in the Dining Hall before Matt Potts and the Catering team served up a tasty buffet lunch.

Students and OBs enjoyed conversations during tours of the school, where they discussed similarities and differences in student life then and now.

### Supporting Fashion Design – October 2022

We were delighted to welcome back OBs to support students' learning in October 2022. **Coco Conran (2006-14)** (pictured below) joined the Fashion Design A Level class and spoke of her Pattern Cutting degree course at the London College of Fashion and her subsequent career in the industry. **Edie Ashley (2007-14)** also came to talk to Sixth Form students about working with Vivienne Westwood and studying Fashion at Kingston.





### First hand US study experiences – 22 November 2022

When considering study options after Bedales, there are numerous possible routes and this includes a broad range of degree options outside the UK. We are always grateful when Old Bedalians come back to share with current students their experiences and insights. We were very fortunate to enjoy the company of **Jade Mark (2018-22)**, currently studying in the US, whilst she returned to the UK during her Thanksgiving break.

Jade came back to talk with Block 5 and 6.1 students about studying abroad. She talked about the difference between UK and US universities, including how US Colleges are very dedicated to their extra-curriculars (activities and sports) and try to view the 'whole person' in applications.

Jade is studying at Chapman University in Orange, California. Students discussed the SAT, the standardised test used for US college admissions, and the importance of personal essays and previous performance at GCSEs/BACs, interviews, extra-curricular activities and the student journey. Jade also advised students not to "judge a book by its cover".



### Esme Allman Poetry Evening – 25 November 2022

Professional contemporary poet, **Esme Allman (2013-15)** returned to school to offer expertise in the process of creative writing, and to deliver a reading of her poetry. Esme was kind enough to lead a poetry workshop with a mix of literature enthusiasts from all year groups, where students engaged in some prompted free writes before discussing Nicole Sealey's *Legendary* – a contemporary American poem intertwining extensive repetition, pop cultural allusions, and poignant symbolism in order to consider white privilege. Students enjoyed the opportunity to share ideas in a collaborative setting and develop them together.

After dinner with Esme and discussions ranging from all things *Twilight* to memories on 6.2 flat, everyone headed to the theatre for her poetry reading. A unique take on typical readings – Esme used a presentation with images, artwork, and quotations that had inspired her writing – offering the audience an insight into her thought processes and background from which she draws her ideas. The poetry was delivered passionately, with emotive intonation; covering themes of race, gender, history, relationships, and beauty standards.

Students commented on Esme's "vibrant and inclusive stage presence", describing her as "a warm, dynamic, and talented poet".





# A YEAR AT BEDALES

A selection of stories from the school's weekly bulletin to give a flavour of life at Bedales in 2022.



## JANUARY – Dr Adam Rutherford delivers Eckersley Lecture

Geneticist, author and broadcaster Dr Adam Rutherford inspired an audience of Bedales students, parents and staff at the annual Eckersley Lecture on 21 January.

Dr Rutherford, who co-hosts the BBC Radio 4 programme, *The Curious Cases of Rutherford and Fry*, gave his lecture on the subject of his recent book, *How to Argue with A Racist: History, Science, Race and Reality*, a *Sunday Times* bestseller which dismantles outdated notions of race by illuminating what modern genetics can and can't tell us about human difference.

During his visit to Bedales, Dr Rutherford took the time to talk to students and gave a copy of his new book, *Control*, to the Memorial Library. The book explores the dark history and troubling subject of eugenics.

Bedales Head of Sciences Liz Stacy said: "For over 50 years, the Eckersley Lecture has enabled some of the world's greatest scientific thinkers to communicate their ideas and research to the Bedales community. We are grateful to Dr Adam Rutherford for maintaining this tradition with his stimulating lecture and spending time beforehand talking to Bedales students."

Dr Rutherford's lecture marked the return of the Eckersley Lecture series after a Covid-enforced absence in 2021. The lecture is named after brothers and former students **Thomas (1897-1904)** and **Peter Eckersley (1902-11)**; Peter was the first chief engineer at the BBC and his brother Thomas was a theoretical research engineer. Established in 1966, the lecture series is a highlight in the

school's Science programme and has welcomed many notable speakers, among them Lord Robert Winston and two Nobel Prize winners, Professor Sir Lawrence Bragg and Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

*Read more about the Eckersley brothers on page 28.*

## FEBRUARY – On the slopes in Soelden, Austria Doug McIlwraith, Director of Music

On the first Saturday of half term there was a truly awesome sight to behold at the North Terminal of Gatwick Airport: 37 Bedales families ready and waiting for the first Bedales ski trip for several years and the first major school trip since the start of the pandemic.

Staff, parents and Claire De Menezes from the Health Centre had worked incredibly hard to ensure all Covid requirements were met, which included PCR tests, 37 slightly different Covid vaccination status reports to be checked and numerous letters from doctors proving recovery. It took a little longer than usual to get through the airport, but we all relaxed a little more as we got through every checkpoint and finally arrived at our destination in Soelden, Austria.

Once on the slopes, we enjoyed a week of amazing snow and some very fine weather. The instructors were impressed with the level of skiing in the Bedales group and great progress was made throughout the week. The students were clearly quite taken with the awesome surroundings and the thrill of skiing with their friends. It almost felt like getting back to normal life and we look forward to more school trips and adventures!





## MARCH – Overwhelming support for refugees on Powell Day

Bedales held a community day dedicated to supporting the plight of refugees. In the run-up to the day, members of the community donated items which were despatched to support Ukrainians in Poland. Activities on the day included talks from an Afghan refugee, mobilising the whole school to complete a sponsored walk covering the 4,000 km distance from Syria to Steep in one day, and holding a fundraising art sale with students heavily involved in its planning and delivery.

Over £50,000 was raised in this single day for the Rural Refugee Network charity with whom the school has developed a really productive partnership.

This community 'Powell Day' (named after the school's co-founder) included talks by Afghan refugee Gulwali Passarlay, who spoke about his own year-long journey, the situation in Afghanistan and the refugee crisis more broadly. Between talks, Gulwali found time to complete the fundraising walk with students. We are so grateful to Gulwali for visiting and inspiring us all.

Bedales students walked a 12 km circuit in the local Queen Elizabeth Country Park. In total 423 students and staff covered 5,145 kms, more than the distance from Syria to Steep. Each tutor group had its own fundraising page which created some healthy competition to be top fundraisers!



## APRIL – New facilities update

*Peter Smith, Head of Estates and Facilities*

The Easter break was particularly busy with improvements being carried out at school. The contractor who worked on the servery and salad bar renovations also refurbished the staff room, with an average of 15 people on site every day, working long hours.

In the servery the original plan was to install a new suspended ceiling, but on removal of the old one, the original features were exposed, revealing the original leaded light arched window above the doorway. The window is thought to have been part of the entrance to John Badley's residence and the decision was made to refurbish the whole ceiling, which involved getting coving made to measure in a very short period of time, decorating the existing ceiling, removing the old air conditioning units and associated pipework and generally making good.

The original staff room fireplace was restored and a new one installed as close to the original as possible. The kitchen was relocated and new parquet flooring installed throughout.

Solar panels were also installed on the roof of the studies. Commissioned on 20 April, the size of the array is 39.4KW, and in the first week they had generated 1133KWH of electricity.

## MAY – First XI cricket success v Churcher's

*David Mann, Teacher of PE & Sport*

Last year, our first XI cricket team played a very competitive fixture against Churcher's and fell just short of the victory, so this year's rematch had been eagerly awaited and on Wednesday all their pre-season training was put into action.

Having won the toss, Huw Wheeler put Churcher's in to bat and some accurate bowling from John Hall and Josh Baty kept the score down for the opening overs. We had catching opportunities which were put down, but John continued bowling at the stumps and had two quick wickets in the first six overs. The Churcher's batsmen didn't really get going, thanks to some good field placement and bowling from Huw, Connor O'Donoghue and Felix Bicknell. Freddie Bell and Zach Stewart came on to bowl spin at the 12 over mark, and both continued to keep the game tight and take wickets. Churcher's eventually finished on 97-8 after their 20 overs – a realistic target for our batsmen.

Huw and Freddie opened the batting and although Huw was out early, our batters kept chipping away at the target and put value on their wickets. Zach scored a slow 15 runs by his standards but this allowed Freddie, Felix and Josh to score quickly and we kept the rate at around one run per ball, with some help from the extras provided by the Churcher's bowlers. It came down to eight runs required from the last over and despite Felix being caught, Jac Wheeler kept calm and hit two boundaries to win the game with one ball remaining!

A terrific game of cricket from both sides – well done to all involved.





### **JUNE – Celebrating 60 years of service to the Science department**

*Liz Stacy, Head of Science*

The often-unsung heroes of Bedales are most definitely our support staff, without whom the school could simply not function. Bedales has a record of long-serving staff, and this year, the Science department technicians have collectively clocked up over 60 years of service.

Biology technician Mary Shotter has worked here for 24 years. Mary is a keen ornithologist (volunteer recruit at RSPB Pagham) and painter, and graduated with a First Class BA (Hons) in Environmental Sciences while working full-time in the Biology department. Mary's logistic and organisational skills are renowned – from timetables and room allocations to stationery and quizzes. From September, Mary will run an enrichment course in Natural History for 6.1 students, which she has devised and set up.

**Rod Edwards (staff, 2001-2022)** joined the Physics department in 2001. He had already worked for BT for 20 years, where he was a Technical Officer in charge of Dartford telephone exchange, and then was a self-employed aircraft engineer for eight years. During this time, he specialised in electrical systems and was involved in many jobs for films, TV and air shows, including the Bond film *Tomorrow Never Dies*, an advert for the Citroen BX19GTi attached to a Boeing 707 and flown, and an AC/DC music video. He is currently working on the instrument panel of a 747 Jumbo Jet, reverting it to the original analogue system of dials and lights. James Bond has much to be thankful for!

Chemistry technician Lesley Morris joined Bedales 15 years ago. A graduate in Biophysics and then a trained nurse ("I wanted a more practical career!"), she worked in occupational health and medical research before joining the

Chemistry department. Her extracurricular activity making bath bombs, moisturisers and lotions using beeswax and essential oils meant the Chemistry department never smelt so good! Now part-time, Lesley – who has been a beekeeper for the last 25 years or so – can devote more time to her honeybees as well as her walking group, Hampshire Hikers, which she organises on behalf of 400 members.

Our new and very welcome recruit to Chemistry, Nicky Brown, is looking forward to the next 60 years! Nicky has just joined us from Bohunt School. Nicky is a flautist, horsewoman and ardent cricket player, bringing yet more new skills to the Bedales Science department.

A huge thank you to our amazing technicians – we could not do what we do without you.

*We said farewell and a big Bedalian thank you to Rod when he retired at the end of the Autumn term 2022.*



### **JULY – End of term tennis and farewells**

Parents' Day saw the culmination of the tennis season, with the finals of the Bedales tennis championships being played out in front of a supportive crowd. It was great to have so many students keen to compete and congratulations to everyone who appeared in the finals for the quality of the tennis and for the manner in which they conducted themselves. **Graeme Coulter (staff, 2011-21)**, former Head of Tennis, returned to present the awards.

The last assembly of term included presentations to **Richard Sinclair (staff, 1997-22)** and Neil Hornsby (see profile on page 40) for their 25 years of service to Bedales. There were big Bedalian farewells to Richard and **Phil Tattersall-King (staff, 2012-2022)** who were both moving on from Bedales.





**AUGUST – Bedales students celebrate progression to prestigious universities**

Bedales students are celebrating after securing places at some of the most prestigious academic and artistic global institutions following the publication of A Level results.

An impressive 32% of students gained at least three A grades or equivalent, 9% of whom achieved three A\* grades. There were a number of high achieving students who had progressed to Bedales Senior from Dunhurst, with four of them gaining a clean sweep of at least three A\* grades.

Over a fifth of this year’s cohort will take up places at UK universities featured in the 2022 QS Top 100 World University Rankings, including courses in Philosophy and Theology at Oriel College, University of Oxford, and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge.

Other courses to be pursued by Bedalians at QS Top 100 universities include Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London; English, Architecture and History and Politics of the Americas at University College London (UCL); Biological Sciences and Philosophy and Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh; Biomedical Sciences, Social Anthropology and Sociology and Fashion Marketing at the University of Manchester; Mathematics at the University of Warwick;

To quote from Will’s end of term letter to parents: “Richard Sinclair, someone who has done most roles at this school other than Head, leaves us having just completed 25 years’ service at Bedales. He will be greatly missed and is much admired by us all for his quiet sense of duty and commitment to the students... Phil Tattersall-King has been at Bedales for a decade, first heading up drama in the school and latterly as Deputy Head (Co-Curricular and Operational). This year in particular he has worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, in the service of the school and I personally could not have done without him.”





Zoology at the University of Bristol; Sociology, Classics and Computing Science at the University of Glasgow; Psychology at the University of Southampton; Biomedical Science at the University of Birmingham; and Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Thought at the University of Leeds.

Bedales' strong reputation in the performing arts continues this year. Students have received places on the prestigious Music and Sound Recording (Tonmeister) course at the University of Surrey; Music Performance and Industry at Trinity Laban Conservatoire; Popular Music at Goldsmiths, University of London; Creative Music Production at the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance; Music Production and Sound Engineering at Falmouth University; and Acting at Leeds Conservatoire.

Approximately one fifth of students have opted to continue their Art and Design education. Many will pursue Art Foundation courses at Camberwell, City and Guilds, Kingston, Brighton MET and Ravensbourne, whilst others are set to study courses including Fine Art at Glasgow School of Art; Architecture at Coventry University; Fashion Styling and Creative Direction at the Istituto Marangoni, London; Theatre Design at the University of the Arts London; and Costume Design for Film and Television at Falmouth University.

One student has been accepted on the highly rated five-year Veterinary Medicine course at the University of Nottingham.

A number of Bedales students have chosen to study at QS Top 100 international institutions, including courses in Political Science at the University of Amsterdam, Linguistics at Sorbonne University and Psychology at the University of British Columbia.

QS Top 100 university offers also feature for Bedalian applicants from previous cohorts who will be heading off to university this year. Courses include Biology at St Peter's College and Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at St Hilda's College, both at the University of Oxford; Psychology with Education at UCL; and Music and Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at the University of Bristol.

Will Goldsmith praised the students' "resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges in their education, having successfully adapted to the different styles of learning and assessment caused by the pandemic."

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### **SEPTEMBER – Bedales takes Footsteps for Fitzroy**

Bedales held a community day to promote neuro-diversity and the work of the FitzRoy charity. Activities included talks about learning disabilities and autism, and mobilising the whole school to complete a sponsored walk. Four hundred students and 50 staff walked a combined 5,000+ kms on the day, raising £12,300 for FitzRoy.



The 'Footsteps for FitzRoy' fundraising walk formed the major element of this 'Badley' community day. It involved Bedales students walking a 13 km circuit in the area surrounding the school which is nestled in the South Downs National Park.

There were talks on learning disabilities where FitzRoy staff informed students of their work supporting people with autism. They highlighted their Love4life initiative which gives people opportunities to make friends, socialise together and even find love. The day ended with an assembly from a parent who movingly described bringing up a child with severe mental and physical disabilities.

Marianne Radcliffe, FitzRoy's Director of Transformation commented: "We very much enjoyed working with Bedales students and staff in this 60th anniversary year of FitzRoy. 'Footsteps for FitzRoy' was an incredible challenge and Bedales' fantastic fundraising efforts will help us support people with learning disabilities enabling them to live the lives that they choose. Thank you so much to the school community for your support."

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### **OCTOBER – Celebrating Old Bedalian Robin Hill during Biology Week**

*Mary Shotter, Biology Technician*

During the Royal Society of Biology (RSB)'s Biology Week, we celebrated **Robin Hill (1912-17)**, who is renowned to all A Level biologists for his work on photosynthesis and chloroplasts in what is called the 'Hill Reaction'. The reaction, discovered in 1937, demonstrates that the process by which plants produce oxygen is separate from the process that converts carbon dioxide to sugars.

Although science was a fundamental part of Robin Hill's life (he spent the whole of his working life at Cambridge),



he was also an artist and craftsman. Before moving on to Biochemistry, when still at Bedales, Robin developed an interest in plant dyes such as those from woad and madder. He made pigments from these, which he used in his watercolour paintings, the subject of which were mainly plants and landscapes. A 1994 Royal Society article says that Bedales brought together Robin's scientific, naturalist and artistic interests. He was later to describe the school as "a consistent blend of the rational and the romantic".

In 1915 his Bedales Science master, **Archie Edward Heath (staff, 1913-19)** (later Professor of Philosophy at University College, Swansea), allowed him to have his own patch of garden in the school grounds to grow the plants he needed to make dyes. It was also Heath that developed Robin's lifelong interest in the sky. He allowed Robin to use his telescope to observe the great sunspots which occurred in February 1917. It was this that led to Hill's other great achievement – the development of the 'fish eye' lens to allow for whole sky photography.

## NOVEMBER – Ethics of the Qatar World Cup

*Bertie Cairns, Deputy Head (Academic)*

Jaw was extended to allow for a discussion about the Football World Cup in Qatar. The purpose was to acknowledge that this global festival of football was both a wonderful event that many students would want to watch but also deeply problematic on ethical and moral grounds.

We used a discussion format rather than a debate to allow for participants to take nuanced and perhaps conflicted positions that reflect the real dilemmas posed by this World Cup. Abi Wharton (Head of Global Perspectives), Eben Macdonald (6.2), Margot Paisner (6.2), Matt Meyer (Head of Geography), Luna Scott (6.1) and Jamie Thorogood (6.1) were on the panel with me in the chair.

We discussed a range of issues: by watching the competition are we complicit in the Qatari human rights abuses? Is criticism of Qatar based on racism? Has Qatar been changed for the better by the world's attention being focused on it? LGBTQ+ rights, the rights of women and the treatment of low paid, migrant workers were all focused on by the panel.

As the discussion drew to a close, a strong theme emerged: that we were all complicit at a state-wide and a personal level in allowing Qatar to sport-wash its image on a world stage. However, both the audience and the panel were also clear that they would watch the competition in spite of their misgivings.



## DECEMBER – BBC features Bedales for its 'humane' approach to boarding

Head Students Kipp and Nate, together with Will Goldsmith, featured in a BBC Radio 4 documentary about the public school boarding system in a global context. Presenter Nels Abbey looks at how this model was driven by the building of empire and the legacy of educational colonialism in former colonies. In the 1990s, Nels attended boarding schools in the former British colony of Nigeria.

Bedales was featured as the antithesis to the more traditional boarding school, with its more authentic nature of relationships, first name terms and students choosing what to wear, rather than formal uniforms. Will spoke of Bedales not needing so much of the "apparatus used in the British system [such] as modes of control." The building of trust at Bedales, a lack of unnecessary rules, and the emphasis on student voice were also highlighted.

The presenter concluded that, having visited a more enlightened version of boarding than his own experience, he left with a prospectus and started planning the finance options for his own child!





# OB REUNIONS & PARENTS' DAY

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

This year, summer OB reunions will be taking place on Parents' Day, Saturday 24 June. We are planning all of the usual events and entertainment.

### Class of 2013 Reunion

The 10 year reunion for the Class of 2013 will start at 7pm in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch and includes a barbeque party.

### Class of 1998 Reunion

The 25 year reunion for the Class of 1998 will start at 7pm and includes a barbeque outside the Sam Banks Pavilion.

### Class of 1983 Reunion

The 40 year reunion for the Class of 1983 will start at noon and includes lunch in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch.

### Classes of 1995 and 1996 Reunion

We are hosting the catch-up 25 year reunion for the classes of 1995 and 1996 which will take place alongside other reunions on the evening of Saturday 24 June.

Electronic invitations have been sent out for all of the above OB reunions. If you were due an invitation and haven't received one from us, that might mean we do not have a current email address for you. Please do get in touch with Mary Hancox, via email: [alumni@bedales.org.uk](mailto:alumni@bedales.org.uk).

We are also planning to organise a 50 year reunion and a further event for those Old Bedalians who left the school in or prior to 1966 (ie. age 75 years+). We will be in touch with relevant OBs as soon as we have further details about these events.

## PARENTS' DAY 2023

Parents' Day will be held on Saturday 24 June. All members of the Bedales Association are welcome.

Exhibitions • Afternoon Tea • Music • Drama

Please book tickets for performances in advance to avoid disappointment. Free tickets are available via our website ([bedales.org.uk/events](http://bedales.org.uk/events)) or at the TicketSource Box Office 0333 666 3366 (where a £1.50 booking fee applies).





## Should Britain abolish the Monarchy?

In the Spring term 2022, two Block 3 Projects' classes acted as opposing campaign groups in a school-wide referendum on the question of whether the Royal Family should be abolished. Here, both sides of the campaign set out their arguments.

### Yes, Revoke the Royals

Lolo Gaio, Wulfie Smith Pink and Anthony Harvey, Block 3

We are campaigning to remove the Royal Family and revoke the Queen's power as Head of State. We believe that the monarchy is not needed in our democracy, as it is exactly the opposite of democracy; you are born into power, which means achieving or gaining power is based on who you are or who you know or which family you were born into, rather than what you know and what you have done. Here are a few arguments for removing the Royal Family.

One of the main criticisms of the Royal Family is their cost. The Royal Family's lifestyle is just too expensive to maintain. Staffing costs, catering, hospitality, executive management and any ceremonial functions cost £334m of taxpayers' money every year. That could be spent on things like education, housing, policing and countless other things.

Monarchs can also be unfit to be Heads of State. They shouldn't be chosen by birth to have huge responsibilities over a country; it seems unfair for someone who could be an incredibly good leader to not have the chance to become a Head of State, instead to be replaced by someone who was born into the job, who could be absolutely terrible at it.



Image: Equanimity by Chris Levine. From a series of screen prints

### No, save the Monarchy

Ella Foster-Hill, Miles Farmer and Owen Griffiths, Block 3

In our campaign, we are arguing for the Royal Family to stay, and in this article, we will put across our points as to why we believe this is so important.

The first and probably most crucial argument is simply the huge amount of tourism from overseas that the Royal Family bring to the UK each year. In a report from *The Guardian*, it was reported that they bring in over £500m every year from overseas tourism alone. Not to mention the fact that they add an overall £1.2bn to the British economy every year!

Another great thing that the Royal Family bring is their charity work. Without them, some huge charities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and The Prince's Trust wouldn't exist at all – two charities which both help so many young people all over the country today.

To take a look at the Queen specifically, she is such an important figure in this country. She is Head of the Commonwealth which makes such great strides towards global peace. In the UK, she provides a neutral status amongst politics in the largely divided government of today. She is the only person who can call a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss and even overrule decisions made by the government. She also provides hope and clarity to so many in all the small things she does – from her annual Christmas speech, to her messages of reassurance during the pandemic. And she is even on our currency!

Bedales voted to keep the monarchy by a margin of 2 to 1 – 67% of staff/students voted No to abolishing the monarchy; 33% voted Yes. 🗳️

Light artist and Bedales parent, Chris Levine, supported the JBF Auction this year by donating one of the Equanimity\_22 series of screen prints (pictured). The series features the celebrated portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, originally taken in 2004 when Chris was commissioned by the Jersey Heritage Trust to commemorate 800 years of allegiance to the Crown by the Island of Jersey with a portrait of Her Majesty. The portrait created a life of its own by becoming a recurring image in Chris' work and serving as cover of *Time Magazine* in 2012. Our thanks to Chris for his generous support.



## Diamonds as big as the Ritz

**Anna Keay (1987-92, and Governor, 2013-2022)**

Almost my first job as an assistant curator at the Tower of London in about 1996 was to have some new labels made for the Crown Jewels. The dazzling assortment of crowns and orbs, sceptres and spurs are shown in a great bulletproof glass box in the Jewel House there, and beside them are a series of sober black and white labels. On my to-do list were two new ones. The first was to be a substitute for an existing sign, after a member of the public had written in objecting to the incorrect placing of the apostrophe in 'Sovereigns' Sceptres' (having a Bedalian grasp of grammar, I had to check several times where it should go for the sceptres of two sovereigns!).

The other one was easier. It was a new label to be placed on the cushion of the Imperial State Crown on the day of the State Opening of Parliament. It read simply 'In Use'.

The special thrill which passed along the queues of people when this little black and white sign had been deployed was, it struck me, always greater than the sight of the bejewelled crown itself. Because the strange truth is that more than the sapphires and diamonds, enamel and filigree, carats and ounces, velvet and ermine, the thing that makes the Crown Jewels extraordinary is that they remain in use for the purpose for which they were originally made. This spring, for the first time in the living memory of everyone under 80, there will be a Coronation and the whole sparkling, gleaming collection will be on parade once again.

There have been crown jewels kept in the Tower of London since the Middle Ages. Originally these were only half the story, for in Westminster Abbey was a further set which, it was claimed, had once belonged to Edward the Confessor and therefore – as holy relics – could never leave the confines of the

Abbey. Both these two assemblages came to a grizzly end when in 1649 the new republican government, fresh from executing Charles I and abolishing the monarchy, put both sets up for sale. This great auction included paintings by Van Dyck and Rubens and the royal estates themselves. The records survive, each lot individually catalogued in dead-pan detail alongside the price and name of the buyer. But some things were thought too dangerous to leave at large. The sovereigns' crowns themselves and a small number of other regal items were broken down, the gems sold in anonymous caches and the gold melted down and stamped out as coinage.

So it was that come the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 the Jewel House in the Tower of London was completely empty. Even the set of scales and the rug from the room's stone floor had been hawked for cash. The whole assemblage would have to be remade from scratch. The sale particulars were called up and each crown and sceptre was the subject of a new commission from London goldsmiths now in direct trading relationships with the 'Gold

Coast' of West Africa. Because there had been two sovereigns' crowns in 1649, one stored in the Tower and one in Westminster, two were to be made again even though the original reason for the distinction had gone. One, the Imperial State Crown, would be used on all state occasions – opening parliament, church feasts and so on – and the other, St Edward's Crown, would be used only for the coronation itself.

Of all those who had bought more incidental pieces in the sale only one came forward to return his purchase. Clement Kynnersley, an official of the Royal Wardrobe with a patchy record of loyalty to the Stuart dynasty represented the Coronation Spoon, used in the process of anointing, to Charles II claiming he had bought it in anticipation of just this day.

When King Charles III sits enthroned in Westminster Abbey in May 2023 it will be with this cache of material made for Charles II that he will be invested by the Archbishop of Canterbury. St Edward's Crown, the two Sovereign's Sceptres (sic – for a singleton sovereign), the Sovereign's Orb and Spurs. It will be quite a day. The case in the Tower of London will be almost empty. I hope someone has remembered to order some extra labels. 🍷





## A Royal Welcome

### Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)

Princess Margaret was strongly advised by Vincent Challoner Davies, educational psychologist, to enter her daughter, aged 11, to the Bedales Middle School; he was devoted to our school. The Governors asked me if I would be willing to take on what would amount to a responsibility and a pleasure – the task of teaching Sarah Armstrong Jones (1975-82).

Warning came to me from certain parents that this association with the Royal Family would amount to a dangerously radical change at Bedales. I did not think so. I took the happy precaution of visiting Sarah at her school and found her class studying Edward Lear's *The Duck and the Kangaroo*. I admire Lear's poetry and indeed composed with David Lindup, for the Middle School, an opera on the life of Lear. I considered, however, that we could do better than that for Sarah, in our English lessons. I chatted with her and decided that certainly we were, as Challoner-Davies recommended, the secondary school for her.

So Sarah arrived in September 1975 and the only pothole arose from what would result from a potential emergency. Her presence was, of course, easily accepted and her charm and sweetness of nature made her a valued and loved pupil at Bedales. Her happiness and enthusiasm were infectious and consequently her brother David (1975-80) came at the same time into Block 3. There he flourished under David Butcher (1963-92)'s guidance and the encouragement of his father, The Earl of Snowdon. 🌹



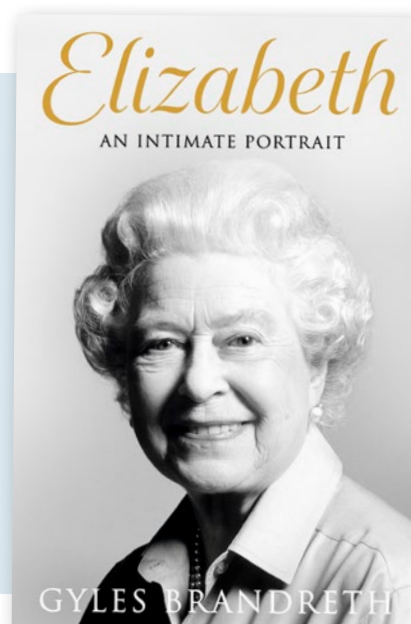
### St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle

Richard Bannan (1996-2001) sang at the committal service of Queen Elizabeth II, as part of the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Richard has been a member of the choir since 2014, during which time he has sung at various significant events, including the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in 2018. Daily services at St George's Chapel are open to the public, with the choir singing at eight services each week during term time. [stgeorges-windsor.org/worship-music/services/](http://stgeorges-windsor.org/worship-music/services/). 🌹

## Biography of the Queen

Gyles Brandreth (1961-66)'s latest book *Elizabeth: An Intimate Portrait* was released on 8 December 2022. This personal yet comprehensive and detailed biography of Queen Elizabeth II tells the story of her remarkable life, reign and times, from a perspective unlike any other. Gyles has written the Queen's tale candidly with grace and sensitivity from the view of someone who knew her; her late husband Philip and the wider Royal Family. It is a book he has been working on for many years.

Told with refreshing humour and moving honesty, *Elizabeth: An Intimate Portrait* is a unique biography of the longest-serving monarch in British history, of a woman who represented not only her people but stood as an emblem of fortitude and resilience worldwide, throughout her long life. 🌹





## A Solemn Duty

### Clare Jarmy, Assistant Head (Learning & Development)

#### *How can we successfully do poignancy with students?*

The first call I got about the Queen's death was from my mum. The second came moments after, from the Head:

"As I'll be travelling back with Year 9 from the Ullswater Trip, would you please put something together for the rest of the school for first thing tomorrow morning? I trust you to do it well."

Vote of confidence aside, those of you who also had to craft the appropriate words to share with students will appreciate that the burden was palpable. It was going to be one of those moments in history that gets remembered and defines a generation: the moon landing; the assassination of Kennedy; the fall of the Berlin Wall; 9/11. My words, my choice of readings, most importantly, my tone, could, for better or worse, shape their memories, or more still their interpretation, of this literally epoch-defining, and in all likelihood never-to-be-repeated, moment.

#### ***Cracking the Concept of Historic Moments***

At the age of five, my mum plonked me in front of the TV, and said "watch this: it's history". That, I remember. I'm afraid, however, that the same doesn't apply to the content of what I was watching, which was, it turns out, the fall of the Berlin Wall.

One of the dangers of 'doing significant events' with students is that the reason something is significant could be totally opaque to them. The young may not have lived long enough to experience an event as simultaneously current and historic. Let's face it: to that student for whom the gap between period 2 and lunch is a long time, talk of epochs seems just too far outside their scope of understanding.



In the days immediately following the death of the Queen, various resources for assemblies were doing the rounds on Twitter. A number of them focused solely on facts: where the Queen was born; her family; what she did in the War; how long she reigned; top five longest reigns in British history. This is a safe way in: focus on facts, and perhaps the significance of the event speaks for itself. 'Wow! She reigned for so long!'

The danger here is that we put the work on the children to get to the concepts themselves. We tell them the easy part, and expect them to do the abstract thinking. In this case, we can assume too much. We can assume that our students of course 'get' the solemnity of the passing, not only of a much-loved monarch, but of the symbol of an age.

Sometimes, instead of getting students grappling with difficult ideas, we circumvent them entirely, and reduce the historic to the personal and particular. We deal with the

concepts we know our students get, like the loss of a loved one, and fail to tackle the bigger picture. In this case, rather than assuming too much, we are assuming too little of them.

It's not that this is totally inappropriate. But if this is all we do, we mustn't be surprised if a student asks why other people's grannies don't deserve such treatment. We didn't engage our students in the conceptual element of the event: we can't be disappointed when they don't make that leap themselves.

So what's the way through this apparent problem? An old favourite of RE teachers is Trevor Cooling's notion of *Concept Cracking* (1994). Cooling's view is that no concept is intrinsically too hard to teach students. What we have to do is meet them halfway: we have to know what's in their world view that we can bring into dialogue with the event. What do they know that will enable them to get it? What will bring this home in the right way?



**Living with Controversy**

But this brings us to another difficulty: what is the right note to strike here? What is the right way?

As someone who teaches older children, and in a subject in which we encourage debate, I am very aware that events such as Remembrance Day, or other commemorations, often seem to demand uncomplicated reverence and respect from students. There are correct ways to behave, and, seemingly, correct things to feel and think too.

In their studies, my students have been encouraged to handle similar matters more critically. I tackle the question of whether there can be a just war in lessons. In History, Politics and English, students problematise our imperialist past and its reverberations today.

When we gather students together to commemorate significant events, it seems like we often call upon them to bracket out the very debate we encourage in the classroom. At best,

this is respectful but partial. At worst, it risks being a kind of indoctrination into a particular kind of response.

As a teenager, and a fairly committed pacifist, I found it hard to handle the apparently martial nature of Armistice Day. Yes, white poppies were probably around, though I don't think I came across anyone who wore them, less told me about it. Despite the fact I was allowed to advance pacifist arguments in class, when it came to these events, I had to shut up, and say the right things at the right time. I felt guilty that my sentiments weren't those that seemed to be prescribed for me to feel.

In that case, the danger is that students know how to behave for such events, but do so only in a Pavlovian way, as a behavioural response they know is required, not an authentic reflection of their sentiments. Let's face it: that is not what we, as educators, are going for.

In this case, the key is to live with the controversy; to recognise the

tension. Once you allow it to be out in the open that there are different views, and some mixed feelings, you can, with your students, reach for the common ground, finding the heart of the matter on which the community can find agreement.

**Proper Pride**

It is so important that educators take the duty to handle events of significance with students seriously, and many have been the dilemmas of conscience I have talked myself into. At the same time though, I have uniformly found that when you are open, clear, truthful, and respectful, as much of them as of the event, they are amazing. They can be everything needed to make that moment poignant, special, and, most importantly, shared.

And every time I find myself getting teary, this is why. 🌸

*An abridged version of this article was published in the magazine for teachers, TES.*



# REFUGEE PROJECT IN PALESTINE

## Hubert Murray (1955-65)

I have Tim Slack (Head, 1962-74) to thank for sending me off to a mission school in Swaziland (now Eswatini) for my pre-university gap in 1965. For nine months I taught in the mornings and helped build classrooms in the afternoons. A PPE and architectural degree later, I have spent the last 50 years designing, planning and building schools, colleges, highways and assorted buildings in the UK, Middle East and the United States where I have lived for the last 36 years. Now I have graduated from a formal professional life, I am free to return to my first love, building a school. Since 2018 I have been involved in programming, designing and building the Zahrat Al-Yasmeen kindergarten in the Aida Refugee Camp in



Bethlehem, Palestine. Working with our host, the Lajee Community Center and its US-based partner ([Ifor3.org](http://Ifor3.org)), we have transformed five old garage spaces facing some open ground into two bright and airy classrooms and a playground for 50 four- and five-year olds. One of the best design decisions was to directly employ skilled workers from the camp to alleviate chronic unemployment made even worse by the Covid pandemic. 38 workmen engaged over a year supported 144 family members. The school not only takes in children from the camp, it has been built by the community. 'Work of each for weal of all' is the living ethos.

Building was the easy part. The hardest question was what parents wanted the school to be, what they wanted as a foundation for their children's future. Many meetings, one-on-ones and workshops later, the curriculum can be loosely described as Reggio Emilia with Palestinian characteristics. Learning through doing, through playing, and building on a child's own experience form the basis for this approach to early childhood education. Cooking, art, dancing *debke*, singing, and growing vegetables are all part of the daily mix. Harvesting olives in the playground is a highpoint in the year.

The first year has been a remarkable success and applications for the second year have vastly outstripped available places. To meet the demand we are now planning a third classroom to expand the capacity to 75 children. To build the classroom and support spaces will cost \$160,000 (£135,000). Additional staffing will expand the operations budget to \$150,000 per year (about £126,000). Individual contributions can be made to [Ifor3.org](http://Ifor3.org) either online or by cheque addressed to [Ifor3.org](http://Ifor3.org), 58 North Border Road, Winchester, MA 01890.

When I am asked how Bedales has influenced me, there may be no better reply than this little patch of hope in a severely traumatised space. 🌱





## Oliver Woolford (2011-14)

After attending university studying Photography for two years I decided that for my final year I wanted to dedicate my work to something that I felt passionate about. After spending Christmas writing my dissertation on war photography I felt my projects lacked the real passion I wanted them to achieve.

When the invasion began, I went straight to the Polish border and documented the fleeing refugees. This trip left me with a profound sense of purpose along with a feeling of duty to capture the ongoing events in Ukraine. Getting my foot in the door was going to be hard and getting into Ukraine was difficult, not to mention getting back out again, but I managed to get a place among some Polish people with a convoy going to Lviv. This trip ended up being my first time documenting a war and got me to places such as Kyiv



and Bucha during the Russian surrender of the area.

I took picture after picture of the miles of destruction left behind by the fighting. Scars of combat that will not soon be forgotten. But by far the hardest part was covering the mass graves in Bucha. The Russian surrender brought terror to an area only occupied by civilians, the stories of Russian soldiers gunning down civilians in the streets and randomly firing their weapons into buildings and even schools. The most eye-opening moment and biggest drive for me was when I stood at the mass graves below the shadow of the church in the centre of Bucha. I rubbed my hands together and embraced the cold weather and watched my breath float away. I then

raised my camera to continue capturing the forensic team pull body after body out of the grave. This moment hit me like a truck and really showed me how important it was for people to know the truth and how I could use my work to educate those oblivious to the destruction of war.

After further trips I have expanded on my abilities, such as moving into the ambulance service to get my Paramedic degree so that I might be able to help even more of those affected. Now that I have been to the frontlines and documented the ongoing conflict, I look forward to going back in the future to continue my work. I will never forget any of the people I met along the way or those that just allowed me a chance to succeed. 🌱



# TIMBER FRAMING

## Gabriel Langlands (1977-90)

I am a timber framer, amongst other things, and have been coming to Bedales one day a week to build timber framed structures with the students since Andrew Martin took over Outdoor Work in 2014.

I didn't build the Bedales Library and the Lupton Hall, those beautiful monuments of the Arts and Crafts movement – I just wasn't in the right place at the right time – but I am continuing the craft. The school gets nice-looking, honest, functional buildings which are also educational projects, and I get really nice lunches!

Our first big building was the Sam Banks Pavilion. We had pupils from all year groups chiselling joints and we even had a long line of Dunannians heaving on a block-and-tackle to lift the tie beams into position. The rope went over the Heras fence onto the playing field so that they weren't actually on site. Getting them to make subtle adjustments to the height was exciting.

Next came the outdoor dining area where I eat my lunches. This green oak pergola was built onto the terrace

along the front of the dining room overlooking the tennis courts. It really came into its own for al fresco meals during the pandemic and is partly covered from the weather so is used in all seasons.

Have I mentioned the lunches? These have changed a bit since the 80s. Gone from Bedales lunches are the slices of poached cardboard called roast beef, and sponges like... well, sponges. Bedales is now in an era of moist, authentic curries, bangers with meat and herbs in them, and tureens with client-facing ladles. Yes, you are actually allowed to help yourself to gravy.

Although I wasn't brought up during rationing, my parents were and there is something called inherited trauma which explains why I am drawn to a tureen of gravy like a moth to a candle. It doesn't matter what goes under the gravy – it's hidden anyway.

After the hot buffet there's a whole other room too; a garden-of-Eden of Ottolenghi-ish salads heaped up on platters but I don't have time for that; I'm concentrating on getting my tray to



the green-oak outside dining pergola without spillage. I have a rule though: no puddings. Unless it's custard. And the custard of today is not the watered-down sort we used to have. And yes, it comes in a tureen... with a ladle.

My timber framing was offered as a Sixth Form Enrichment course, and I had groups of four or five 6.1s as well as the Block 5s doing Outdoor Work BAC, and we have designed and built several small buildings together. A little cruck-frame covered entrance for Dunannie and a new barn at the barnyard made from sweet chestnut taken from near the chicken sheds. We have just finished a timber framed extension to the cart shed at the Black Barn, creating a sweet courtyard space which will be used for lambing soon. For the roofing I had budding carpenters **Michael Rice (2013-18)** and **George Richardson (2014-18)** who had been on my enrichment course – they were paid in lunches.

We are currently building big doors for the new barn at Outdoor Work and have more modest designs for 2023. 🌱





## Ian Douglas, Bedales Librarian and Archivist

**H**ave you ever been told not to judge a book by its cover?

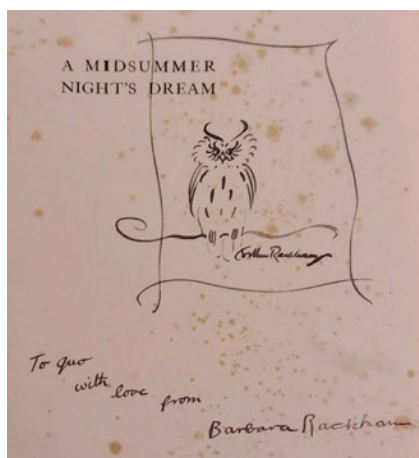
I've no doubt that there's wisdom in that old saying. The essential value of a book lies in what it says, not what it looks like. And yet in recent years there has been a scholarly trend towards a greater emphasis on the materiality of texts, and the embodied, multi-sensory experience of reading. What does the book look like? How does it feel in your hands? How does it smell, even? And what can these facts tell us about the meaning of the text to those who have committed it to paper or parchment, preserved it, and passed it on to us?

You could say that this trend goes against the grain of our contemporary world. Most books made in recent decades are offered as consumables: produced for the lowest possible cost and expected to fall apart and be replaced after a few reads. This trend towards interchangeability finds its consummation in the e-book.

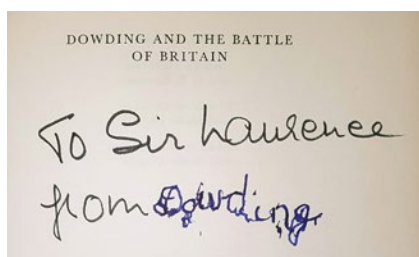
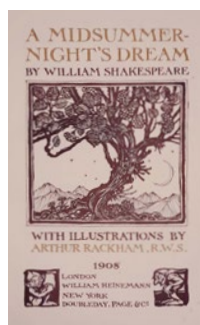
Essential though these technologies are – the cheap paperback and the e-book both helping to democratise access to knowledge – I'm still heartened by the interest that Bedales students show in rare and unusual books, which seem to catch their imagination much more than the latest e-reader apps.

So, encouraged by the enthusiasm of our current students, and inspired by such 'proper' librarians as Christopher de Hamel and – especially – David Pearson, to whose *Speaking Volumes* this article owes an obvious debt, let's open a few books from the Bedales Memorial Library, and see what stories they have to tell us.

We possess several books illustrated by Bedales parent Arthur Rackham. My own favourite is a copy of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for the sake of the charming owl doodle in his own hand.



This had been a gift from the artist's daughter **Barbara (1918-22)** to her schoolfriend **Rosalind Nash (1914-20)**. Rosalind died tragically as a result of a tree-climbing accident at school, and she bequeathed the book to the new Memorial Library, even as it was rising nearby.



Another famous Bedales parent to have left his mark in our collection is Laurence Olivier. Among his gifts are these two books; each capturing a moment in cinema history. The first is a copy of Air Chief Marshall Dowding's memoirs, whom Lord Olivier portrayed in the 1969 film *Battle of Britain*. When Dowding visited the set, Olivier said modestly that he expected he was "making an awful mess of it". "Oh, I'm sure you are", replied Dowding, with more honesty than tact. However, he must

have been sufficiently impressed to give Olivier a personally signed copy of his autobiography. He was suffering from severe arthritis by this time, as is distressingly clear from his signature, added at the end of an inscription in the hand of his secretary.

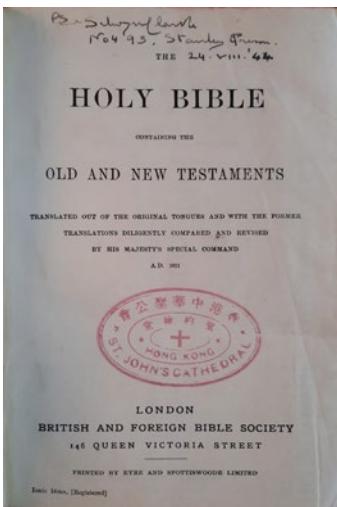
This book has plenty of Hollywood glamour, bearing ownership marks from both Laurence Olivier and Douglas Fairbanks Jr.

There must be a story behind that, I mused, when I stumbled across it on the shelves. In the first place, I wondered whether this heraldic bookplate really belonged to Douglas Fairbanks the actor, or someone else of the same name. All the details seemed to point to a British owner. It turns out that the actor was a noted Anglophile, an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and that this is indeed his bookplate.

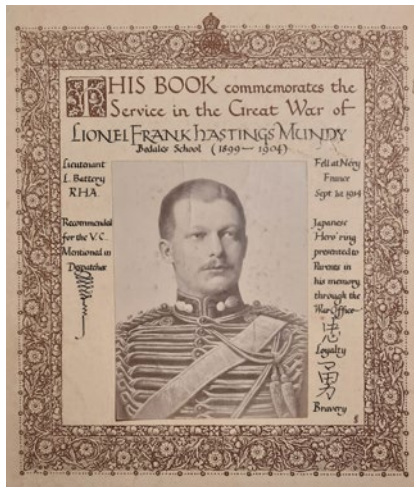
So why might Douglas Fairbanks have given Laurence Olivier a book about Ceylon (Sri Lanka) around 1950? I think the answer must lie in the troubled production history of the 1954 film *Elephant Walk*, set in that country. Douglas Fairbanks had originally bought the rights to the novel on which the film is based, intending it as a vehicle for himself and Debra Kerr. After various setbacks, he sold it to Paramount who wanted Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh to star. I guess that the book changed hands at that moment. In the end the film was made with Peter Finch and Elizabeth Taylor in the lead roles. A favourable reviewer has said, "it's like Rebecca, only with more elephants". Another, less impressed, would only say, "Pachyderm stampede climax comes none too soon".



Other books have a more sombre story to tell. This Bible was given by **Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke (1905-11)**, one of the heroes of the occupation of Hong Kong during the Second World War. As Director of Medical Services for the colony, Selwyn-Clarke made the difficult decision to offer a measure of cooperation with the Japanese authorities following the invasion. He saw this as the only way to relieve suffering and save lives among the PoWs, civilian internees and the local population. Alongside this overt relief work, Selwyn-Clarke also organised an underground network for illegally buying medicines and smuggling them into the internment camps. This subversion being eventually detected, Selwyn-Clarke was arrested and subjected to many months of solitary confinement and torture.



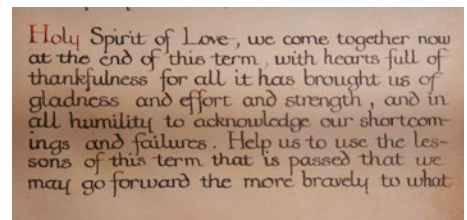
While held in vile conditions, and under sentence of death, Selwyn-Clarke received this Bible. It was smuggled into his prison thanks to the daring of an Indian Policeman and a Hong Kong Chinese woman who had worked alongside Selwyn-Clarke. In the enclosed note, he describes how his cell had no light at all, but the adjacent room received just a glimmer of daylight around the middle of the day. By holding the bible open between the bars of his cell, he could read a few words at a time.



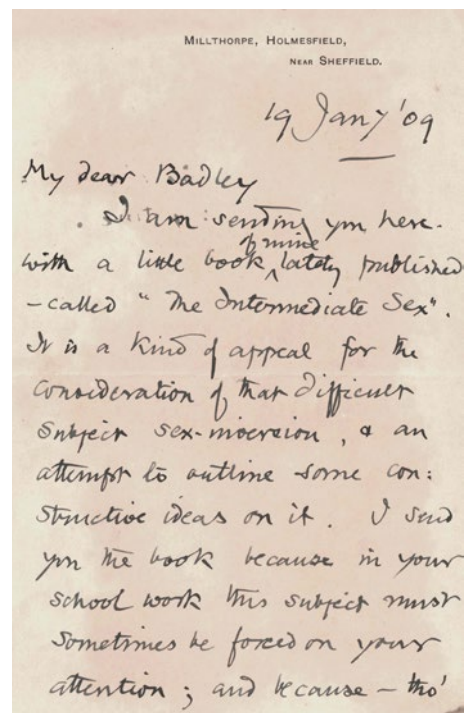
This book too tells a tale of bravery and sacrifice in wartime. It is one of many copies of *The Royal Artillery War Commemoration Book*, presented to the families of fallen comrades. As the personal inscription shows, this copy was given to the parents of **Frank Mundy (1898-1902)**, the very first Bedalian to be killed in the early days of the First World War. In happy contrast with the Selwyn-Clarke bible, this book tells of friendship and respect between the Japanese and British. It reproduces the inscription of one of three gold 'hero rings' which a Mr Furuya, inspired by the gallantry of those killed at the famous action at Néry on the retreat from Mons, had presented to their families.

We preserve many different copies of this volume, the *Bedales School Psalm and Hymn Book*, as used daily by many generations of Bedales students. The fact that a specially-printed book was used at Bedales reflects, in part, the non-denominational character of the school. John Badley's aim was to make families from a wide range of religious traditions feel welcome, and from the beginning the school has drawn many Quaker, Unitarian and Jewish families, among others who may not have been comfortable with a school rooted in the Established Church. We keep many copies because each is unique. Many have been bound

by hand, by their first owners: some in cloth, some in fine Morocco with gilt tooling. Many have unique annotations, including dorm lists or a "list of chaps I danced with at the summer dance". The copy shown here has bound within it several beautiful manuscript pages of Bedales prayers, including this one for use at the end of term.



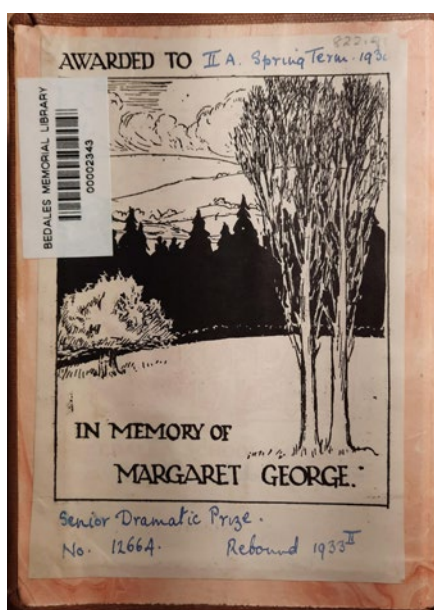
*The Intermediate Sex* is a 1908 book by LGBT pioneer Edward Carpenter. The special value of our copy, inscribed "with hearty regard" to his friend John Badley, lies principally in the letter which the author enclosed.



He writes that his book is an "appeal for the consideration of that difficult subject..." which in Badley's school work "must sometimes be forced on your attention". The prescience of this observation is not lessened by the fact that many of our own contemporaries



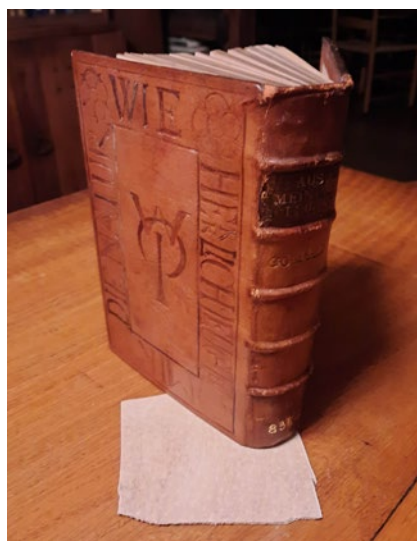
may feel the book confuses quite separate questions of gender identity and sexual orientation. Carpenter writes that he hopes his book will pass unnoticed by the general press. Presumably he has little hope of a fair and open-minded hearing. But he places his faith in Badley to make a well-judged comment upon it in a specialist educational journal.



Here's another example of an attractive bookplate. One hundred years after her death, we still possess several of the books given in memory of **Margaret George (1913-14, staff, 1921-22)**. The prize endowed in her memory was organised in a characteristically Bedalian way. In the words of the *Bedales Chronicle*, "[We] put the whole matter before the School Parliament ... and after discussion the following conditions were decided upon. For the Margaret George prize there should be an annual dramatic competition, the acting, by any Form that liked to enter for it, of a set scene or scenes, the prize to be awarded to the Form that did best, and to take the form of a book to be placed in the School Library, with an inscription giving the name of the prize and of the winning Form. In this way, it was felt, without impairing

the keenness of the competition, the reward would be of a communal nature rather than merely individual and selfish." This example of a Margaret George prize book is a collection of John Galsworthy plays. It sits on the shelf beside one of Margaret's own dramatic poems, published posthumously, nicely illustrating how part of the significance of a text may reside in its context within a collection.

I could have chosen one of many fine bindings from our collection to represent that aspect of book culture, perhaps one by famous OB binders **Elizabeth Greenhill (1917-21)** or **Roger Powell (1905-15)**. However, as my example I have chosen what I think may be a relative beginner's piece done by the young Roger while at school:



This neo-mediaeval style binding has a Goethe quotation moulded into the leather: *Wie herrlich leuchtet mir die Natur!* (How gloriously nature gleams for me!) Also pictured is a scrap of alum-tawed pigskin left over from the rebinding of the *Book of Kells*. This last commission, carried out for Trinity College Dublin by Roger in 1953 is one of the landmarks in the history of book conservation, and arguably the crowning achievement of Roger's distinguished career; a career which began many years earlier at Bedales.



Although I have concentrated on books with Bedalian connections, these are not the only ones which speak their stories to our current students. A few weeks ago I was asked to provide material illustrating the historical context to the development of the English novel. I suggested that the students look at this 1792 edition of *Tom Jones*, experiencing for themselves the material form in which it was encountered by its early readers. Are the volumes large or small, heavy or light? Is the print easy to read? Are there illustrations? Why is it bound in multiple volumes? Are the bindings cheap or luxurious, and were they chosen by the publisher, or by the individual owner? Are there ownership marks? All these questions, and many more, can provide a way into investigating the production and early reception of the text.

This has been my own choice of a few personal favourites. I'm well aware that others would have selected different highlights from the collection. At the end of the Memorial Library's centenary year I would be delighted if any OBs cared to get in touch and tell me about what has held particular significance for them. 🍷  
Email: [bedaleslibrary@bedales.org.uk](mailto:bedaleslibrary@bedales.org.uk)

# BBC 100 YEARS – THE ECKERSLEY BROTHERS

In the 100th anniversary year of the BBC, **Rod Edwards (staff, 2001-22)** outlines the early connections between Bedales and Auntie, and the enduring connection with our annual Science lecture series.



The Eckersley brothers, Thomas (left) and Peter

The Eckersley Lecture is named after two brothers, **Thomas (1897-1904)**, and **Peter (1902-1911)**, who attended Bedales over 100 years ago. They were both very interested in science, and the emerging field of radio transmission. They were encouraged to experiment, and along with a fellow student, **Robert Best (1902-10)**, they set up a small shed, nicknamed Wavy Lodge, to test some of the latest theories and equipment.

After leaving Bedales, Thomas went to University College London, where he studied Engineering, then to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied Mathematics. He became an astronomer at Khedivial Observatory, Egypt, and then, during the First World War, was in the Royal Engineers (Wireless Press Section) and the Cairo Expeditionary Force.

After the War, he joined the Marconi Company where he stayed for most of his career, carrying out important research in the field of radio waves. His work was concerned with how atmospheric effects affected the transmission of the waves. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society and went on to win the prestigious Faraday medal in 1951. To give an idea of the importance of this award, the winner in 1950 was Sir James Chadwick, discoverer of the neutron and Nobel Laureate, and in 1952, Berkeley physicist Ernest O Lawrence, inventor of the cyclotron and Nobel Laureate. Thomas published many scientific papers and is the holder of many patents relating to radio transmission technology.

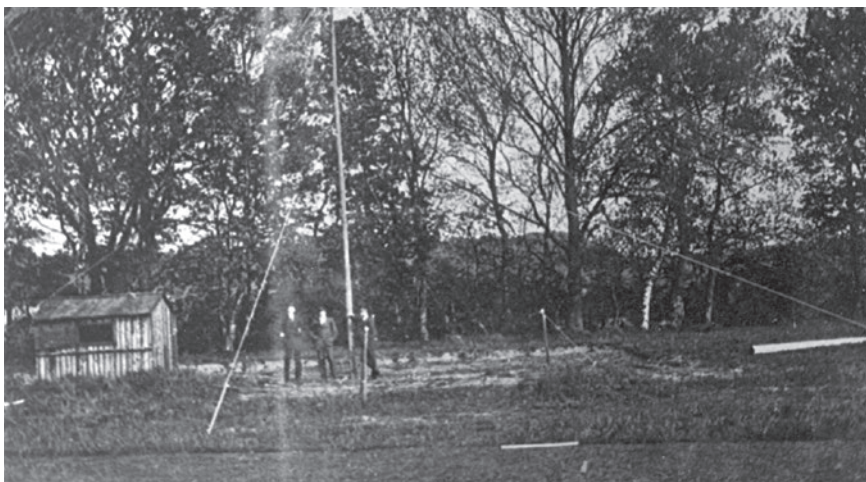
Peter attended the University of Manchester, and then served in the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War achieving the rank of Captain. After the War, he became the first engineer at the experimental station 2MT set up by Marconi in an ex-army hut at Writtle, Essex. He also became an on-air announcer and found that he had a flair for radio broadcast entertainment and put on many performances, along with his small team of colleagues, from



the studio in the old army hut. The programmes would consist of records, spoofs, plays and other music. The station was initially allowed to transmit its test transmissions for only half an hour a week. Dame Nellie Melba made one of the first broadcasts from 2MT at 7.10 pm on 15 June 1920 consisting of a concert of opera music to entertain the listeners. The broadcast opened with a recital of *Home Sweet Home* and finished with the *National Anthem*.

By May 1922, seeing the commercial potential of radio broadcasting, Marconi's company was in talks with wireless set manufacturers and other interested organisations to set up more broadcasting stations around the country under an umbrella organisation called the British Broadcasting Company (BBC). On 18 October 1922 the British Broadcasting Company was formed, with the government granting the BBC a licence to operate and 14 November 1922 saw the official opening of the BBC London station 2LO, with Captain Peter Eckersley, the first engineer at 2MT, appointed as the BBC's first Chief Engineer.

As a memorial to the late Thomas and Peter Eckersley, and as a tribute to their outstanding contribution to scientific progress and thinking, a group of their OB friends established a fund to endow an annual lecture at the school where their interest in science was first kindled and encouraged. It is hoped that the lectures will aim at stimulating an interest in, and appreciation of, science. 🌟





## Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)

There are half a dozen books in our Memorial Library about Ernest Gimson and the Barnsleys and the Arts and Crafts movement and the buildings and furniture; my new book, as a novelty, in addition, will attempt to give attention to Ernest Gimson as a personality particularly appropriate to the essence and character of Bedales.

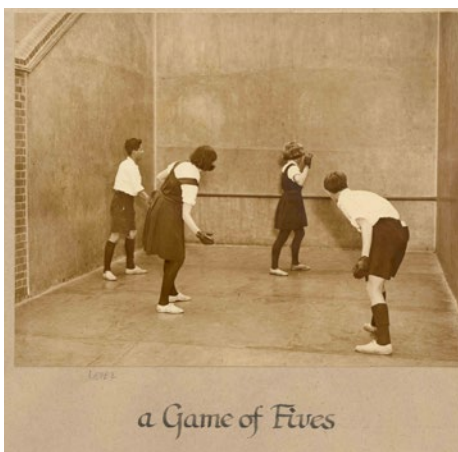
While at school I became profoundly affected by the great house of 1597 dedicated by its builder "to the cause of peace and the arts" in one of whose dormitories I slept. It is a gallery the length of a cricket pitch with a tempera painted ceiling with 'grotesques' and little moral precepts. One is Stork with Greek motto "Do not sleep all night". It was magnificent but I thought it was not architecture.

For Bedales however: whatever great house a school may inhabit, and there are many in this country, it cannot possess a work of significant architecture more remarkable, more inviting and more securely enclosing than Gimson's contribution to our school. And it is a library. What more could students ask from their educational enterprise than that?

This book will not be a textbook but an attempt to persuade the reader to revere with affection the Memorial Library and its architect. 🍷



BEDALES SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL. THE LIBRARY



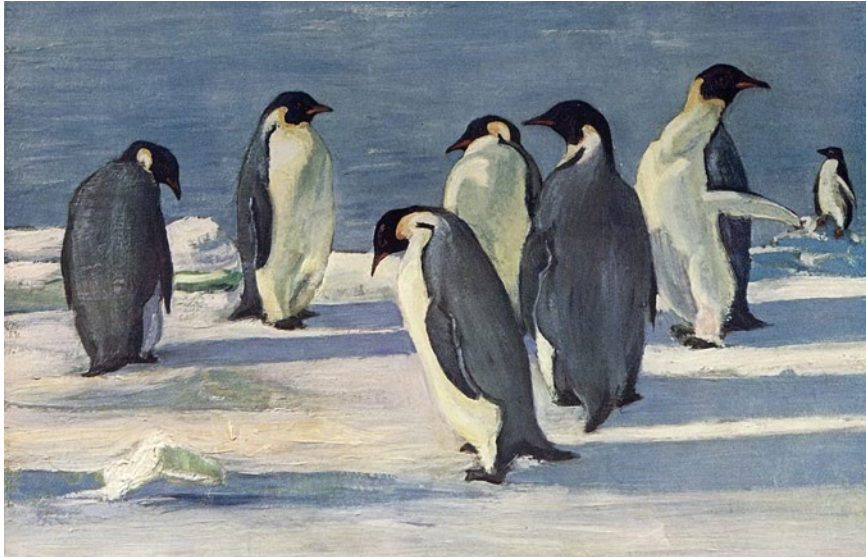
Alastair's book will be available in Summer 2023 – more information at [bedales.org.uk/support-us/shop](https://bedales.org.uk/support-us/shop). Proceeds to the John Badley Foundation.



# WHAT'S NEW IN THE ARCHIVES?

## Ian Douglas, Bedales Librarian and Archivist

It has been another busy and rewarding year in the Bedales Archives. Here are just a few highlights.



George Marston 'The Emperors Conclave' from *Heart of the Antarctic*

We continue to receive enquiries from around the world, touching on all aspects of Bedales history. In the past year these have included questions about **George Marston (staff, 1918-23)** who had served as the artist on two of Shackleton's Antarctic expeditions. As well as teaching Art and Stage Design at Bedales, he enlivened many a Merry Evening with his famous penguin impersonations. Later in life, he took on a thoroughly Bedalian role with the Rural Industries Bureau, working to preserve traditional country crafts, and to show the value they can have for education.

We've been asked about the Friends' Ambulance Unit, a heroic corps of conscientious objectors who exposed themselves to great danger in both world wars, and which was later headquartered in old Dunannie House as a tenant of the school.

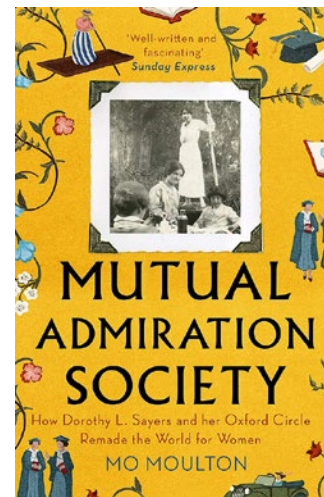
We've supplied images and artefacts relating to **John Wyndham (1918-21)** to the magnificently reborn Petersfield Museum, for their major exhibition on Science Fiction authors.

We've been asked about **Laurin Zilliacus (1909-12, staff, 1917-24)** who exported Bedales-style education to his native Finland, as well as being a noted commentator on international relations.

In July we were delighted to welcome the Dorothy L Sayers Society, chaired by **Seona Ford (1957-62, Governor, 2005-13)**. What brought them to Bedales? In 1912, in Somerville College, Oxford, a small group of remarkable women formed the Mutual Admiration Society that has been chronicled by Mo Moulton in her recent book of that name. They recognised that there was no shortage of men ready to obstruct and belittle their achievements. If women were to break down the barriers confronting them, one of the necessary conditions was the unswerving support and encouragement of their friends – hence the name.

One member of the MAS was the young Dorothy Sayers. Two of her comrades had links with Bedales.

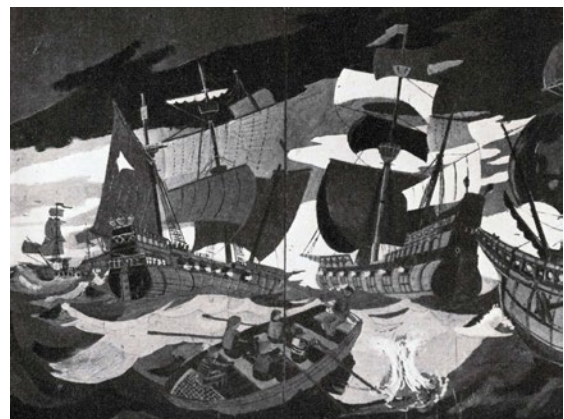
**Charis Frankenberg (1903-04)** was a pioneer of birth control and sex education. **Mary Cullis (staff, 1912-15)** was an educator and LGBT trailblazer.



It was a huge pleasure to meet members of the DLS Society and, with them, to explore the lives and legacies of these and other remarkable Bedales women from the early decades.

There have been many interesting accessions to the archive this year, very often the gift of OBs.

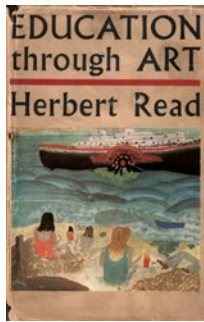
Seona Ford has given *Staging the Play* by celebrated theatre designer Norah Lambourne, having spotted that this 1956 book contains a number of illustrations of Bedales productions. Clearly the Bedales students were working to the highest standard in Stage Design.



Scene painting by **Mark Wickham (1943-50)**



An apt companion to that book is *Education through Art*, by Sir Herbert Read. This, one of the most influential books on art and education of the 20th Century, features numerous paintings and drawings by Dunhurst and Bedales students. Our copy was kindly donated by Juliet Webster, the historian of Langford Grove School. The link is **Nommie Durell (staff, 1942-44)**, Art teacher at both Bedales and Langford Grove, whose London exhibitions of schoolchildren's art in the 1930s and 40s won high praise from such critics as Clive Bell, Anthony Blunt and Kenneth Clark. Mrs Durell is named in the book as a key interlocutor, and the cover is illustrated with a painting by 16 year old Bedales student **Francis (Bill) Thornycroft (1940-43)**, later a prominent gay rights campaigner.

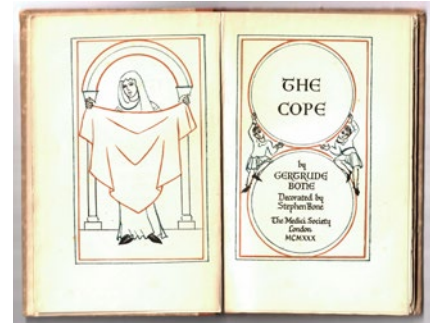


Jane has also given a fascinating memento of the fight for equal suffrage: this programme from the 1910 Summer Fête in aid of the Peterfield Woman's Suffrage Society held at Bedales. The address was given by the playwright Laurence Housman, who was co-founder of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. I am fascinated by the combination of what was, at the time, a dangerously radical cause with the studied ordinariness of the event, with polite music, children's sports and Morris dancing. I wonder what the good bourgeois of Petersfield made of it all.



This copy must have been preserved by Jane's grandparents **Muriel Gimson (staff, 1916-19, 1938-45)** and **Basil Gimson (1896-1904, staff, 1911-16, 1919-47)**.

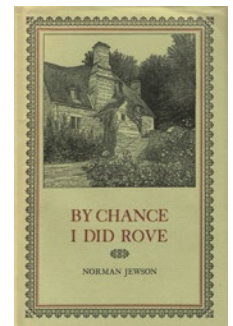
Among her many generous donations, **Jane Kirby (1974-79, staff, 2008-19, Honorary Archivist)** has recently given this charming small book by **Stephen Bone (1913-20)** and his mother Gertrude. The Bone family – Sir Muirhead and Lady Bone, and their sons **Stephen** and **Gavin (1918-25)** – made their home in Steep, and were staunch supporters of the Bedales project. They were instrumental in bringing figures such as Stanley Spencer and Rabindranath Tagore to visit the school. Gertrude and Stephen collaborated on a number of exquisite illustrated books.



This one, a neo-mediaeval novella, had been missing from our collection until now.

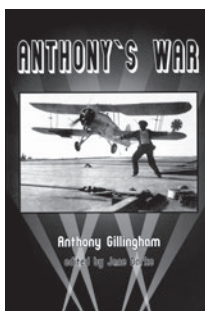
Sometimes a gift to the Archive is in the form of a vital piece of knowledge. **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)**, whose forthcoming *Gimson and the Buildings of Bedales* is so keenly awaited by all readers, made me aware of *By Chance I Did Rove* by Norman Jewson. A talented architect and designer himself, Jewson is now best known for his writings about his more famous contemporaries; 'the Vasari of the Arts and Crafts Movement'.

I was lucky enough to be able to find a copy of the book, remedying a surprising gap in our collection. In it, Jewson describes how Ernest



Gimson and the Barnsley brothers strove to realise their Utopian vision. The ingredients were a respect for the work of the hands, and for the ordinary people who practised it; respect for local traditions in craftsmanship and building; a demand that everyone be able to express themselves creatively in their work, and live in a sustainable and harmonious relationship with the land. So much more than an Arts and Crafts 'style', this is a radical vision for reshaping society. It is the vision that gave birth to Bedales and which motivates us still.

**Jane Darke (1953-61)** has given *Anthony's War*, which she has edited from the memoirs and letters of her father **Anthony Gillingham (staff, 1946-70)**. The book concentrates on Anthony's experiences as a Fleet Air Arm navigator in the Second World War, including the famous torpedo bomber attack depicted in the film *Sink the Bismarck!* Generations of Bedales students will remember that Anthony used real-world navigation problems based on his wartime experiences to enliven maths lessons. Jane would be happy to hear from OBs who'd like to buy a copy of the book, by email to [darkej@hotmail.com](mailto:darkej@hotmail.com).



For light relief, we have also made room in the Archive for this unhappy typo in *The Petersfield Post*. If I may dare to contradict so august a publication, I don't agree that Will has been "acting dead". I think he has approached the role with a marked vitality.



Sometimes an artefact finds its way home after many adventures.

A stamp collector came across this postcard, originally delivered to Bedales 120 years ago, and has been kind enough to reunite us with it. The recipient was 12 year old **Dmitri Jarintzoff (1899-1909)**, the first of many Russians to attend Bedales. 'Jarry' was popular with his contemporaries, and deeply mourned after he was killed in 1917, serving with the British forces near Ypres. His mother had first visited the school in 1897, perhaps influenced by Edmond Demolins's book *A quoi tient la supériorité des Anglo-Saxons?* which spread the fame of Bedales internationally. "I could not imagine my boy at any other school than this" wrote Nadine Jarintzoff, and so Dmitri became part of the first wave of international students, helping to give Bedales the global outlook that it has never lost.



The postcard bears greetings (in Russian) to "My dear little mole" from his mother who clearly misses him, and complains that he doesn't write often enough.

A watercolour of Lake Pheneos in the Peloponnese (below) was painted by John Badley in 1908 when, having exhausted himself with work, he was persuaded to take an extended painting holiday in Greece and Italy. For many years, it has been the property of **Alison Koppelman (née Wharton, 1959-64)** who has generously donated it to the school. Alison and her sister **Louise Lewis (née Wharton, 1961-67)** have kindly arranged for the picture to 'come home' to Bedales after many years away, after putting in a little detective work to identify the artist and subject. We are so grateful to have it.

We have been approached by a doctoral student researching the early work of the poet **Thom Gunn (1941-42)**. His Bedales contemporary the painter **Michael Wishart (1940-44)**



Waterclour of Lake Phenos by John Badley

writes in his 1977 autobiography *High Diver*, "[Thom's] long poem about this shocking experience [his mother's suicide] was included in my little magazine *Drei Editions Trois Times*. (It had three copies of three editions.) I printed Thom's elegiac poem about his mother on black-rimmed mourning paper, but washed pink, for, ran my childish editorial, is there not also something rosy about death?" I was studying German at the time and I used Goethe's dictum: "The majority is always wrong" as the motto for my magazine.

Our enquirer would be overjoyed if we could find a copy. This may be the very first time that Gunn's poetry appeared in print. But alas there is no trace of it in the Bedales Archive. Is it possible that a copy survives in the home of an Old Bedalian? Please get in touch if you know of one, or if you can suggest any leads to follow.

The theme of this article is the generosity of OBs. We are profoundly grateful for all that you give. Some of you support the work of the archive with financial donations; others give photographs, books, ephemera and the contents of your memories. Sometimes the donor is astonished that what they had thought a fairly insignificant piece of ephemera is the answer to a researcher's prayers.

Thank you. And please keep them coming. 🌟



## Rob Reynolds, Director of External Relations

Many thanks to the hundreds of you who completed the Bedales 'Looking ahead' survey in the Autumn term 2022 to inform planning for Bedales' future. We are pleased that so many members of the school community, past and present, took the time to feedback, which has been extremely informative in clarifying views about our schools' current provision and future priorities. The headline findings in the survey are as follows.

### What we do well:

- An environment where people are encouraged to be themselves
- Providing opportunities for working outdoors
- Landscape and outdoor spaces in-keeping with the school's Arts & Crafts aesthetic
- A culture of questioning and independent thinking
- A curriculum that inspires pupils in their learning
- An inclusive and accepting environment
- Recognition that fundraising is appropriate for more fully-funded bursaries
- Creating newer buildings that are in-keeping with the school's Arts & Crafts heritage

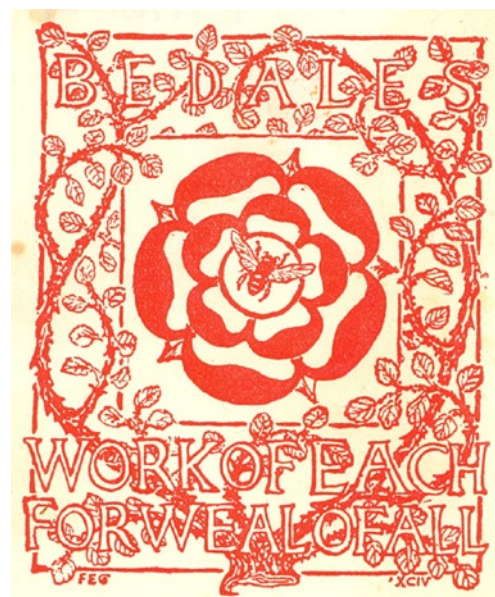
### Where we could do better:

- Encouraging the use of public transport, cycling, walking, and reducing car/plane travel
- Modelling good practice in the ethical sourcing of food
- Creating a diverse school community
- Smoother transitions between the three Bedales Schools
- Adopting new technologies in teaching and learning
- Finding a healthy balance between screen and non-screen time
- Learning from others outside Bedales
- Integrating day and boarding pupils

### Areas of importance in the future:

- A curriculum that inspires pupils
- An inclusive and accepting school environment
- A culture of questioning and independent thinking
- An environment where people can be themselves
- Promoting techniques and opportunities for managing positive mental health
- Promoting a culture of 'reduce, re-use, recycle'
- Modelling good practice in sustainability
- Offering a co-curriculum programme that significantly enhances the pupil experience

Many of the above topics are already work-in-progress or current priorities, but to ensure all areas of importance are fully considered, work is underway to build on the survey findings centred around the four strands of Learning, Living, Community and Environment. Proposals are being developed for each strand by working parties of staff from across the three Bedales Schools with a range of responsibilities. Each group is gathering ideas, formulating a detailed list of feasible options for the plan and 'road-testing' them with others, including Governors and the various representative committees such as the



pupil school councils, Bedales Parents' Association, Friends of Dunannie and Dunhurst, Staff Liaison Group, and the Bedales Association Steering Group.

We have set ourselves the challenge of creating a fully realised 'community of learners', where:

- Students and staff are excited about the unique and precious experience of living and learning together; developing a lifelong love of self-development and exploration
- The young people in our care take advantage of the recent developments in Neuroscience and Psychology to develop positive mental health and wellbeing skills that will stay with them for life
- We learn, often through lived experience, of our place in the natural world and the importance of human respect for the environment in all aspects of how we live and learn
- We understand the importance of identity in the 21st century world and learn to champion difference

We are aiming to firm up plans by summer 2023 and will provide further updates as this energising work and thinking develops over the coming year. 🌱

# JOHN BADLEY FOUNDATION

## Tanya Darlow, Head of Development

2022 has been quite a year for the John Badley Foundation (JBF). With an already ambitious target of raising £300,000 to expand the full bursary offering, we set up an Emergency Refugee Fund in response to the crisis in Ukraine, aiming to raise additional funds to provide free places for young people fleeing war and unrest. Both appeals are at the very heart of the JBF and its aim to broaden access to Bedales and Dunhurst for young people facing challenging circumstances in the UK and abroad.

Thank you for generously supporting the charity's work. Whether you donate regularly, supported the Christmas auction or have pledged to leave a gift to the JBF in your will, we are hugely grateful. I am delighted to announce that the Bedales community donated £390,000 in the 2021-2022 academic year. We have enjoyed some wonderful events to help make this happen including the Hamper Ball (pictured above) where students from across each of the five year groups performed Rock Show favourites and parents dressed up in spectacular style.

With a successful year of fundraising behind us, the JBF is funding 19 free places, including eight places



for Ukrainian children living locally with host families. By supporting the charity, you are giving these children a life-changing opportunity and they are giving so much back through their hard work, mentoring of younger students and enthusiastic involvement with everything from The Duke of Edinburgh's Award to the Rock Show.

JBF alumni continue to give back too, and in November, **Esme Allman (2013-15)** hosted a series of poetry workshops for students before performing her own work as part of the Bedales Poetry Series (see page 9).

Esme was a recipient of a JBF bursary and now serves as a trustee of the JBF. She recently made a film about her experience at Bedales which you can view at [bedales.org.uk/support-us/impact](https://bedales.org.uk/support-us/impact).

Behind the scenes, our Admissions Team is talking to JBF applicants about 2023 places. This can involve home and school visits and meetings with partner charities including SpringBoard to ensure children have the best possible chance of thriving here. You can read more about SpringBoard's work on page 35. Partnerships like this are crucial to the success of the JBF in reaching the most deserving children and our ambition is to increase the number of places we offer year on year. This is only possible with the continued and generous support of the school community. I hope you will consider donating what you can to help us grow this life-transforming charity. You can donate online or set up a regular gift here. If you are interested in supporting the Emergency Refugee Fund please email me at [tdarlow@bedales.org.uk](mailto:tdarlow@bedales.org.uk). Thank you for your support. ♻️





## Focus on Partnerships: Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation

Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation (RNCSF) is the UK's largest bursary charity. Its mission is to secure life transformative bursaries for young people from underserved, disadvantaged and vulnerable backgrounds. To date, the charity has supported more than 1,000 pupils to attend boarding schools on 110% bursary places nationwide. This includes eight students at Bedales; four alumni and four who are currently at the school.

RNCSF works with 150 schools – predominantly boarding but now with some day schools too – each that differ in character and culture, but all united by a commitment to widening access to their great educational opportunities.

RNCSF's aim is to have supported 2,000 children to access these transformational opportunities in a fully-funded boarding or independent day school bursary place by 2025.

In working with participating schools RNCSF provides two different programmes:

- a place-based partnerships programme, working with charities/ local community groups and 11-16 years schools in 30 locations nationwide across London, Liverpool, Manchester and Nottingham to target opportunities to attend boarding schools for young people from communities where there are several barriers that exclude opportunity
- work to secure priority access for children in, and on the edge of care to bursary schemes in both boarding and independent day schools

RNCSF's impact evidence shows that access to fully-funded bursaries can broaden horizons, improve academic attainment, change life trajectories, enable young people to establish networks and pathways for future fulfilling careers, and create a

strong sense of self and trusting relationships that help them to navigate the working world.

Pupils tell RNCSF how important these opportunities are: 90% of the 1,000 SpringBoarders supported to date have progressed on to sustained higher education placements, with many to some of the most selective universities, as well as many embarking on non-traditional career paths (there are SpringBoarders now working as museum curators, in the creative industries, in fashion, design and theatre). They are unlocking entirely different futures than they might otherwise have been likely to secure.

Although bursary opportunities can act as a catalyst for social mobility, RNCSF is aware of the challenges that remain for many SpringBoarders in breaking down the existing barriers that exclude opportunity on leaving their schools. So, the charity has invested in its alumni programme which ensures all SpringBoarders are supported – each is a "SpringBoarder for life". RNCSF's alumni work with the charity to gain work experience, internships and peer support to translate their great education into fulfilling future careers. RNCSF's alumni are role models and young leaders of the future. They mentor, buddy, and represent the charity as change makers for the next generation.

To find out more about the partnership between RNCSF and the John Badley Foundation, please contact Tanya Darlow, Head of Development at [tdarlow@bedales.org.uk](mailto:tdarlow@bedales.org.uk) 



# BEDALES GRANTS TRUST FUND

## Cathy Baxandall (née Dwyer, 1970-76), Chair of Trustees, Bedales Grants Trust Fund

The Bedales Grants Trust Fund (BGTF) is a charitable trust originally founded in 1927 by John Badley and a group of close friends, colleagues and supporters of Bedales. It was founded to provide financial support through bursaries for students at Bedales.

The current trustees, all of whom are volunteers, are myself as Chair (since 2016), **Dennis Archer (staff, 1974-2008)**, **Camilla Church (1989-1992)**, **Stephen Davies (1989-1994)**, **Josephine Jonathan (2006-2008)** and **Lynn Percy (1972-1977)**.

BGTF is funded wholly through a combination of generous lifetime giving and some magnificent legacies, plus judicious investment of our capital, which (as at October 2022) stands at approximately £6.5m. We have benefited from many years of OB generosity to grow this fund, which means that we are currently able to

support between 20 and 25 Bedales students each year. In 2021/22 we paid out means-tested bursary awards in aggregate of around £263,000, helping 24 current students to pursue their education at Bedales.

Our bursaries, which are normally set at approximately 1/3 of a year's school fees but can be substantially more, can be combined with bursaries from other sources, such as the school, or external grant providers. Some of those we support may not even know exactly where their bursaries come from! Whether recognised or not, we are happy to promote the original intentions of John Badley in supporting the hundreds of students to have benefited from a BGTF grant over the years, and we are always glad to see what they do after their time at Bedales. On the following page you can read how our fund has helped **Amos Wollen (2015-22)**.

The trustees aim to keep the Trust's funds sustainable through an approach which matches bursary spending with the income generated by investment of the Trust's capital without compromising on ethics. We want to be able to continue to pay bursaries for many years to come, and to respond flexibly to individual students' needs and circumstances as they arise. Our investment portfolio includes only ethical share investments (through the Rathbone Greenbank fund) with the remainder in cash or cash equivalents. The fund is regularly reviewed by our Investment Committee of Trustees with current investment and financial expertise.

Particular thanks and recognition must go to the OBs and other families who have generously donated and/or left legacies to BGTF. As trustees, we appreciate our responsibility to ensure these precious gifts are





properly used and the generous spirit of the donors is carried through to the next generation. Our deepest thanks go to those who have seen fit to donate in this way. New donations to BGTF, whether lifetime or by means of a legacy in a will, are always welcomed.

We also benefit 'in kind' from the practical support of Richard Lushington, Bedales Bursar, who acts as BGTF's Secretary, and members of the school's administrative team. Parents and prospective parents, particularly with OB connections, can get details of how to apply for BGTF awards from the Admissions Team ([admissions@bedales.org.uk](mailto:admissions@bedales.org.uk)). We look forward to enabling many more students in financial need to experience a Bedales education in the future. 🌱



## Amos Wollen (2015-22), BGTF award holder

I loved my time at Bedales. My Dad, **Will Wollen (1985-92)**, also went, and he loved it too. But we never thought I'd be able to come until the school gave me a bursary to start at Dunhurst. At the beginning of the senior school, the Bedales Grants Trust Fund stepped in and they renewed their support for the Sixth Form, seeing me through my Bedales career.

From the start, Bedales was welcoming, warm, and gave me room to pursue my own projects and be myself. I always had my own interests on the side, and instead of merely tolerating them, teachers encouraged me to pursue them actively, and pushed me to try for things I wouldn't have tried for otherwise.

When I was in primary school, I was sure I was going to skip university. By Block 5, I knew I wanted to go, but I didn't think Oxbridge was a viable option. But teachers in the RS department kept telling me

I should apply, so I did. Now I've just completed my first term at Oxford studying Philosophy and Theology. I love Oxford too – and I know I couldn't have got here without the support and guidance of my teachers.

Bedales struck an ideal balance between a challenging work-life and social independence. The work was doable, but never easy, and there were always teachers happy to offer their time when I noticed myself falling behind.

I also always felt at home with the student community: people always talked about how Bedales lacked the social hierarchy they'd seen in their previous schools, and I never remember feeling pressured, or judged, or hemmed in by other people's expectations. Boarding was a tornado of fun, and I especially enjoyed staying in on the weekend. The boarding house was a tight-knit community, and the weekend crowd was even tighter.

I did a lot of tour-guiding towards the end, and every time I showed



a new family around Bedales, I remember realising how ridiculously lucky I was, and how much I genuinely believed their kids would benefit from a place there. I look forward to whatever opportunities there'll be in future to help the school however I can. 🌱

# STAFF PROFILES

## Rachael Emsley (née Knott, 1978-89 and Bedales School Counsellor since 2021)

The wheel has come full circle for Rachael Emsley. A pupil at Dunhurst and Bedales for more than a decade she has now served her alma mater as School Counsellor for nearly two years. Here, she talks of her abiding affection for the school where she met her future husband, her determination to repay the debt of privilege that she still feels for the education she received there in the working world and the importance of the old maxim of 'work of each for weal of all' to her life.



"It was while I was still at primary school (Newtown, near Denmead) that it was obvious that I wasn't going to be as academic as my brother," says Rachael Emsley. "The main issue, (though unknown at the time), was that I was dyslexic – later I had to repeat a year at Dunhurst – and so my parents, who were both teachers, sat down with the head teacher at Newtown and tried to work out where would be best for me in future."

Happily, as time would prove, the choice fell on Dunhurst. "I don't remember too much about a taster day or an entrance exam, but I do have a clear memory of reading *William Tell* to **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** in his study," Rachael explains. "There was no difficulty about settling into a new school – Dunhurst felt very similar to my previous school in lots of ways and I was very happy there. We even had a school uniform in those days – kilts and an aertex shirt. I guess I was quite a shy girl but still quite sociable, if that makes sense and I remember with great affection people like **Bob Perkins (staff)**, who was Head of Group 4, and summer camping weekends where we sang together around a campfire. From the early days, I was more of an observer and listener than anything else. My Yorkshire grandfather noticed that about me – 'Rachael hears all and says nowt', he used to say."

At Bedales itself, Rachael's confidence and sociability began to replace her former shyness. "The recognition from teachers, that gentle encouragement to

come out of my comfort zone was the way forward with me, helped to bring out my best," she says. "There was a lot to love and a lot to get involved in. Practical things were one area that I enjoyed and I was especially keen on Pottery with **Ian Prendergast (staff, 1981-87)** and Outdoor Work with **John Rogers (staff, 1975-86)**. But perhaps most of all I loved the social side of school. I was desperate to become a boarder, persuading my parents to let me start in Block 4. I was always very excited about the whole school dances, Merry Evening, *Le Mans* and the school plays. In 6.1, I was even given free rein to put on a play myself; *Fluff*, which was great fun."

In the classroom, Rachael was particularly influenced by her English teachers: "Although my spelling and handwriting were appalling, I always loved literature (although Chaucer was pretty testing!). I did well enough in History, although that was mainly because I was so scared of disappointing **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)**. And I worked hard generally, knowing that things were often more of a challenge for me because of the dyslexia. But it was in English, with **John Batstone (staff, 1963-93)** and **Graham Banks (staff, 1980-2013)** at the forefront, where all that encouragement made the most difference to me. This was very closely followed by the enthusiasm of **Jonny Watson (staff, 1973-88)** and **Colin Prowse (staff, 1985-2012)** in Geography and the regular field trips to Snowdonia and notably, Bradford!"

Bedales also happened to be the place where Rachael (then Rachael Knott) met **Nick Emsley (1981-88)**, a student from the year above, who became her boyfriend and later, her husband. "It's such a cheesy Bedales love story," she says, half with pride and half with a wince. "I think that most of my friends reckoned that we would last the distance just because we were always together at school. I think our names were on the 'couples list' for about four years. When he left at the end of my 6.1 year, I felt pretty much bereft; at least I still had my friends to fall back on."

So many years as a Bedalian had left their mark on Rachael when she came to consider the career she might follow after school. "I knew that I wanted to do something to help other people," she reflects. "That 'work of each for weal of all' ethos had been stamped through me, as had the lesson that kindness and respect are two sides of the same coin. Respect was definitely earned at Bedales; your age, background or rank was no guarantee of special treatment. Adolescence is a challenging time for most people and no school, however great, can eradicate that challenge, but I have to say that Bedales makes a



far better job of it than most places. I think my journey through Bedales led me to understand that it is OK to be different and not to fit the mould."

"My grandmother was quite keen that I should become a nurse and I did do a bit of nursing on a part-time basis when I was 17 or 18," Rachael continues. "In the end, I went to the University of Exeter to study Psychology, which won out over English because it was something that was new to me."

Seeking the 'Bedales feel', Rachael chose to be in a small hall of residence, hoping to find a more personal experience than the one the large, more popular halls seemed to offer. "In large group situations I might come across as shy and reserved but this doesn't mean that you're not an integral part of the group," she reflects. "Being quiet doesn't necessarily make you an outsider." At university Rachael realised that she was a problem-solver who was also a good listener and communicator: "With that knowledge, I thought about how to use the education that I'd been so privileged to enjoy as a tool for helping others."

A Master's degree in Social Work at the University of North Wales followed as Rachael entered the profession herself, taking a break when she and Nick started their family. "It was while I was on maternity leave that I joined the Surrey branch of the NSPCC as a children's services practitioner and later as acting team manager. This was an amazing place to work and I stayed for 11 years," Rachael explains. "That only finished when the NSPCC re-organised itself and closed the Surrey branch. We were living in Horsham at the time and I didn't much fancy re-locating to Croydon."

Rachael's next project was to set up STARS (Sexual Trauma Assessment, Recovery and Support), a specialist team under the aegis of the

Surrey Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Working as lead clinician, Rachael and her team provided therapy for children and young people who had been affected by sexual abuse. "This was the dawn of the 21st Century and issues relating to sexual trauma and mental health were still largely being swept under the carpet as something a bit shameful," Rachael observes. "Young people, in particular, were often made to feel so self-conscious about the business of opening up about their mental health to others. It has only really been since lockdown and the global pandemic that attention has focused on how important and how widespread these issues really are."

Just a year before the pandemic emerged to imprint itself on an unsuspecting world, Rachael had started work as a School Counsellor at RGS, Guildford. "The role of a School Counsellor is extremely wide-ranging," she says. "It was also very different from anything that I had done before. For example, I had always used group therapy as an essential part of my work before because it can be a good way of identifying common problems, reducing stigma and building self-confidence. That approach is much harder to establish in a school, where some people do need privacy in order to talk freely. My priority was always to ensure that seeking support from a counsellor in a safe and secure environment should be seen as an everyday thing. It should not be stigmatising or even a particularly big deal. It really helps to get support as soon as possible. Life is never perfect in any generation, but young people learn so much from things that don't quite go according to plan. They can also become stronger and more resilient."

There are plenty of potential bear traps of which the experienced counsellor must always be aware. "Counsellors have their own issues, of

course, and we need to take care that we don't over-identify with those who come to us for help," Rachael notes. "I think over time as a therapist, I have developed a system that allows me to compartmentalise all the different conversations and issues which keeps them separate from my personal life."

School counsellors have an informal network through which they tend to share all sorts of useful information. It was through this that Rachael first became aware of an imminent job vacancy that she would not be able to resist. "I had got to know **Katy Wilson (2004-2021)**, who was the School Counsellor at Bedales, and she told me that she would be stepping down in 2021," she says. "Well, I obviously had to apply for the role and I was lucky enough to get it, once we had agreed that I could continue with one of my outside pursuits. Good therapists have to take care of their own mental wellbeing and in that spirit I volunteer for the Bhopal charity as part of the Glastonbury Re-cycling crew. Clearing up the site and re-cycling the rubbish after the festival not only fits with the desire to do my bit for the environment but also helps to improve things for others. It's the working as part of a team that I find so attractive once again. It's very Bedalian as a concept – 'work of each for weal of all', remember?"

Being back at Bedales has been an enormous source of pleasure to Rachael. "It is still a place that allows you to find out who you are and to begin to discover how to think independently and come to morally sound conclusions," she says. "I have days here when I wish we were back in 1987 and I was a Bedales student again! Bedales remains special to me – I'm only sorry that they built the A3 bypass and I can now hear traffic, which I never did before. Otherwise it's still the place of which I hold so many rosy – but never rose-tinted – memories." 🌸

## Neil Hornsby (staff, 1997 – present)

**I**t might not be unfair to call Neil Hornsby 'The Accidental Guitar Teacher' but if that's really true, it has certainly been a happy accident. Neil talks here about his musical origins, his time at the Royal Academy of Music and the beginning of his association with Bedales as a guitar teacher for three hours per week. We also delve into his path to the role of first Head of Contemporary Music in the history of the school and how his own anti-establishment streak fitted so well into a place that he has now served for 25 years. Oh, and did we mention the Bedales Rock Show...?

Neil Hornsby is politely but firmly insistent that his 25-year sojourn on the staff at Bedales, initially as a teacher of the classical guitar before working his way up to the position he still occupies as the school's inaugural Head of Contemporary Music, has been the result of a series of happy accidents, rather than the consequence of any sort of strategic masterplan.

"There have been a few sliding doors moments, that's for sure," he says. "I grew up in Islington, which wasn't quite as Bedalian a place as it is today! My mother, who was a hairdresser, would have known a few people who sent their kids to Bedales but I knew nothing of the place at all when I was growing up. Just about the only thing that Islington Green School had in common with Bedales was the fact that you didn't have to wear a uniform at either place!"

A music aficionado from his earliest years, Neil also had a serious talent for it to the extent that he won a place at the Royal Academy of Music to study classical guitar. "It just happened – I never meant to do it," Neil reflects. "I might have been too polite to say so at the time but that was the first of the major sliding doors moments because without it, I wouldn't have met my wife, wouldn't have had children and almost certainly wouldn't have ended up at Bedales."

At the Royal Academy, Neil showed signs of an anti-establishment streak that was almost Bedalian in its effect. "Basically, I ploughed my own

furrow there, much to the irritation of my teacher," he recalls. "I think that in some respects, I was a bit of a troublemaker without ever really meaning to be one. At Bedales, my approach has always been to talk students through their likes and dislikes whenever they profess an interest in music. That never happened in my day, certainly not at the Academy; I always knew that I wanted to be a musician but I was never quite able to find the right thing for me."

Neil's tendency not to follow the herd was evident in more ways than one during this period. "When the time came to leave the Academy, I didn't have much idea of what I wanted to do and both my wife and I were well aware that music can be an uncertain way in which to make a living," he says. "As a classical guitarist, not everyone can expect the same levels of success as Julian Bream, although I did help in getting him quite drunk when he came down to the Academy on his 60th birthday!"

"The plan that we therefore came up with was that my wife, who was a violinist, would play with the English National Opera while I got myself a steady job," Neil continues. "That's where teaching came into my life, although once again, it wasn't something that I had originally planned. At the Academy, a lot of students did bar-work during their down time; I gave a few guitar lessons in North London, including via the Enfield Arts Support Service, which eventually led



to more of the same for a few schools, among them St Edmund's in Hindhead. A friend of mine then told me that there was a job going at Dunhurst, which I'm sure I got because of my classical CV and I started to teach guitar for three hours a week on General Election day, 1997."

It was, almost from the first, a happy meeting of minds. "I never thought of myself as an establishment figure and in that sense, I was almost a Bedalian without knowing it," Neil observes. "The idea that everything happens for a reason wasn't something that I've ever particularly followed but I must say that I felt comfortable here from the start. I liked the confidence of the students, which never seemed to tilt over into arrogance and it's a great joy to me that I'm still in touch with so many of them. It's so important to pique their interest from the start, I would always tell them to let me know if they were bored and to show them as many different things as possible to help them discover for themselves what sort of music they were really into. Students always want to play different things and over time, the numbers that I taught continued to rise. The original three hours a week had risen to two days before I got the gig at Bedales itself."

It was while he was still at Dunhurst that Neil started the project with which he will always be associated



in the minds of most Bedalians. The Bedales Rock Show actually began its existence in 2002 as 'The Dunhurst Guitar Concert' and featured performances from future professional stars such as **Jamie Campbell-Bower (1996-2007)**. "I organised a lot of that one but it happened largely at the instigation of **Melanie Fuller (staff, 1972-2007)**, who was Director of Music for the junior schools for such a long time," Neil explains. "Despite the title, it wasn't just music for guitars, either – a lot of different instruments were involved."

It so happened that around this time, one of Neil's guitar pupils was **Joe Townshend (1999-2008)**, son of the legendary guitarist of The Who. "When we were doing the second of the Dunhurst concerts, Pete Townshend said to me that if I could get permission to use the Olivier Theatre for a 'Bedales Rock Show' then he would arrange for The Who's road crew to come along and help set it up," Neil remembers. "I wasn't sure that permission would be forthcoming but I floated the idea to **Keith Budge (Head, 2001-18)** anyway and the rest is history."

Pete Townshend was a man of his word. In 2004, Bob Pridden, one of the great sound engineers in rock, duly showed up with the rest of the road crew and a 10-tonne truck full of the necessary equipment. An institution was born. "Bob and co did our first five shows, Pete himself played the fifth and it was something surreal to see them telling all these stories of life on the road to the students," says Neil. "There was so much passion from the performers, the kids and the rest of the audience had never seen anything like it and the Rock Show took on a life of its own. We've always managed to keep it going, even during the worst of Covid, and I still feel that we have something to prove each year. The way of this world is that I lose a bunch of super-talented students every year but every year

we get another group who are just as good. Thanks to **Freddy Sheed (2002-12)**, who was our star on drums in the post-Pete Townshend years, we've always had at least one great drummer among those performers..."

It was all a world away from the choral tradition into which **Nick Gleed (staff, 1990-2017)**, Bedales' long-serving Director of Music had always been so steeped. "I think that in many respects, I felt like Nick's wayward son, always causing him some sort of trouble but in reality just looking for his approval," Neil muses. "Rock wasn't a world he particularly got but Nick was still good enough to allow the Rock Show to go ahead when he could easily have blocked it if he had wanted. The big question then was whether he would actually come to the Rock Show (he did) and then whether he would stay for the whole gig (not so sure about that one!)."

When Nick Gleed retired in 2017, Keith Budge had a special new role in mind for Neil: "Keith and I had been chatting for a while about the future and one day he called me into the office and offered me the freshly created position of Head of Contemporary Music, probably because I had turned my hand to quite a few different things by then," Neil wryly remembers. "Bedales had form for that kind of left-field appointment, however – Keir

Rowe (current staff) had started off here as a clarinet teacher and went on to have a fantastic impact as a housemaster. I realised that I had always wanted to be able to influence the direction of my students in a wider sense and to help them make the most of a place I've always believed in."

So it is that Neil is no longer 'only' Mr Bedales Rock Show in the minds of the students of today. He has also been the moving spirit behind the summer Hamper Ball, in which Bedales parents are treated to an hour and a half set that Neil describes as "similar to a rock show in a marquee". Neil has also instigated numerous musical projects in collaboration with Bedales alumni and has overseen the introduction, among other things, of a Music Technology A Level that can be specifically tailored to each individual student's particular musical passion.

Bedales still seems to strike the same happy chord with Neil as it always has. His own children have been educated here and he continues to revel in a place where music is central to its very existence. "To me that reverence for music comes just as much from the students and parents as it does from the school itself," he says. "This is a tremendously supportive artistic community and a lovely place to work when all is said and done. It's quite unique, really ..." 🌟



In recent years, James Fairweather, husband of Kate Fairweather (née Day, 1980-85), has interviewed OBs to find out about their time at Bedales and where life has taken them since. Here, we feature a selection of extracts from his most recent interviews. To find out more about these OBs, their memories and achievements, you can read their full profiles on the Bedales website at [bedales.org.uk/alumniprofiles](http://bedales.org.uk/alumniprofiles).

## Diana Ambache (1957-66)

Musician, broadcaster, writer, teacher and much else besides, Di Ambache has enjoyed a life that has been varied and exploratory. Here she traces her passion for music from its earliest days to the present and ponders the impact that Bedales had on her career in all its different facets. "Of its time, it was enjoyably unconventional and it worked for me in many different ways" is her verdict of the place where she cultivated the habit of immersing herself in as many areas of life as possible.



"I think that my parents were idealistic and liberal when they sent my two brothers and me to Bedales and they felt that the school matched their own attitudes," Diana (Di) Ambache recalls. "The arts, and above all music, were also important to them; this was another factor that made Bedales a good choice for me. Dad was an amateur musician and I started playing the piano at the age of five, not as any sort of prodigy, but always happily; music became my world from quite early on in life."

Music remained one of Di's principal touchstones throughout her Dunhurst and Bedales days. "Nancy Strudwick (staff, 1943-62) was an encouraging Head of Music so I became even more absorbed," she says. "I was a cellist as well as a pianist and my major inspiration was my piano teacher Margaret Davis (née McNamee, staff, 1948-85). She was a lovely Irish lady, who had not the slightest hint of orthodoxy about her and would often introduce me to quite surprising stuff – for example, a late Brahms intermezzo and the Beethoven Choral Fantasia."

It would be wrong to give the impression that Di's entire Bedales existence was given over to the

pursuit of her musical aspirations. "Certainly not," says the former Bedales captain of lacrosse. "We three Ambaches were very sporty and used to score more than our share of points or goals. I remember Margaret McNamee being worried that my hands would get bashed as a result of my sporting activities! Long walks and exploring the beautiful countryside is something I enjoy now, though I was less enthusiastic about 'wet runs' when I was younger. I fondly remember David Sykes (1940-54, staff, 1959-65, 1976-1993), who used to be in charge of Outdoor Work and was such a nice guy."

As had seemed inevitable from the start of her education, Di would follow her school days by heading down a musical route. "After Bedales, I went on to the Royal Academy of Music, where I was following in the footsteps of Martino Tirimo (1956-59), the renowned concert pianist from Cyprus," she explains. "I even studied there with the same teacher as Martino; I later realised this was a mistake because I was following a trail that had been laid by another, as opposed to finding my own path. So, I wanted to move on; I got my diploma rather quickly, and went to

University of Sheffield; there I studied Music, Italian and Psychology (my mother had been a psychoanalyst) and also played my first Mozart piano concerto in public."

And so began the exacting and fulfilling life of the freelance musician for Di. "Effectively, that is what I've been ever since; as in my Bedales days, it was always my preference to play in collaboration with others," she says. "I followed my nose, played with all sorts of different people, and met my husband, an oboist, with whom I've played and travelled around the world. We have performed in over 30 countries, including places such as Dar es Salaam, Brunei and elsewhere in South East Asia."

In 1984, Di took the bold step of founding her own orchestra, the Ambache Chamber Orchestra, [ambache.co.uk/records.htm](http://ambache.co.uk/records.htm), largely because she was determined to have the opportunity to play more of the Mozart Concertos. "I certainly blame Mozart for that decision, as well as what a friend of mine at Bedales, Jinny Fisher (1961-66), used to call the Ambache Determination Factor, or ADF," Di



explains. “I had come to understand how much the concertos meant to me and I liked the idea of doing them in a collaborative way but with me as something of a benign dictator!”

From 1985, when she discovered the work of Germaine Tailleferre, Di devoted at least part of her energy to researching, performing, recording and publicising music by women. “There has definitely been progress in the wider musical world towards the inclusion of music by women,” she acknowledges. “We are unlikely to see equality in my

lifetime but compared to so many areas in which the pace of change has been glacial, music has at least shown visible and audible progress. And I’m delighted to say that my husband has been very supportive in the effort to bring about the necessary improvement – it was he who helped me to set up my information website dedicated to music by women – [womenofnote.co.uk](http://womenofnote.co.uk).”

Di was shortlisted for the 2002 European Women of Achievement awards for her pioneering work, including her website and broadcasts

for the BBC and Classic FM, plus numerous recordings. Since then, the scope of her activities has become even broader. After inheriting a valuable violin, for instance, she sold it, using some of the funds to raise the profile of music by women; the purpose of the Ambache Charitable Trust ([ambachecharitabletrust.org](http://ambachecharitabletrust.org)) is to support people giving concerts, making recordings, radio or television programmes, or publishing music and books in ways that bring significant attention to the work of female composers. 🌟

## Cathy Baxandall (née Dwyer, 1970-76)

From her school days, Cathy Baxandall was always committed to “giving most things a go”. Here, she talks about how that philosophy was shaped at Bedales, along with her facility for the written word and a flair for languages, and how it led to a successful career in the law that has spanned almost four decades.

The relative lack of academic structure at Dunhurst in the 1960s presented few problems for Cathy. “I had always been a voracious reader in any case and I carried on that way,” she says. “My parents didn’t want me to take my 11+ exams, probably because they were worried that I might not pass them, but I sneaked into the exam room and did them regardless. Much to my Dad’s relief, I passed! I loved learning, and my only bad memories were linked to Maths, which was never my subject, despite the best efforts of our (excellent) teacher at the time, **Rosie Wood (staff)**.”

When Cathy moved up into Bedales she continued to put her all-round interests and abilities to the test. “I hung out in the art room a lot but I also joined in with most of the stuff that went to make up the life of the school,” she says. “Unlike some of my peers, I may (with hindsight) have lacked the focus necessary to push myself to the highest level, but I still found it immensely fulfilling to

be a part of everything. I sang in the choir, played piano and bassoon, got involved in lots of school drama, both onstage and backstage, and even played Olivia to **Dan Day-Lewis (1970-75)**’s Feste in *Twelfth Night*. Both he and “**Fred**” **Simmons (staff, 1975-81)** who played Malvolio, had huge acting talent, and Dan had so much charisma and presence, it was a delight to be part of that production.”

Central to Cathy’s academic world was the legendary figure of **John Batstone (staff, 1963-93)**. “He was, without doubt, a key person for me,” she agrees. “When I went from Dunhurst to Bedales, I was outraged that instead of simply enjoying reading and writing in English lessons, we had to read books we had not chosen and then pick them apart. In protest (at *Cider with Rosie*, if memory serves) I spent some lessons sitting on my table with my back to ‘Bat’: however, rather than fuelling the flames, he just ignored me until I got bored. The energy that radiated off ‘Bat’ in English

lessons (his recitation of *The Millers’ Tale* was particularly memorable) will stay with me forever, and although I did frequently get back essays almost destroyed by his red pen, I never felt his criticism was negative. Thanks to him, by the time I got to university my essay-writing ability put me well ahead of many of my first-year peers.”

Unfazed by the prospect of going up to Oxford to study Modern Languages, Cathy was initially somewhat perplexed by what she found there. “I had got used to having both male and female friendships, whereas attitudes to inter-gender relationships in the first year at Oxford were generally incredibly immature,” she notes. “Some of my fellow students responded to their new surroundings by either diving into the Christian Union or becoming quite promiscuous. It took time to find my crowd, but once I did, I enjoyed myself immensely, made some good friends, especially through rowing,

and extended my extracurricular activities to include college drama, writing for 'Cherwell', singing in a choir and attending the odd union debate, without being either particularly good or particularly bad at any of them."

Having gained a First Class degree in Modern Languages, Cathy made the "very rational" decision to forge a career in the law. "The trust fund that had put us through Bedales had run out and my parents, as a lecturer and a teacher, were struggling to pay fees for my younger sister," she explains. "As a linguist I spent my third year abroad, so by my fourth and final year, a lot of my contemporaries had already left Oxford. I had spent time coaching a St

Anne's college novice lawyers' rowing eight in my second year, and they were great fun, so I naturally gravitated back into their company. It was a bit of a light-bulb moment – they were off to bar school or law college, and I realised that if I converted to law, it would allow me to continue studying and then help me get into the world of work. I'd already discovered my ability to study well, pass exams and manipulate language so it all made sense. I applied for a grant to do the law conversion course, was successful and went on to the College of Law – although the rigidity of the concentrated two-year course was a bit of a shock, and I hated it for the first year!"

Life as a lawyer would quickly improve for Cathy. Her law exams successfully negotiated, she spent time as a *stagiaire* at the European Commission before starting her training with one of London's leading law firms, Clifford-Turner. "By luck, my first six months of training were spent in the Brussels office before I headed back to London to finish my articles," Cathy recalls. "What I really wanted, however, was to be able to go back to France to work there. When I qualified, an opportunity opened up in the Paris office, as long as I was prepared to work in their banking team. So that's what happened – I went to Paris in 1986, stayed a couple of years and meanwhile the firm merged and became Clifford Chance."

Originally, the intention had been for the recently married Cathy to be joined in Paris by her husband. "That never materialised, so we commuted cross-channel at weekends, which wasn't sustainable, and after two years I was ready to come back to England. Eighteen months later, he moved jobs to Halifax in West Yorkshire," she relates. "By now I was pregnant but I fully intended to continue working as a lawyer, so applied to various firms up in the north – some of the reactions to an evidently expectant mother candidate were rather old-fashioned!"

Undaunted by the dinosaurs, Cathy became an associate and then partner at Simpson Curtis in Leeds, which subsequently merged and is now part of national firm Pinsent Masons. In the mid-90s a client offered her a position in-house, and with two small children at this point she didn't hesitate to make the move. She has since enjoyed a career of more or less uninterrupted success over some 35 years in both private practice and the in-house legal world as General Counsel and Company Secretary of various listed companies including Marshalls, Silentnight and Thistle Hotels. 🌟





## Alison Berman (née Press, 1958-63)

**A**lison Berman defies easy categorisation. She has fitted several careers into her working life: like many Bedalians she has ploughed her own creative furrow. Here she explains how she has finally become a successful artist and the role that Bedales may have played in that achievement.

Having lived in America between the ages of three and six, when the family came back to the UK, Alison found she had missed a whole chunk of basic education. She joined Halstead school in Woking, which she loved, but it suddenly had to close and after a term at Dunhurst, Alison was propelled into Block 3 at Bedales. Although she had visited a few times to see her older brother **Martin (1956-61)**, she still found Bedales a very scary place. "I always felt a bumpkin, in clothes my mother had made," she says. "Being horribly self-conscious and shy it probably wasn't the best thing to jump straight in to a Block where everyone else had been learning for a year, particularly as I had never studied Latin before! I really felt lost."

Despite describing herself as shy, Alison played significant theatrical roles at school – Perdita in Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale* and Helen of Troy in Jean Anouilh's *Tiger at the Gates*. At weekends, she and her friends would go to the tea rooms in Petersfield for coffee and jap cakes or set off on long walks in the surrounding countryside. "We were not allowed to stay within the school grounds on Sunday afternoons, whatever the weather" Alison recalls. "My great friend **Jean Robinson (1950-62)**, daughter of **Geoffrey (staff, 1963-78, Governor, 1981-89)** who taught Maths and later became Deputy Head) seemed to know every hedgerow and all about wildlife. She left school after the first year in 6.1 to train as a nurse. So did **Karen Mills (1958-62)** who went to Art College and I felt bereft."

Among the teachers Alison remembers fondly, **Harold Gardner**

**(staff, 1952-68)** and **Rachel Cary Field (staff, 1941-75)** are high on the list.

"The fact that I'm now able to talk in front of an audience is almost entirely thanks to Rachel," she says. "I think it was also very helpful that we were accustomed to shaking hands and looking people in the eye, as we had to at the end of every day after assembly."

"My ambition was to become a medical social worker or hospital almoner, as it was then known," she says. "During nine months of my gap year, that ambition changed when I worked as an interviewer for National Opinion Polls meeting strangers and asking them how they would vote if there were to be an election next day. I was 17 or 18 and suddenly earning money – more in real terms than I've ever done since!" She went to University of Leeds to read Sociology and from there to Liverpool on a three-year contract working mainly on race relations. "That prompted me to move on to Cardiff School of Architecture for a research project. I wanted to discover why people in cities like Liverpool were not being rehoused decently – and fast. Sadly, the Toxteth riots some years later didn't come as a surprise."

"While working as a sociologist in South Wales I met my first husband and we lived for a time on a Welsh smallholding before trying our hands (not very successfully) as dairy farmers in Cornwall. After we divorced, I decided to train as a nurse", she says.

"Qualifying as an SRN is something of which I am most proud. I married again and soon became pregnant with the first of my two children. There were plenty of nurses at that



time in Oxford where we lived, but fewer teachers, so I gained yet another qualification – a PGCE. I so enjoyed teaching Art and helping children to have confidence in using their imagination with paints and scrap materials that I started keeping a sketchbook and making small sculptures at home. A local artist, Paul Amey, saw some of my work and urged me to forget about full-time teaching and concentrate my efforts on sculpture. I am so grateful to him."

"At some point, possibly at the end of a Foundation course in Art and Design at Abingdon and Witney College or when I put some large pieces of work on show in the dance studio at Oxford Playhouse, I asked one of my contemporaries from Bedales – **Nina Shovelton (1958-63)** – to come and see. She wasn't able to travel, but looking at my website passed a recommendation to one of her daughter's friends who was working at the renowned Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden in Surrey. Hannah came specially to my studio and left with instructions: "I'd like to show that Dancing Dress, two Swaying Horses and three of those Deer!" It was a major breakthrough which suddenly gave credibility to someone who only had fine art qualifications up to Foundation level. Hannah continued to show my work at her wonderful

sculpture garden until she retired. Thus the Bedales network via Nina gave me a huge lift.”

Over the past 15 years or so, Alison has developed her art in increasingly ambitious ways (see her website [alisonberman.com](http://alisonberman.com)). She works at different scales with almost any material which inspires her, from cement and clay to felted wool, found objects, metal, plaster, papier maché and non-toxic resins. The dynamic between sculpture and viewer is a

main concern, and key to her work is the spirit of enquiry, experiment and exploration. “I am sure there are lots of OBs who have given all they can to the career they have taken on and as a side-line or in retirement have chosen to enjoy themselves with some artistic project,” she says. “I’ve simply had the gall to try and put what I have made on show. I’ve always needed a show or exhibition to provide a cut-off point without which I would be forever adding or taking away from a form:

three steps forward, two steps back and maybe start all over again!”

Alison’s work has been shown in fabulous outdoor settings such as Beaulieu, Doddington Hall, Avebury Manor, the Fresh Air Sculpture Show and at Hannah Peschar’s Sculpture Garden, as well as solo shows in a range of indoor venues in the UK and France. This year one of her jugs was selected to be part of the Royal Academy’s Summer Exhibition on the theme of ‘Climate’.

## Judith Herrin (1957-61)

Historian, archaeologist writer and teacher, Judith Herrin has excelled in many fields on her way to general acceptance as one of the leading living authorities on the mighty Byzantine Empire. Here, she talks about the part that Bedales played in her academic and cultural development, as well as the importance of a background full of strong female role models.

Judith Herrin grew up as part of a tight, loving, and by her own recollection, “slightly odd” family unit. “Well, it was certainly unusual for the time,” Judith slightly amends her choice of word. “I never knew my father, who was killed during the War, and I was surrounded by a number of strong female figures but no men at all. My mother was a doctor, so there was also a housekeeper at home and always a big part of life was my formidable grandmother, who had had seven children in Victorian conditions and just revelled in her grandmotherly role.”

An intellectually able child from the start, Judith won a place at Oxford High School for Girls as an eight year-old. As I got older, I went rather boy-mad and my mother eventually decided that a mixed school environment might be best for me.”

“She took the business of choosing a new school for me extremely seriously,” Judith continues. “Before she ever looked at the mixed schools, we went round Sherborne, her old school, and considered Roedean, among others. Bedales, however, did have family

significance. In the first place, we knew that my father (**Philip Herrin, 1925-27**) had been there briefly – his name appears on the school War memorial – and we also had great friends in the Salamans who were devoted Bedalians and a big influence on the decision to send me to the school. I met **Hector Jacks (Head, 1946-62)** during my half day of entrance interviews and started rather nervously a year after most of my contemporaries.”

Quickly enough, Judith was playing her part in a wide range of Bedales activities. “I was no great sportswoman, although I loved swimming and played in the mixed hockey team from time to time,” she reflects. “Outdoor Work in particular was very much to my taste. We were taught so many useful skills – pruning roses is one that notably sticks in the mind. There was also the joy of play-reading with the great **Rachel Cary Field (staff, 1941-75)**. She had such a demonstrative, expressive way about her and you either loved it or you ran in the opposite direction! I loved it...”

In the classroom, it had long been obvious to Judith that her strengths lay

in the arts and humanities, especially History. “I was no good at Maths and not much better at the Sciences, although I did enjoy our Physics lessons,” she notes. “Two very different history teachers spring to mind when I think back to Bedales. **Roy Wake (staff, 1949-59)** was one – fluent and convincing, despite his attempts to imbue his students with his own deep reverence for Catholicism, which ran counter to the otherwise healthy agnosticism that I encountered and appreciated at the school. Despite everything, I found him to be an inspiring teacher who would always respond to a direct question with a direct answer.”

“I also very much admired **John Slater (staff, 1952-67)**, who was so persuasive in his enthusiasm,” Judith adds. “He had a great penchant for Italian history, taught us all a bit of Italian in between classes and even took us on a school trip to Italy, from which Arezzo and the Piero della Francesca frescoes remain a magical memory. Roy Wake would never have done anything like that but John was a



great one for inspiring a love of travel and new experiences in general.”

Seventh term Oxbridge exams and interviews were followed by the offer of a place at Newnham College, Cambridge. Judith was more than ready for a new academic and social challenge. “I was already 19 by the time I had left, which I felt was too late, and I was keen to see what else was out there,” she says. “As it turned out, Cambridge was seventh heaven for female students, who were still in fairly short supply in the early 1960s.”

At Cambridge, it was the great Byzantine numismatist Philip Grierson who set Judith on the way to becoming acknowledged, in her turn, as one of the great contemporary authorities, teachers and writers on Byzantine history and culture. “Philip taught a course on The Expansion of Mediaeval Europe, which opened my eyes wide to a world that was the mid-point between east and west, one in which women played a leading role and one that immediately fascinated me,” Judith reflects. “I was told that I would have to learn Ancient Greek if I was serious about studying Byzantium and that’s what lay behind my PhD at Birmingham University.”

This would be the precursor to Judith’s lengthy spell as an archaeologist in the 1970s and 80s. Having trained in Paris, Athens and Munich, she worked with the British School at Athens and on the site of Kalenderhane Mosque in Istanbul as a Dumbarton Oaks fellow. “Archaeology is the best possible training for a historian, a teacher and a writer,” Judith believes. “It teaches you about the importance of sources and offers so much scope for fresh discovery. In my case, Archaeology also allowed me to learn Modern Greek to go with the Ancient Greek that I had already studied and sent me out on digs that were of enormous practical relevance to my subject.”

From the start of the 1990s, Judith’s combination of practical and academic



expertise was deployed to the benefit of new generations of Byzantine enthusiasts. Alongside numerous visiting fellowships, she most notably served as Stanley J Seeger Professor in Byzantine History at Princeton University before her appointment as Professor of Late Antique and Byzantine Studies at King’s College London in 1995, where she was also Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies and, on her retirement, Professor Emeritus.

The research and writing that have always been a part of Judith’s life have continued unabated since she left King’s. Her standing in her chosen field was recognised by the award of the Heineken prize for History (the ‘Dutch Nobel prize’) in 2016. Meanwhile her historical books have gained an increasingly appreciative audience over the years.

“I always wanted to write something like Steven Runciman’s book on the Crusades – good, accessible history that would appeal to anyone with just a passing knowledge of the Byzantine world or none at all,” Judith says. “In that respect my first book failed because it was much too academic; writing accessible history is not that easy but I improved with time and practice.” Judith is too modest to mention that the improvement has been such that her latest book, *Ravenna, Capital of Empire, Crucible of Europe* (Penguin Random

House/Princeton University Press, 2020) was awarded the Duff Cooper/Pol Roger Prize and shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize.

I was also so fortunate to have spent many of my most important formative years at Bedales. It was an absolutely blissful time, where I met so many extraordinary people, my first boyfriend **Martino Tirimo (1956-59)**, for example, the great Cypriot concert pianist, **Steve Boyd (1956-61)** and **Frances Murray (née Herdman, 1953-59)**, with whom I’m still in touch; and the much-missed **Robin Murray (1953-59)**. Robin and Frances were Head Boy and Head Girl at the same time and later married; Robin’s brother, **Sandy (1945-52)**, a great historian; **Michael Selzer (1953-59)**, who was never afraid to criticize, and **Roger Birnstingl (1943-50)**, a very famous bassoon player – so many Bedalians went on to do such diverse, interesting things.”

It was a school which combined friendliness, openness and the promise of new experiences and, very importantly, it was not just a place for white or English people,” Judith concludes. “Bearing in mind that I was at Bedales in the 1950s, the mixture of people that I met was truly remarkable (Indonesian, Hungarian, Pakistani and French). It didn’t matter where you came from – all sorts were not only allowed but always encouraged.” 🌟

## Sylvain Lefebvre (1978-80)

He was only a Bedales student for two years but the impact of that period on Sylvain Lefebvre's life and career cannot be measured in time alone. In this interview, Sylvain outlines the exhilaration of his multicultural upbringing and the corresponding gloominess of life at school in France before coming to Bedales. We learn of how Bedales set him on the path to a successful career, first as an illustrator and latterly as a fully-fledged painter and why the school remains as relevant to him now as it has ever been.

The artistic environment into which Sylvain Lefebvre was born and grew up in France was a signpost towards many aspects of his future. "My father was a cultural multi-tasker," Sylvain explains. "He acted in the cinema, did some photography, had an interest in almost everything, in fact – but his real *métier* was the theatre, where he most often worked as a producer. My mother came from a different background – her family were mostly industrialists who came from the east of France – and her great love was dancing. It was because of that passion that she met my father through the theatre."

Although Sylvain's parents separated when he was just two, they remained on amicable terms and Sylvain enjoyed the best aspects of two extraordinary worlds. "I lived with Mum near Paris and from time to time my father would come and pick me up," he recalls. "I would then stay with him as he worked, watching how everything in the theatre came together to make a good production. It was an inspiring, Bohemian lifestyle, which to a young child seemed magical, almost like a circus."

Back at home with his mother life was scarcely less exciting for Sylvain: "My stepfather was a Brazilian, extremely international in his outlook and was heavily involved in showjumping, where he was good friends with some of the legends of the sport. My mother used to help train these horses so home became something like a five-star hotel for these equine athletes! Brazilian culture became central to my life, including the ability to speak Portuguese."



The only blot on the landscape for Sylvain in this idyllic childhood was school. "That's where I came down to earth every Monday morning," he says. "I suffered and struggled quite a lot in France. As hard as I tried, I always had the feeling that I was a misfit, always an outsider both at the village school and later on in my education. In fact I was dyslexic, although I only realised that when I was a lot older. So I started to draw, which was my imaginary world and my refuge – battle scenes, aeroplanes and so on."

At the age of 11 it was decided to send Sylvain to the UK on a language course to improve his spoken English. "My brother **Nicolas (1976-78)** was

already at Bedales and when I arrived there for the language course it was only supposed to be for a month," he says. "But I absolutely adored it and ended up joining Middle School when I was almost 12 years old despite still having very little English language ability."

The academic side of Bedales life remained a struggle for Sylvain but he compensated in other areas, developing his musical and artistic talents. "I had a great Art teacher and I was constantly astonished and inspired by the standards of my fellow students," he remarks.

Sadly, Sylvain's Bedalian idyll only lasted for two years. "I had a special French teacher to help me try and



get to the right academic level but it was just too difficult for me and I had to move on," he says. "It felt like a rupture in my life; Bedales was where my friends lived, where I had enjoyed my first flirtations with girls, where I had enjoyed picnics and walks in the forest. It was not the kind of thing that you found at school in France but I thought that this freedom with structure was normal for England... until I moved to Hastings, which wasn't the greatest place in those days."

Despite the shock of leaving such a cherished place Sylvain made the best of his situation. "I learned to be patient, started to read, write and speak English more fluently, worked pretty hard and even passed a few exams in Hastings," he says. "After that it was off to art school in London, where I really learned about technique from some fine art tutors – people like Nicholas Cochrane. When I returned to France, I started producing some

of my own stuff while I was doing a year of different courses (including Stage Design) and more studying at art school. My professional life in art began as an illustrator – I had always loved comic strips, which have always been a really important part of French culture and for several years I worked on a few for various newspapers."

All the time, however, the ambition to become a full-time painter had lain dormant within Sylvain. At the age of 35, the ambition was finally realised and over the past two decades it has reached full flower. Describing himself as an explorer of his own personal universe or an 'imaginary wanderer in search of new lands', Sylvain has combined artwork that is inspired by various international influences, history and popular culture, often using synthetic polymer and gel paints, with extraordinarily original collages.

"All the different elements that I learned when I was at Bedales now

make sense to me," Sylvain says as he looks back over the last 20 years and more. "Somehow, Bedales is even more relevant to me today than it ever has been."

"Bedales was so very different from any other school that I've ever seen," Sylvain continues. "At school in France, if you didn't – or couldn't – get things right then you suffered the consequences. Bedales was all about encouragement. There was always a place for every student, always some area in which you can make progress, no matter how high or low you may be in your class. That means so much to any young person and it still does to me now. I still look back to Bedales as an inspiration even though I haven't been back to the school for many years and was unable to attend my year reunion. It was where I learned the most important lesson of all – that with a little effort and curiosity, everything is possible." 🌟

## Tom Lodge (1964-70)

Tom Lodge's distinguished academic career in York, South Africa and Ireland has been shaped by numerous formative influences. In this profile, he traces most of them, from early school days in Nigeria and Borneo to a seminal visit to the political hotbed of Soweto in the summer of 1976. He also remembers the effect on his life of his time at Bedales – the music of the 1960s, the teaching of **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)** and **Tim Williams (staff, 1966-88)**, among others, and the spirit of gentleness that he encountered at the school.

The story of Tom Lodge's roots and upbringing offers a series of clues, amounting almost to a signpost, to the widely varied, international life that he has subsequently chosen to lead. That story begins in Prague just before the Curtain that was descending across Europe finally assumed its more familiar Iron quality.

"My father, who worked for the British Council, married my Czech mother in Prague in 1949," Tom

explains. "The two of them left for Britain almost immediately as the marriage annoyed the Czech authorities. Subsequently my father's job meant that we moved as a family to Nigeria when I was five years old." Most children of British Council families of the era eventually had to face up to the reality of sending their children to school back in Britain and Tom was no exception. "In Sabah I was taking up a place that otherwise



would have been filled by a local pupil so boarding school it had to be. Bedales appealed to my parents for a couple of reasons," he reflects.

A little understandable homesickness aside, Tom settled quickly into his new environment.

“Because I was so used to travelling around the place, I was less liable to be pining for home than most of my contemporaries,” he notes. “And we were all looked after considerably by housemasters such as **John Slater (1952-67)** and **George Smith (1959-81)**. As a group, I think we were actually rather well-behaved for most of the time (this wasn’t Dartington Hall, after all!). It was the 1960s, though, and we were all able to play whatever music we fancied. I could almost recall each individual year of my time at Bedales by the dominant rock band of the moment. The new politics, the advent of long hair and the flared trousers that became so ubiquitous are also strong memories. Not all the politics was so new. In my first term there was a mock election in which **Gyles Brandreth (1961-66)** was the Tory candidate. He won, of course.”

Academically there were a number of mentors for the young Tom to observe: “One of them was **Rachel Cary Field (staff, 1941-75)**, who gave me extra lessons so that I could pronounce my tee-haitches. She also taught me how to read aloud and enjoy the way good writing sounds. English, Art, History and Geography were my A Levels and it was therefore natural that **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)** should have been a primary influence at school. As a person, I found her to be gentle and unassuming; as a teacher she invested a great deal in her charges. She had, I think, been a voluntary worker in Nigeria at an earlier stage of her life, which clearly had great resonance for me personally and I would imagine that she had a lot to do with a history syllabus that had a decent focus on West African affairs. Thirty years later Ruth visited me in Johannesburg when she brought a class out to Swaziland.”

Much as he had relished his school days, Tom was eagerly looking to the future when the time came to

leave the comforts of Bedales. “It had been six happy years and I had made friendships that in some cases endure to the present day but I wanted to get stuck into other things,” he says. “I started by spending a year as a community service volunteer in Bradford, mostly working as a classroom assistant in an immigration centre.

From Bradford, it was but a short hop north to the University of York, where Tom began as an undergraduate in 1971, studying English and History. “I had some sort of an ambition to become a journalist in those days although I can’t say that I felt a strong sense of vocation as a student,” he says. “I was undecided enough to go and see a careers advisor at York on one occasion, who suggested that landscape gardening might be the career for me! Essentially, I viewed academia as a bit of an adventure, which might have been what led me to stay on after my degree to do a Master’s in Southern African Studies.”

The seminal moments of Tom’s adult life were now approaching. In 1976, while working at the university’s Centre for Southern Africa Studies as a research assistant he made his first visit to South Africa. “That first time was crucial to me,” he remembers. “It was just a month long but I could already see that something extremely violent was brewing as a response to apartheid and the many injustices that it had spawned. On my last night, 14 June, I was shown around the township of Soweto by a local Anglican priest; two days later, I was back in the UK to read that Soweto was in flames.”

More trips to South Africa would follow for Tom before he accepted a position with the Department of Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand (always known informally as Wits) as an assistant lecturer in 1978. It was a position that

he initially intended to hold for no longer than two years; by the time Tom finally left Wits he had, with the exception of a three-year sojourn in New York as Program Director for Social Science Research Council between 1988 and 1991, enjoyed an unbroken association of 27 years with the university.

With such longevity comes true expertise and Tom’s books on modern South Africa have made him one of the most respected authorities on the turbulent recent political history of that extraordinary country (his latest book – *Red Road to Freedom: A History of the South African Communist Party, 1921-2021* – was published in 2021).

Tom is measured as he contemplates the current political climate in South Africa in the context of the years of struggle that preceded the creation of the new country. “The achievement of building a new democracy has been a considerable one in many ways,” he suggests. “South Africa receives insufficient credit for its accomplishments in fostering tolerance, encouraging freedom of speech and creating a workable public health service, for example. However, I don’t think anyone appreciated how difficult it would be to eradicate the endemic inequality that is entrenched in South African society. Despite various sincere efforts to combat it, the inequality and sense of injustice that it fosters remain and the fact is that the majority of black people in South Africa are still poor by most standards.”

Although Tom returns to South Africa for annual visits, he has, since 2005, plied his academic trade at the University of Limerick in Ireland, first as a Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and more latterly as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. An Emeritus Professor at the university since 2020, Tom now



divides his time between Ireland and a home in the bucolic surroundings of the Dordogne in France.

“The move to Ireland mainly came about because both my wife and I had families in Europe and we didn’t think that it was a good idea for us all to be scattered across continents,” Tom explains. “I also think that academics

should move at least once in a while! Ireland has been an ideal place to work and teach – it has a literary culture that still includes buying and reading newspapers, for example – and I’ve also been introduced to the concept of poetry festivals, which are quite rare in other places, and been able to set up a school of creative

writing at Limerick in my turn. For my own writing, I’m now turning my attention to something more semi-autobiographical; I’ve been looking at the German occupation of the Czech lands during the War, how that affected my mother and others like her and I want to try and link those experiences to wider events.” 🌱

## Krip Rojanastien (1964-1970)

**K**rip Rojanastien runs one of the world’s most renowned health resorts, the pioneering Chiva-Som in Thailand, which offers specialised retreats to help its guests with everything from burnout to sports injuries. Here, he tells how his time at Bedales gave him the confidence to always think differently.

As a young Thai coming to London for the first time, Krip Rojanastien recalls an intense culture shock: “My parents were very keen for me to experience British boarding school life, and when their research identified Bedales as a progressive co-educational school they knew instantly it was the right choice. When I first arrived, I remember feeling lost; I felt that absolutely everything was different from how it was at home in Thailand. Back then I was the only Asian student, so whatever I did was naturally viewed with curiosity. I remember thinking, ‘now that they know all about me, why not get to learn all about them?’ and that’s when I started forming strong friendships.”

Krip soon adapted to school life and embraced the vibrant Art, Drama, and Music departments: “The ‘60s were in full swing, and London was the epicentre of a huge cultural change. We would escape into town whenever we could to soak up the atmosphere – it was an intense time. I immersed myself in music, specifically in rock ‘n’ roll guitar. One of my most vivid recollections is of performing *Honky Tonk Women* in front of the whole school in Lupton Hall in the Autumn term of 1969.” Krip still plays

guitar and regularly performs onstage at the annual fundraisers he leads as Chairman of the Preserve Hua Hin Group. The charity is dedicated to improving the environment and quality of life in his hometown through various community activities, including restoring its last remaining mangrove, with over 10,000 new trees planted so far.

After studying History and Economics in Sixth Form, Krip took up a place at another progressive institution, the New School for Social Research in New York, where they offered a course in Asian Studies. Following in the footsteps of his father, Boonchu Rojanastien, who served as President of Bangkok Bank, Thailand’s Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, he then joined the bank and engaged in retail banking. It was several years later when – stressed, unfit and tipping the scales at 85 kg – he realised he wanted to radically change his life.

Krip decided to join the family business, becoming Chairman and CEO of international wellness resort, Chiva-Som, in 2007. “I started a health journey and discovered a passion for running. I lost 15 kg in six months and felt like a new person. I wanted to share my experience and inspire



others, to spread the word about how wellness is achievable by changing our habits, so that we can all be our healthiest selves.” Within a year, he ran his first marathon and has since run many of the world’s long-distance races, including the Rome, Hua Hin and Tokyo marathons. Reflecting on his change in career, Krip recalls “Bedales instilled in me the confidence to be bold and creative, and to think differently. Originality was prized and diversity was always celebrated, and we were encouraged to respect different perspectives and viewpoints.

"I have an ingrained hunger to acquire new knowledge, and a determination to implement it to ensure we are constantly innovating at Chiva-Som. Looking back, the school motto, 'work of each for weal of all' is very much behind our company's present-day commitment to the wellness of its local community as well as clients and

staff, so much so that we now adhere to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals."

Krip keeps in touch with many of his contemporaries. "Even though our lives have taken us in very different directions, our friendships endured based on our shared experience and our common interests. I often see

**Richard Spearman (1965-70)**, now a KC, on my regular trips to London, and have a very active WhatsApp chat with **Ka Ho Wong (1965-70)** and **Giampiero Castelli (1963-68)**, whom I last saw in Italy in 2015 when I ran the Rome Marathon. Several of them have visited me in Thailand and experienced Chiva-Som first hand." 🌟

## Nancy Tier (2014-19)

Having spotted Nancy Tier profiled as a Norland Nanny in an education journal, we asked her to update us on her subsequent training post-Bedales...

I joined Norland in 2019 to pursue my passion of caring for children and to become a Norland Nanny. Three years on, I have now completed a BA (Hons) 2:1 degree in Early Years Development and Learning from Norland and I'm currently on my Newly Qualified Nanny (NQN) probationary job in London nannying for two wonderful girls.

Norland taught me so much about myself and the person I want to be in life. I was honoured to be elected as Head of Students at Norland. Amongst many things, this role involved public speaking, organising events for students at the university, attending meetings – and generally being a friendly person that the students can reach out to. As you can imagine, being a Bedalian helped lots with this aspect of my responsibilities!

Throughout my whole life, I have always been someone who has struggled academically and I think it would be fair to say that during my time at Bedales, you would most likely find me on the hockey pitch or in the orchard rather than in my study... But Bedales offered me the support to pursue my passion for childcare; during the Sixth Form, I did an Extended Project on Early Childhood Development which I thoroughly

enjoyed and was an excellent insight into what was to come. Once I arrived, there was so much support available from Norland throughout the course, and although I never thought I would be able to write a dissertation, I managed it.

My mother is both an OB (**Emily Tier, née Ballantine Dykes, 1986-89**) and a Norlander. It is so special to be following in her footsteps – although both childcare and Norland have changed massively over the last few years. The course is now a full degree course alongside the unique Norland Diploma. The Diploma is all the practical elements of what you require to become a Norland Nanny, including everything from food and nutrition to self-defence using a pram! In the same way you write a dissertation to complete the three-year degree, the fourth NQN year completes the final stage of the diploma and allows you to apply your knowledge 'on the job', before becoming a fully qualified Norlander.

Norland is in Bath which is such a beautiful city, and I am so lucky to have been able to study there (and during lockdown, at least I had some gorgeous places to walk!). Norland is a place where you can follow your passion for working with children



and I thoroughly recommend anyone who has an interest in Early Years to consider it; I had such a wonderful time on my course and will always cherish my experience. I can also say that, after five years of not wearing a uniform at Bedales, it was in many ways a relief to know exactly what I was wearing every day – even if it did take me months to master exactly how to put my hair in a bun!

I would be very happy to chat with anyone who is considering Norland; just get in touch with the External Relations team (via [alumni@bedales.org.uk](mailto:alumni@bedales.org.uk)) and they will pass on your details to me. 🌟



Welcome to this section of the newsletter, featuring the thoughts and views of current and former Bedales students, staff and parents. Contributions are welcomed – please send them to the editor by email ([alumni@bedales.org.uk](mailto:alumni@bedales.org.uk)) or post to The Editor, Old Bedalian Newsletter, Bedales School, Church Road, Steep, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 2DG.

## Bedales in the 1930s

My parents Hu Child (staff, 1930-36) and Lois Hare (staff, 1930-36, 1944-46) met in the Bedales staff room in the 1930s and married in 1932, moving out of school into The Camp, a wooden Gimson house in Steep. Hu taught Geography and Science, and Lois taught History, Latin and Current Affairs. They had overlapped at Cambridge without meeting. Hu had started his interests in education as a Superintendent of Education in Northern Nigeria but been invalided out; Lois had taken a post in a smart girls' school in Switzerland (Chatelard) and been surprised to discover how much she loved teaching.

Both responded to advertisements by J H Badley and for both of them the Bedales experience influenced them permanently, Hu going on to become an educational psychologist and Lois to teacher training. They returned to Steep for two years in 1945 when Lois was asked to run a boarding house at Oakhurst, Hu commuting to his work in London as educational psychologist (the first) to the LCC. They had always wanted to run a school together and succeeded in doing this as their last job when they took over Dartington in 1957.

Other Bedales staff in the 1930s, who remained friends for life as did several students, were Geoffrey (staff, 1919-45) and Barbara Crump (1923-58), Irene Hobbs (1920-47), Gigi Meo (1923-40), Jim Henderson (1934-40) and Cyril (1923-25, 1927-28, 1942, 1947-63) and Joan King (1936, 1947-48).

The photograph of a holiday on the Norfolk Broads in 1932 shows Gigi, Hu, Lois and two other women of which one is probably Irene Hobbs. The drawing of J H Badley by Ruth Collet (née Salaman, 1922-27) was given to Lois by the artist. ❀

Julia Smyth (née Child, 1944-46 & 1955-57)



Norfolk Broads holiday, 1932. Hu (far left), Lois (left), Gigi (far right)



## Brexit

No one as yet, I believe, has written about how Brexit has affected OBs and present Bedalians.

Perhaps I sit in the cat bird seat having lived in Europe for more years than I wish to remember and now have permanent residency.

Where have the days gone, where we could take months and months wending our way through Europe stopping off for a while in villages that took our fancy? What about the groups from Bedales and OBs who would perform in small venues around Europe but now have endless forms to fill out for their instruments. Gone are the days when you could be an au pair for a year to learn or perfect the language. Or a gap year in Europe?

Some of us OBs are lurking around Europe, for me Andalucia and Belgium, but living in a grey area and trying to sort out our lives without giving up our British passports. But, hey, not all is doom and gloom; some of us are entitled to Irish passports or passports of another country. It's like rats leaving a sinking ship and I know roughly 10 people who now have 10 different European nationalities!

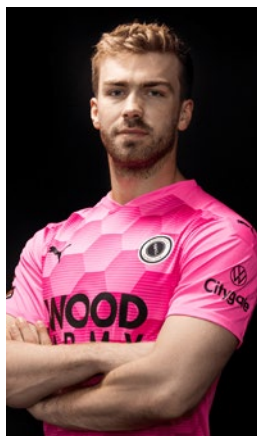
England may indeed be an island but we seem to be floating further and further away from the mainland. ❀

Serena Pollak Abrahams  
(née Pollak, 1952-54)

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Congratulations to **Taye Ashby-Hammond**

**(2011-15)** on his recent footballing FA Cup runs. In 2022, Taye was goalkeeper for National League team Boreham Wood, who following their 1-0 win over Bournemouth advanced to the FA Cup fifth round, succumbing to Everton away. While at Bedales, Taye represented England at U17 level. He left Bedales to join the Fulham Academy where he made 50 appearances for Fulham's U18 and U23 teams. He is currently on loan from Fulham to League Two team Stevenage. As we go to press, Stevenage have just knocked out premiership team Aston Villa 2-1 in the FA Cup 2023.



Daisy's Dromedairy is the first UK camel dairy set up by **Rebecca Fossett (née Langton, 1970-81)** and the Fossett family diversifying from their original camel racing business. Daisy's Dromedairy is the only place in the UK to source fresh raw camel milk if you can collect from the farm in Warwickshire. Otherwise, the milk is frozen within 30 minutes of milking and can be shipped anywhere in the UK. Raw camel milk has helped children with autism, cancer patients, people with bowel disorders, the lactose intolerant as well as being delicious to drink in tea and coffee or just as it is. Much research has been done in the Middle East and India on the health benefits of camel milk. [jacamels.co.uk](http://jacamels.co.uk)

The Salad Project has been voted top restaurant in the Uber Eats inaugural UK and Ireland Restaurant of the Year Awards, winning £100,000 to build and expand their business. Co-founder **James Dare (2007-12)** said: "We are absolutely overjoyed to be announced as the winner of the Uber Eats Restaurant of the Year Awards. The process has been so exciting from start to finish and it has been incredible to take part alongside the other finalists and see the range of food on offer." The Salad Bar seeks to "bring London the salad bar it deserves, we have been busy trying to find a remedy to the issues we faced as consumers. We have taken our combined know-how in the hospitality industry to try and recreate the experience of a great restaurant crammed into a grab-and-go. It all comes from farmers we know and trust. Sustainably sourced, cooked from scratch, no skipped steps."

You can find The Salad Bar in London's The Fruit & Wool Exchange in Spitalfields, and on Old Broad Street, Bank. [Saladproject.co.uk](http://Saladproject.co.uk)

## **Jack Deane (2003-09)**

has launched Cookable – whose mission is to make learning to cook more accessible to young adults: "I launched Cookable to make learning cheaper; more flexible, and more effective". Jack's 'Cooking Essentials' course is online, lasts five weeks, with one live two-hour class each week. All the teaching is live and interactive, and participants choose when they take their live class every week. "You'll be learning what matters every day, cooking faster, cheaper, healthier and more sustainably" says Jack. He would love to hear from interested OBs, and can be contacted by email at [jack.deane@cookable.co.uk](mailto:jack.deane@cookable.co.uk).



## **Toscana Garfunkel (2010-12)**

took part in the London Marathon in October 2022 in aid of Child Bereavement UK (CBUK). "I was bereaved as a child and then again as a teenager (while at Bedales) – I lost my Dad when I was four years old to cancer and my stepsister died suddenly when I was 16. Despite the hardship and the difficulties that came with being bereaved, these experiences made me who I am. I have been volunteering with CBUK since 2018. During this time, I have been involved in facilitating various family groups as well as young people groups. I have also supported them in providing free bereavement awareness sessions for primary schools in London.

"Apart from volunteering with various child bereavement organisations across London,





I have also dedicated my career to understanding more about the experiences of bereaved children and young people. I am currently in the second year of my PhD at UCL – my doctoral research focuses on investigating the social relations of bereaved children and young people, and in particular, their relationships with their peers (which is a very overlooked area of research). This cause is so important to me that I have quite literally chosen to dedicate my life to it.”

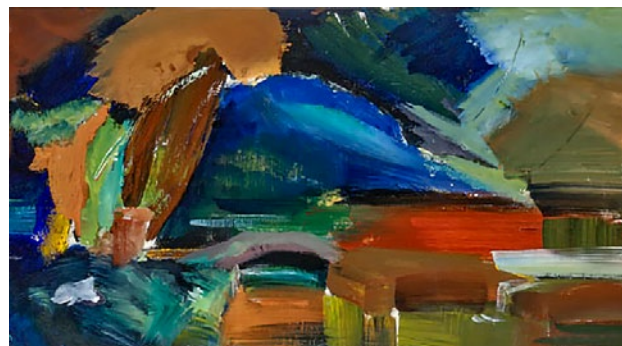
Congratulations to **Tabitha Goldstaub (1999-2004)** for the award of MBE for services to the Artificial Intelligence sector, announced in the 2022 New Year's Honours list.

**Blossom Gottlieb (2017-19)** organised a fundraising page through GoFundMe for her new powerchair and managed to achieve her target of £3,500 within a week, and delivery of the chair a couple of months later. She said: “Bedales truly saved my life and made me realise it is okay to ask for help! Thank you so much for everything.” Blossom is currently working in children's TV as a disability script consultant.

Celebrity stylist and former head girl **Zoe Graham (1994-2007)** alongside Ella Gaskell, Zoë Kozlik and tech entrepreneur **Jamie Reynolds (2002-09)** launched P.S. Bridal during lockdown to help brides find their perfect wedding dress. Their platform uses AI to give brides the celebrity styling experience; find their perfect style based on their preferences, book an appointment with a boutique, get discounts to buy and rent their wedding dress.



Zoe explains: “We launched P.S. Bridal after noticing a huge gap in the market – helping modern, tech-savvy, sustainability-conscious brides find their perfect wedding dress. We have merged our expert stylist knowledge with AI to create a global wedding dress platform – the first stop on every bride's wedding dress journey!” P.S. Bridal has already helped 2,500+ brides in their first 12 months; won the best wed-tech start-up at the Global Wedding Awards; and styled two VIP weddings with press coverage in *The Times*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *The Telegraph*. The high-growth bootstrapped business has big plans to grow internationally and launch more products focused on sustainability and rental by raising a funding round in the next six months. Zoe adds: “If you or one of your friends are looking for a wedding dress try the free wedding dress finder, so we can help you find your dream dress!” [psonlinestyling.com](https://psonlinestyling.com)



**Ivon Hitchens (1903-09)** was a landscape painter, known for colourful, abstract views of the countryside surrounding Greenleaves, his studio and home in Sussex. His son, **John Hitchens (1947-57)** became friends with a fellow student at Bedales, **John Spoor (1947-55)** and invited him to stay at Greenleaves. The visit to this magical landscape and the meeting with Ivon left a lasting impression and 10 years later, John Spoor asked his friends to contribute to an art fund in place of a wedding gift. He returned to Ivon's studio with his wife Liz to buy *Foundations of Ruined Mill near Droxford* dated 1958-59. John and Liz treasured the painting but felt that without children to hand it down to, it should come back to Bedales to be sold in aid of the John Badley Foundation. We are hugely grateful for this remarkable gift which will help fund a full bursary place at Bedales; a life-changing opportunity for a child facing challenging circumstances. The painting was auctioned in the Christie's Modern British and Irish Art Day Sale in March 2022.

**Pippa Lock (2010-16)** has recently been part of the Great Britain Elite Development Hockey Squad and also represented England U21s, so it was a very proud and exciting moment seeing Pippa make the step up to full international status against USA in the FIH (International Hockey Federation) Pro League... and she scored on her debut. An amazing achievement and a performance that saw her selected for the squad against Germany.

After many years coaching and lecturing (as Advanced Communication Skills Specialist for Health Education Wessex), **Jo Murphy (staff, 2001-10)** is about to retire. She has, however, after providing webinar lectures throughout lockdown for GP and hospital specialty trainees alike, just created and launched her new online course, 'The Doctors Interpersonal Skills 360'. After a pretty rigorous process, she's delighted to say that the course has just received accreditation from the Royal College of General Practitioners. [doctorsinterpersonal.com](https://doctorsinterpersonal.com)

**George McMenemy (2014-17)** was chosen to stand for election as the Conservative candidate for North Baddesley Council in March 2022. 'Sir George' (as he is known by family) featured in the local press being endorsed by his grandfather and former Southampton football club manager, Lawrie McMenemy. The Liberal Democrats retained the seat.

**Robin Nuttall (1980-88)** was honoured to be appointed a Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford, based at the Centre for Corporate Reputation within the Said Business School. Robin says, "it's energising to be part of the study and teaching of Sustainability and Environment, Social and Governance at my alma mater."

**Lalage Smyth (1997-2004)** and **Victoria Burnell (2000-2015)** work together at Auree Jewellery. Founded in 2014, Auree Jewellery is designed to be classic and timeless, so that it can be loved by generations. More importantly, it is jewellery not to be kept hidden away in a safe but to be worn, enjoyed and loved. 2022 marked Auree's third year collaborating with Little Village, a baby bank based in London. Little Village is a charity offering clothes, toys and equipment for mothers and their children up to the age of five. It builds small, warm communities of families who support one another with dignity and love, when times are tough. Lally, Tor and the rest of the Auree team regularly volunteer with Little Village, helping to sort the many donations they receive. 100% of the profits from Auree's Rowfant Collection is donated to Little Village to help in the remarkable and vital work that they do. The collection, currently consisting of earrings and a necklace, will be accompanied by a bracelet. [aureejewellery.com](http://aureejewellery.com)

Having been awarded the 2022 Fondazione Fitzcarraldo scholarship for the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Cultural Policies at Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland, **Josh Plough (2003-08)** has established a Warsaw based NGO to explore

the social potential of art, design and folklore and how they can work towards creating a less polarised society. The setting up of the *Potatoes and* foundation was self-funded and they have been raising funds to cover upcoming costs, including: the implementation of social projects with communities in and around Warsaw; setting up a talent-development scheme; paying fair wages to artists, designers and all collaborators; and the renovation and rental of a social space. *Potatoes and* is the English translation of the foundation's Polish name Ziemniaki I and emphasises the importance of down-to-earth approaches. Find more information at [zrzutka.pl/en/umhn69](http://zrzutka.pl/en/umhn69), or email Josh at [josh@ziemniakii.eu](mailto:josh@ziemniakii.eu).



Having founded the Bedales Cycling Club (fully affiliated with British Cycling) in 1975 with **Jonathan Dwyer (1969-78)** and **Nick Hughes (1973-80)**, **Jonathan Talbot-Weiss (aka Whiskers, 1968-78)** has returned to the sport that he greatly enjoyed at school. Jonathan has formed a company based out of Winchester to provide guided bike rides in Hampshire. He invites OBs who are keen cyclists and who would love to discover hidden Hampshire to get in touch. Find out more at [cyclingguide.co.uk](http://cyclingguide.co.uk).



Belated notice that **Jonathan Taylor (1963-73)** was awarded a Knight Commander of St Michael & St George (KCMG) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2019 for services to investment and the economy. He is a Senior Advisor at Afore Consulting and a non-executive director of the Scottish National Investment Bank. Previously he was Vice President and Member of the Management Committee of the European Investment Bank; Director General, Financial Services and Stability, HM Treasury; Director General, London Investment Banking Association and Counsellor at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU. Jonathan was also recently spotted competing on the BBC television quiz show, *Only Connect*, hosted by Victoria Coren Mitchell.





Constanza Chorus, based in the City of London, is a choir of around 90 members founded by **Joanna Tomlinson (1997-99)** in 2010, which has had many OB members over the years, including **Johnny Flynn (1996-2001)**, **Dan Wheeler (1986-2000)** and **Jordan Theis (2003-10)**. Current OB members include **Lucy Coates (1997-2002)**, **Katy Millard (2011-13)** and **Lizzie Reynolds (2010-14)**. There are some spaces available to join the choir and they would be delighted to keep up the tradition of Old Bedalian members being part of it! In 2023, performances include *Fauré Requiem*, *Langlais Messe Solennelle* and music by Lili Boulanger in London, a short tour to sing *Belshazzar's Feast* in Nottingham and a programme including music from William Byrd to Joanna Marsh at Southwell Minster. Get in touch via [constanzachorus.co.uk/join-us/](http://constanzachorus.co.uk/join-us/).

**Timothy Robert Walker (1977-84)** has been appointed as a Circuit Judge on the advice of the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. He has been deployed to the South Eastern Circuit, based at Chelmsford Crown Court.

**Phoebe Walsh (2001-11)** has released her first jewellery collection, celebrating botanicals in recycled gold and eco-silver. The collection features common grasses picked along East London canal side which are cast into finely textured silver and gold. Phoebe explains: "I draw on my artistic training to create fresh and invigorating designs that weave together elements from the natural world, myth and folklore." Her limited-edition series, 'Flowers from the Frontline,' encapsulates singular flowers from the new frontlines in Ukraine that are pressed into miniature pressed flower books. These will be auctioned with all profits going to the local communities of artists she is in touch with in Kyiv. The project is working closely with the Garden Museum. Find out more at [Hello@phoebewalshjewellery.com](mailto>Hello@phoebewalshjewellery.com).



## HAVE YOU HEARD?

It was good to see **Johnny Flynn (1996-2001)** promoting the work of our local poet, Edward Thomas – Johnny paid a fleeting visit to the Bedales Library with writer, Robert Macfarlane, whilst in the area recording a programme for BBC Radio 4 on Thomas which aired in December 2022. [bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001g8nx](http://bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001g8nx)

**Luca Caruso (2011-17)** made an appearance on *The Tonight Show* starring Jimmy Fallon in December 2022, performing *The Perfect Pair* with beabadoobee who he has been touring with in the US. You can watch the performance at [youtube.com/watch?v=HokL8FlqcAs](https://youtube.com/watch?v=HokL8FlqcAs).

Sharper Side are a 3-piece alternative rock group based in Hertfordshire consisting of Chris Treasure (guitar & vocals), Ben Zwaig (bass & vocals) and **Laurence Moore (2006-2010)** (drums). Sharper Side's recent gigs include the legendary Dublin Castle, Camden as well as venues across Hertfordshire. November 2022 saw the release of their new double side EP *Dirty Looks / Back to Bite You* and is available on all streaming platforms. In 2023 they are looking to branch out further to build their fan base with plans for more gigs and new music. If there are any OBs reading this and know of any music contacts, gig venues & recording opportunities, Laurence would love to hear from you. Email: [laurence.moore.02@googlemail.com](mailto:laurence.moore.02@googlemail.com) or visit [sharperside.co.uk](http://sharperside.co.uk).

As she stood down as Editor-in-Chief of *The BMJ* after 16 years in the post, **Fiona Godlee (1972-77)** conducted an exit interview. She was the first female editor of the journal, and over her tenure has seen a lot of changes – both to the publication she's run, and to the wider world of medicine. You can listen to the interview at [soundcloud.com](https://soundcloud.com).

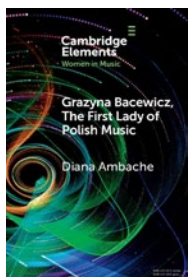
## HAVE YOU READ?

Fitness expert, public speaker, social influencer and the founder of StrongLikeMum, **Shakira Akabusi (2001-04)**, has published *The Strong Like Mum Method*.



"Motivational and inspirational – everything you need to keep your body and mind fit and healthy throughout your pregnancy and beyond!" says Stephanie Anthony of *Mother & Baby*.

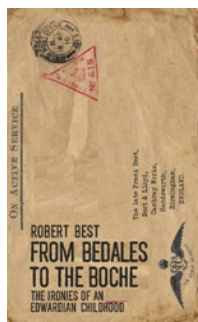
**Diana Ambache (1957-66)**'s latest book *Grazyna Bacewicz, The 'First Lady of Polish Music'* has been published by Cambridge University Press. Diana explores the life and work of Grazyna Bacewicz as a composer, violinist, pianist and author. Bacewicz lived a remarkable life in Poland, navigating the complex world of Polish communist society and Soviet dominance after the Second World War, and brought Polish music to wider European attention.



**Diana Armfield (1930-37)**'s book launch of *A Lyrical Eye* and private view of her centenary exhibition took place in July 2022 at Browse & Derby, in London. Flower paintings have brought Diana wide acclaim, but this book – created

to mark her 100th birthday – also represents her feeling for landscape and place. *A Lyrical Eye* charts Diana's personal and artistic journey with over 200 beautiful reproductions of her work, tracing favourite subjects and events – from a Welsh landscape to an informal flower display or the much-loved location of a painting in Italy or France.

Memories of Bedales stayed with **Robert Best (1903-10)** all his life. The words of the school's founder, John Badley, kept him going through the First World War, and inspired him in time of doubt. The recently-published book *From Bedales to the Boche* is edited and adapted by writer Stephen Games, a specialist in architecture and cultural history.



Congratulations to **Noah Clarke Hall (2010-17)** for the publication of his first scientific scholarly article, *Machine-enhanced CP-asymmetries in the electroweak sector*. The article – which Noah co-wrote as an undergraduate student with fellow students at the University of Manchester and a student at the University of Glasgow – focuses on the detection of particles underlying the processes responsible for the subtle imbalance between matter and antimatter in the universe which allowed matter to exist. It will improve the efficacy of the work of CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's most powerful particle accelerator, on the Swiss-French border in Geneva. Noah's interest in physics began at Bedales, where he built his own particle detector (cloud chamber) and developed radio telescope project monitoring, before going on to study Physics at Manchester. He is now part

of the ATLAS project at CERN – one of two general-purpose detectors at the LHC which investigates a wide range of physics, from the search for the Higgs boson to extra dimensions and particles that could make up dark matter – and has recently embarked on a Doctorate in Particle Physics at UCL. [arxiv.org/pdf/2209.05143.pdf](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2209.05143.pdf)

**Jane Corbett (née Featherston Lee, 1953-58)**'s latest thriller *A Corsican Tale* was published in October 2022 by Beggar Books. "After the death of her mother, Jessie discovers her old diary, written in 1998 during a traumatic three weeks of captivity, having being kidnapped by Corsican nationalists. Twenty-two years later, she decides to return to the island, to face the memories that continue to plague her and to lay any remaining ghosts."

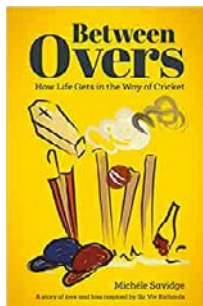


**Minnie Driver (1976-86)**'s book *Managing Expectations* was published in May 2022. Suffused with warmth and humour, Minnie shares poignant, candid and honest stories of her unconventional childhood, the shock of fame, motherhood, love, success, failure, the power of sisterly love, and the loss of her beloved mother. In her own words, it's about "how things not working out actually worked out in the end, and how reaching for the dream is easily more interesting, expansive, sad and funny than the dream itself coming true". (Bonnier Books UK)





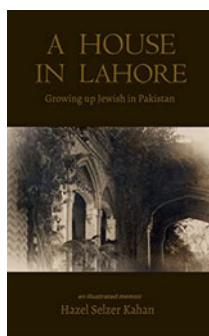
**Michèle Johnson (Governor, 2010-22)**'s book *Between Overs: How Life Gets in the Way of Cricket* is a romantic (and often comedic) account of her life as both a cricket journalist and as a



devoted daughter to her father, who paved the way for her to follow her dreams. As a 12-year-old, Michèle saw Viv Richards bat and fell in love with Richards and West

Indies cricket. She set her sights on becoming, and duly became, a cricket journalist. Births, life, bereavement and depression took her away from the sport she loved, but the 2019 Cricket World Cup rekindled her passion for life – and cricket. (Pitch Publishing)

Born in 1939 in Lahore (then British India and after Partition, Pakistan) to two young Jewish physicians fleeing Hitler's Germany, **Hazel Kahan (née Selzer, 1953-57)** and her family were interned by the British from 1940 to 1946. Although she was educated away from home in boarding schools in India and England, University College London and the Australian National University, Lahore always remained her beloved hometown. Her memoir *A House in Lahore* describes the dilemmas of growing up Jewish in internment and post-British Raj Muslim

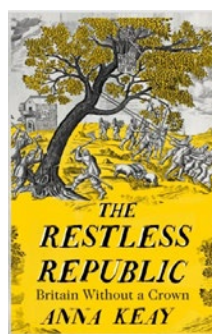


Pakistan, shuffling identities, the futility of belonging and the negotiable meaning of home for a scattered family connected by long-distance letter writing. Her father's death releases in the author a compulsion to discover whether her cherished childhood house still stands.

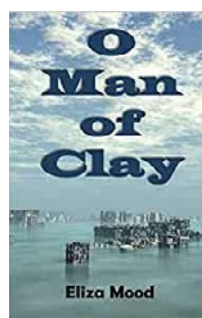
Forty years after leaving "forever", she returns to the town of her birth, unsure whether welcome or rejection await but unprepared for what she finds!

**Anna Keay (1987-92, Governor, 2013-2022)**'s latest book *The Restless Republic: Britain without a Crown* charts the extraordinary story of the republic of Britain.

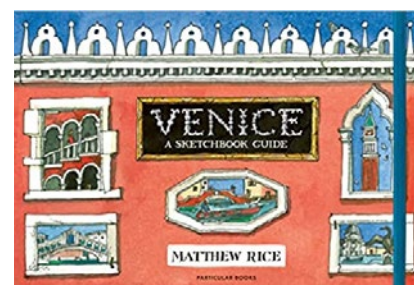
"Ranging from the corridors of Westminster to the common fields of England, from the radicals in power to the banished royalists and from the dexterous mandarins to the trembling religious visionaries, the book will illuminate a world in which a new ideology struggled to take root in a scarred landscape. It is the story of what happened when a conservative people tried revolution."



Congratulations to **Eliza Mood (1970-75)**, author of *O Man of Clay* (Stairwell Books, 2020), a speculative climate fiction novel set in Hartlepool, who was short-listed as a finalist in the IML Publications literary contest for her new (unpublished) historical-environmental novel, *The Volcano Letters*.

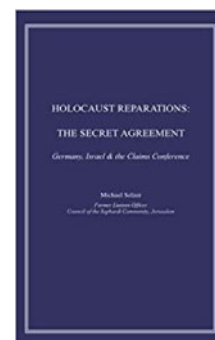


**Matthew Rice (1975-80, Governor, 2008-22)** is a long-time observer and illustrator of cities, buildings and all those who inhabit them, with an uncanny ability to express the energy of a place through a few lines of ink

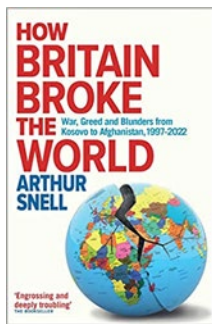


and splashes of paint. For years, Venice has been a source of deep creative inspiration for him; and now, in *Venice: A Sketchbook Guide*, he captures the highlights of this most beguiling of Italian cities. (Penguin Books Ltd)

**Michael Selzer (1953-59)**'s latest book *Holocaust Reparations: The Secret Agreement* was published by KeepAhead Press. From the introduction: "In 1952, the Federal German government committed itself to negotiating with "representatives of Jewry and of the State of Israel" to make moral and material amends for the Holocaust. Who, though, were the representatives of Jewry? Jewish life had always been highly decentralized and highly diverse, and it was not at all clear, therefore, who "the representatives of Jewry" might be ...The Israel government brought about an assembly of Jewish organizations and asserted that this entity – the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany – was the "representative of Jewry" with whom, along with the State of Israel, the Germans wished to negotiate. The German government accepted that the Claims Conference was that... Much of the text of this agreement has remained secret but is at last made public on the pages of this book."

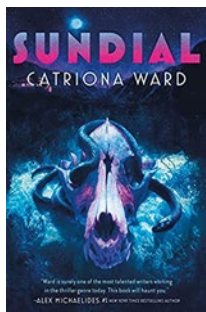


**Arthur Snell (1989-94)**'s book *How Britain Broke the World* was published in July 2022. Arthur says, "it is a history of the past quarter century of Britain's



foreign policy. It is not a memoir, but it does draw on my own experiences having joined the Foreign Office in 1998 and worked in a range of places that feature in the book, including Iraq, Yemen and Afghanistan."

*Sundial* is a twisty psychological horror novel from **Catriona (Cat) Ward (1996-98)**, internationally bestselling author



of *The Last House on Needless Street*. "Elegantly horrifying, this tale of a family's darker-than-dark past drives the knife in deep and isn't afraid to twist. It's a desert-

dust nightmare with a scorpion's sting, and I loved it." (Emma Stonex, Author of *The Lamplighters*)

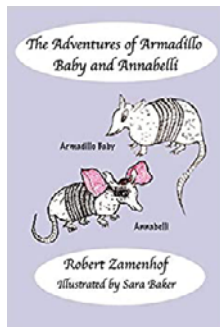
**Rebecca Wilson (2007-12)** was Head Girl at Bedales. She currently lives in Bogotá, Colombia and is Managing Editor at the Latin America Bureau, which publishes books and multimedia content in English about struggles for social and environmental justice in Latin America. Rebecca edited *Women Resisting Violence: Voices and Experiences from Latin America*, an illuminating and powerful account of the ways in which Latin American women and girls encounter violence and the bold initiatives they are developing to respond to it. Collaboratively written, the book features an

impressive introduction sketching the current panorama of gendered and intersectional violence against Latin American women and girls. It then draws on case studies and interviews with women leaders from Latin America, collecting a chain of voices in order to explore the initiatives women and girls are developing to resist violence, transform their communities, and influence international laws – through protest, memorial, 'artivism', social media, a feminist ethics of care, debate, mobile apps, lobbying, conventions, and more. The book was published in November 2022, with a launch event at King's College London.



**Robert Zamenhof (1957-63)** has written two children's books, *The Adventures of Armadillo Baby and Annabelli* and *The Further Adventures of Armadillo Baby and Annabelli* together with a science book (for lay people) called *Seventeen Fun Science Articles*, collected from a column he had in the *Vermont Standard*, the oldest local paper in the US,

he believes. Robert is currently hiding in Vermont up a wooded and remote hill with his wife Ruth. He would love to hear from other OBs.



## HAVE YOU SEEN?



**Alison Berman (1958-63)** has exhibited at the Avebury Manor Garden Autumn Sculpture Show in Wiltshire and the Fresh Air Sculpture at Quenington Old Rectory, Gloucestershire. [alisonberman.com](http://alisonberman.com)

Congratulations to **Finn Carter (2015-17)**, the eagle eyed amongst you might have noticed him playing keyboard on *The Graham Norton Show* on 4 November 2022, supporting hip hop musician, Loyle Carner.

**Deborah Harwood (1974-79)** has been an artist for 20 years, working primarily with textiles. At the beginning of 2020 she became interested in porcelain and wanted to include it in her work, so she taught herself to throw, sitting at the wheel all day every day through the pandemic until she could do it. She quite simply "fell in love" and now works exclusively in porcelain and is particularly drawn to the purity of form and line. She strives for her work to



be "delicate and elegant and to show the porcelain at its most beautiful, occasionally using line or colour to emphasise a thought or reflection of what is around". Deborah's first public exhibition took place at Linear Expression, Gallery 57, in Arundel, West Sussex in June 2022.





Historian **Anna Keay (1987-92, Governor, 2013-22)** featured in a BBC programme on the Crown Jewels presented by journalist Clive Myrie to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. You can find it on iPlayer at [bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0017xm1/the-crown-jewels](https://bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0017xm1/the-crown-jewels).



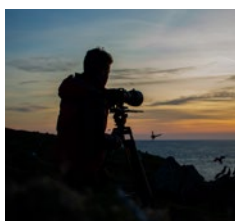
**Sylvain Lefebvre (1978-80)**'s *Imaginary Forests* investigates the poetic potential of prehistoric landscapes. For this series of paintings exhibited at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery in London in May 2022, Sylvain was inspired by research into the Carboniferous Era, a period 345 million years ago, long before humankind walked the earth. In this land-before-time, he conjures a utopian forest of squat crimson trees and towering blue-topped palms – their bark formed from his characteristic marbled paper. On this reimagined Earth, zebras can amble past a group of card players and tigers might come across a writer at her desk.

In May 2022, The Southampton City Art Gallery was generously gifted *Land Quest* by artist **John Hitchens (1947-57)** which featured in his significant 2020 retrospective *Aspects of Landscape*.

In addition, he also donated a pastel landscape drawing by his grandfather, Alfred, making Southampton the first public collection to hold works by three generations of the Hitchens family. In celebration of this generous gift, the gallery displayed these two new acquisitions together for the first time, alongside works already in the collection by John's father, **Ivon Hitchens (1903-09)**. The exhibition also included work by John's son, **Simon (1978-85)**, bringing the family's interpretation of landscape into a fourth generation.

**Jake Morris (2019-21)**'s woodlouse film was featured on BBC Springwatch in May 2022.

"Woodlouse are often overlooked so it was a really insightful process of filming them. They really are fascinating," said Jake. [bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0017x0s/springwatch-2022-episode-2](https://bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0017x0s/springwatch-2022-episode-2).



Nearly four decades since leaving Bedales, **Gail Reid (1980-85)**'s self-portrait *Judgement* featured at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters exhibition in May 2022, a "celebration of the very best in contemporary portraiture nationally and internationally". Gail shared the whole "sometimes agonising"

painting process from first brushstrokes to final varnishing, via a combination of livestream and timelapse, available to view on YouTube. [youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAsBQsVCuBudm-TmjRWVApYt-Xd-EuWGD](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAsBQsVCuBudm-TmjRWVApYt-Xd-EuWGD)



The last surviving founding member of the SAS who once parachuted into Nazi-occupied France in one of the most daring missions of the Second World War has given a first-hand account of his role with the elite unit to the writers of a BBC drama. **Mike Sadler (1933-37)**, one of the original soldiers to form the Special Air Service in 1941, gave his blessing to *SAS Rogue Heroes*, and provided details to the creative team of his own experiences. The six-part series was based on the book by journalist Ben Macintyre and tells the story of how the SAS was formed during the Second World War.

Channel 4 released a film created by Dominic Savage and Kate Winslet. Savage and Winslet "together have conceived a story for our times about the endemic mental health crisis affecting young people," an official synopsis from the network reads. In the film, Kate Winslet plays a mother who is on a journey to desperately be there for her daughter who is struggling with mental health issues, played by **Mia Threapleton (2012-19)**. The film also featured **Joe Mendes (2012-22)** and Dunhurst's Head of Drama & Dance, Simon Kingsley Pallant, who played a teacher!

## Peter Biggs (1937-40)

With typical modesty the veterinary scientist Peter Biggs named his discovery of a poultry virus infection after another vet: the Hungarian József Marek. When Marek published the first account of the disease in 1907, little was known about viruses. It would take more than 50 years for Peter to identify Marek's disease, and he named it in 1960 at the first congress of the World Veterinary Poultry Association.

The disease is found largely in chickens, its symptoms including an overall floppiness — paralysis of legs and wings — as well as internal and external tumours. In the first half of the last century its spread decimated the commercial poultry industry in Europe and the US and the pressure was on to find a solution.

At the time of Peter's research, the disease was known only as avian leukosis complex. As the lead in a programme at the Houghton Poultry Research Station in Cambridgeshire, what Peter discovered was that the complex in fact comprised two separate diseases: avian leukosis and Marek's disease. He pinpointed the disease and by 1970 had developed an effective vaccine: the first against any tumour caused by a virus in animals or humans.

For his work Peter was made a fellow of the Royal Society as well as a fellow of the Institute of Biology, the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In 1987 he was appointed CBE.

Peter Biggs was born in 1926 in Petersfield, Hampshire. His father **Ronald (staff, 1923-32, 1937-38, 1947-58, 1966-67)** was the director of music at Bedales and his mother **Cecile (née Player, staff, 1920-25))** was a teacher. An only child, Peter was encouraged to enjoy music and learnt to play the cello. He spent much of his life in choirs and sang into his nineties with



Peter Biggs with his wife of 71 years and, left, as director of the Houghton Poultry Research Station in 1974

the Huntingdonshire Philharmonic in Cambridgeshire.

When Peter was six his father became director of music at Dartington Hall, the progressive independent school in Totnes, and the family moved to Devon. Peter would spend the holidays on a local farm, leading shire horses, milking cows and harvesting corn. Cecile would later open a small boarding school in Totnes.

In 1937 his father returned to Bedales and Peter was a boarder there for a year until the air raids on the south coast became too alarming and he was evacuated. In 1940 he boarded the RMS Scythia ocean liner at Liverpool, one of the last convoys of evacuees to leave for the US. For the next four years he stayed with musical family friends in Harvard, Massachusetts.

In 1944 he returned to Liverpool and, with the war still on, joined the RAF, learnt how to fly Tiger Moths and did clerical work. His intention had been to become an aeronautical engineer but the rural upbringing in Devon had left its mark and he opted instead to go to the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London.

Peter's interest in the anatomy,

physiology and pathology of chickens stemmed partly from the RVC lectures given by the veterinary anatomist Tony King. King became godfather to Peter's second son and taught his first son at Liverpool Veterinary School some 30 years later. Peter was also influenced by a 1922 publication from Ellerman and Bang: *The Leukosis of Fowls and Leukaemia Problems*.

Through King, Peter got a two-year research assistantship to do a PhD on "Lymphoid tissue in the endocrine glands of the domestic fowl: its significance in health and disease" and afterwards was offered a post as a lecturer in veterinary clinical pathology at the Bristol Veterinary School, where King was teaching. He completed his thesis in immune tolerance and was the first to show that, although chickens have no lymph nodes, they have "mural lymphatic nodules" along the lymphatic walls.

In 1959, when the Agricultural Research Council was launching a programme on the avian leukosis complex Peter was the obvious choice to lead it. He moved to the Houghton Poultry Research Station and became director in 1974.



With the funding cuts of the 1970s the research station was amalgamated with three other veterinary institutes to form the Institute for Animal Health. Peter became the founding director, but it was a time of financial cuts and political tensions, and it was with some relief that he retired in 1988.

Peter's research commanded worldwide respect and he lent his knowledge to several committees, including the Royal Society; he was president of the Institute of Biology and vice-president of the British Veterinary Association (BVA). He left his mark on poultry research in his founding of the World Veterinary Poultry Association and the research journal *Avian Pathology*.

In 1982 Peter was appointed visiting

professor of veterinary microbiology at the RVC. As part of the rebuilding programme at the Pirbright Institute in Woking, a new poultry experimental facility has been named the Biggs Building in recognition of his contribution to avian science.

In the summer before he started at the RVC, Peter sailed the Norfolk Broads with friends including Jan Molteno, an art student. They married in 1950 at Mansfield College, Oxford, and had three children: Alison, an occupational therapist who predeceased her father in 2007; Andrew, a prominent cattle veterinarian; and John, an electronic engineer. Andrew, like his father, was presented with the BVA Dalrymple-Champneys award for supporting the

advancement of veterinary science, the second father and son to have done so in its 88-year history.

A humane figure known for his moral integrity, infectious enthusiasm and willingness to mentor younger colleagues, Peter lived his life by a set of rules: always be well informed; don't jump to conclusions based on anecdotal evidence; help others; keep up to date; and try to communicate with people from all walks of life.

To relax he played squash and sailed. Although Peter worked with chickens all his life, he never really enjoyed eating them, preferring lamb or beef for a Sunday roast. 🍷

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## Crispin Burridge (1977-82, Governor, 2022)

Crispin was born in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, on the 8 November 1963, the first born child of Daphne and Michael. Two years later he was joined by his sister Rebecca and then Lucy, his adoring sisters. Life was hectic with Rebecca egging him on, terrorising his toy Action Man and Lucy watching in amazement.

Crispin was always a confident, happy child who loved to converse with his elders at a very young age. To those around him in his youth, Crispin always felt just that little bit more responsible and grown up.

Having spent some years at New Place Prep School, he was educated at Bedales. The school encouraged freedom of thought and it gave Crispin the confidence to challenge the status quo where he believed there was a better way and to stand up for those causes and people who warranted it.

He was always competitive and seized each opportunity as it came his way. Crispin was the first team hockey goalkeeper for three seasons, and to describe him as uncompromising would probably not be strong enough. It usually didn't take long for the opponent's star centre forward to reason that this might not be the game to go into a 50/50 tackle with the goalie. It would usually end up in a tangle of sticks, gloves, pads and limbs. And sometimes the ball would even feature too.

It was there that he met lifelong friend and confidant **Mark Hanson (1975-84, Governor, 2019-present)**. Mark was his best man at his wedding to Julia and is godfather to Ellie, his eldest daughter.

After leaving Bedales, Crispin studied Art at University of the West of England and seized the opportunity to become President of the Union, delaying his start to a serious working life! He also enjoyed a few summers running a language school with Mark



and others. It is fair to say that even if leadership and responsibility always found Crispin, it needed little encouragement to bring out the mischief in him. For example, in 1984 just as the Los Angeles Olympics men's 1500m final was about to start and all of the teachers in the language school were poised to watch Sebastian Coe romp to the gold medal, it was Crispin who had his hand on the

power switch that would short out the whole of Roedean School.

His career started on the graduate scheme with Marks & Spencer working his way through several notable roles. It was at Marks & Spencer that he met several lifelong friends and Julia with whom they had both Ellie and Molly, his loving daughters.

He always felt M&S gave him the opportunity to have several careers within one great company. He's been a shirt designer, a project manager, headed up M&S Sustainability Plan A strategy – you name it, he tried his hand at most things. His favourite role though was as the Agricultural Press Officer where he was lucky enough to tour the country judging at the national circuit of farming shows, eulogise about livestock quality, and tell tales of his interviews with the royal princes!

It was 20 years ago that Crispin recruited Andrew to work with him as a store planner and became the love of his life, husband and everlasting soul mate. Andrew, with his young daughter Katie, made Crispin's family complete. From day one he treated Katie as his own and all three girls became sisters overnight. Together they made a beautiful home in Dorking, travelled regularly and watched their girls grow into the beautiful women they are today.

We all see Crispin in them; confident, fun-loving people who laugh often and infectiously, and yet are deeply caring to their cores. He loved them all deeply and was so proud of them.

Crispin sought another challenge and a change of direction 12 years ago and became a director at Kingfisher. This challenged him, yet was ultimately, a most fulfilling and rewarding time.

He always did everything to 110% and managed to combine brutally early morning starts with an obsessive gym routine, full commitment to his job whilst being the most attentive family man.

As many of you know there were many facets to Crispin's life. A larger-than-life character who had a zest for life. A fantastic orator and spokesman for causes he believed in. It was this strength and passion that led him to become a force in making LGBT an understood and positive attitude in the workplace and life itself. He mentored and coached many people and was an inspiration to many others. Although he was a powerful presence, he was never boastful. Always fun and inclusive, always prepared to tell it like it is, Crispin was genetically incapable of uttering a dull word. But he did and said everything with a positivity that made you listen to his straight-up advice. A rock which we lent on.

He recently became a Governor of Bedales and just helped to appoint the new Head which he felt would leave

the school in careful hands to take it forward. He was looking forward to giving back something that had shaped the man he was and had already impressed the school's leadership with his commitment and common sense.

The hardest thing which he has left behind is the void that he left in the hearts of his mother, his much-loved husband Andrew, his beautiful daughters Ellie, Molly and Katie and his sisters Rebecca and Lucy. He was and will always be loved, admired and he made the world a richer place.

Sadly his father, Michael was too ill with dementia and unable to express the loss of his son. Crispin was always caring and a loving son and able to get the best out of Michael and they laughed together often in the recent years. Sadly Michael died on 1 January 2023 and father and son are now reunited.

So many of the messages of reflection about Crispin note what a gentleman he was, as well as him being fun loving and mischievous. He cared so very deeply about those people around him and was always the first person to take action on their behalf. If you were going to be in the trenches and needed help, Crispin would always naturally be your first choice. 🌟

**Anthony Smoker, Stepfather**

## Gustav Clarkson (1967-70)

Gustav Clarkson was born in London in 1954. His mother was Austrian and his father British. He spent much of his youth in the mountains of Austria and loved the outdoors.

He studied the violin from a young age, playing for many years before changing to the viola. He gave his violin debut recital in the Purcell Room on

the South Bank in London in 1991 with the Australian pianist, Ian Munro.

He played with and led many chamber groups such as the Arienski and Koenig Ensembles. He was leader of English Touring Opera for several years, during which time he also appeared as leader of many of London's chamber orchestras.





As a viola player he has been a long-standing member of leading string quartets such as the Eroica and the Coull. He has performed much of the viola solo repertoire, including Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* and Hindemith's *Trauermusik* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, as well as Britten's *Lachrimae* in Paris and Beijing.

He was for many years Principal Viola with the Orchestra of St Johns, with whom he was also active in the Music for Autism project. An extremely versatile musician, he recorded and performed often with his son Raphael's contemporary jazz ensembles.

He frequently appeared as guest Principal with many different orchestras, and as a session player regularly recorded at Abbey Road and other London studios. He was a keen composer and writer of poetry and fiction. He was a true artist.

Gustav taught violin, viola and chamber music at the Royal Northern College of Music, the Purcell School and the Welsh College of Music and Drama. He gave viola masterclasses at the Dartington International Summer School.



A keen sportsman, he was an accomplished skier and sailor. He loved the water, whether it be on his canal boat or sailboat. He studied celestial navigation and was fascinated by the nature of the universe. He was also a lifelong supporter of Tottenham Hotspur and *Red Dwarf*.

He was a devoted and much adored father to the three children he had with the violinist Micaela Comberti. Raphael is a composer and performer, Orlando

a musician and teacher, Alisa soon to qualify as a doctor. His brother Harold Clarkson is a concerts manager and lives in Germany.

He was married to the flautist Judith Treggor. Together they shared a rich life, with music and many adventures on land and sea.

He is loved and missed by all who knew him. ☹️

**Judith Treggor, wife**



## Brian Dixon (staff, circa 1986-1997)

**B**rian was born in South Africa in 1931, where his early love of music and sport was fostered at St John's College in Johannesburg. His father had emigrated from England around 1900; half a century later, at the age of 22, Brian boarded a ship bound for Southampton. He was meant to be en route to university in Canada, but England won his heart and he decided to stay.

On arrival Brian found work as a music and games master at Emsworth House prep school in Buckinghamshire, where he starred

in the local cricket team and made lifelong friends. The piano teacher Patricia Harrison invited him home, where he fell in love with her daughter Ailsa, a music graduate. After a two-year absence, when Brian worked as a coal miner in Derbyshire as an alternative to National Service, he and Ailsa were married in 1957.

As the one married couple in their group of friends, they were deemed to be the necessary chaperones on a high-spirited camping holiday the following summer;

when eight of them drove down to the French Riviera in a converted 1926 Daimler hearse nicknamed Bella. Bella had served as transport for the school's cricket and football teams; she was bought at auction for £12 and the summer was spent stripping down the engine to get the car in tiptop condition for the journey through France, where she was much admired.

Brian and Ailsa made their home in rural Oxfordshire, where – with weekend assistance from parties of friends – they built a cedarwood bungalow in the corner of a field looking towards the Chiltern hills, finished just in time for the birth of their first daughter in 1961. This would be their home for 25 years, where they raised their three children, Sarah, Josie and Peter. Brian worked in European marketing for a mining engineering company until the mid-1970s, when he left to retrain as a guitar teacher, alongside Ailsa's work as a singing teacher.

The photograph below of them duetting on lute and guitar was taken for the *Sunday Telegraph* where they featured in an article about couples who had left the rat race to live the good life. Their reduced income

was supplemented by growing fruit and vegetables, keeping chickens and bees, grinding their own flour, and making bread, jam, elderflower wine and ginger beer.

Their teaching was centred on Lord Williams's School in Thame, with private pupils at home in the evenings. Brian also taught at a village primary school in Lewknor, featuring prominently in staff vs pupils' cricket matches until he pulled a hamstring and finally had to retire from sport. In 1976 he and Ailsa assembled a cast of musicians to stage Handel's opera *Theodora*, which he conducted. This project rekindled Ailsa's interest in composing, and their next production in 1984 was her own opera, *Letter to Philemon*, about an episode in the life of St Paul.

In 1986 they moved to Gingerbread Cottage in Southbourne, near Chichester. As a means to advertise for new pupils, they gave a series of recitals at Ditcham Park, Apuldram Manor and Boxgrove Priory. Brian began teaching at Bedales, where he became a favourite among pupils at Dunhurst, not only for his guitar teaching, but supervising music practice and coaching ensembles. Here he found an outlet for his enthusiasm for jazz, arranging

classics by Duke Ellington et al, to fit whatever instruments and abilities were on hand. Colleagues remember him as 'warm, kind, gentle and jovial'.

In 1997 Brian and Ailsa moved to another thatched cottage, near Axminster in Devon, and began to retire from teaching. **Melanie Fuller (staff, 1972-2007)**, Dunhurst's Head of Music, recalls visiting them there, with Brian leading a walk on the beach at Branscombe. They cherished their garden, and when the first of the grandchildren arrived, Brian had fun trundling a delighted toddler around in a wheelbarrow.

Their final move in 2006 was to Overton in Hampshire, where in his early 80s Brian was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He bore it with grace, dignity and resourcefulness. He made it a project to give his memory a workout, writing philosophical essays, tackling books on mathematical logic, and reading Aristotle. Improvising on the piano, he developed a particular fondness for the song, *Try to Remember!*

After Ailsa died in 2017, he remained at home with a carer, enjoying his garden, walks around the village, family visits and a strong rapport with his grandchildren. He returned to his guitar with the help of Ann, his visiting guitar buddy, who arranged pieces to play as duets. Music was the best medicine in his final illness: he was at his most animated watching video scores of Bach transcribed for guitar, closely following the counterpoint and watching the guitarist's hands intently – to the very end he was experiencing it as a player and every inch a musician. He is much missed. 🌹

**Josie Dixon, daughter**





## Angela Crum Ewing (née Bates, 1939-48)

In the 1930s, a little girl called Angela Bates used to insist that her mother left her in the children's section of Leicester's public library while Mrs Bates went shopping in town. By the time her mother returned, Angela would already have finished one book and be clutching two more – one to read on the car journey home and the other to read as soon as they got there.

Dunhurst nurtured Angela's lifelong passion for reading and when she moved up to Bedales she spent many happy hours browsing in the school library. She liked to recall how her perceptive English teacher **Geoffrey Crump (staff, 1919-45)** would steer her towards challenging novels like *Middlemarch* which he told her "she just might enjoy", as he put it.

Angela's love of music also found full expression at Bedales. She came from a highly musical family, where her brother **Trevor (1931-40)** played the cello while her sister **Olwen (1937-42, staff, 1948-50)** would become a violin teacher who later taught at the school. Angela was a good pianist and an even better oboist, quietly proud to have played in the same Bedales orchestra woodwind section as her friend the

future professional bassoonist **Roger Birnstingl (1943-50)**.

The War framed Angela's vivid memories of Dunhurst and Bedales. She remembered the summer's evening in 1940 when the Dunhurst staff suddenly scooped up the children for a surprise picnic. Much later, she learned that the teachers had wanted to give them one last happy time before the Germans invaded. Angela also never forgot the day in the library in 1944 when Mr Crump suddenly yelled "Get under the tables!" as he heard a V-1 missile's engine cut out overhead (it fell harmlessly in nearby woods).

If she had been old enough, Angela would certainly have voted Labour in the historic 1945 election. Her mother was a leading Labour party member in Leicester, while her less political father – a kind-hearted man who ran a beer bottling business – had a strong social conscience. Angela's own lifelong socialism sprang from her naturally selfless, generous character. Her convictions made her an increasingly ill-at-ease OB and Bedales parent, since she believed that even the best-intentioned private schools entrenched social privilege and inequality.

Angela read Modern Languages at the University of Edinburgh and in 1952 married **Brian Tomlinson (1942-47)**. Theirs was a happy marriage in these early years, bringing up their four children **Susan (1967-72)**, **Amanda**, **Richard (1966-76)** and **Madeleine**, while Brian taught French and German at schools in Cambridge, Liverpool and Reading.

Angela loved being a mother yet was also increasingly frustrated at having to forfeit her own career. In 1965, she became a part-time secretary in the University of Reading's Italian department and once her children were old enough, she successfully applied for a full-time position in the university's central



administration. She was a brilliant administrator, her only comical career blemish being the day when she spent an hour reassuring a nervous father whose daughter was coming to the university, unaware that "Mr Charlton" was indeed the great Bobby.

She was justifiably angry not to be invited with her male colleagues of the same rank to apply for the registrar's position when he retired. Rather than dwell on her own mistreatment, Angela now pursued a second voluntary career in the years spanning her retirement in 1995. She campaigned for "Through the Glass Ceiling", a lobby group for female university staff, served as president of the Association of University Teachers (now UCU), advised various Russian universities on management systems, and from 1997 to 2003 was a non-executive director of the Universities Superannuation Scheme pension fund.

Angela and Brian had divorced in 1977 and she was now married to Humphry Crum Ewing, to their own lasting happiness and some of their friends' initial surprise, for Humphry was a staunch and very active "One Nation" Conservative. They were a perfect match, despite their political differences, sharing a love of travel, good food and each other's company.

Shortly after Humphry died in 2009, I asked her whether there



was anything else in life she would like to have done. She thought for a moment and said that it would have been nice to have had more children. Angela's family always came first in her life and as the years went by, each of her 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren became special to her. They in turn adored their amazingly modern and adventurous "Nana", who travelled the world solo, from Australia to Cuba, in her late 70s and 80s.

One year she fell and hurt her arm badly the day before she was due to go on holiday to Crete. Not wishing to miss her holiday, she told no-one and did not see a doctor before getting herself and her luggage on the flight next day. When she reached her hotel in Crete, she asked if a taxi could take her to the local hospital where an X-ray revealed it was broken. She still managed to enjoy her holiday so much that she returned the following year.

The final chapter of Angela's life could have been very sad, living alone for months during the Covid lockdown, and then contracting cancer. Always positive, she refused to follow this script. On learning she had cancer, she commented, "Well, you've got to die of something," declining treatment because of potential side effects. Lockdown became a chance to "catch up" on books she had never read, including the whole of Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu* – in English, she explained to me, because her excellent French was "a little bit rusty". The first volume had been "rather slow going", she admitted, but the next five had been "really rather good".

She lived independently almost to the end and wanted no funeral or wake because she found them "so enormously depressing". Instead, she hoped that if people remembered her, it would be with a smile – and then, she said firmly, they should "carry on with their lives." 🌸

**Richard Tomlinson (1966-76), son**

## Philip Fleming (1953-59)

Philip Fleming was born on 9 January 1941 in West Bromwich. He moved with his parents and brother **Christopher (1955-61)** to Gibraltar as a young boy before moving to Central London.

Philip attended Bedales in 1953, his younger brother Christopher following in 1955. He very much enjoyed his time at the school and maintained contact with many of his school friends until his death. Philip stayed on for an extra term at the end of 6.2, leaving in 1959. After a short course in French Cultural Studies at the Sorbonne, Paris, Philip attended Pembroke College, Oxford, to study Medicine, finishing the clinical part of his medical studies at University College Hospital in London.

He qualified as a doctor in 1966, subsequently pursuing an interest and career in psychiatry. He worked at North Middlesex Hospital in Central London, and completed a Diploma in Psychological Medicine in 1971, becoming a Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 1972. He later became a Fellow of the College of the RCPsych.

Philip met his wife Pamela at the North Middlesex where she worked as a nurse. They had two children, Andrew and Catherine. 1973 saw a move to Petersfield for Philip to take up a post as consultant psychiatrist at St James' Hospital in Portsmouth, where he continued to work until his retirement. **Catherine (1982-94)** attended Bedales from the age of 6 to 18.

In his role as Director of the Wessex Regional Drug Problem Team, Philip oversaw the introduction of a new drug clinic in Portsmouth, with the intention of providing a safe



place (with clean needles) for addicts to access expert help. His expertise in the area of drug dependency in the 80s and 90s was such that he advised government at committee level, and spoke at conferences worldwide; he was widely cited in medical publications at the time and heavily involved in the research and analysis of the prescribing of methadone to heroin addicts.

After retirement, Philip enjoyed listening to classical music, studying History of Art and travelling with Pam, visiting many countries including Australia and Brazil; they loved India most and made a number of trips there. Philip also had a great love for the south of France and spent many happy summers there throughout his life.

Philip loved to spend time with his son and daughter and delighted in the company of his three grandchildren. He continued to take an interest in Bedales, occasionally attending concerts there.

Philip was a gentle, loving and funny man. He is survived by his wife, brother, son, daughter and three grandchildren, and is remembered with affection by all who met him. 🌸

**Catherine Easton (née Fleming, 1982-94), daughter**



## Susan Foreman (née Kremer, 1948-56)

Susan Elizabeth Foreman, who died on 11 April aged 83, was the first daughter of the celebrated neurologist Dr Michael Kremer. She arrived at Dunhurst at the age of nine in 1948, later moving to Bedales in 1950. Her brother **David (1955-?)** and sister **Jane (1956-67)** soon joined her at school in due time. Later Susan entered St Anne's College, Oxford, to read English (1957-60).

She is warmly remembered by two lifelong friends from school, **Tanya Ashken (1946-57)** writing from New Zealand and **Shiela Rowell (née Whittaker, 1950-56)** from Godalming. Sheila writes: "We were two hardworking students of a rather academic bent, with a particular interest in Music and Drama, Susan was definitely ahead in English, as she proved by winning the annual MacDonal Essay competition. We shared a feeling that gym and games were somewhat over-rated, and we ended up together in the 'Duds' tennis group. In addition to our shared interests, I found Susan a very caring friend, and an excellent listener. I have never forgotten her kindness to me at school, she was my longest-standing and my closest friend. She and I had shared the ups and downs of life for over 70 years. I feel I have lost a part of my life, but I feel very grateful to have known her."

Susan's first job was as an advertising copywriter, but an early tragedy when her first husband, Richard Samuel, died unexpectedly, aged 24, precipitated a complete career change to librarianship. Susan studied Librarianship at North West Polytechnic and on qualifying was appointed as senior library assistant at the University of Reading Library in 1964. After six years she moved to the Board of Trade, soon reorganised into the Department of Trade and Industry. Appointed to the library post of Publications Officer in June 1970



she managed the publication of at least 100 HMSO titles a year for the DTI, from command papers to navigation manuals. Notable achievements included the Roskill report on the Third London Airport, when she commanded a team of DTI librarians who travelled to Beccles in winter for a four-night stay at press, reading proofs in pairs, round the clock, day and night.

When the four-page House of Commons paper concerning Upper Clyde Shipbuilders was published on 29 July 1971 there was huge opposition, Parliament Square packed with protesters. After changes in Cabinet, at lunchtime Susan was still at press making final corrections. She emerged with most of the print in a single packet and returned to the DTI in Victoria Street. It had to be

laid in the House before publication at 3:00pm and it was decided that Susan had most chance of not being challenged by the protesters. She remembered she was wearing a turquoise short sleeve lycra dress, well above the knee. Holding her packet Susan crossed the square and walked up to the policeman at the entrance to the House. "I must have smiled very sweetly" she said "or maybe it was the dress, because he let me in immediately" and she found herself in the civil servants' box in the Chamber which was in session, waiting for the Minister to give her the nod.

At the DTI she met, and in 1972 married, librarian Lewis Foreman who had also been successful at the same appointment board in 1970. Later, in 1973, she became founder librarian of the Office of Fair Trading before

retiring on the birth of their daughter Tamsin in 1977. Jan Wright, one of her librarians at OFT, remembers Susan as "a lovely and inspirational person". She writes: "Being at OFT was a really interesting and happy time, in no small part due to Susan's leadership and influence, and I've always looked back at it fondly and been so grateful to her for such a positive experience at that early stage of working life".

Becoming a freelance part-timer Susan worked for various government departments, including the Civil Service Department, DTI, National Consumer Council, National Statistical Office and others. As an indexer she was a pioneer user of Macrex indexing software. In 1985 she was commissioned by the DTI to write a popular illustrated history of the Board of Trade for the bicentenary in 1986. Published by HMSO, a copy was presented to HM The Queen when she visited the Department. When Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher spotted it she seized a copy remarking "I say, this looks jolly!" Susan went on to produce 11 varied titles.

Taking an interest in consumerism after her time at the OFT, Susan was asked by the National Consumer Council to produce an annotated hardback bibliography of official publications on consumer issues which in its second edition runs to over 400 pages. She later became interested in assisting women to return to work after career breaks, with Diana Wolfen providing courses at the University of Westminster. They published their book *Back to Work: a guide for women returners* in 2004.

Susan always sang. For years in the Amersham Choral Society and, in summer, for 30 years with Robert Tucker's Broadheath Singers at Slough and Eton. Most recently the Amersham branch of Parkinson UK started a singing group under the inspirational direction of mezzo-soprano Jo Edworthy. Susan was eager

to join from the outset, though for the last two years the meetings have had to be via Zoom. It was good that Jo was able to sing at Susan's funeral.

In 1995 Susan published her illustrated history of Whitehall, *From Palace to Power*, which became a good tourist seller from the Parliamentary bookshop in Whitehall. Leading on from this came a brief return to a Civil Service office when, with Lewis – now retired from the FCO – in 1998 she was commissioned by HM Treasury to curate and mount their exhibition of historical pictures of Whitehall. This was remarkable because it gave her authority to visit many departments – those fascinating basements – and a wonderful morning at Number 10 nominating pictures to be taken down and loaned to The Treasury for the exhibition.

It was a very happy time before Susan started to show noticeable symptoms of Parkinson's which dominated her last years. Highlights were the successful completion of two jointly authored books with her husband. First, commissioned by Yale University Press, came *London a Musical Gazetteer* the outcome of a two-year tramp together round the musical buildings, libraries and archives

of London, resulting in a far more detailed survey than any previously attempted. Seeking to photograph musicians' graves, the allocated three days expanded into many weeks, which in summer, they reported, became very pleasant in the sunshine, both becoming quite tanned. At this time the *Sunday Times*' music critic Felix Aprahamian was very helpful working on the *Gazetteer*, and after his death in 2005 they launched into a book about him, eventually published in 2015. In it Susan worked wonders in transcribing Felix's longhand diaries and compiling the very extensive index.

Susan loved planning holidays, crowned by two round-the-world trips in 1996 and 1999 when they stayed with her old school friend Tanya Ashken, now a leading New Zealand sculptor and silversmith, and her husband the artist John Drawbridge, near Wellington. During her later years Susan became an enthusiastic player of Mah Jongg, using her long-cherished set which she had inherited from her father. ♣

**Lewis Foreman, husband**

(compiling contributions from family, friends and Susan's autobiography)





## Robert Jeffcock (1953-55)

Robert Jeffcock (1939-2022) was pronounced dead at birth and had a great ability to avoid death for his 83 years on earth, despite numerous close shaves. Known as Bert to his friends, Robert was one of the last old-school adventurers. His father was an electrical engineer who, with Robert Watson-Watt, made radar into a functioning and usable instrument, vital in the success of WWII, but it meant that he was often an absent father. After the War, the family was stationed in India and Pakistan as his father became director general of civil aviation.

From the beginning, Robert had difficulty with reading and writing and substituted those abilities with an uncanny ability for Mathematics and statistical probabilities. His few years at Bedales were probably his happiest. Whilst there he became the youngest silversmith in Britain. During this era, he started to formulate a way to successfully bet on racehorses. By the time he



was 19, Carsons & Co had written to congratulate him on consistently winning but insisted he must place his wagers 15 minutes before any future races. This way the betting company could lay Robert's bets off with other betting companies.

Even before hitting 20, Robert was driving around in a beautiful Jensen and was having a super time in London clubs. Yet under it all he wanted to be 'ordinary' and to achieve this he thought that farming would be his ticket. Together with his father and brother, they bought Woodhill/ Ashcroft Farm in Shamley Green, Surrey. Along with dairy farming, modern day chicken rearing was introduced, and Robert spent many hours delivering fresh "Cluckity Cluck" eggs to shops in London. At the ripe age of 21, Robert married Fenella, daughter of Tim Hinde, an amateur jump jockey and local estate agent. At the farm, many eggs would be broken and from this came the idea of making

lemon curd, which was called 'Robert's Cottage'. This morphed into a small-scale jam factory in the farm buildings with strawberry and other flavours of jam being produced. However, the local council got wind of the business and the family was given orders to close down.

The whole family moved to Ireland and built a large jam factory near Kilkenny. Sadly, within two years the business had collapsed due to a mixture of the IRA troubles and being cheated. By 1972 Robert (via Malta) and his family now consisting of three sons, had settled in the Isle of Man. Here he opened the Athol Art Gallery, selling a mixture of English 18th and 19th Century art, along with a few living artists. For the next six years, art dealing was Robert's life, with a second gallery in Mount Street, London. After his separation from Fenella in 1978, Robert moved to

Dallas where he opened another art gallery.

As much as English art might have been appreciated in Texas, oil and gas were where the money was. By 1980 the gallery had transformed into the offices of Isle Resources, an oil and gas exploration company. This was the beginning of 33 years of mining and oil and gas companies. During this time, along with his eldest son William, Robert established gold, silver, copper and diamond projects in Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico and Azerbaijan, and from 2005 on, oil and gas projects in Ukraine and Poland. Six companies were successfully listed on stock exchanges in the UK and US, which helped finance one of Robert's biggest passions: racehorses.

In the late 1960s Robert owned two racehorses with a trainer called Paul Cole. By 1998 Robert had a consistent stream of racehorses with a famous French trainer called Francois Doumen. As he was by then living in Monaco, most of the horses were trained and raced in France, where the prize money was



**BAR KING, appartenant à M. R. JEFFCOCK remporte le Prix de Billancourt à Longchamp, le 7 juin 2001.**  
 Entraîneur : F. Doumen Jockey : D. Bonilla

generous. In 2012 Robert finally had the horse of his dreams – a beautiful filly called Siyouma which was bred by the Aga Khan. In that year, Siyouma won two Group I races: the Bahrain Sun Chariot Stakes in Newmarket and the EP Taylor Stakes in Canada. For Robert this was truly the pinnacle of his horse-racing dreams. He had also bought an old dairy farm in Normandy

in 2010 which he converted into a beautiful stud and owned until 2019.

The last few years of his life were spent in the Isle of Man looking out to sea. One of Robert's ten grandchildren, **Chiyo Jeffcock (2017-21)** is also an alumnus of Bedales. ☘

**William Parkyn Home Jeffcock, eldest son**

## Tim Johnston (1954-59)

**O**n 9 October 2021, my brother, Timmy – always Timmy to me and his siblings, rather than the more adult “Tim” as he was known to almost everyone else – died in The Hague, which is where he had been living on and off for the past 20 years. And this leads me to my first problem when attempting to present some idea of my brother's life. The person who would have been best qualified to write his autobiography was our brother, **Guy (1957-62)**. But Guy died ten months earlier. Two brothers gone in less than a year.

Two brothers who were twelve and nine years my senior. I did not share a childhood with them, and my later relationship with them was separated by geography and a huge gap of interests or shared friendships.

Much of my early relationship with Timmy revolved around colossal pride in his extraordinary athletics achievements but this again was very much connection at a distance; made all the more distant by the fact of being the one member of the family who had absolutely no practical interest in sports whatsoever. Maybe

my brothers' achievements – Guy, though not in the same league, was a more than competent cross-country runner – were enough for me.

With Timmy's death came a deluge of condolences from dozens of people, most of whom meant nothing to me, representing the many different lives that he led: in Bruxelles or The Hague; runners of several different generations, spread across England and the outer reaches of the Philippines. I became aware of how different these relationships had been, almost as though they mirrored the



shifting moments of friendship that I had shared with him; sometimes in correspondence with him halfway across the world, at others, brief moments when we had lived within striking distance of one another and seemed, despite all our differences, to have some sort of shared history, something that came and went.

Filtering through the messages from those who knew my brother, Timmy, I have come to see how very different were the worlds that he moved through, and how different he could be: exploitative and insensitive to the point of cruelty with some, and capable of the most extraordinary loyalty and kindness at others. And I knew both at his hands.

At the end of his life, I felt as if Timmy had become more or less a stranger to me. I also realised that his nephew and niece, Guy's children, had enjoyed a much closer relationship with him. That might have been in part precisely because of the reminder for him of his "little brother" Guy.

**William Johnston (1968-71), brother**

When I was a child Uncle Tim would come to visit at least once a year. For some reason he called me "Faultier". I think because he found the German term for "sloth" (literal translation: lazy animal) so amusing. Every birthday I would receive a card with a faultier on it, and I knew who it was from. As I grew older, Tim's visits became more and more rare. When I visited him in The Hague only weeks before his death, he told me that he very much regretted this. "It was completely my fault. Somehow I couldn't get my act together and I regret it".

As I took in his bachelor life in The Hague, I realised something needed to change: he was climbing up and down steep stairs every day, using

an old bike as support in the street because he didn't want to be seen with a walking frame, his fridge almost empty, boxes everywhere. I asked him "why not return to the UK, perhaps Cambridge?" Somehow, he came up with a number of (rather feeble) reasons why this was not possible. He then gave me a cardboard box containing all his running memories: scores of newspaper clippings, correspondence with the British Athletics Federation, photos from the 1960s – to me a sign that he knew he was on the home stretch of his life.

I think that because Tim peaked so early in terms of achievements and never had the corrective of a long-term spouse, he often had problems communicating. He could be harsh, like when I told him I was planning on running my first marathon in 3h30. "You can't possibly run that slow a pace – it's impossible." At the same time, he was often trying to do better. "So sweet of you to come all this way to the Hague, just to see me". Some emails were a mix of both. "Loved the pics of your daughters Mimi and Charlie. Charlie's motor skills seem very advanced for her age. Not like Guy, who took forever to walk properly."

Some of our email exchanges, which started around 2007 were just flat-out hilarious. This one he sent in 2013, after I suffered from food poisoning in Chad. "Did you have to shit into a matchbox, as I did, when afflicted with a similar condition in Arusha, Tanzania? I too was cleared for malaria but declared to be harbouring intestinal parasites of three different kinds: amoebas, hookworm, giardia. I'd failed to wash the local bananas! Fortunately, cure for all three is the same: Metronidazole, generic name Flagyl. If you are prescribed that and warned not to drink alcohol, you'd better believe it!"

Tim's death to me was another piece of my own father gone, since Tim had known Guy since he was



born and could tell me things about my father that I hadn't known. Just when we were rekindling our relationship, my uncle was taken from me. On the other hand, I felt incredibly grateful for the fact that I had seen him weeks earlier. After all, this had been my first ever visit to The Hague. Something told me that I needed to hurry, that we take things for granted until – suddenly – they are no longer there. ☹️

**Timothy Johnston, nephew**

*Editor: Tim Johnston was one of the accomplished group of British distance runners, including Bruce Tulloh, Basil Heatley, Ron Hill and David Bedford, who made a global mark through the 1960s and early 1970s. A world record-holder on the track over 30,000 metres, Tim was also a regular member of the English cross-country team, competing five times in the International (now World) Championships, with a best individual placing of second, AAA champion and record-holder over six miles, and an Olympian at Mexico City in 1968, running prominently in the marathon and eventually finishing eighth.*

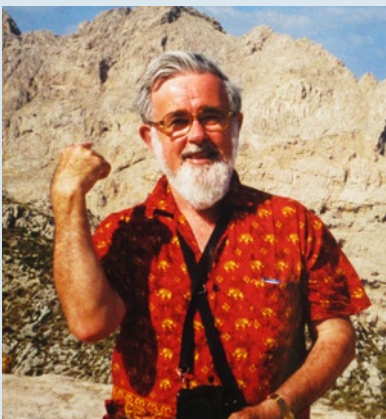
## Christopher Latham (staff, 1958-62)

Christopher Latham passed away peacefully on 27 January 2022, in Perth, Western Australia after a short illness. He was 86 and still teaching until just before Christmas.

Christopher was born in Worcester, England in 1935, the third son of Charles and Lilian Latham (née Kennagh). He had twin brothers, nine years his senior, Charlie, and Joe, who as teenagers both went off to help with the war effort; Charlie in the merchant navy and Joe at the BBC. This left Christopher to his own devices, throwing himself into his music and cricket. He attended Worcester Royal Grammar School.

After National Service with the RAF, Christopher studied clarinet, violin, and piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He spent all his spare time looking for concerts to attend and cinemas to visit – he was a serious film buff in those days and never lost his love for a good movie. Cricket was another of Christopher’s passions, both as a player at school and an umpire later.

After gaining his graduate diploma from the Royal Academy, he taught music, at Bedales, Frensham Heights and Sidcot schools. It was at Sidcot that Chris first met and then married in 1975



his wife Jennifer, who was also on the staff there.

Christopher moved to Australia in 1978 to become Director of Music at Scotch College, Melbourne. He was Deputy Chairman of the V.I.S.E Music Committee. Since 1980 he was an examiner for the AMEB and was also a member of the State Committees of Victoria and Western Australia. He moved to Perth in 1987 to become Director of Music at St Hilda’s in WA.

Christopher was a good MC and public speaker. One quote of his, addressing a class of music teachers at Port Hedland in 2000: “They will learn to play the piano between lessons and not during them” he said; “how they get on will depend on how much they enjoy their playing. The main task of the teacher is to get their pupils to want to practise; all the best technical and musical advice in the world is a waste of time unless the pupil is inspired to go away and put it all into practice.” He retired from full-time teaching in 1998 but still enjoyed his connections with several Eisteddfods and music festivals, especially Bunbury, Joondalup (where he lived) and the Catholic Arts Festival and continued his examining and adjudicating commitments. He said he must have looked up ‘retirement’ in the wrong dictionary.

Christopher was a keen walker, often disappearing up the nearest mountain when on holiday in the Mediterranean. He was a frequent visitor to the village of Cala San Vicente on the north coast of the Spanish island of Majorca. A conspicuous landmark near that village is the Formentor peninsula, an enormous rocky ridge that stretches out into the sea. Of course, Chris would make a point of walking along the top of the ridge right to the end, even when visibility was down to



a couple of metres due to low cloud. There was a particularly difficult section where the weather had eroded a hole that had to be stepped across with nothing below your feet except a huge drop down to the sea below. Not for the fainthearted!

Christopher was born within a few months and an even fewer number of miles of when and where Elgar died. For many years he went to the same church – St George’s in Worcester – where Elgar had been organist and choirmaster. You will not find it in any history of music book, but he assured his audience that it is a fact that the music immediately after the sermon at St George’s, Worcester, often suffered from the organist and choirmaster not having returned in time from the pub across the road. It was Christopher’s express wish that *Nimrod*, from Elgar’s *Enigma Variations* was included in his celebration service, played by the St Hilda’s School Orchestra at their centennial concert in 1996, conducted by his good self!

He is greatly missed, although his legacy will surely live on in all those who had the benefit of his music teaching and keen sense of humour. 🍷

**Andrew & Charles Latham, nephews**



## Richard Newnham (1943-50)

My father kept so many of his Bedalian friends close throughout his life – perhaps too many to mention here. After Bedales he attended the Joint Services School for Linguists to learn Russian as part of his National Service. He came up to New College in 1953 to read English, but quickly changed to Modern Languages (German and Italian).

After graduation Richard started out as a journalist in London, at *Truth* magazine, but soon moved to become an editor at Penguin Books where he met his future wife, the artist Ann Chiles. Various other publishing and editorial positions followed, including Weidenfeld & Nicolson, Eyre Methuen and Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press. He also had a spell working at St Anthony's College, Oxford. Richard was an extensive traveller; notably to

Austria, Italy, Hong Kong, China and Russia, and was a fluent speaker of a number of Modern Languages: his *About Chinese* was published by Penguin in 1987, a reasoned reflection, still praised by sinologists, of the Chinese approach to language.

Music, too, was another important interest throughout his life: he played the horn, was an early member of the National Youth Orchestra and made many musical friends during his Oxford years. Retirement was never really on the cards and there followed extensive articles for *The Oxford Magazine* and other publications – notably *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The Guardian*.

Richard died on 13 June 2022 near Eynsham, where the family had moved



in 1998. He is survived by his son Alex, and missed both by him and by many lifelong friends. 🌿

**Alex Newnham, son**

## Guy Oram (1939-45)

Guy Oram, my father, died suddenly on 21 October 2021, aged 93.

Born on 22 February 1928, Guy was the eldest of four siblings and shared with them a love of wildlife and the countryside. He went to a prep school near Rugby called Hillbrow and after that to Bedales. He attended the latter during the Second World War and wrote this about his memories of the school.

'How they [his parents] discovered Bedales, I've no idea. It was miles away on the other side of London, co-ed (ugh) and progressive. I don't remember much about our tour of the school, but we were taken up to the playing field where a football match was in progress. I heard one of the onlooking boys declare, "I hate football!" He would

not have dared to say that at Hillbrow! I was impressed by the fact that senior children were friendly to the juniors.

I went there in summer of '39. It was the last term before the War and was really quite nice. We had lots of expeditions around the place. I got on well with Geoffrey Spencer (staff, 1937-42), the Biology master, and even went to tea at his house, but he was called up the following term.

Although the school lay between occupied France and London, we saw very little of the War. Sometimes planes were heard droning over at night, the air raid warning sounded, and we had to drag ourselves out of bed and file up to the shelter. It was quite a long walk, and damp and earthy when we got there. Eventually, they rigged up bunks in part of the boys' changing rooms and we had

to sleep in these. It was hot and stuffy and apparently rats used to scuttle around. After a few (probably apocryphal) stories about rats nibbling boys' toes while they slept, most of us got written permission from home to stay in the dormitories upstairs. We were far more frightened of rats than of German planes.

Later on, when the Germans started sending 'doodle bugs' over, we would lie in bed listening as the strange engines got nearer and nearer, dreading the cutting out of the engine which preceded the crash and explosion, but it never happened. They were aligned for London, some 60 miles away.'

After leaving school, Guy went to agricultural college instead of university as he planned to carry on

with the family farm, but soon his skills found a more unconventional outlet. He took up a post with Christian Aid in South Africa, in the 'tribal homeland' of the Transkei, just inland from the spectacular Wild Coast around Port Saint John's. St Barnabas' Mission had a church, a hospital, and a farm, whose land belonged to the local chief.

Guy's job was to optimise it for the benefit of the local community, not an easy task as the areas designated as 'tribal homelands' under apartheid had notoriously bad land. There was a tractor but ploughing worked better with a team of eight oxen, better able to withstand the hard earth. The local cattle were tough but gave poor milk, so Guy improved the strain by crossbreeding with Jerseys, his favourite breed of cow. Years later when I went back to visit my birthplace, older Africans recalled fondly how Guy used to carry churns of warm, creamy milk up to the hospital for the tuberculosis patients there.

Guy met my mother, Maeve O'Ferrall, on a ship returning to Africa and they were married at Beaulieu Abbey by her father, Ronald O'Ferrall, Provost of Derby and former Bishop of Madagascar. The wedding had to be postponed as Guy had caught hepatitis, then passed it on to his future mother-

in-law. As a much-travelled woman herself, she didn't hold it against him, but the wedding photos had to be taken in black and white as the bride's mother was yellow.

After I was born, my parents decided to move back to England and another out-of-the-ordinary agricultural position: farming daffodils and tulips on the beautiful Isles of Scilly, off Land's End in Cornwall. Sadly, this marvellous home was only temporary as all the land belongs to the Duchy of Cornwall. So we moved to Suffolk, to be closer to family and friends, and my brother Timothy was born. Guy and Maeve joined Ringsfield Hall Centre, a non-profit organization for schoolchildren from inner-city London to discover the countryside. Here Guy took charge of the stunning grounds –

woods, fields, ponds, and gardens – along with cows, sheep, ducks, geese and hens, and a sizeable vegetable garden and orchard. He worked there very happily until he and Maeve retired, first on the outskirts of Beccles and later in Broome, a village near Bungay.

A committed Christian all his life, Guy was also a lay reader and worked tirelessly for the network of village churches in the area. He was a man of many hobbies: music, ornithology, and photography, to name just a few. He is perhaps best remembered for his strong moral compass, quiet sense of humour and his staunch defence of nature conservation. ☘

**Ann Oram, daughter**



## William Darrell Oram (1939-47)

**D**arrell was born on 6 June 1930 in Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire and died 30 August 2020 in Norfolk. He started at Dunhurst, then joined Bedales in 1941. Darrell was keen on tennis and football (he supported Norwich City, I believe) and then left

Bedales in 1947. He worked on various dairy farms until having his own farm in Attlebridge, near Norwich. He farmed dairy shorthorn cattle, winning prizes at the Royal Norfolk Show. He also grew daffodils and asparagus which he sold from the farm.

Darrell married Sylvia Kiddell in 1956 and they had a son and daughter. He retired and finally sold his farm in 2017, retiring to Taverham. ☘

**Peter Oram (1944-50), brother**





## Sarah Rendall (née Sackville-West, 1971-76)

Sarah left Bedales and took her A Levels at Sevenoaks School – where she was one of the first girls, and could live at home. She went up to Oxford to read English, where at St Peter’s College she was again one of the first girls. After Oxford she worked briefly in the city, but then moved to publishing, reading manuscripts for Tessa Sayle, the literary agent, working for Sidgwick & Jackson, and filling a double page spread every week as

Literary Editor of the *Catholic Herald* – all at the same time. Then she moved to Andrew Edmunds, and his wonderful shop in Soho, to help him catalogue and sell his 18th Century caricatures – she became particularly knowledgeable in *Hogarth and Gillray*. She married Simon Rendall in 1992 and devoted the rest of her time to looking after him and their two boys, Freddy and Edward. ☘

**Simon Rendall, Husband**

## John Rudolf Saunders (1936-43) MBBS FRCOG

When 10-year-old ‘Rudi’ arrived at Dunhurst in 1936 he came as John Rudolf Schultze. He was the grandchild of a German emigre from the Baltic port of Stettin (now Szczecin in Poland), who had left his home due to his dislike of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck’s policies. A family of herring importers, they crossed the water to settle in Peterhead, Scotland, and formed Andrew Smith & Schultze to successfully export salt herring to the continent. Family members gradually changed their surname prior to the Second World War. Fortunately, Rudi’s father had taken out British citizenship and was a trusted and well-liked figure in the community (becoming the first Labour provost [mayor] on the council) and so avoided the British internment camps.

The family had a history of progressive and egalitarian beliefs, so when Rudi’s father read about the ground-breaking co-educational school Bedales in his daughter’s dissertation, Rudi travelled south to become a boarder. It was a good choice – Rudi’s love for Bedales never waned. The

school helped shape his many passions: listening to classical music, the theatre, literature, architecture and archaeology, to name just a few. He would often recite poetry from memory and quotes from Shakespeare’s plays.

However, he dedicated his professional life to medicine, studying at University College, London, and University College Hospital, leaving with his MBBS in 1951. During the War, the university was evacuated to Bangor, Wales, but Rudi remembered narrowly escaping a bomb on Tottenham Court Road upon his return to the capital. He was studying in the dissection room in the basement of the college when a religious tabernacle took a direct hit. All the students rushed to see how they could help. Miraculously no one was killed. He was awarded the Liston Gold Medal in Senior Clinical Surgery (1949) but due to the shortages of the time the medals were gold-plated.

He went on to specialise in obstetrics and gynaecology and became a Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists



(MRCOG) in 1955 and was later awarded a fellowship. After a number of appointments in London hospitals, two years in Ibadan, Nigeria, and a lectureship at UCH he was appointed consultant at Bedford Hospital in 1962, where he worked until his retirement. Always liking to adopt the latest developments in treatment, he trained in laparoscopy, then in its infancy, and introduced ultrasound to the department. He also introduced cervical screening with his colleagues and worked tirelessly to bring (and

keep) Bedford's obs and gynae department up-to-date.

For 12 years, he organised annual symposia for the Bedford Hospital Medical Institute. The event drew notable speakers and was followed by lively discussion at Rudi's home where his family prepared a Nigerian-style supper. His efforts here may have contributed to his receiving the B Merit Award.

A believer in equal rights and education, he was proud of his father's sister, Charlotte Sturm, who was among the first female students permitted to study medicine at the University of Aberdeen and who proved the naysayers wrong when she took a prize in anatomy. Charlotte was married to Frank Pearce Sturm, physician, translator of Baudelaire and correspondent of WB Yeats, the Irish poet.

Rudi's mother was a Shetlander and he frequently visited the islands where he discovered an ancient burial on the beach at the family croft, Hannigarth. The site was later excavated and is recorded in *Excavations at Milla Skerra, Sandwick, Unst: Rhythms of Life in Iron Age Shetland* by archaeologist Olivia LeLong. Rudi lent some of his finds to the Shetland Museum and Archives in



Lerwick where they can still be seen today. Bedales Outdoor Work and the farm meant that when Rudi insisted on visiting his 92-year-old Shetland grandfather (when all the able-bodied men were yet to return from the War) he was able to bring in the hay with a horse and cart and help with the harvest.

His family history intrigued him and he spent time researching his French Huguenot relative, the writer Malwida von Meysenbug, (1816-1903 *Memories of an Idealist*) who was an acquaintance of the composer Richard

Wagner's wife, Cosima.

Rudi (named by his father after Rudolf Steiner, the philosopher and founder of the Waldorf educational system) died from pneumonia and metastatic cancer on 29 October 2020, aged 94. His sense of adventure, sense of humour and gentle, generous nature are all greatly missed. He leaves his wife, Pat, (who he met while she was also training as a nurse at UCH), three daughters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. 🌹

**Hilary Saunders, daughter**



## Jessie Miller Sheeler (1972-97)

Jessie's paternal grandfather was an itinerant cheese maker, cycling from farm to farm in Ayrshire. Her father, Jimmie McGuffie, left school at 14 and entered the hotel trade at the lowest level. Her mother, who also left school at 14, went into domestic service. When Jessie was born on 12 September 1938 her father was working at the Turnberry Hotel in Ayr. Jimmy worked his way up through the business and eventually became the owner and patron of the Doric Tavern in Edinburgh, which became the

centre for the literati and artists of Edinburgh at the time.

Thanks to a benefactor Jessie was able to attend Mary Erskine's School in Edinburgh both at primary and secondary level. It was there that she developed her love of Classics and literature. She went up to The University of Edinburgh to study classics in 1956. By chance during her second year she happened to meet Ian Hamilton Finlay, one of whose plays she had heard on the radio and had been



impressed by when she was 13. She had also read and loved his *Sea Bed and Other Stories*. Despite the age gap of 13 years they soon moved in together.

When she graduated in 1960 they moved to Aberdeen so Jessie could do her PGCE there and Ian could attend the Ross Clinic in the hope of curing his severe agoraphobia. After this they returned to Edinburgh and set up the Wild Hawthorn Press to publish Ian's written pieces – prose, poetry, plays – and all his works on paper. It still exists today. They also founded the poetry magazine *Poor. Old. Tired. Horse*, which Jessie edited. Ian was then living on benefits, so Jessie earned money by cleaning stairs in the tenements and, when necessary, stealing food from local markets. Her first main jobs were teaching at the Rudolph Steiner School in Edinburgh and then at the Winchburgh School in West Lothian.

By now Ian's work was very well known in literary circles both here and abroad. An American, Richard Sheeler, who was doing his National Service in the Navy, called to see Ian while on two weeks' shore leave. After Richard left Jessie flew out to America to join him and they married shortly after in 1963. She taught in various schools while in New York. They returned to Scotland in 1965 for the birth of Jessie's first child **Amy (1980-84)** sharing a house with Ian and his long-term partner, Sue MacDonald Lockhart. Jessie was to remain Ian's long-term friend and collaborator up until his death in 2006.

Following Richard's jobs with IBM, first in Glasgow and then at IBM's research HQ at Hursley, the family eventually settled in Winchester. By now their second

and third children, **Cluny (1980-86)** and **Ian (1980-88)**, had been born.

Jessie claims she never applied for any job but by some means or other she worked as Assistant Accommodation Officer for The University of Southampton and then in 1972 as part-time teacher of Classics at Bedales under **Tim Slack (Head, 1962-74)**. In 1980 **Patrick Nobes (Head, 1974-81)** offered her the post of Housemistress in Steephurst, where over the years she worked with **Melanie Fuller (staff, 1972-2007)**, **Alison Willcocks (staff, from 1983, Head, 1994-2001)** and **Avril Hardie (staff, 1987-91, Governor, 2010-2020)**. She later became Head of Classics as well and, during an interregnum, Acting Deputy Head.

Richard joined her in Steephurst but eventually left in 1985 to live in Geneva. Jessie stayed in Steephurst until 1995 when she then moved to run the new 6.2 co-ed boarding house with **Philip Parsons (staff, 1979-2016)**, before retiring in 1997.

In 1995 Jessie and **Euan MacAlpine (Head, 1981-92)** announced their plans to marry in 1996. When Ian heard, fury erupted – he would never speak to Jessie again. Happily, he soon changed his mind and they continued to work and collaborate as closely as before up until his death.

Following her retirement Jessie moved up to Dalnavert on the banks of the Spey where Euan was running the Dalnavert Co-operative, which he had founded with others in 1982 as the first-ever land-owning co-operative in Scotland. This had been formed against very strong opposition (including one case going to the High Court) from the local lairds who had held sway over all land-ownership in the Highlands for centuries.

In 2000 they decided to move to Auchencairn on the Solway Coast where they had found a wonderful

place with unrestricted views in all directions, even though the house and three acres of land had been neglected for over 30 years. The house was put right within a year; the garden took far longer. It was finally 'finished off' with the creation of a 150m-long lochan, which formed a natural link between the garden and the salt marsh and tidal bay beyond.

Jessie's first book, *Little Sparta, The Garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay*, produced in conjunction with the photographer Andrew Lawson (father of **Susie Lawson, 1991-95**), was published in 2003.

Her second, *The Garden at Bomarzo, A Renaissance Riddle*, also published by Frances Lincoln, came out in 2007. It was published in English & French editions.

Her final book, *Little Sparta, A Guide to the Garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay*, was published in 2015. It was commissioned by the Little Sparta Trust with funding from the Arts School of The University of Edinburgh and the publisher, Berlinn.

Jessie's short-term memory started to decline in 2014 and Alzheimer's was formally confirmed a few years later. Luckily she was able to continue to live safely at home.

There is no doubt that Bedales was important to her, yet it was her personal and working relation with Ian for nigh on 50 years, which meant so much to her. As she wrote in the introduction to her first book thanking Ian "for the pleasure and enrichment his work has brought me".

She died in hospital on 27 December 2022 after a short stay.

She is survived by Euan, her sister Eileen, her three children and nine grandchildren. 🌹

**Euan MacAlpine (Head, 1981-92)**

## Clare Smith (1967-77)

**M**y sister Clare, an artist and filmmaker, was born on 6 May 1959 in Penang, Malaysia, where our father Brian worked for the colonial service and our mother Chan Loo taught English. I was born, also in Penang, on 9 August 1960.

Clare first went to England, where she met our English family, at the age of 18 months. At the end of this visit, the Smiths returned to Penang, where we lived until Brian joined the British Council.

In 1963 the family moved for three years to Dhaka, Bangladesh. In 1965, during the civil war between East and West Pakistan, we returned to Penang for a six-month period, during which Clare attended St Christopher's International School. She and I fell in love with a place called 'The Lone Pine'. Later, Clare would create an evocative set of paintings, which depicted the Lone Pine's sweeping palm trees and beautiful clean white sand.

Clare's artistic talent became evident at an early stage in her life. So too did her impressive athletic abilities. In Penang she went regularly to the

swimming club. At Bedales, she played lacrosse and hockey, and was always happy to be chosen as team captain!

In 1967, due to my father's work overseas, our parents decided to send us to Dunhurst. When my father was posted to Nigeria, it became the family's home for three or four years. Our parents also bought a house in Cambridge, and we spent holidays there whenever our father was on home leave. We also spent time in London with our mother, who was at that time taking a Vidal Sassoon hairdressing course. Later, during Clare's years at Bedales, our father was posted to Indonesia and then Venezuela.

Although Dunhurst and Bedales held mixed memories for Clare, she forged several lifetime friendships there – notably (in her year) with **Diana Ettinger (née Zinkin, 1976-77)**, **Sophie Decaudaveine (née Ilbert, 1963-77)**, **Polly Whyte (1966-77)**, **Grace Macmillian (née Dandridge, 1966-75)** and **Michael Bird (1964-77)**. She was exceptionally talented in both Languages and Art, as her superbly gifted teachers in those subjects,



**George Bird (staff, 1962-88)** and **Christopher Cash (staff, 1950-78)**, each recognised. As she neared the end of the Sixth Form, Clare was torn between applying to university or art school.

She chose the University of Cambridge (King's College), and in 1978 took up a scholarship to study Chinese. At King's she met Charles Leytem, a mathematician, and made new lifetime friendships. I visited her often at King's and did my best to distract her from the intensity of her studies. To no one's surprise, Clare graduated in 1982 with a first-class honour's degree.

At Cambridge Clare began to experience some transitory aches and pains. It became obvious something wasn't quite right when the discomfort in her joints and the episodes of pain became more regular. In 1982 she was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

After Clare's graduation she and Charles travelled to Japan, where Clare taught for a year. On their return they got married and moved to Charles's home country of Luxembourg, where they lived until their divorce.

Clare's love of art never left her, and over time her desire to devote herself to it became more and more pressing. During her years in





Luxembourg, she joined an art society and exhibited her work. Eventually Clare decided to pursue a degree in Fine Art, and in 1999 she enrolled at the University for the Creative Arts in Canterbury. After her BA she went on to do an MA at Central St Martins in London. These courses allowed her to combine her artistic vocation with her strongly intellectual disposition.

By this time Clare had settled in Dover, where she met artist Joanna Jones. Together Clare and Joanna founded the arts company Dover Arts Development (DAD), which they ran with great success for 16 years. Moreover, the Kent art world introduced Clare to an important group of fellow artists who, over the years, nurtured her art and her spirit.

By 2005, Clare had met Roger Parish, a civil servant and fellow animal lover. The couple got married in the Lake District on 31 May 2008. In 2008 Junzi, the Labrador, joined them and quickly became a central member of the family; no get together was complete without his inclusion.

At the end of 2009 Clare found a lump in her breast. It turned out to be cancer. Always accompanied by Roger, Clare spent much of 2010 in courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment. She never complained.

By the end of 2010 Clare was in remission. She went to China, where our mother was renting a flat, and with Roger spent some quality time sightseeing in Beijing.

Ranging across the genres of drawing, print media, collage and moving image, Clare's work, which appeared in several successful exhibitions, began to receive significant critical acclaim from about 2010 onwards. Clare received commissions, held a residency at the Wealden Festival, and saw her work selected for national competitions, most notably the prestigious Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize. At the same time, Clare established studio premises in Dover. This initiative grew into the thriving Dover Studio collective, which continues to bring together a community of like-minded artists.

In 2018 Clare showed symptoms of bowel cancer, the diagnosis being confirmed along with the return of breast cancer as secondaries in the liver. She resolutely underwent over four more years of treatments – during which she produced a remarkable series of over 70 'Chemotherapy Day Drawings'. Many of these drawings now form part of the Wellcome Collection in London.

Clare experienced tremendous support from Roger and his family. She, in turn, became a much-loved nanny to Roger's grandchildren. Clare's parents and I greatly appreciate Roger's unfailing devotion to Clare through her long illness.

With Roger and Junzi by her bedside, Clare passed away on 10 December 2022 in the Pilgrim's Hospice, Canterbury. She is deeply missed by Roger, her parents and me, our families, and her many friends and fellow artists. 🌹

**Jennifer Sofield (née Smith, 1967-74),  
sister**



**We are very grateful to family and friends for all the contributions for the obituaries of Old Bedalians and former staff in this newsletter. If you would like to provide an obituary for a future issue, please get in touch with the Bedales Alumni team at [alumni@bedales.org.uk](mailto:alumni@bedales.org.uk).**

# BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

## Births

**George Alldridge (2001-06)** and Becky Alldridge, a son, Xander, on 15 June 2022

**Hannah Bird (née Garrod, 2004-06)** and Harry Bird, a son, George Anthony, on 31 May 2020

**Alex Brown Danowski (1998-2003)** and **Henry Danowski (1998-2003)**, a daughter, Daphne Pearl, on 26 January 2022

**Marina Coghill (née Fairfax, 2005-07)** and James Coghill, a daughter, Astrid May Ulla, on 7 September 2022

**Stephen Davidson (2000-05)** and Lauren Davidson, a son, Amos, on 16 June 2022

**Tom Elwes (2003-08)** and Rhiannon Starks, a daughter, Ailsa, on 18 August 2021

**Rosemary Grey (1992-2005)** and Sam Thompson, a son, Alexander, on 21 September 2022

**Sarah Griffin-Warwicke (née Harber, 2007)** and Rory Griffin-Warwicke, a son, Charles Hudson on 10 May 2022

**Claire Hall (1985-2000)** and Peter Coysh, a son, Edward Alexander, on 3 May 2021

**Piper Osborne (1996-2004)** and Seth Osborne, a daughter, Hebe Etta Minnie, on 18 February 2022

**Tara Ward (née Wheating, 2002-7)** and Adam Ward, a son, Oscar Jack David, on 8 November 2021

**Alice Wheeler (née Clark, 2000-06)** and **Dan Wheeler (1994-2000)**, a girl, Romola Zuzu, on 9 Nov 2021

**Emily Whitley (2000-06)** and Luke Hallett, a son, Arthur, on 3 January 2022

## Engagements

**Charlie Raines (2009-11)** and Ben Doswell in October 2021

## Marriages

**Clare Allen (née Burgess, 1973-1978)** and Dr Peter Bowen on 15 October 2022

**Philip Angell (1993-98)** and Elham Soleimannezhad on 11 October 2020

**Tom Elwes (2003-08)** and Rhiannon Starks on 5 May 2018

**Conrad Roeber (1980-82)** and Derek Mackenzie on 25 May 2019

**Maddie Smith (2003-08)** and Shane Hanlon on 6 August 2022

**Harry Walker-White (2000-05)** and Siân Walker-White (née White) on 14 May 2022

**Tara Wheating (2002-07)** and Adam Ward in 2019

## Deaths

**Bob Alexander (Bursar and Clerk to Governors, 1972-87)** on 5 April 2022

**Ann Barlow (née Firnberg, 1942-44)** on 12 January 2022

**Peter Biggs (1937-40)** on 27 December 2021

**Crispin Burridge (1977-82, Governor, 2022)** on 7 February 2022

**Ann Carritt (née McMichael, 1939-40)** on 18 December 2021

**Amanda Cheadle (née Bennett, 1959-70)** on 1 November 2022

**Gustav Clarkson (1967-70)** on 7 July 2020

**Shirley Clunies-Ross (née Warwick, 1938-40)** on 23 April 2022

**Hereward Corley (1954-59)** on 6 March 2022

**Angela Crum Ewing (née Bates, 1939-48)** on 11 December 2021

**Brian Dixon (staff, mid 1980s-early 1990s)** on 12 October 2022

**Philip Fleming (1953-59)** on 10 January 2022

**Susan Foreman (née Kremer, 1948-56)** on 11 April 2022

**Martin Goodfield (1970-75)** on 21 May 2020

**Peter Hough (1952-63)** on 14 November 2022

**Paul Hutt (1968-75)** on 13 May 2022

**Robert Jeffcock (1953-55)** on 3 December 2022

**Deirdre Kirchener (née Wilkinson, 1939)** on 3 February 2019

**Christopher Latham (staff, 1958-62)** on 27 January 2022

**Stephen Loft-Simpson (1970-75)** on 5 December 2022

**Andrew Dennis Matthews (staff, 1980s/90s)** on 16 February 2022

**Jack Munyard (1971-76)** on 10 April 2022

**Andrew Mwangale (1985-87)** on 4 October 2015

**Richard Newnham (1943-50)** on 13 June 2022

**Guy Oram (1939-45)** on 21 October 2021

**Heather Partington (née Sykes, 1944-48)** on 6 August 2021

**Sarah Rendall (née Sackville-West, 1971-76)** on 1 June 2022

**Tim Rink (1955-64)** on 4 April 2022

**John Saunders (1936-43)** on 29 October 2020

**Jessie Sheeler (staff, 1972-97)** on 27 December 2022

**Clare Smith (1967-77)** on 10 December 2022

**Hannah Stanley (1950-61)** on 16 December 2022

**Stephen Ward (1974-81)** on 18 March 2022

**Sara Williams (1971-76)** on 29 December 2021

## Birthdays

**Waveney Bayly (1935-39)** was 100 on 26 March 2022

**Dr David Brooke (1943-50)** was 90 on 15 April 2022. He served in the Kenyan Flying Doctors Services and as Director of Medical Emergencies, Lakeland Hospital, Florida.

**Mike Sadler (1933-37)** was 102 on 22 February 2022



## Class of 2022

Name	Destination	Course
Ruben Alexander	UCL	Architecture
Patrick Arrowsmith	University of Manchester	Biosciences (with foundation year)
Jessica Asamoah	Leeds Conservatoire	Acting
Marina Bagnell	Brighton MET	Art Foundation
Sophie Baty	Oxford Brookes University	Sociology
Elena Belisario	UCL	History & Politics of the Americas
Lara Bell	Brighton MET	Art Foundation
Monty Bland	University of Surrey	Music & Sound Recording (Tonmeister)
Holly Bolton	Brighton MET	Art Foundation
Gala Chambers	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Molly Clark	CCW	Art Foundation
Martha Clough	CCW	Art Foundation
Poppy Davenport	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Oskar de Aragues	Oxford Brookes University	Interior Architecture
Isabella De Zordo	University of Birmingham	Biomedical Science
Fleur Donovan	Manchester Met University	Fashion Marketing
Georgina Du Boulay	Glasgow School of Art	Fine Art - Painting/Printmaking
Eilidh Edward	University of the Arts London	Theatre Design
Phoebe Esdaile	Ravensbourne	Art Foundation
Thomas Figgins	University of Hull	British Politics & Legislative Studies
Connor Fouhy	Bournemouth University	Film
Charles Hardy	University of Sussex	Banking & Digital Finance
Cosmo Hurwitz	University of Sussex	Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence
Leila Issa	University of Amsterdam	International Relations & Organisations
Laurence Johari	Oxford Brookes University	Business & Management
Jasper Kennedy	Loughborough University	Chemistry (with foundation year)
Jamie King	City and Guilds	Art Foundation
Charlie Kitchen	University of Amsterdam	Political Science
Alisia Leach	Cardiff University	French & Economics
Honey Lindsay	Ravensbourne	Art Foundation
Athena Lucas	Cardiff University	Chemistry
Jade Mark	Chapman University, USA	Liberal Arts
Isabella McGrath	Imperial College London	Chemical Engineering
Patraic O'Donnell	ICMP	Creative Music Production
Jake Scott	CCW	Art Foundation
Emily Smith	City and Guilds	Art Foundation
Samantha Smith	University of British Columbia	Psychology

## Class of 2022

Name	Destination	Course
Annabelle Snell	University of Warwick	Mathematics
Anna Sukhikh	Leiden University, Netherlands	Psychology
Fergus Taylor	Goldsmiths University	Popular Music
Maria Timokhina	Northeastern University, USA	Liberals Arts with Business
Alexandre Vafai	Queen Mary University	English with Creative Writing
Louie Wade	CCW	Art Foundation
Amos Wollen	University of Oxford	Philosophy & Theology

## Class of 2021

Name	Destination	Course
Claude Barker	University of Bristol	Music
Thomas Batty	University of Oxford	Philosophy, Politics & Economics
Lily Brough	University of Cambridge	Psychological & Behavioural Sciences
Zahara Cazac	Istituto Marangoni London	Fashion Styling & Creative Direction
Nell Enfield	Falmouth University	Costume Design for Film & Television
Ocean Evans-Savage	Parsons School of Design, USA	BFA Fashion Design
Rubie Hall	Falmouth University	Fashion Styling & Art Direction
Henry Kingsley-Pallant	Falmouth University	Fashion Photography
Arthur Lingham	University of Oxford	Biology
Edward Marshall-Smith	UCL	Psychology with Education
Gus McQuillin	Royal Holloway	Drama with Acting
Sienna Mills-Jung	UCL	English
Luca Nutt	University of Bristol	Business & Management with Innovation
Eleanor Peattie	The University of Edinburgh	Biological Sciences
Tallulah Priestly	Oxford Brookes University	Communication, Media & Culture
Arlo Radcliffe	Falmouth University	Music Production & Sound Engineering
Jess Sainsbury	University of Leeds	Philosophy, Psychology & Scientific Thought
Guido Sforini	SOAS University of London	Business, Management, Economics, Law
Ossian Sydow Elias	University of Bristol	Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
George Vaux	Guildhall School of Music	Music
Grace Vernor-Miles	Oxford Brookes University	Criminology
Dijle Yildirim	University of Manchester	Fashion Marketing

## Class of 2020

Name	Destination	Course
Lily Mongan	La Sorbonne, Paris	Linguistics







