

BEDALES ASSOCIATION & OLD BEDALIAN NEWSLETTER 2017







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WELCOME

Welcome to the Bedales Association Newsletter 2017.

2016 has seen an expanded programme of activities for the Association. This has largely been a reflection of the involvement of the increased membership facilitated by the constitutional changes to the Association made in 2015. Feedback on the opportunities this has created has been positive to date.

A very successful evening at Topolski Bar in January for OBs working in the arts demonstrated the willingness of Old Bedalians across generations to engage with each other and share experiences. By the time this Newsletter reaches you we hope to have held a similar event for those working in science, medicine and technology.

On Parents' Day in June there were some new events which proved very popular; a special lunch for parents whose children left within the past fifteen years was well attended and the reunion lunch for OBs which previously had been held the day after Parents' Day was particularly appreciated as it offered those OBs a more lively and atmospheric experience of the school. Also on Parents' Day, three members of staff who celebrated twenty five years of service were presented with a framed laser etched wooden engraving of the Memorial Library at a very informal Association hosted drinks event on the dining room terrace.

The Association AGM was held at the 1901 Arts Club in London enabling many more members to attend.



In addition to the business of the meeting, those attending enjoyed music, a catch up and a drink. We plan to repeat this for the next AGM which is to be held on 12 July.

Reunions were organised for OBs currently studying or working in Cambridge, Bristol and one in Edinburgh for those currently studying at Scottish universities. Other Association events included hockey, football, tennis and cricket matches between current and old Bedalians, and the Beyond Bedales Higher Education and Careers Fair, bringing together 6.1s with OBs currently starting their careers.

This Newsletter has a new editorial committee, drawing on a wider OB input, which we hope will better reflect the interests of the broader membership of the Association.

On behalf of the Steering Group and the Association members I would like to thank all those in the External Relations office who have worked so hard to organise these new events and inject new life into the Association and also to wish Leana Seriau all the best for her forthcoming maternity leave. 🍀

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

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Newsletter Editorial Committee

Robert Booth (1958-63)

Paul Cormack (1940-47)

Matthew Rice (1975-80)

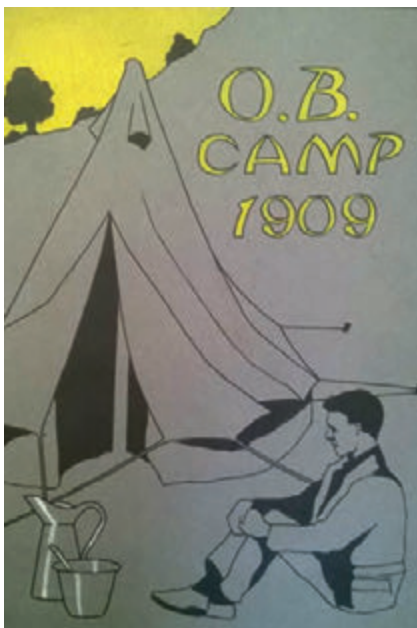
The editorial committee is looking for additional members. Should you wish to join, please contact Mary Hancox.

2016 has been a curious and unsettling year. Here are two pieces that I wrote earlier this year: the first, puts our annual Badley Celebration Weekend in the broader context of Bedales' development and its emphasis on relationships. The second, makes a more specific plea for the importance of schools like ours at this time:

Badley Celebration Weekend (September 2016)

It is interesting to step back and reflect a little on how we interpret the Badleyan vision – how it is, let's say, incarnated. Thinking of the sweep of history first of all; here are five perspectives for starters:

- **1900:** John Badley brings his new school to Steep (from Lindfield near Haywards Heath). 69 boys and 7 girls. First task is to finish the main school building. Lots of hand work.
- **1909:** Old Bedalian Camp. The list of campers gives you some indication of what the chat must have been like. Gimson and Lupton, for example, to whom we owe so much of our architectural heritage. Eckersley who, along with his brother, more or less invented sound engineering. Rupert Brooke wasn't



at the 1909 camp but was a great friend of his namesake, Justin Brooke, and sometimes joined the group.

- **1922:** John Badley's Notes and Suggestions for Staff Joining Bedales: "Teaching is not telling but helping to find out."
- **1966:** The first year group where a

student could have joined Dunannie and gone all the way through to Bedales. It is this cohort (of 55), the class of '66, who returned for their reunion during this year's event. Many of them spent the better part of 10 years together – in school most weekends as well. They are in remarkably good shape and full of alarmingly distinguished people.

- **2016:** Block 3s start out – their 50-Year Reunion will be 2071.



Badley Weekend activities mirror the Badleyan desire that his pupils should not be feeble or ignorant about the world that surrounded them – they should know a hawk from a handsaw – and know how to use the latter, as a good number found out in clearing an area of scrub by the Roman road.

But I suspect that what acts in its own mysteriously cohesive way – across these times and will continue to exert its spell – is the emphasis on relationships. So here is how The Chief put it in his 1922 leaflet mentioned above:



"Our whole system at Bedales is based on intimate individual knowledge and personal influence. For the full value of co-education especially we must have in large measure the condition of family life."

Liberal Values in an Illiberal Age (December 2016)

Who could have guessed that 'post-truth' would be declared as the Oxford Dictionaries word of the year? 'Post-truth' is defined as "relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief." I certainly didn't think I would be standing before the Bedales students at an assembly, giving a talk under that title and with the political background that we are currently adjusting to.

It all takes some explaining, which is what I was trying to do. Where do you start? Here are some reasonable questions that any sentient Bedales teenager might be thinking:

- If that former education minister, Michael Gove, tells us that "the people in this country have had enough of experts" and the views of experts, such as judges, are widely decried on the front page of the *Daily Mail*, what's the point of education, which is, after all, about becoming more expert?
- Likewise, if what matters is that governments listen to the people and the views of experts such as MPs are being pushed to one side, why should I worry about voting – here in Petersfield for example?
- What about the so-called liberal elite? Aren't our teachers people who are part of that group? I think our Headmaster would certainly like to think he is. I thought that it was a good thing to be a liberally minded person.
- What about our school's values? We are asked to live by values such as tolerance, kindness, respect for each other's feelings – aren't these being downgraded?

It is with this kind of background that teachers – perhaps headteachers in particular – need to assert the value of a liberal education. By that I mean liberal in these two senses: the promotion of values such as tolerance, kindness and respect for others' feelings; and the willingness to respect and accept the opinions that are different from our own and an openness to new ideas.

In this post-truth world, sadly we need to be vigorous in asserting the value of knowledge over opinion. Our business is to help educate young people to be kind, humane, inquisitive people who love learning and want to keep learning. The world needs plenty of people like this – people who are fuelled by the idea of becoming experts and want to make the world a better place.

I hope that these two pieces give you some sense of the way that internal and external currents flow through the school.

In this most peculiar of years, the school has enhanced how it looks and

what it offers to its students through the opening of our magnificent new Art & Design building. For many of us, it stands out as one of the finest buildings in our architecturally rich environment; it is a further reminder of the school's commitment to creating buildings that are as beautiful as they are useful. The new building has enhanced that whole area of the school's estate and in particular has opened up the Barnyard and that fruit of so many student and staff hours, the Sotherington Barn. It has come about as a result of a high degree of consultation, both with the wider Bedalian community and then internally. It is serendipitous that this landmark project has coincided with a visionary Chairman of Governors, **Matthew Rice (1975-80)** who has brought all those values to bear in what has been an extraordinarily fruitful collaboration.

At a time when the onus on schools like Bedales to show that we are sharing expertise and facilities with maintained sector schools, our new building is a reminder of one of the most significant ways that we can provide helpful support to those schools whose ability to offer Art and Design is being severely curtailed as a result of the spending squeeze.

In July this year we said goodbye to two very long serving colleagues.

All of us who have benefitted so much from the Bedales Arts programme owe a great debt of gratitude to John Barker, as his work over the past 26 years placed the lively arts programme at the heart of the school's daily life. For generations of Bedalians John's ability to publicise the programme to students through witty and often erudite early morning notices became legendary. It was entirely appropriate that the final assembly of term began with John's magnificent solo baritone rendition of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Ich Habe Genug*, as John will resume his role as a performer more fully on his retirement from Bedales.

Philip Parsons joined Bedales in September 1979. For the great majority of Philip's 37 years at Bedales he has been in pastoral positions, initially as Assistant Housemaster in the original school building, when all the boarding boys in the school lived there, then as housemaster in that building before the decision was taken to create New Boys' Flat; Philip was one of the founding housemasters in residence there in 1994. In 2005 I asked him to move back into the main school building – as housemaster of 6.2. As a History teacher, Philip has shown himself to be a very acute historian with fine ability to communicate his passion for the subject,

partly from his keeping thoroughly up to date with his reading. The History department's lunchtime lectures over recent years have enjoyed some of the highest turnouts when Philip was delivering the lecture. However, it will be above all for his patience, compassion and concern for the individual student that Philip will be remembered. In E. M. Forster's *Passage to India*, Aziz talks about "kindness, more kindness and even after that more kindness". If anyone has exemplified that cardinal human quality, it is Philip in his time here, especially as a housemaster. Essentially a private man, Philip has been a quietly influential force both in the life of the community and of individual Bedalians over the last 37 years. I am delighted that he is continuing his association with the school through being the link person for OBs from the last few decades. It is difficult to imagine any example of more selfless devotion to a school than Philip's 37 years at Bedales.

If you have not been back to see us since the sheds by Steephurst were swept away and a very different entrance to the school made, please do think about coming back on 1 July 2017 for Parents' Day. You would be very welcome. ☘

Keith Budge



OB EVENTS – REVIEWS OF 2016

Visit from Michael Carr-Gregg (1965-66) 25 January 2016

Old Dunhurstian **Michael Carr-Gregg (1965-66)** is one of Australia's highest profile child and adolescent psychologists. Michael spent a short but happy time at Dunhurst as a seven year old boarder before continuing his education abroad. Author of bestselling *Princess Bitchface Syndrome*

and nine other volumes, Michael is now an ambassador for the Australian Government's National Drugs Campaign and MD of the Young and Well Corporate Research Centre. Michael returned to Bedales to give a talk in the Olivier Theatre on *How to Build Happy and Resilient Young People*.



Art & Design Sector Event 26 January 2016

More than 80 OBs studying or working in the Art & Design sector met up at Topolski Bar in London for a drinks party. This was a first in a series of social events which bring together Bedalians who share similar professions.

Cambridge Reunion 11 February 2016

A group of Cambridge hopefuls from Bedales visited the university with a few members of staff to meet up with OBs who are students (both at undergraduate and postgraduate level), graduates or members of staff at Cambridge. After a tour of the university and some of the colleges, a drinks reception took place at St Catharine's College.



St Luke's Concert 3 March 2016

Bedales students, some of which are now OBs, performed a

lunchtime concert at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. The concert included performances of Guitar Concerto in D by Vivaldi (Chamber Orchestra) and

Blest Pair of Sirens by Parry (Cecilia Consort). Many OBs attended the event, as well as parents, prep and primary school teachers and pupils.



DO COME AND VISIT BEDALES

Bedales students and staff love visits from OBs so do please come and see us to catch up and look around. As you are probably aware, we have a legal requirement to register all visitors to the

school; please therefore check-in with Wendy Hudson or one of her colleagues at Reception who will be happy to see you back at Bedales. Thank you – we hope you will understand.



Visit from Alan Lucas 15 March 2016

Alan Lucas (1959-64) returned to Bedales to give a Civics lecture entitled: *A personal adventure in early nutrition and early life influences*. Alan founded the Child Nutrition Research Centre at the Institute of Child Health in London, where he is now professor of paediatric nutrition. It became evident

during his talk that his work and determination have led to substantial advances, even upheavals, in our understanding of the effects of paediatric nutrition on conditions such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes. Alan paid credit to his inspirational Biology teacher, **Andrew Routh (1955-84)** who, at the age of 91, was sitting in the audience. Photo: Alan Lucas (left) and Andrew Routh (right).

Edinburgh Reunion 19 March 2016

Continuing our series of university based OB reunions, a group of fourteen OBs currently studying in Scotland met up in Edinburgh. Joining them were alumni officer Philip Parsons and university liaison coordinator Sarah Oakley. They were delighted to get positive feedback from recent OBs who had embarked on courses ranging from Classics, Philosophy and Archaeology to Economics, Modern Languages, Art and Product Design at Aberdeen, St Andrews and Edinburgh itself.



Bedales v OBs Tennis Tournament 13 April 2016

April saw the first (of hopefully many) Bedales v OBs tennis tournament. Good weather and fine playing conditions, together with an excellent turnout, produced an enjoyable afternoon of competitive tennis. There were some extremely close fought matches, with many sets going to tie breaks. The OBs came out on top, winning the new competition trophy by 9 matches to 7.

Visit from Kirstie Allsopp 9 May 2016

Kirstie Allsopp (1986-88) hosted a fundraising lunch in aid of the John Badley Foundation. Seventy parents and OBs got together for a wonderful meal. Thank you to Kirstie for entertaining everyone with tales of working in TV and raising teenagers, as well as to the many other OBs who attended the event.



Beyond Bedales Higher Education and Careers Fair 18 June 2016

Forty OBs (leavers from 2013-15) currently studying, or starting their careers, attended the Beyond Bedales: Higher Education and Careers Fair. The event is designed to give 6.1 students the opportunity to talk to OBs first-hand about university options and career paths. The students enjoyed hearing about life after Bedales from those who have already experienced it.



10, 25 & 35/36-Year Reunions 25 June 2016

The 10, 25 and 35/36 year reunions were well attended and, despite some rain at times, the OBs were in high

spirits. The classes of 1980 and 1981 enjoyed a marquee lunch before the Bedales Association as a whole gathered for a drinks reception outside the Dining Hall, under the new oak pergola. The classes of 1991 and 2006 then held their

respective barbeques. Special thanks go to **Molly Cross (née Scott, 1975-80)**, **Nikki Lack (1986-90)**, **James Parry (1986-91)**, **Ipek Gencsu (2001-06)** and **Jamie McInnes (2003-06)** for all their help with the reunion organisation.



Visit from Sir Andrew Cahn 15 June 2016

Former diplomat and civil servant **Andrew Cahn (1965-69)** returned to Bedales for an extended EU Referendum Jaw debate. The motion was: "This house believes the UK should remain a member of the European

Union". For the proposition, Andrew Cahn and Cameron Cross (6.2); for the opposition, Ian Brown (South East Chair of 'Business for Britain' and MD of Industrial Maintenance Services, Portsmouth), and George McMenemy (6.1). Andrew gave a highly personal and moving speech and, along with Cameron, convinced the majority of Bedalians to vote remain.



Visit from Patrick Nobes 1 July 2016

Matthew Rice (1975-80) and **Alastair Langlands (staff 1973-2001)** invited **Patrick Nobes (Headmaster 1974-81)** to visit the school in the last week of term. Patrick had not seen Bedales at work since he left thirty-five years ago. They showed

him all the new buildings, including the new Art and Design building. He was on fine form, amused, entertained and deeply interested in how the school had developed and grown. He was reacquainted with several staff from his era, and at lunch he met Keith and enjoyed the hospitality of the head students.



Bedales Association AGM and Drinks Reception 6 July 2016

The Bedales Association hosted an evening gathering for OBs, former staff and former parents at the 1901 Arts

Club in Waterloo. Around 60 people attended the event which consisted of the Association's 33rd Annual General



Meeting, a drinks reception and a musical performance by Finn Carter (6.1). The event, which was the first of its kind, was deemed a success and will be taking place again this year on Wednesday 12 July.

A Level Results Day 18 August 2016

The class of 2016 celebrated a strong set of results, with the school's highest ever percentage of A Level A* grades at 23%. 46% of all grades were A*-A and 77% at A*-B (also the school's highest). They secured places at a range of prestigious universities, art colleges and music colleges (see University Destinations 2016 on page 59).



The Stansted Players 25-28 August 2016

The Stansted Players held their 26th annual production in the Olivier Theatre. The group of OBs (led by **Alastair Langlands, staff 1973-2001**) put on a wonderful performance of Ronald Firbank's surreal comedy *The Princess Zoubaroff*. **Celeste MacIlwaine (2009-14)** played the startlingly alluring princess, capturing **Olivia Brett (2009-14)** as Nadine and **Immy Welch (2009-14)** as the child-bride Enid for her nunnery. **Dominic Ashton (2000-05)** played Lord Orkish and **Jordan Theis (2005-10)** Reggie Quintus.



Bedales v OBs Sports Event 10 September 2016

Stoner men's football team (classes of 2004-2010) returned to the Mem Pitch for their match against the Bedales

1st XI boys' team and managed to retain the trophy with a 4-2 win. Many thanks to **Jack Deane (2004-09)** who recruited and organised the OB footballers. The mixed Stoner hockey team (classes of 2008-2012)



made a triumphant return to the event, winning the first half 8-1 against Bedales. For the second half, the players decided to have a bit of fun and mix the teams up. Many thanks to **Rhianna Shaw (2002-07)** for reviving the team.

OB Careers Talk 23 September 2016

Eight OBs from the class of 2006 made a special visit to talk to 6.2s about their studies and careers since leaving Bedales. Many thanks to the group, which included a naval officer (**George Alldridge**), a patent attorney (**Alistair Holzhauser-Barrie**), a consultant at the Green Investment Bank (**Yamez**



Collopy), a theatre designer (**Georgia de Grey**), a Cambridge PhD student (**Felix Grey**), an actor

(**Jamie McInnes**), a creative director (**Nick Shute**) and a concert hall manager (**Alice Wheeler, née Clark**).



Visit from Joanna Hardy 9 November 2016

Joanna Hardy (1974-78) gave a fundraising talk in aid of the John Badley Foundation along with fellow jewellery expert Shaun Leane. The Design Hub in the new Art & Design building was packed with students and OBs to hear their life stories. Thank you to Joanna for entertaining everyone with tales of her jewellery-making debut in the Bedales workshop with **Martin Box (staff 1970-2008)**, to eventually becoming a diamond grader and a leading trader in the diamond industry. 💎



50-Year Reunion 25 September 2016

The class of 1966 returned to Bedales for their 50-year reunion which coincided with the school's Badley Celebration Weekend. They enjoyed a music performance in the Lupton Hall, lunch in the Dining Hall and tours by 6.2s. Many thanks to **John Robinson (1960-66)** for his help with the reunion organisation.

UPCOMING REUNIONS

This year, the three summer reunions will be taking place on Parents' Day, Saturday 1 July. All the usual events and entertainments will be available.

Class of 2007 Reunion

The 10 year reunion for the class of 2007 will start late afternoon and conclude with a Block Barbecue Party by the Cricket Pavillion.

Invitations have been sent out. If you should have received one but did not, please get in touch with Carlos or Zoe:

Carlos Schuster

carlos.schuster07@googlemail.com
07877 796 413

Zoe Graham

jervoisestyling@gmail.com
07817 681 645



Classes of 1972 and 1973 Reunion

The 44/45 year reunion for the classes of 1972 and 1973 will start late morning and conclude with a Marquee Lunch by the Cricket Pavilion.

Invitations have been sent out. If you should have received one but did not, please get in touch with Mary:

Mary Hancox

mhancox@bedales.org.uk
01730 711 695

Class of 1992 Reunion

The 25 year reunion for the class of 1992 will start late afternoon and conclude with a Block Barbecue Party in and around the Sotherington Barn.

Invitations have been sent out. If you should have received one but did not, please get in touch with Sam or Sirio:

Sam Jukes-Adams (née Henham Barrow)

sjaassociateslondon@gmail.com
07855 507 314

Sirio Quintavalle

sirio@quintavalle.plus.com
07530 971 098



PARENTS' DAY 2017

Saturday 1 July

All members of the Bedales Association are welcome.

- Exhibitions
- Afternoon Tea
- Concert in the Quad
- Dance & Drama performance
- Bedales Association Drinks Reception

Please reserve tickets well in advance for concert and performances to avoid disappointment. Free tickets available from our website (bedales.org.uk) or the TicketSource Box Office 0333 666 3366 (£1.50 telephone booking fee applies).

A YEAR AT BEDALES

A selection of stories from the school's weekly bulletin to give a flavour of life at Bedales in 2016

January – An audience with Shami Chakrabarti

By Ruben Brooke, 6.2



This year's annual Global Awareness lecture was delivered to a packed Quad by the outgoing director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti, who focussed on the challenges facing human rights in the UK. She spoke about the need to protect the rights to privacy and free speech against governments and individuals, with emphasis on the current rhetoric about abolishing the Human Rights Act. Having rapidly got the measure of her audience ("Radio 4 and quinoa") she spoke compellingly about the internet as "the new frontier" for Human Rights, deftly illustrating how differently we would feel if it was suggested that a record was kept of every physical site we visited – every shop, every hotel, every airport.

February – A2 Devised Performances address societal issues

By Zeyno Yurddas, 6.1



The audience in the theatre was entertained by the 6.2 devised Drama pieces. They each addressed political issues that are widely discussed in society, providing the audience with thought provoking performances on the matters of terrorism and feminism. We were initially presented with the typical scenario of the terrorist on the tube, and shown insight into the sort of issues that may lead to anyone carrying out an act of terrorism. This performance was followed by another, this time exploring female oppression in the modern world. The play focused on the objectification of women from the viewpoint of those who experienced it first-hand. Overall, they were both very powerful performances, conveying clear messages, whilst still raising questions surrounding the issues.

March – India, 'exciting, incredible, spectacular'

By Izzy Edgeworth, Block 5



This year's India visit was rich with exciting opportunities, incredible people, and spectacular views. After an approximate 25 hour journey we arrived at the Hanifl Centre in Mussoorie, attached to the Woodstock School. From there we hiked through the Chukkar, the Jabarkhet Nature Reserve and the Bob Fleming Nature Trail. The Jabarkhet reserve was beautiful with prayer flags draped through the trees, dancing in the breeze, and during the Bob Fleming trail we were lucky enough to see several monkeys. The trek lasted three days and we covered a lot of ground, occasionally, when we were high enough, we even caught glimpses of the snow-capped mountains.

April – Icelandic adventure

By Imi Sinclair-Jenkins, Block 4

During the Easter break, Paul Turner, Jackie Sueref and Gordon Dale, took Block 4 geographers on a trip to Iceland. Most of us had never been before, and we were all shocked at how a country so close to home could feel so much like another planet. We took part in amazing activities including caving in lava tubes and snorkelling in a plate boundary at Silfra Gorge and hiking on a glacier at Sólheimajökull. There were astonishing views and the glacier is not likely to last much longer due to its fast retreat. It really was a once in a lifetime experience and I would encourage all Block 3s who are thinking of taking Geography next year, to go. The country is breath-taking and I found myself doing new activities that I'd never dreamed of doing. An added bonus was the Northern Lights; who wouldn't want to see those?

May – New term, new pergola

With the new term and increasingly good weather, came the opportunity to admire the new oak pergola overlooking the tennis courts from the dining hall. **Gabriel Langlands (1987-89)** led the construction of the oak frame and said: "For a timber framer it has been a particularly satisfying job. To help create a beautiful new space that is immediately enjoyed by so many people every day is quite a privilege.



It's like being a writer with a guaranteed readership. I hope it was interesting for the students to see a pegged oak frame taking shape outside the dining room window. The benches, made by **John Russell (1978-85)** from an oak tree that fell in the school grounds, really made the space come together for the beginning of the Summer Term." Garden and Grounds Manager, James Lathwell, added: "We have planted three Vitis Roma rouge (red grape) and three Vitis Roma blanc (white grape) which will be trained up over the new pergola".



June – New Head of Dunhurst: Colin Baty

Colin Baty has been announced as the new Head of Dunhurst from September 2017. He will succeed Jane Grubb who will stand down next summer after six years to pursue a new business venture. Colin taught at Dunhurst between 1999 and 2005 and his wife Debbie taught at Dunannie, from 1996 to 2005 and grew up in Steep. They were also both house parents at Dunhurst. Colin said: "We are really excited about being part of the Dunhurst and Bedales community. Dunhurst offers such a high quality prep school education in a wonderful environment, and I am looking forward to working with the excellent teaching team at Dunhurst to strengthen further the school's distinctiveness and performance."

July – Art & Design Building: officially open!

By Keith Budge, Headmaster, Bedales Schools

Bedales' new two-storey timber clad building opened to cheers from parents and students in a ceremony



incorporating an orchestra and choral singing as part of our annual Parents' Day celebrations. It marked an exciting new chapter in Bedales' Art & Crafts heritage. The event was a wonderfully fitting finale to the construction project which has enjoyed such fantastic collaboration between all those who helped create this beautiful new building, for which the school is immensely grateful. I particularly enjoyed our students' involvement in the celebration: Bedales musicians provided a suitably inspiring start and it was fitting for **Katie Shannon (2005-13)** to represent the Old Bedalian community – as a sixth former she led the student consultation for the building and went on to read Architecture at Edinburgh University. Star of the show, however, was five year old Dunannie child Max who cut the ribbon and declared the building open with such aplomb.

August – Bedales Headmaster announced as HMC Chair

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) has announced that Bedales Headmaster, Keith Budge, will be HMC Chair for 2017-18, and assumes the role of HMC Chair Elect from 1 September 2016. HMC represents the majority of the UK's leading independent schools and has a growing international membership. The HMC Chair is a part-time and representative role carried out by a serving head.



Bedales Chairman of Governors, **Matthew Rice (1975-80)** said: "As Chairman of HMC, Keith will be able to promote the merits of an education system that offers choice and independence for schools to develop their distinctiveness. We see this in spades at Dunannie, Dunhurst and Bedales with independent thinking and inquisitiveness at the fore. This appointment is a ringing endorsement of Keith's contribution and is a big feather in our cap."



September – Bedales Community Festival *By Louise Wilson, Senior Deputy*

The school community celebrated the educational principles of founder John Haden Badley and participated in a range of events including working together on the Whole School Effort in the spirit of the school motto 'Work of Each for Weal of All'. Staff and students cleared the Roman Path to enable better use of the land for farming, and workshops were held in the afternoon focusing on the work of our three community partners. In the evening, students heard Hampshire County Council's David Retter on issues that could affect any young person – that of child sexual exploitation. On Sunday, the Bedales Community Festival showcased live music, animals, arts and crafts, games, dance, workshops and sport. The festival was an opportunity for us to share the wonderful surroundings at Bedales with the local community; it was also an opportunity to fundraise for our charitable partners: Mencap, The King's Arms and Home-Start Butser.

October – Night of comedy raises £7,000 for full bursaries

By Veryan Vere Hodge, Head of Development

'An Evening with John Lloyd and Harry Enfield' saw a packed-out Quad of students, current and former parents and OBs, captivated by two comic greats. John and Harry discussed the importance of satire as well as 'knowing what you like and trusting your instincts'. One parent said "It was a privilege to spend an hour with two comic geniuses!" and **Ed Rennie (1990-95)** tweeted: "Harry Enfield interviewing John Lloyd, taught me I still have a lot to learn about life!"



We are thrilled that the event raised over £7,000 for the John Badley Foundation, which gives young people the life-changing opportunity that a Bedales education can provide. A huge thank you to John Lloyd and Harry Enfield for so kindly giving up their time and providing us with such an entertaining and inspiring evening.

November – Science convention inspires

By Lara Loasby, Block 4

Wired Next Generation Day is an annual event put on by the innovation and technology magazine *Wired* to inspire teenagers to experiment with and learn about latest technologies. They have on average 15 speakers, ranging from an international drone racer to a memory scientist to topics on animation and computer generated imagery at Pixar. They also have a room filled with different interactive displays, such as an ultrasound hologram that will be used for advertisements and has been sold to Crypton Future Media for hologram concerts. The talk I most enjoyed was by Heston Blumenthal on the science of taste. During the talk he made us all take a glass of Coke and look at two screens, one had 'Coke' written in spiky bold writing and the other

had 'Coke' written in soft bubble-style writing. He told us to take a sip whilst looking at one of the two screens, and when we looked at the screen with the spiky writing the Coke tasted almost sour and when we looked at the bubble writing it tasted even sweeter than normal.

December – Cecilia Concert strikes a chord

By Ellie Evans and Shanise Liang, 6.1

The annual Cecilia Concert started off with a bang as we heard the first movement of Beethoven's *8th Symphony*, played by the Bedales orchestra and conducted by Nick Gleed. We were also very fortunate to have various professional musicians join us and bring the symphony to life. As we moved through the concert, we heard a variety of genres, such as a romantic piece composed by the virtually unknown composer Nápravník,



played by the chamber orchestra. The piece gave a sense of calmness after the exciting start of the Beethoven. Choir sang a mixture of pieces including an arrangement by Nick Gleed of *Autumn Leaves* and concluded with a really stylish performance of Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir*. Overall, the concert was great fun, and raised money for Cecily's Fund. 🎵



OUTDOOR WORK TODAY

For many Old Bedalians, a walk through our Outdoor Work (ODW) area often triggers memories of their own time toiling away at the subject. From pruning bramble bushes to baking bread, the unique and diverse options offered by ODW have provided many memorable educational experiences.

I wanted to give you an insight into the projects that students are currently working on. For a more general overview of ODW you can visit the subject page on the school website.

One of our most visible new projects is the hexagonal observation hut that students are currently building. Located just around the corner from the Sotherington Barn, the structure will allow us to keep a close watch on our bees, so students can really get to know these fascinating creatures. On the opposite side of the estate, down by the Black Barn, another starter project continues to gather momentum. Thanks to the Bedales



is a visiting ram, whose presence should result in many more sheep next spring. Our new Farm Assistant, Ed Mitchell, has fantastic experience with cattle, so we may well be updating you with news of some more additions to the farm in the not so distant future!

Last year three students built a pig house to serve as a centre for Bedales pork. We introduced a couple

of Oxford Sandy and Black pigs to the school and now have fourteen, with three litters due in March. We rear the pigs for sausage making and butchery and also sell them as weaners to parents and students. The aim of this is to remove the 'cling-film' from farming – introducing the children to the process of rearing animals for meat and making the concept of farm-to-fork a very real, hands on experience.

The two Block 4 students who helped build our clay pizza oven in the summer have progressed to the next stage in their campaign to become the Domino's of Steep! They are now making pizzas as part of their Wednesday afternoon activity and selling them to their peers, thus making a valuable contribution to ODW. Because we're self-funded, all our



Parents' Association's generosity, we have been able to buy an incubator for chicken breeding. Our first batch of chicks were born at Easter and quickly turned into beautiful, not to mention noisy, youngsters! Five more chicks were born in December and we hope 2017 will bring us many more.

The farm continues to develop in other areas too. We're increasing our flock of Jacob sheep and currently have approximately 60. Adding to this number





profits are ploughed back into the farm, just as they have always been.

Speaking of commercial opportunities, students are converting a barn by the Bakehouse into a farm shop. One exciting new product range you can expect to see on the shelves will be our home-made soaps and lip balms, made using herbs and produce from the estate. We have also recently begun selling sheepskin rugs from our Jacob sheep, as well as blankets made from their wool, processed for us by a mill in rural Wales.

Thanks to ODW teacher and food specialist, Feline Charpentier, our edible range of products continues to expand. Apple and tomato chutney, pickled rainbow beets, poached pears in elderflower champagne, elderberry cordial, hay cordial, hay salt, jam,

hedgerow jelly using crab apples and hawthorn berries, and plum compote are just a few of the delicacies on offer. And of course, we still have the much loved weekly bread bake, where our more bright-eyed and bushy-tailed students join me at 6am every Thursday in the Bakehouse.

Bread baking isn't the only tradition that is thriving. Students continue to work on the forge made by former students, and turn out an impressive range of goods, including candle-sticks and a fire-pit which will be placed down by the lake. This is another area receiving the full ODW treatment. After being the site of the Badley Weekend whole school effort a couple of years ago we have continued working to make the lake a beautiful and inspiring space. A new oak-framed bridge to access the

site has been made, overseen by timber framing expert **Gabriel Langlands (1987-89)** whom we are lucky enough to have in our department one day a week. Gabriel runs the sixth form timber framing enrichment course which is in the process of extending the Bakehouse and building a barn to be used as a teaching space. In the following article, Gabriel explores the history of Outdoor Work and the Sothington Barn.

We have a visiting Blacksmith, Lucille Scott of Little Duck Forge, who comes in one day a week, offering students and staff the opportunity to get to grips with the ancient art of blacksmithing. We have also recently welcomed two part-time members of staff to the team; Gaye Bartlett to help in the Bakehouse and Jo Cole to organise us in the workshops. Keir Rowe, who many of you will already know, continues to be a key part of the ODW team.

We are very proud of ODW and the legacy we've been handed. Today we work hard to honour and continue the endeavours of the many hundreds of staff and students who have contributed to the department over the years. And we hope that our current students will carry the same affection and happy memories of the subject that many of you share, when they become Old Bedalians themselves. 🍷

Andrew Martin
Head of Outdoor Work



THE SOTHERINGTON BARN



Knocking an oak peg out of an ancient timber framed building is like time travel. There you are at the top of a ladder holding this rough object and you start to look at the drawknife marks on it and you wonder about the hands that held it hundreds of years ago. What was their ladder like? What were their tools like? What was their lunch like?

Did they, like you, admire the view? Was there a warm summer breeze, or was it, like when the Bedalians dismantled the Sotherington barn, a cold week in November?

Then you notice the axe marks that shaped the wall plate; each little cut of the axe leaves a scratch from a nick in the axe's blade. The tie beam has axe marks with a different signature made by a different axe, so now you have identified two individuals who worked on this frame. John Rogers and Charley Brentnall and the small group of pupils and staff who had joined them that half-term week in 1980 were starting to realise the educational power of this very ambitious Outdoor Work project.

In the post-war years, Bedales Outdoor Work (ODW) incorporated a 100 acre farm which was run by the pupils. As there was no pupil involvement during the holidays, it was seen by the governors as being very unprofitable, so in 1955 the cattle were sold and the land let to a tenant farmer, Mr Cobb. ODW continued; they did gardening and estate work and grew vegetables, but by the mid-70s a feeling had begun to develop among some staff and pupils that there was a need to revive the part of Badley's philosophy that concerned what he called 'Manual Training'. Badley said: "Our real worth lies not in how many servants we need to work for us, but how few". ODW needed new inspiration. It was a strong feeling that became popular; and in 1975 a whole school meeting was called. The upshot was that the pupils involved produced a 'Green Paper' and the governors allowed a three acre site east of the estate yard on which to grow vegetables, keep livestock and "keep out of sight".

John Rogers was known in the school because he had previously taught at Dunhurst for a short period, and, though none of them knew him well, it was generally agreed by the staff that he was the sort of maverick who could inspire the revival of ODW. In the same year **Alastair Langlands (staff 1973-2001)**, then Headmaster of Dunhurst and the Middle School, gave Rogers a teaching job which included four afternoons per week of Middle School ODW. By 1976 (despite great opposition from the Bursar) a new ODW department had been created at Bedales with Rogers in charge. It was a three year trial to prove it could be self-funded, and – due mainly to Rogers' leadership and principles – it worked. By 1979 ODW had become a compulsory part of the curriculum again.

There are two coincidences that helped the Sotherington Barn to arrive at Bedales; fast-forward past the long, hot summer of punk, the Queen's Jubilee and huge amounts of tree-planting at Bedales, and Rogers had the idea of moving a barn to ODW. This was

partly because he'd been talking to Tom Webster, a Suffolk man who had a business dismantling unused or dangerous barns, labelling the parts, storing them and, occasionally but not very often, putting one up again. And the very person who had been working with Webster for the past year – Charley Brentnall – happened to be orbiting Bedales because he was going out with pottery teacher **Liz Ayliff (staff 1978-81)**.

The second coincidence is that at a dinner party, Rogers met John Selborne, who owned the Blackmoor Estate of apple orchards just outside Selborne, about eight miles from Bedales. They got talking and it turned out that he not only greatly approved of ODW, but had a large 18th century thatched barn in Sotherington Lane that they were finding difficult to use. He told Rogers they could have it, on the condition that they came and got it. It should be mentioned that Selborne

had been offered a lot of cash for this barn, which he rejected in favour of donating it to Bedales.

Now, Charley Brentnall is the kind of person you wouldn't mind being stuck in a lifeboat with, with no hope of being rescued. Not because he looks like he might be good to eat, but because of his calm, Guernsey-wearing dependability and needle-sharp sense of humour; but it's still amazing to me that he (only 24 at the time) and Rogers were not intimidated by the task of organising children to move and re-erect this thing. They must have known that they had an arsenal of exceptional Bedalians behind them – riding on a giant wave of unwillingness to do sport – because in the Christmas half-term of 1980 (one week) they pulled the old thatch and battens and weatherboarding off Lord Selborne's barn, labelled and dismantled it and transported it to Bedales. A great many long, wooden apple-picking ladders were lent to

them by the Blackmoor Estate. The only bits of scaffolding to be seen were three poles that made up the A-frame used to lower the tie beams.

John Selborne recounts that on the day set for the dismantling he was distressed to see Rogers walking "ashen faced" up their drive, and ran out to meet him fearing some awful accident had occurred, to find that Rogers had only run out of petrol (a predicament characteristic of a risk-taker).

Another benefactor and supporter of bringing new life to ODW was **Ben Powell (1957-63)**. He donated another barn near Bury St Edmunds which, crucially, had pan tiles on the roof which could be used to replace the thatch on the Sotherington Barn, as the thatch was seen as a hazard for fire and finance. Charley dismantled this in the holidays and timbers from it were used to repair and replace rotten parts where necessary. It is interesting to note that eight tonnes of straw came





L-R: Unknown, Jeremy Weisselberg, Philippa Rowland, Unknown, John Rogers, Charley Brentnall, Matt Dunwell, Matthew Batstone, David Young, Tom Salter. Can you help name the unidentified? (suggestions please to darcher@bedales.org.uk)

off the roof of the Sotherington Barn, the same weight as the pan tiles that eventually went back on – surprising because thatch is usually cited as being the lightest traditional roofing material. However that is based on a single layer of thatch and when thatchers re-thatch they simply put on a new layer over the last; after 250 years of re-thatching, a considerable weight is built up.

So just as the uneducated and illiterate carpenters of 1730 had done, a small, dedicated group of Bedalian pupils and staff built the Sotherington Barn back up. They strained their senses and barked their knuckles and teased each other and laughed a lot and learned a lot of learning that can't be learned from a book. The carpenters who originally cut the frame were part of a long tradition that honed the art of creating exquisite and intricate structures. We call it engineering or architecture, but it was not passed down in classrooms.

At the end of a 'Jaw' that John Rogers gave about the barn work he



said, very firmly: "If you are not involved in this – you will regret it".

Like the perfectly simple cleft oak peg which is the lynch-pin of this elegant medieval technology, the Sotherington Barn is a monument to the philosophy of Outdoor Work at Bedales, and also to the modern timber framing revival which, in the 1980s, re-discovered the lost secrets of green

oak carpentry. Shortly afterwards, Charlie Brentnall started and still runs one of the first modern timber framing companies, Carpenter Oak and Woodland, and several pupils who had worked on the Barn worked with him and became carpenters. 🌲

Gabriel Langlands (1987-90)
Timber Framer

As students flee modern foreign languages in droves, Al McConville says that we should stop talking about the earning potential of subjects and instead appeal to pupils' youthful sense of social empathy – especially at a time of political upheaval around the world.

The story of the Tower of Babel tells how God objected to the cooperation of different peoples, as they built a tower to reach towards heaven. To prevent them getting too close, he cast them into confusion and caused them to speak different languages. The building project failed: multilingualism was their punishment for hubris.

About 500 years later, at Pentecost, so the story goes, the coming of the Holy Spirit brought the faithful the supernaturally inspired ability to speak and understand one another's language. No aspiration to a common tongue here, but a joyful multilingual merging of cultures – an altogether more positive spin on linguistic diversity.

It is interesting to ask yourself which ancient paradigm resonates more strongly: the notion of multilingualism as an inconvenience to be overcome by a single language – Esperanto, anybody? – or joyful polyglots being a symbol of multicultural harmony. Opinion among students about the value of learning languages is divided, we know.

For some, the ability to access another language opens exciting horizons, bringing them closer to their fellow man, the prospect of working abroad, discovering other cultures and becoming a citizen of the world.

For others, the “foreign languages as punishment” narrative seems all too plausible. The what's-the-point argument has considerable force in the imaginations of many teenagers when faced with learning a list of common ailments in French, or the difference between the subjunctive and the dative in German.



Al McConville teaching at Bedales

Ancient history repeating

We should take their question seriously, for language learning is slowly dying out. Following the decision in 2004 by Labour to make foreign language learning optional at GCSE, A-level numbers in the subject over the next decade fell by nearly 50 per cent. Over the past four years at GCSE, the number of students taking French has dropped by more than 30,000 and German by about 12,000.

The trend is decidedly downwards and if we want to arrest that, we need to answer that central “What’s the point?” question in a way that turns

the heads of young people, that makes them really understand why they should embrace language learning.

So far, we have not found a compelling enough argument to do that.

The usual argument in favour of learning modern foreign languages (MFL) is centred around usefulness and economic need.

It is easy to make the case for the necessity of English, science and maths: without this foundational knowledge, the life opportunities of young people are likely to be disadvantaged, so we should have them study these



Bedaies hockey trip to Barcelona

subjects, whether they want to or not. They aren't old enough to make that decision for themselves. The argument just about holds water for all but the most anarchically minded.

But French? Why take French and not German? Or Spanish? Or Mandarin? If we can do without one, can't we do without all?

This is a deeply political and moral issue, bound up with the future of the world

It's increasingly clear that none of these are "essential", so they must belong in a category of their own: nice-to-haves; icing on the cake; quixotic fripperies; or the sign of a dilettante.

Perhaps MFL-deniers are right that learning foreign languages is an anachronism in an age in which Google can translate chunks of text into broadly recognisable English in a flash, and when much of the rest of the world is decent enough to learn

our mother tongue. There must be people in Silicon Valley working on live voice-translation apps as I write, making interpreters quake in their boots. If they can make a driverless car...

But hang on. Isn't this simply the crassest cultural imperialism? Didn't the Romans think in rather similar terms about the desirability of Latin as a lingua franca? How well did that go for their cultural longevity?

Perhaps it was part of the origins of their demise: early globalisation drifting towards decadence and fatal complacency. Roman historian Tacitus, 2,000 years ago, saw the dangers of annexed peoples moving towards monoculturalism. Writing about the Britons, seduced into becoming Latin speakers by their cultural masters, he said: "And so the population was gradually led into the demoralising temptations of arcades, baths and sumptuous banquets. The unsuspecting Britons spoke of such novelties as

'civilisation', when in fact they were only a feature of their enslavement."

Monoglot misunderstanding

And so we concentrate on economic arguments. There is a basic misunderstanding, we point out, at the heart of many young people's pragmatic rejection of language learning, which is that there's no direct use for English speakers in broadening their linguistic base.

This is far from the case. Baroness Coussins, chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on modern languages, estimates that the cost of our monoglot tendencies to the UK economy is close to £50 billion; this loss is not only at executive level, but permeates clerical and administrative functions, too. It particularly hits export opportunities, when businesses cannot recruit people with the skills to carry out basic trading functions.

The CBI/Pearson education and skills survey shows that nearly two-thirds of UK businesses require foreign language skills. John Worne, director of strategy at the British Council, also laments the view that everyone else in the business world speaks English. Simply not true, he says.

The government is well versed in these economic arguments, which are beyond dispute, and is taking steps to reinvigorate language learning. Modern foreign languages' inclusion in the English Baccalaureate signals the high esteem in which they are held. It is now a compulsory part of key stage 2. Yet, this year, the first year of Progress 8 buckets, MFL entries still dropped.

The economic argument is not persuasive enough for our young people. In reality, it never has been. It seems to me that this tactic is used far too extensively as a stick with which to beat young people towards their GCSEs, and it can easily render the sense that the whole of their time at school is a mere preparation for the workplace. It does not work.

The economic argument is not persuasive enough for our young people

How can we put the case differently?

I recently met Michael James, a splendidly idealistic postgraduate student in language education at the University of Cambridge. His explanation of the purpose of his study caused a stirring of admiration. He is studying so that he can return to his home country of South Africa and establish a programme for linguistically diverse post-apartheid communities to improve mutual understanding by learning one another's mother tongues.

What an inspiring vision of language learning as a gateway to reconciliation in conflict-torn communities. This is a mission that anyone ought to be able to get excited about. It is the beginnings of a cultural argument for MFL that, I believe, young people are ready to buy into.



Dunannie Pop-up French Creperie

Language learning can break down the sense of "the other". It can have a genuine moral impact. Nelson Mandela said, "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."

James says: "This idea underpins my view of the worth and motivation for language learning – especially the languages of those who have been historically oppressed or rendered powerless. For healing to take place between victim and perpetrator, there needs to be communication between hearts, not heads. I think that there's a responsibility upon mother-tongue (predominantly white) English-speaking South Africans to learn languages like Tswana, Zulu, or Xhosa, as a gesture of goodwill, and as a precursor of a comprehensive reconciliation and healing within the civic life of our country."

There's the rub. If we persist in our assumption that everyone else will fall in with English, we present the arrogant face of Empire to the rest of the world. When we embark on learning someone else's language, we extend the hand of friendship to their whole way of being, indicating a willingness to learn from, value and open up to them.

What makes me think this argument would have any more appeal to young people than hard financial fact?

We should consider Brexit here and how the polling statistics made clear that young people were the least eager to withdraw from Europe. We should make the argument to them that multilingualism is a symbolic, as well as a pragmatic, way of sustaining their desire to remain European, indeed, global citizens and defy the dark spectre of right-wing nationalism that haunts so many democratic countries today.

Language barriers

This is a deeply political and moral issue, and is bound up with the future of their world. Will they accept the ever-increasing building of walls and hardening of stances towards movement of people, or will they embrace diversity and talk to their neighbour about how they might solve global challenges together?

Here we have a more morally compelling perspective that the GCSEs-for-the-sake-of-economic-prospects argument, which gets trotted out deadeningly all too often.

Our collective attitude to education has become dishearteningly instrumentalist



Bedales trip to Russia

and individualistic, and is becoming correspondingly uninspiring. Learning of all kinds is viewed through the prism of the question, “What’s in it for me?” and we tend to unconsciously absorb society’s prevailing assumption that “what’s in it for us” should be about lifetime earning potential, short-term employment prospects, or other material inducements.

We have seen that, for languages, there are robust answers to these questions in pragmatic, hard-cash terms, though they are not sufficiently well known by young people, who have largely bought the argument for science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects, but not languages, as shown in uptake trends. Of course, there should be something “in it” for the language learner; and there is, but they should also be open to the wider question: “What’s in it for society as a whole if we were to become a nation of language learners?”

The answer: greater understanding across cultures; more empathy with the diversity of our neighbours; heightened

tolerance; warmer receptions from hosts when abroad; reduced chances of conflict; and access to the cultural jewels of the world. In other words, collective inducements to be valued alongside individual ones.

Differences are to be cherished, admired and protected

Education is not only, or even primarily, about the practical and monetary usefulness of its lessons. It is an intrinsic “good” that is necessary to human flourishing. We recognise this when we include education in the list of universal human rights alongside access to food and shelter. It is a fundamental part of our nature to seek to understand not only the world around us but also one another; and languages are a crucial, revelatory window on the lives of others.

We do our schoolchildren a disservice if we do not trust them to embrace this argument and continue to peddle the instrumentalist line to them. Young children are spectacularly empathetic and we should strive to win

them over to this view before cynicism overwhelms them.

Linguist David Crystal, noting that thousands of languages are dying out, has argued that our linguistic diversity should be prized as highly as our literary, artistic or biological diversity. They have aesthetic value in and of themselves. Differences are to be cherished, admired and protected.

Learning other languages can and should be a beautiful act of contemplating human creativity, and expressing one’s openness to others. It is useful not only for mammon-inspired ends, but also far nobler aims of mutual understanding, multicultural harmony, and the pursuit of peaceful, sensitive collaboration in the face of global challenges.

This is what we should tell our kids. 🌱

Al McConville
Deputy Head, Academic

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A week ago I was having a clear out, when I came across my Bedales Economics A Level notes and essays from 1971. The notes were not easy to understand, and the essays quite turgid, punctuated by red marks with low grades from the man we called at the time 'Econ Hawk'. Anyone who was at Bedales in the early 70s will know who I'm referring to. This little excursion back to my 17 year old self, trying so hard but not really succeeding in Bedales Sixth Form, made me initially feel a bit depressed. So once I had thrown most of the offending papers in my recycling bin, I got on with a happier task: preparing for the next personal development programme at Oxford Brookes University, one of the ways I currently earn my living.

However, my experience caused me to reflect on the subject of resilience. There I was at Bedales in 1971, subjecting myself to lots of pressures (many of my own making by my refusal to fit in), keeping going, though not having much fun. One exception was the fun we all had on our geography A Level field trip. When exploring a 'flushing bog' in Mid Wales, we all tried to wade through it getting hopelessly bogged down (literally) and collapsing into laughter. At Bedales, I also coped by being very socially active: running Middle School camps, raising funds for charity and singing in the choir. I won't forget our performance of Verdi's *Requiem*, genuinely so so moving...

Twenty five years on, I went to the reunion of the class of '72, and unlike much of my time at Bedales I had a ball. I felt we had all become so much nicer: more secure, wiser and a most creative group of people. I also realised that those two years at Bedales were my first lesson in resilience. Despite not seeing the wood for the academic trees, I kept going and made the most of many other things Bedales had to offer on non-academic fronts. So I went on to get an upper second class degree



and learned ways of fitting in to the teams in which I worked.

Resilience is quite a buzz word at the moment. Articles appear in newspapers on whether the UK economy is resilient enough to cope with the effects of Brexit. In my world of personal development it occurs frequently in the executive coaching I do. I coach managers mainly in local authorities who are having to cope with increasing pressures: less money, more responsibilities and never ceasing expectations from the powers that be to deliver quality services. I support them in working more smartly, managing their time better; becoming more assertive, helping to develop their confidence and drawing clearer boundaries between work and life outside work. If this rings any bells for you why not visit my website: guiding2development.co.uk through



which you can also make contact (here ends the not so hard sell!).

In 1972 I achieved just a pass in my Economics A Level. But unbeknown to anyone then, what I also achieved was a more important lesson in resilience. 🌟

Hugh Dennis (1970-72)

IMPACT OF JBF BURSARIES

Undergraduate update – news from Esme Allman

Esme Allman (2013-15) joined Bedales Sixth Form on a full John Badley Foundation bursary award in 2013. She is happy to share this news and let readers know what she is up to now...



I am currently in my second year of study at Edinburgh University, reading History. So far, I have taken part in

a number of theatre productions, organised theatre performances and also performed my own spoken word.

As well as theatre and poetry, I took part in the Edinburgh Charity Fashion Show and the Edinburgh College of Art Degree Show, the former helping raise money for the Edinburgh based charity The Rock Trust.

In March I was elected to be the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Convenor at my Student Union, which involves representing BME students across my campus and cementing a strong community. I'm currently encouraging people to engage with activism, as well as bringing discussions about identities of people of colour in predominantly white institutions to the forefront of conversation.

I organised some amazing events for Black History Month including panel discussions, a day of creating forum theatre within the local community, discussion of Black British film and a poetry and performance night accompanied by an art and photography exhibition.

In my spare time I have also been involved in activism outside university,

THE JOHN BADLEY FOUNDATION

- Is open to all young people who demonstrate a particular talent or the promise of talent; but whose family circumstances mean that a Bedales education would normally be completely out of reach.
- Provides full bursary awards to cover all the school fees (plus extra funding for school trips).
- Is match-funded by Bedales School, which funds half of every full bursary awarded.

If you would like to give more young people the chance to come to Bedales, there are various ways in which you could support the John Badley Foundation in providing full bursaries...



sitting on the National Union of Students' Black Students' Committee (NUS Black). I was active in the Black Lives Matter marches across London in the summer that were a reaction to the police custody deaths in America as well as the UK. I have also continued work with No Fly on the Wall, a community outreach project that encourages and supports individuals who want to engage with intersectional feminism.

Bedales was definitely instrumental in putting the 'yes' inside me. Being in a solid community of people, staff and students, who encouraged me to do what I love doing, erased much of the self-doubt within me. Finding my path on my terms has been so important to me since leaving and something Bedales helped instil in me, for which I am grateful.

Esme Allman (2013-15)
Former Deputy-Head Girl and JBF recipient

If you would like to discuss supporting the John Badley Foundation, or if you have any questions, please contact Vryan Vere Hodge, Head of Development.

E: vvrehodge@bedales.org.uk

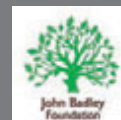
T: 01730 711697

For information on the bursary application process, please contact Janie Jarman.

Registrar E: jjarman@bedales.org.uk

T: 01730 711733

The John Badley Foundation is the working title for Bedales Schools Development Trust, Registered Charity No. 1138332.



Bedalian Bequests

Bedales has benefitted greatly over the years from gifts that former students have left in their wills to mark their appreciation of the time they have spent there. Legacies can come in all shapes and sizes, and individuals will have many different reasons for making gifts, but a common theme is a sense of gratitude for having received a very special educational experience and a desire to open it up to others. Such gifts have helped to build new facilities,

maintain and improve existing ones, and to fund bursaries for students who would benefit greatly from a Bedales education but who would otherwise not have access to one.

Those who make it known to the school that they intend to remember Bedales in their will are invited to join the John Haden Badley Society; members of the Society are welcome to attend an annual lunch held either in London or at the school. Membership of the group continues to grow and now includes former staff and parents as well as OBs. The 2016 lunch was held at Bedales on 20 May and we were delighted to be able to make use of the first floor of the new Art and Design building which served as a very impressive venue. A further innovation was the involvement of current Block 4 students in meeting and greeting members of the Society. After lunch Keith Budge spoke about the school and its future plans and there was plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion as well as reminiscence.

Anything that members of the Bedalian community feel they can do to support the school in this way will be greatly appreciated. Please do contact me (pparsons@bedales.org.uk) if you would like to find out more about leaving a legacy. 🌱

Philip Parsons
Alumni Officer



The Bedales Memorial Library Globe; lovingly restored with thanks to John Webster's (1928-33) legacy

THE BEDALES GRANTS TRUST FUND

For those who are not familiar with the work of the Bedales Grants Trust Fund (BGTF), it was founded in 1927 with the aim of providing financial support for students at Bedales, with preference being given to children of Old Bedalians. This has been extended over the years to cover children who have OB relatives, even if their parents are not OBs. Currently, we are supporting just over 20 students and the great majority of them have strong OB connections.

Claudia Arney (1982-89) stepped down and I succeeded her as Chair of the BGTF in March 2016. The occasion was marked with a lunch to thank Claudia for her steady, calm and determined leadership, and I am very conscious that Claudia will be a hard act to follow! I am both comforted and very grateful to Claudia (and my fellow Trustees **Camilla Church (1989-92)**, **Simon Latham (1993-98)**, **Peter Hall (1975-80)** and **Dennis Archer (staff 1974-2008)**) for having ensured that we have a robust and effective governance structure that will stand the BGTF in good stead in the future. Already there has been a considerable amount of work behind the scenes, both in relation to the properties generously bequeathed by the late

Jennifer Lilley (1937-42) to the BGTF and the Edward Barnsley Educational Trust jointly, and in relation to our future investment management strategy.

It is very pleasing to see that even in turbulent economic times, the strategies adopted have produced another strong investment performance during the financial year 2015-16, and this is due to the fantastic combination of expertise, experience, inspiration and diligence of the Investment Committee, comprising Simon, Peter and Dennis. The BGTF is extremely fortunate to have access to this combination of individual financial talents, and obviously growing our funds enables us to support an increasing number of worthy students. At the time of writing, fund assets are around £6 million, up from £4.5 million in the previous year.

Special mention must be made here of the huge achievements of Peter, who has been managing, almost

single-handedly over a number of years, a speculative portfolio built from his own donations, which has reached £4 million alone. Peter has decided to liquidate this fund recently, so it will now be reinvested elsewhere. The results are unlikely to be as spectacular in future. Generations of Bedalians are and will continue to be deeply indebted to Peter.

We are also expecting to receive further proceeds of the Lilley bequest in the coming year, and we are working with the co-beneficiaries to ensure that the bequest is appropriately managed, with the assistance of Richard Lushington, whose continued support as Bursar and Secretary to the BGTF is much appreciated.

In accordance with our Investment Strategy, we have awarded bursaries to the level of 4% of assets, whilst substantially increasing the fund's reserves. ☘

Cathy Baxandall (née Dwyer, 1970-76)

The Trust encourages applications from students who have significant Old Bedalian ancestry.

It offers means-tested support to students at Bedales with preference given to those who have parental or other family connections to the school.

Application is made through Janie Jarman, the Registrar at Bedales, jjarman@bedales.org.uk





Over the last few years James Fairweather, husband of **Kate Fairweather (née Day, OB 1980-85)**, has been interviewing OBs for us to find out about their time at Bedales, and where life has taken them since. To give you a taster, we have compiled a selection of extracts from his most recent interviews. To find out more about the following OBs, their memories and achievements, you can read the full profiles on the Bedales website.

Remy Blumenfeld (1977-83) Television Executive and Content Creator

By his own admission, Remy Blumenfeld found the years before Bedales to be tough and far from fulfilling. The son of American parents, he was born in Paris and also spent some of his early years in New York and Vienna before he and his family arrived in the UK. Cambridge was the chosen destination and for the young Remy, dispatched to St John's College Choir School, a place with which he was entirely out of sympathy, it was not a happy introduction to his new home.

"I felt like a fish out of water," he admits. "Cambridge in the 1970s was less diverse than it is even today and I felt different and looked different from the other boys at school. I looked 'foreign', didn't like team sports, was not C of E and my parents were artists" (Remy's mother is the sculptor, Helaine Blumenfeld, his father, Yorick is a writer and his grandfather, Erwin, was a renowned photographer). "I also knew, from the age of eight, that I was gay. At a time when I desperately wanted to fit in, I didn't."



...Not unnaturally for someone with Remy's heritage, the arts were to take centre stage during his life at Bedales. "Playing the violin very badly in the orchestra under Jonathan Wilcox, writing for the Chronicle and acting in school plays directed by John Batstone, Alastair Langlands and Kate Slack were particular badges of honour," he recalls.

...Remy spent his summer holidays acting with the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and as he neared the end of his school days, decided to aim for a place at Cambridge University. When he failed to get in, Remy headed to New York to take up a paid internship with a local TV station, WPIX-TV. He had found his true professional *milieu*. Quickly promoted to reporter, where he covered celebrity and lifestyle features in Remy's *People* and *The Remy Report*, Remy was awarded the New York Daily News prize for the outstanding foreign-born journalist and the Pan Arts award for coverage of the arts.

Read more: www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/remy-blumenfeld

Ben Browne (1993-2001) LED Scientist

Ben Browne's connections with Bedales were readily apparent before he ever arrived at Dunhurst. His parents lived at the Old Vicarage on Church Road and he followed two siblings to school. "Both my brother and sister had been at Dunannie and my sister went all the way through Bedales, although my brother left early and went to Winchester instead," Ben explains. "I started in Dunhurst and I have to say, I took to the place at once. The thing about Bedales is that it allows you to be yourself and



you have the time to work out what that actually is, whether it involves sport or building a chicken-hutch!"

For Ben, sport was a critical part of his development at Bedales, an area in which he insists that the school's achievements are frequently underestimated. "We were pretty good at hockey, which I really enjoyed, and although I loved the outdoor stuff, it was sport that was my main interest," he reflects.

...As he embarked on university life at Cambridge University, Ben remained uncertain about where professional life might take him. "I've always been unsure about my future to some extent," he laughs. "Before university, I'd been captivated by reading Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*, which initially led me to a desire to study particle physics. I soon realised that the level of maths entailed by that wouldn't be playing to my strengths so I switched to studying astrophysics and semiconductor physics at Cambridge. All the time, though, I was becoming increasingly interested in that place where science meets the environment and I felt that I really wanted to do something useful in the energy field. I looked into fusion at first

but ultimately I decided on solar energy, in which I took my PhD at Imperial College, London.”

Read more: www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/ben-browne

Peter Hall AM (1975-79) Founder of Hunter Hall Investment Management

Among Peter Hall's earliest recollections are the sights and sounds of Karachi during the 1965 war between India and Pakistan. A four year-old scion of a diplomatic family at the time, Peter was already fascinated by the vibrant culture that surrounded him in Pakistan and retains fond memories of his schooling there as well. “I started at the Convent of Jesus & Mary, Clifton in Karachi, which was also an *alma mater* of Benazir Bhutto and a very pukka sort of place,” he recalls. “There’s nothing quite as superior as a superior Pakistani educational establishment!”



Peter’s peripatetic childhood subsequently saw him move back to Australia for a couple of years with his family before a lengthy stint in Ottawa including attending school at the future stamping ground of another Prime Minister-to-be, Justin Trudeau. “I was four years in Canada, we moved to Paris and after about a year, my parents decided that they wanted me to go to Bedales,” Peter explains.

...It was while he was still at university that Peter got himself a job with the investment division of New Zealand South British Insurance, a first step on the ladder to a career in true high finance... “For the next few years, I served an apprenticeship and immersed myself in learning the art and craft of investing, using the Batstone approach of close analysis of primary sources... While I was on holiday in Tours I decided that it was time to set up my own company and established an Australian version of a hedge fund, one of the first in that country.”

...Peter has recently announced that he has sold much of his holding in Hunter Hall International and announced his resignation as their Chief Investment Manager, along with his temporary retirement from public life. He expects to spend more time with his family, his efforts at conservation of rhinos and learning to play the piano.

Read more: www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/peter-hall

Anna Keay (1987-92) Historian and Director of the Landmark Trust

Born and raised in the Scottish Highlands, Anna Keay’s earliest memories of her education involve greater distances than most young children can imagine. “The nearest school was miles away,” she recalls. Although life at Dalmally Primary School was far from unpleasant, Anna relished the opportunity of heading down to Bedales for the school’s renowned three-day test of its prospective pupils. “My parents had a great friend who had married a Bedales teacher (Tim Williams), they’d been extremely taken by what they’d heard about the place and subsequently, my brother had already started there before I arrived in Hampshire,” she continues. “I wasn’t immediately throwing my lot in with this new school but those three days



were a wonderful experience. We were all split into little groups, each with a teacher assigned to it, and mine was Alastair Langlands, which made life really exciting and enjoyable.”

...By her own admission, Anna was something of an anomalous Bedalian: “I was completely useless at art, drama and music – they happened, but Nick Gleed summed it up best when he wrote in one report that I seemed to be at sea in my lessons! Essentially, I was an academic child. I loved history, English and maths, I was superbly well taught and it was a total privilege to learn from people like Ruth Whiting and John Batstone.”

...The Landmark Trust is far from the only string to Anna’s bow these days. A mother of two, she is also a prolific writer – her latest book, *The Last Royal Rebel: The Life and Death of James, Duke of Monmouth* (Bloomsbury) was published earlier this year – sits on the advisory panel of the National Trust and as a trustee of Leeds Castle Foundation, and somehow also finds the time to serve as a governor of Bedales.

Read more: www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/anna-keay

Nimmy March (1978-80)

Actor

At least part of Nimmy March's background is too well-known to need recounting in much depth here. The story of a girl of mixed race who was adopted and brought up by the Earl and Countess of March and Kinrara (later the Duke and Duchess of Richmond) is one that has continued to fascinate people in the decades since it first became a *cause célèbre*.

Nimmy's adoptive parents were not the type to molycoddle their daughter. At the age of eleven, she went to Bishop Luffa School, a local state comprehensive in Chichester, propelled by her parents' insistence that a grounding in the real world would be better found there than at private school. It could have been a daunting prospect: "I was the only black kid in the school, an obvious target for the bullies at a time when Margaret Thatcher, as Leader of the Opposition, had made a pretty inflammatory speech about immigration."

...Nimmy was accepted by Bedales, the school of her dreams. Even more delightfully, the reality of Bedales more

than matched her expectations. "It was freedom with boundaries," she begins. "I was welcomed unconditionally at once, adjusted to it immediately and felt as though I had come home. At my comprehensive, I'd been seen by some as a threat because I was different; at Bedales, I wasn't different – everyone was. We had the most extraordinary cultural mix – Lebanese and Chinese, Maoris and Australians – and I've often thought that it was the best possible preparation for my later life in London."

...From early roles such as Claudette, Delbert Wilkins's girlfriend in *The Lenny Henry Show*, through staples such as *Coronation Street*, *Goodnight Sweetheart*, *London's Burning* and *Casualty* to compelling performances in series such as *Common as Muck*, *Undercover Heart*, *Strictly Confidential* and *40*, Nimmy has amassed a formidable back catalogue of television work.

Read more: www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/nimmy-march



extent that they persuaded the school to take me a year early, aged just nine!"

...Unsure, therefore, about precisely which art form would give her the best opportunity to excel, Mira's first year after leaving Bedales was spent on a one-year art foundation course at Kingston Polytechnic... As her experience grew, Mira's list of film credits increased exponentially, with her early work in the art department and eventually as a graphic prop designer including *Circle of Friends*, *The Avengers*, *Notting Hill* and *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. It was in the year 2000, however, that her professional life would change for ever with a call from her old mentor Stuart Craig. "Luca was a year old at the time and I was completely out of the loop of the cultural zeitgeist when Stuart phoned. I hadn't read any of the *Harry Potter* books and the offer from Stuart to work on the first of the films was at that stage just another film. And he suggested perhaps a four month stint to start with..."

Read more: www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/mira-mina

Mira Mina (1976-85)

Graphic Designer

In retrospect, Bedales was an obvious destination for Miraphora Mina (always known as Mira to her Bedalian friends and acquaintances). Her father, Michael Minas, was a television designer and painter, while her mother Jacqueline was a jewellery maker, a connection that was directly responsible for Mira's Bedales odyssey. "Mum taught jewellery at Farnham art school; she was so impressed with one particular student, whom she learned had been to Bedales," Mira remembers. "I think that by then, she was a bit disenchanted with the lack of creative opportunity in my primary school and went straight down to Bedales to have a look at this place that seemed to encourage the arts on such a consistent basis." One visit was all that it took to convince the Mina family. "My parents were totally bowled over by Bedales, to such an



Steuart Padwick (1973-78)

Furniture, Lighting and Product Designer

"My father, a very traditional Royal Navy man, was never keen on me going to Bedales. He'd rather I went to a proper, more conventional school," Steuart Padwick says. "I went to an all-boys prep school and was down to go on to my father's old school, Pangbourne College (a feeder school for the navy), but it must have been my mother who decided that I should go to Bedales. She was the creative one."

To the young Steuart, the product of a fairly typical English private educational establishment, Bedales represented a new world, one in which diversity and relaxation appeared to be celebrated. "It was a three-day event, the Bedales interview, not the usual 'common entrance' exams" Steuart recalls. "I turned up in my school colours tie (awarded for playing hockey and I confess I was quite proud of it) which marked me out as a bit of an alien, I suppose, but I liked what I saw."

Bedales would also provide Steuart with the opportunity to develop his creative side. "Pottery was something I had lapped up at prep school and hoped to carry on at Bedales," he begins.



Photo credit: Brendon Bell

"It wasn't a subject taught at Bedales at the time but carpentry definitely was. I'd dabbled a bit at prep school, learning how to cut a mortice and tenon joint and so on, and realised I had a knack for it."

...In 1980, Steuart set up his own workshop with three friends from Parnham. His first job was a commission from the Duke of Beaufort to design a wardrobe as a wedding gift for Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

"Unfortunately they absolutely hated it. I was gutted at the time but now I find it funny," he says... A recent

commission that neatly brought Steuart back to his early days came from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to design some nursery furniture to mark the birth of their daughter Charlotte. "Quite ironic 35 years after the first royal commission!" he says. "The difference this time is that the designs seem to have gone down rather well and I received a lovely letter from Kate to thank me for them and say how much they loved them."

Read more: www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/steuart-padwick 📧

Professional Guidance

Since the creation of the Bedales Professional Guidance department last year, we have been

busy linking OBs who are already established in their careers with current students and recent leavers, to assist them with advice and support. We would like to thank all



the OBs who kindly signed up to the initiative and to those who have already donated their precious time – it is much appreciated. If you have not been contacted yet it is not because you have been forgotten. We will be in touch if your experience matches what a student or recent leaver is looking for.

If you think that you can advise about a certain profession, or that your organisation may be able to offer work experience or internships, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Mary Hancox: mhancox@bedales.org.uk

BEDALES EVENTS 2017

We have a great new season of Dance, Lectures, Music and Theatre in 2017, including an exciting Shakespeare production – *Romeo & Juliet* by gender blind repertory company, Merely Theatre and we know cycling enthusiasts will marvel at the spectacular video accompaniment in 2 Magpies' *Ventoux*. Look out for the inimitable *Antonio Forcione Quartet* and the Opera North Project *Devil's Jukebox* with seven mischievous talents, no doubt derived through Faustian pacts.

We are delighted to be showing off home-grown talent too, including our annual fruitful cooperation with the *Youth Dance Platform*. And we're proud of our lecture with *Eleanor Maguire* for Science's prestigious Eckersley Lecture (supported by the Bedales Association).

Remember that if you'd prefer to talk to someone when booking your tickets the number is 0333 666 3366 or just click on the links at bedales.org.uk. Download your ticket from the email and you are ready for your evening.

To receive the events brochure when it is first sent out, email Louise Tattersall-King our front of house lead (ltattersallking@bedales.org.uk) to provide your full address and let us know if there are particular types

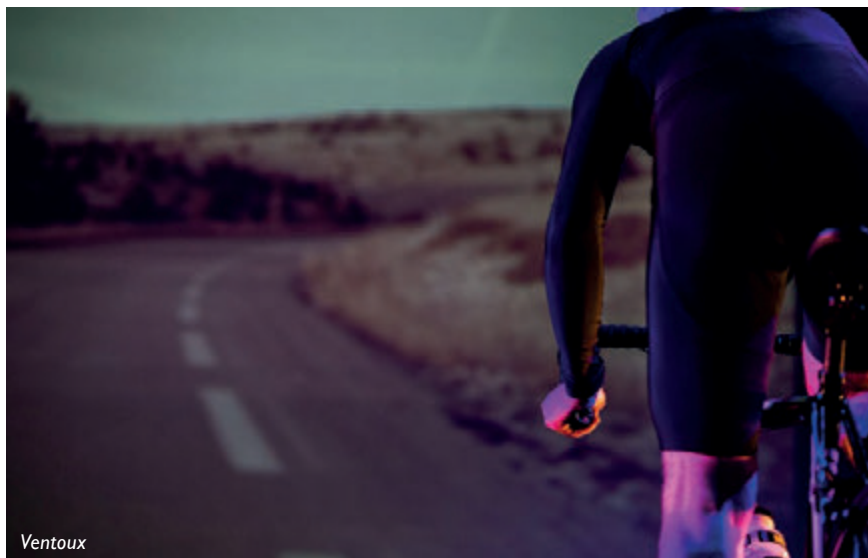


Photo credit: Julian Hughes

of event that interest you most. Do state that you're an OB or a member of the Bedales Association, and that it's the brochure that you want somewhere in the body or subject line of the email and you'll be included in the next mail out. Thank you very much and we hope you enjoy the programme of events.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Bedales soon. 🍷

Phil Tattersall-King
Director of Drama, Dance and the
Bedales Events Programme



Devil's Jukebox



Eleanor Maguire



Youth Dance Platform



Antonio Forcione Quartet

Bedales has organised a number of educational conferences and events over recent years. Themes have included a celebration of Edward Thomas, innovative education and boarding. Our latest event last May brought together 275 experts, students and teachers from independent and state sectors to learn about leadership.

Conferences on leadership in education are regular occurrences; however, leadership conferences that not only include students but give them centre stage are harder to find. Hosted by Bedales in partnership with the Times Educational Supplement (TES), the conference gave school leaders, current and aspiring, the tools and knowledge to be creative in how they run a school and the confidence to maintain their individuality. Student participants benefited from leadership workshops.



Sir Michael Wilshaw speaking at Bedales

The subject was interrogated from many angles. Sir Michael Wilshaw, controversial ex-Head of Ofsted, spoke of the need for maverick teachers with a hint of menace, whilst Barbara Oakley, Professor of Engineering at Oakland University, talked about her own journey from maths and science underachiever to Engineering Professor and creator of the world's largest MOOC (Massive Online Open Course), *Learning how to learn*.

Danielle Harlan, founder and CEO at the Center for Advancing Leadership and Human Potential, spoke movingly of the need for leaders to be empathetic

and give others the licence to lead. Delegates also heard from Professor Bill Lucas and Lord Jim Knight, former Minister of State for Education and now chief education adviser to TES Global.

Nine lessons on leadership (from the conference)

1. Keep learning new and difficult things
2. Focus on the ethics of decisions to do the right things
3. Take risks
4. Build resilience by exposing yourself and others to stress
5. Think carefully about what and how you assess and measure
6. Be non-conformist and independent-minded
7. Be positive
8. Understand yourself and have empathy with others
9. Be authentic – follow your heart

Delegates heard voices from the educational coalface. Mike Fairclough, Headteacher at West Rise Junior School in East Sussex, enthralled with stories of buying a school herd of water buffalo and making a neighbouring Bronze Age site the setting for schooling children from the local estate; he felt so inspired that he has included a chapter about Bedales in his new book, *Playing with Fire*. Head of King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds, Geoff Barton spoke out against a state school inspection regime that he believed stifled the



Mike Fairclough, Headteacher, West Rise Junior School

bold and maverick tendencies that Sir Michael had earlier extolled. Keith Budge then told the story of how Bedales introduced its own alternative to GCSEs. In the final session chaired by the TES editor Ann Mroz, students from Bedales and King Edward VI joined their teachers for a 'Question Time' panel.

To continue the distinctive theme, participants enjoyed school-produced sausages courtesy of Bedales Outdoor Work and a bicycle-powered smoothie-maker as a healthy distraction in the breaks.

Copies and films of conference speeches are available at www.bedales.org.uk/recent-events 📺

Rob Reynolds
Director of External Relations



Lucky finds and digitization

Use of the Archive has continued to grow throughout 2016, largely still driven by interest from people researching the school careers of Old Bedalians who died in WWI. **Ruth Whiting (staff 1963-2000)** has spent many hours at Bedales, at the National Archives in Kew and using the Imperial War Museum records to find out about each OB victim as we reach the centenary of each death. You can find out more on our website: www.bedales.org.uk/home/history-bedales/ww1

Not all our enquiries are about people; one current parent wanted details of a small outbuilding in the grounds of a staff house, to prepare a planning application for a similar building. Monks from the Cittaviveka Buddhist Monastery came to admire the Library as they are planning a wood-framed building – this turned

into an extended tour of the grounds as we looked at the Olivier Theatre and the Sam Banks Pavilion as well as the Library and Lupton Hall.

A postgraduate student came to learn more about the layout of the buildings as part of her research into schools of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and another visited us to learn more about the teaching of science to girls in the early 20th century.

Many of these enquiries would be greatly facilitated if we could digitize more of our holdings, and thus we have embarked upon a digitization project for *The Chronicle* and the *Bedales Record*. To those of you at school between the 1960s and the 1990s, I should explain that the *Record* is not the infamous Records of your school days. The original *Bedales Record* was published annually from 1894 to 1935, and is the official school magazine of the era. Currently, researchers have to browse through all copies of these magazines that might have information relevant to their topic, and this is, of course, very time consuming, as well as potentially bad for some of the more fragile copies. The Bedales Association kindly kickstarted the digitization process with a grant of £500, but we need to raise more money from donations to continue. You can have a look at the results so far on the archive website: bedaleschools.daisy.websds.net. I would be very interested to hear your thoughts and if you would like

to make a donation, perhaps to get a copy of the *Chronicle* from your era digitized, please do get in touch (jkirby@bedales.org.uk).



My lucky auction find this year was a poster advertising the screening of a film made by Save the Children Fund to raise awareness of the plight of the Russian people during the famine of 1921-22. The auction house had not identified the artist, but looking at the monogram, I was pretty sure that it was Muirhead Bone. Further research online using the Save the Children Archives and British Museum holdings confirmed this. I was delighted to be able to buy it and it is now hanging in the History Department, where Russia is on the A Level syllabus.

Finally, a question that the wider OB community may be able to answer: Did Aung San Suu Kyi ever visit Bedales? I have found no evidence that she did, but it is true that not all speakers' visits get recorded in school magazines. There was a Burmese week in 1964, when Burmese students visited the school with the Burmese Ambassador, but she is not named, and would, indeed, have been very young at the time. 🌸

Jane Kirby (née Williams, 1974-79)
Bedales Librarian and Archivist



The Chronicle 1979

Bedales Association AGM & Drinks Reception

Notice is hereby given of the 34th Annual General Meeting of the Bedales Association to be held at the **1901 Arts Club** on **Wednesday 12 July 2017 at 6.30pm**. The evening gathering for OBs, former staff and former parents will consist of a drinks reception, a musical performance and the AGM. Please confirm your attendance with Mary Hancox (mhancox@bedales.org.uk). Further information will be sent via email in due course. If you currently do not receive emails from Bedales, please contact Mary to be added to the distribution list.

John Batstone (1963-93)

Had it not been for one J.M. Stanton, John Batstone might never have arrived at Bedales to carve out his legend as Head of the school's Rolls-Royce of an English department. The Rev. Stanton had become Headmaster of Blundell's School in Devon immediately after John had accepted an offer to teach English there from the clerical gentleman's predecessor.

"Oh, it was undoubtedly a mistake on my part," John confesses. "I had been educated at a boys' grammar school in London, an education which had been interrupted during the war by my evacuation to Devon. Subsequently, I had gone back to London and from there, on to Oxford, but the idea of returning to the West Country to teach and, equally importantly, to play cricket to a decent standard, appealed to me immensely. The retiring Head, who had been in the saddle for an eternity, was also rather charming, I thought. Berkhamsted, where I was teaching before Blundell's, had been a very happy experience; unfortunately, events were to show that I was entirely out of sympathy with the new Head at Blundell's, which ought not to have surprised me in view of the fact that he was both a cleric and a scientist!"

The mutual lack of admiration between Messrs Stanton and Batstone persisted at a relatively low level until one of the school plays that John took such delight in producing and directing brought matters to a head. "To me, one of the great joys of teaching was the notion of being able to do things outside the classroom – in my case, that most particularly included cricket and drama," John observes. "One of the plays that I was producing had a fair amount of bad language in it and this did not please J.M. Stanton at all. Did I believe that such language was appropriate for impressionable minds and from now on, would I please undertake to show him future



productions for vetting? I said that I would but that I couldn't promise to change anything. It was obviously time for us to part ways."

Fate would intervene in John's favour when his wife, Margaret, showed him an advertisement in the *Times Educational Supplement* for the position of Head of English at Bedales. Slightly flummoxed by the school's geography ("I thought that Bedales was in North Yorkshire"), John nevertheless managed to arrive in Steep on the appointed day for his interview with Tim Slack. Here was an immediate meeting of minds.

"I took to Tim at once," John recalls. "He was so honest and straightforward. He told me that there were three schools at Bedales, one of which was good, one of which was excellent and one of which needed some work (Dunhurst). He was quite right, as he often was. There were some sceptics among the old guard at Bedales, who

saw Tim's belief that the school would only survive and flourish if the number of pupils was substantially increased as the road to perdition. Tim believed in Bedales, encouraged change and was proved to be correct. He and his wife Kate became very good friends and I was perfectly happy that our three sons should be at the school; two of them left to go to different sixth-form colleges but Matthew went right the way through, finally becoming Head Boy."

Initially lodged in the staff house at Bedales, John and Margaret eventually located a suitable family home in Liss. "This was something that had to be sold to Tim Slack, who tended to want his teachers *in situ* morning, noon and night," John chuckles. It might have seemed to some of his pupils that John was indeed omnipresent; not content with his duties for the English department, he was also trying to instil an understanding of



cricket into Bedalian hearts and minds, as well as taking over the school's drama productions. "It's a common misapprehension that Bedales and sport don't mix," says John. "We had one football coach, Phil Gunter, who was a former England B international, for example. Cricket, though, was a closed book to many. In my time, we had three very good cricketers here, including Richard Tomlinson, who has just written an excellent biography of W.G. Grace, and Edward Hall, Sir Peter's son. Our teams tended to depend on them and our fortunes waxed and waned according to their availability."

Drama was altogether more in tune with the Bedalian psyche. "Someone had been doing the plays at Bedales for what seemed like a thousand years and I couldn't wait to take over," John reflects. "Over the 25 years that I was at Bedales, the drama scene changed a lot, as you would imagine, but we were always fortunate enough to have our stars. Daniel Day-Lewis was an obvious one, although not at the time necessarily better than his peers. I do recall casting him in *The Winter's Tale*, opposite another really fine actor called Kate Miller; and indulging myself by getting the two of them to perform endless retakes! There were so many enjoyable productions – performing *Phineas Finn* outdoors in the round was a particularly memorable experience."

As an English teacher, John had a reputation as a hard taskmaster and a demanding marker, one that he remains

happy to acknowledge. "I wasn't a Tartar, exactly, but I did have standards, to which I expected people to adhere. If an essay was meant to be in at 8.30 on Monday morning, I wanted it then, rather than an hour later. As for tough marking, what would be the point of anything else? It wasn't a question of changing the way English was taught at Bedales either, since my predecessor, Harold Gardiner, had very similar ideas, and I was also fortunate enough over the years to have a department full of colleagues such as Tim Williams, David Simmons, Graham Banks and David Thompson, who also tended to operate from the same hymn-sheet as me."

Among John's most notable contemporaries at Bedales was Ruth Whiting, the titan of the History department, with whom he was long considered by Bedalians to enjoy a friendly, but highly competitive rivalry. "We certainly weren't adding up our numbers of 'A' grade students and comparing them but yes, we were competitive," John agrees. "I respected her greatly – teachers such as Ruth, George Bird and I were able to provide an assurance of continuity through the post-Tim Slack years, when some people were worried that the school would go downhill. In all modesty, I must say that this was never likely to happen; the teaching was far too good!"

Joking aside, the record of achievement tends to bear John out. One of his department's proudest accomplishments was its temporary

monopoly of the Douglas Brown Award for the best Shakespearean A Level papers produced by a school operating under the Cambridge syllabus, a prize that went to Bedales on no fewer than three consecutive occasions. It was, perhaps, an inevitable by-product of the strength of the relationship between John and the school. "I was very lucky that my working life and my pleasures overlapped to such a degree," he claims. "The wonderful relationships that were encouraged throughout the school, the fabulous individual arts and crafts departments and the ethos that remained the same throughout my time at Bedales, despite the changing cast of characters, all meant that I could never have gone to another school to teach, even if I had thought of the idea. I did make an attempt to apply for a headship at the end of the 1970s, mainly because I thought I should, but I didn't succeed and as my wife told me, it was the best thing that could have happened to me. My place was in the classroom and I realised that."

"You have to be yourself as a teacher, rather than setting out to be a character," John continues. "Even if I did ride a motorbike to school of a morning, I still expected my essays to be done on time. The one thing that I could never tolerate, and everyone I taught knew it, was under-performance. That didn't happen very often. Bedales always was a place where people were capable of certain standards and would strive to meet them. Blundell's, by contrast, had been a place where having your buttons done up in a particular way was what mattered and I never could be bothered with that. I'm not sentimental about Bedales but I did enjoy it and I can honestly say that I never envied any of my friends in other teaching posts."

After retiring from Bedales, John kept his shoulder to the educational wheel by teaching adult education at the University of Southampton. "It was

quite enjoyable not to have to prepare my charges for exams," he says of the experience. "Later I joined the WEA (Workers' Educational Association) and taught people in locations across the region – Chichester, Winchester and so on. I like teaching and I like to keep in touch with things."

In one of those ironic twists that tend to feature in a long and varied life, John and Margaret finally settled in Petersfield at the precise moment that he was retiring from Bedales. "Friends of mine persuaded me that I should stand for the local council, which I did, as a Liberal Democrat, and I not only had the good fortune to get elected but also managed to rise to the dizzy heights of Deputy Mayor of Petersfield," John recalls with amusement. "By the law of Buggins' term, I suppose I was next in line to be Mayor but sadly, we were swept away by an incoming blue tide at the following election."

Today, John is ensconced at Downs House Residential Home, not, unfortunately, as mobile as he once was, but still a perceptive and stimulating conversationalist and a frequent recipient of letters from the Old Bedalians whose lives he did so much to shape. The death of his wife after fifty-four years of marriage has left an irreplaceable gap, of course, but John has few other lasting regrets. "I would have liked to be paid more as a teacher, which is why I also took on the role of Chief Examiner for the Cambridge Board, but I would have done exactly the same if I had my time again," he says. "I also wish that I could move better – I started to play golf and thought that this was a game that I shall crack, but sadly I never did and now I never shall. Otherwise, I look back with great contentment. I had a marvellous marriage and generally ticked a lot of life's boxes. As I said, I've been remarkably lucky." 🍀

James Fairweather, husband of Kate Fairweather (née Day, 1980-85)

Philip Parsons (1979-2016)



Thirty-seven years constitute a long time in any occupation in any language. Talking to Philip Parsons just a few months into his retirement from Bedales after precisely that length of service, one is slightly surprised to discover that his teaching career was not entirely confined to the beautiful surroundings of Steep.

"After I got my history degree from London University, I wanted to have a crack at a few different things and I went off and did a bit of Voluntary Service Overseas in Malawi for a while," Philip reflects on his pre-Bedales days. "When I got back, I signed up for a post-graduate teaching course, which seemed to go pretty well, and from there it was off to King's College School (KCS) in Wimbledon, where I ended up staying for seven years. To some extent, KCS was a bit of a hothouse, a fairly traditional all boys' day school with an ethos and a timetable that almost approximated to that of a typical boarding school of the time. The boys called the masters 'Sir', the masters called the Headmaster 'Sir', there were no more than a couple of staff meetings each term and getting students into Oxbridge was the overriding criterion for success."

"Having said that," Philip continues, "KCS was quite an enlightened place for the early 1970s, not at all fossilised as an institution. When I decided to leave after seven years, it was with the intention of finding a place that would be a completely different experience for me. I applied to a few places, didn't much like what I saw when I got to them and had just decided that after all, I'd do another year at KCS, when I noticed an advertisement looking for a history teacher at Bedales. I knew a bit about the place, principally because there had been a lot of media scrutiny when Princess Margaret sent her children there, and I decided to apply."

Philip was intrigued when he first laid eyes on the school. "The first thing that I noticed was the contrast between the pace at KCS, where everyone was always rushing between one thing and the next, and that at Bedales, where children seemed rather to wander about on their way to whatever it was," he recalls. "I met Ruth Whiting, of course, which was very important, and she seemed formidable and challenging but also humane and kind. Harry Pearson was another prospective colleague to whom I was introduced and then Patrick Nobes, who never



struck me as a particularly headmasterly character; wrote me a long letter in which he expressed how keen he was for me to come to the school."

Philip was in two minds about the proposed offer: "It wasn't quite a promotion for me – more of a sideways move – and there would be less money involved as well, so it wasn't an immediate decision," he admits. "On the other hand, there was the lure of possible housemaster work on offer as well and ultimately I decided to give it a shot, reasoning that I didn't have much to lose. Even when I accepted the post, however, I wasn't completely sure that I'd done the right thing."

Day one of his new adventure was sufficient to remove most of the doubts from Philip's mind. "Somehow, I knew that it was right," he remembers. "I was almost in a state of euphoria about Bedales and I couldn't quite pinpoint the reason. It might have been that there was so much of interest apparently happening everywhere; perhaps it was how nice the students all seemed to be or how much they seemed to do on their own initiative.

Of course there were no health and safety rules to speak of in 1979 and the children almost seemed to take charge of their own destiny at times. Issues within the school were discussed at meetings where everyone could have their say, the staff sat with the pupils and it was an altogether different, democratic experience."

It was a heady time at which to arrive. "Liberalisation was still the thing, probably a hangover from the Tim Slack era, and it was exciting to see things like the Le Mans Bike Race at the end of the year or students driving around the grounds on a tractor. You wouldn't get away with a lot of that sort of thing in these more regulated days, but back then there really wasn't that much staff supervision," Philip observes.

Teaching history was very much Philip's priority in these early days, although some additional boarding house duties would point the way to a large part of his future at Bedales. "After two years, I became an assistant housemaster and started to live 'over the shop' and almost immediately,

Patrick Nobes was replaced by Euan MacAlpine, who asked me what it was that my duties actually entailed! Euan decided that I should be given charge of twenty boarders myself, which were to be culled from Harry Pearson and Tim Williams's intake, and that's when I effectively became a proper housemaster, although that didn't become official until 1984. From twenty boys, I suddenly had one third of the total complement of boarders on my watch."

It was, as Philip readily confirms a vastly different era to 2016: "Apart from the fact that new buildings were springing up everywhere around the school back then, the early 80s was a time when boarding at Bedales was a seven days-a-week occupation. Half-terms were only three days long, I remember. There was also much less contact with the parents of boarders – email and mobile phones didn't exist – and communication tended to be via exchange of letters that might take weeks to arrive if you were writing to somewhere like Indonesia! The job was all-embracing; on Saturday nights, there would be

entertainments to put on, Sunday mornings were about football matches and the weekends would usually produce disciplinary issues that needed to be settled on the following Monday.”

The mid-80s saw the initial shift away from this all-encompassing schedule. “Things started to change, which made sense as the school progressed with the times,” Philip recounts. Parents wanted to see more of their children and the days when you simply couldn’t get away from school at all were coming to an end. We were a very supportive team at Bedales, a recurring theme of the school, but the increase in rules and regulations, not to mention in pupil head count, meant that more management levels were being introduced to deal with the changes. As time went on, value for money became more and more of a priority for parents. The school had a great deal of success on the Oxbridge front in any case, but the emphasis on that became gradually more pronounced.”

Philip’s own department, History, comprised for his first decade just Ruth Whiting and himself. Here were two very different approaches to the subject. “Ruth had many great qualities, as I mentioned, but as I also said to Euan MacAlpine, she was capable of taking up a lot of space!” Philip laughs. “Ruth basically handled the English history and particularly loved the really

bright students. I did the arguably less glamorous European stuff and my attitude was to be as efficient as possible in getting everyone through their exams and ensuring that they had as thorough a grounding as possible in the subject. We took someone else on to teach history after I’d been there about ten years but field trips, which were practically unknown under Ruth, only really started to take off after Jonathan Selby arrived.”

In 1994, a new boarding house, long in the planning, finally opened at Bedales. “All the boys had been in one block until then, which was far too small for the task, and we’d planned the new building since about 1989, when it was finally decided that we’d have a boarding house in preference to a new dining hall,” Philip remarks. “Harry Pearson, Graham Banks and I were consulted at every stage of the process and then the question arose of who was going to run the thing. Graham was stepping down and Harry wanted to stay with the 6.2s so the job fell to me. I was terrified at first about messing the whole thing up but with the dynamic assistance of Keir Rowe and David Strutt, it all worked out pretty well.”

After a decade in charge of the boys’ boarding house, Philip moved on to look after the 6.2s in 2005. “It seemed like the obvious prelude to what I hoped would be a graceful departure

from Bedales!” he laughs. “I was sorry to leave the main boarding house but everyone had told me that looking after the 6.2s was the best job in the school and it was extremely satisfying to be given the task of preparing these young men for life after Bedales. It was all about extending their personal freedom while preserving a safe community around them in which they could flourish.”

In the first flush of his retirement, Philip looks back on his Bedales life with pleasure and few regrets. “No regrets, although there is a bit of wondering sometimes,” he says. “What if, for example, I’d bought a property in Wimbledon as I nearly did?” A regular visitor back at Bedales since the summer brought his teaching career to a close, Philip in fact resides today in the Oxfordshire town of Woodstock, just a stone’s throw from the appropriately historic setting of Blenheim Palace. “I was lucky in a couple of respects,” he says. “I loved my subject and I was at two schools that really knew what they were doing. Bedales was a wonderful part of my life – it remains a liberal and interesting co-educational community that interprets education in the widest possible sense and long may that continue”. ☺

**James Fairweather, husband of
Kate Fairweather (née Day, 1980-85)**



NEWS IN BRIEF

Emma Lee-Moss (1996-2000) featured as a 'famous tree lover' in adverts taken out by the Woodland Trust. Good to know that the Bedales landscape leaves a lasting impression on a student.

Andy Stewart (1996-2001) has completed an MSc in Video Games Production and Enterprise at Birmingham City University. Wife

Antonia (née Wise, 1996-2001) is studying Hypnobirthing and continuing her career in TV and film as a Production Co-ordinator.

Lucy Rogers (1976-83) exhibited during the year at Frome and at L'Escargot in Soho, the latter featuring her food related works from over the years.



Alex Keay (1986-89) has been appointed Head of Programmes Policy, Research and Funding for the school feeding charity, Mary's Meals, who are feeding well over a million African children in twelve countries every day.

Louise Rowntree (1988-93) is the new Liberal Democrat Chelsea and Fulham prospective parliamentary candidate in the event of a snap general election – a 70% Tory, 70% Remain constituency.

Simon Hitchens (1980-85) exhibited in *Mending Revealed* at the Bridport Arts Centre in Dorset. Also included in the show was work by **Jacy Wall (née Davies, 1964-68)**, who curated the exhibition.



Sophie Smith (1999-2004) ran a two-day international conference in Oxford on 'Utopian Political Thought – what it has been and what it might be'. I'm editing this on the day of Trump's election, which was probably not what she had in mind.

Michael Crick (1952-58) has updated his popular video game, *WordZap* – *The Addictionary Game*, to run on Windows, iMac, iPad, iPhone, Android, Kindle and Xbox – all completely free. The object is to find seven unique words *first* using letters from a grid. There is an online tournament each month with a \$100 prize.

Hannah Taylor (née Rogers, 1979-86) embarked on a third career starting a 2-year MA in Music Therapy (Music, Health and Society) with Nordoff Robbins in September.

Quentin (1963-70) and Karen Phillipps (1961-65) have produced a fully revised and updated third edition of an acclaimed field guide to the birds of Borneo, covering Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, and Kalimantan (Princeton Press). This in addition to their several other works on the wildlife of Asia.

Kaveh Zahedi (1979-86) is Deputy Executive Secretary, Sustainable Development at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, working mostly from Bangkok.

Christopher Cowell (1970-76) had his new translation of Puccini's much-loved opera *La Bohème* toured around the UK. Performed by The Merry Opera Company, it was directed by Christopher himself. He also directed Rimsky-Korsakov's *May Night* in London in March.

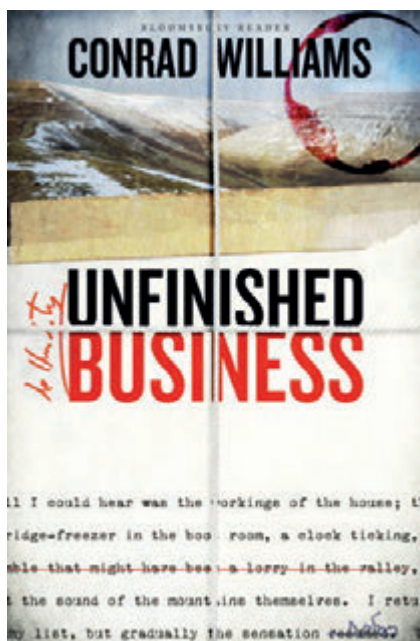
Alex Riddle (1992-97) has moved to Houston, Texas, where he works for the trading arm of Total on derivative sales trading. Prior to this role he was trading oil, natural gas and foreign exchange.

Arabella Elliot's (née Dorman, 1991-93) tercentenary painting for the King's Royal Hussars was very well received at the official unveiling by HRH The Princess Royal at The Cavalry and Guards Club. Her 5ft x 7ft picture commemorates 300 years of regimental history.



Jared Blumenfeld (1981-84) celebrated stepping down as regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco with a 2,600 mile hike on the Pacific Crest trail. A feat completed by fewer than have climbed Everest. He took with him only a pen-knife for protection against hazards ranging from bears to deranged humans.

Tanya Ashken (1952-57) has published a lavishly illustrated survey of her work *Tanya Ashken: Jeweller, Silversmith, Sculptor*. It includes full coverage of her time at Dunhurst and Bedales.



Conrad Williams (1972-77) has a new novel, *Unfinished Business*, a gripping tale of literary and romantic passions in marriage and work. Published by Bloomsbury.

Alex Masters' (1977-84) new book *A Life Discarded* is a biography of an unknown person, painstakingly reconstructed from the pages of 148 notebooks found discarded in a skip. A continuation of his series of biographies of people not conventionally significant.

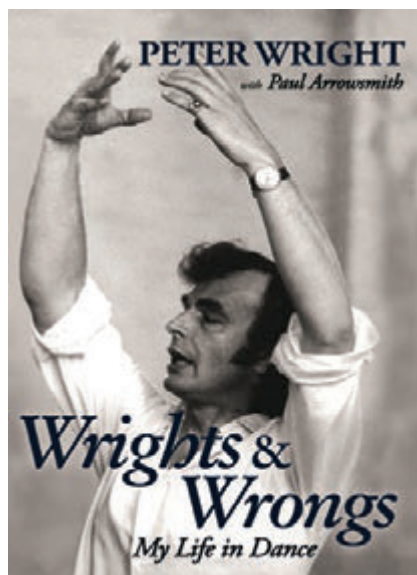
Kate Summerscale (1978-83) delves into another sordid Victorian crime in her new novel *The Wicked Boy*, the tale of a 13 year old who murders his mother. Also published by Bloomsbury.

Judith Herrin (1957-61) was awarded the 2016 AH Heineken Prize for History for her pioneering research into medieval cultures and Mediterranean civilisations and for establishing the crucial significance of the Byzantine Empire.



Tess Burrows (1961-66) has also recently had a book published. *Soft Courage* is a story told through the eyes of a soft toy penguin called Yannick. Donations from book sales go towards charities such as the *Tibet Relief Fund*.

Sir Peter Wright (1938-40), at the grand age of 90, has written *Wrights and Wrongs: My Life in Dance*, apparently dishing a good deal of dirt on Nureyev and others. Published by Oberon Books. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden celebrated his birthday with a special performance of the *Nutcracker*.



Tim Johnston (1954-59), former GB Olympic athlete and world record-holder for the 30,000 metres in 1965, has written a biography of fellow runner Otto Peltzer, who was an international celebrity in the 1920s. *His Own Man* is the story of an unjustly forgotten athlete who competed in two Olympics, but then fell from grace under the Nazis.

Laurence Shorter's (1981-87) *The Lazy Guru's Guide to Life* is subtitled *A Mindful Approach to Achieving More by Doing Less...* Clearly writing books is what you do after a Bedales education.

Toby Quantrill (1980-85), as Christian Aid advisor, was seen commenting in the press on the need for publicly accessible registers of company ownership to curb offshore tax evasion. I suspect most of the nation is with him on that.

Paul Vickers (1970-76), part of the first ever Design O and A Level cohort at Bedales, is now the Visual Communications Program Director at design school, École Bleue in Paris. Interested Bedales leavers are invited to email Paul at vickers.paul@neuf.fr

Andrew Brown (1970-71) writes for *The Guardian*, where he included a most ungenerous assessment of *The Good Country Index*. I like to think he might have been kinder if he had known the OB connection with...

Clara Drummond (1991-96) won the £30,000 BP Portrait Award for her painting *Girl in a Liberty Dress*. The judges praised the work's 'subtle, enigmatic nature'. A well-deserved award, as Clara has been short-listed twice before.



Simon Anholt (1974-79) who created this imaginative rating system. Personally, I am a huge fan of Simon's *Global Vote* site and have 'voted' in several elections from around the world. Trump (14%) came third in Simon's edition, behind Green candidate Jill Stein. Clearly America is not in tune with Simon's voters.

Omer Sami (2006-11) had a short film published on *The Guardian* website. The subject was a Syrian refugee helping others cross the Mediterranean, using his mobile phone in Hamburg – whilst they were still at sea!

David Unterhalter (1977), Professor of Law at the University of Cape Town, was quoted in the press offering opinions on the Oscar Pistorius trial.

Jamie Campbell Bower (2002-07) and **Tristan Marmont (2002-07)** set up punk rock band *Counterfeit* with fellow musician Roland Johnson. They have since released an EP, *Come Get Some*, and undertaken their first UK tour.



Carlo Gebler (1968-72) was one of the judges for the £100,000 International Dublin Literary Award won by Akhil Sharma for his *Family Life*.

Tomas Graves (1966-71), **Michael Murricane (1966-71)**, **Howard Reid (1964-69)** and **Nick Wates (1964-69)** formed a band at Bedales called *Circulation*. Their 1969 album *Tank Tracks* has now been re-released on CD by Shadocks Music.

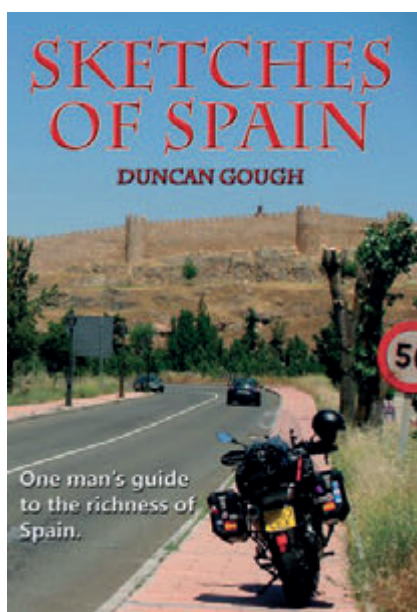
Alexandra (Ali) Harwood (1979-84) wrote the score for **Steve Gooder's (1976-81)** documentary *Yeti: Myth, Man or Beast?* Shown on Channel 4.

Carmela Corbet (2002-07) made her West End debut in *An Inspector Calls* at the Playhouse running until March 2017. After Bedales she attended The Juilliard School in New York. She has had theatre, TV and film roles in the USA and UK including the BBC1 series *Undercover*.

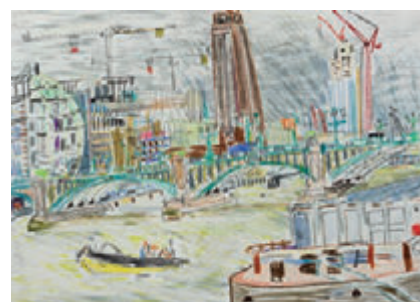
Ben Hanbury-Aggs (2002-05) is Account Manager, Valuations for Sotheby's in New York following a degree in Archaeology. I am pleased to report that he has also resumed his mathematical studies with a calculus course.

Luke Pritchard (1998-2001) was involved in setting up *More United*, a new cross-party movement for progressive liberalism that could endorse candidates in favour of the EU and immigration at the next election. Supported by Lord Ashdown and Jonathan Porritt.

Ryn Gough's (1970-75) new book *Sketches of Spain* includes 200 hand-drawn maps, sketches, photos and more tales of his motorcycle adventures in out-of-the-way places. Published under the nom de plume of Duncan Gough.



Sarah Richards (1991-96) ran the London Marathon for a second time. Sarah was again raising money for *Cecily's Fund*, which was set up in memory of her close friend **Cecily Eastwood (1991-96)**.



Anna Dickerson (1986-91) exhibited her London Cityscapes in the Barbican Library foyer in September. Judging from the reaction on my Facebook page, they were widely appreciated and are now in a few OB homes.

Jack Grierson (2007-12) has founded *The Medical Frontier* – home to the latest medical news articles from around the world. It incorporates a blend of cutting edge medical, biotechnological, pharmaceutical and biomedical publications.

Sylvan Lefebvre (1978-80) exhibited in *Very Like a Whale* at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London in September. Brother **Nicolas (1976-78)** continues to appear in opera around the world, including at the Paris National Opera.

Thea Bishop (1998-2003) came first in the whole of Australasia's primary Emergency Medicine exam.

Claire Whalley (1980-85) produced *Damned*, a comedy TV series shown on Channel 4, set in the office of fictional Elm Heath Council's Children's Services department. "Smart, acerbic and empathetic", according to *The Telegraph*.

Graham Noble (Bedales staff 1990-2002) has written *A Richer Dust Concealed: The Old Boys of Kent College Who Died in Conflict*, perhaps inspired by that beautiful volume of similar information which lives at the foot of the stairs in the Bedales Memorial Library.

Richard Stokes (Bedales staff 1969-75) is the author of new publication *The Penguin Book of English Song: Seven Centuries of Poetry from Chaucer to Auden*. His book anthologises the work of 100 English poets who have inspired different composers to write vocal music.

Thomas Housden (1996-98) and **Robin Sjöholm (1993-98)** are both architects and have recently set up a practice together, an architecture and design studio called *Outpost*.



Julie Sajous (née Smith, 1976-81) has embarked on a new career as an art teacher in a refurbished caravan in the West Wight and now has almost 20 pupils a week in her growing business. She was inspired to make this move by **Deborah Harwood (1974-79)**.

Mark Kidell (1960-65) has completed his latest film, *Becoming Cary Grant* – a biography about the Hollywood icon. Cary Grant was a Bristol boy and lived in various houses in the city, which is also home to Mark. News of Mark's other projects can be found on his Calliope Media website.



Freya Closs (2002-07) is a freelance set designer working for TV, film and advertising. Her artist mother **Emma Hartley (1987-72)** has just finished a body of work about people, conflict, migration and the landscape, to be shown in the spring.

Lucy Parham's (1977-82) latest venture into literary/musical combinations has resulted in a CD of Richard Strauss's setting of Tennyson's epic and tragic narrative poem *Enoch Arden*, with Henry Goodman as narrator.

Lily Allen (1998-99) has been making a good impression as a responsible citizen, pitching in to the battles against racism, hostility to refugees and tabloid newspapers in general. I like to think that she may have picked up a little of this spirit during her short stay at Bedales.

Benedict Grey's (2008-13) photographic work on rebuilding in Nepal's Langtang Valley was featured on *The Guardian* website and was shown in Bellevue Village, London in December.



Sam Jukes-Adams (née Henham-Barrow, 1987-92) is a TV Production Consultant, working with NBC Universal, Working Title TV and Lucky Giant, and a systems-psychodynamic executive coach.

Chloe King (née Edwards, 1983-89) has completed her first year of running *Rockit Kids Performing Art*, teaching pop singing and dancing combined for ages 4-12. She's also letting her inner self loose, doing three *Fringeworld* shows in Perth this year as a crazy 80s cabaret singer/comedienne. Typecasting? Or just made for the role?

Natasha Leith-Smith (1987-90) has designed a new jewellery range under her brand *Allumer*, in collaboration with the highly Bedales connected charity *Blue Marine Foundation* where...



James Parry (1986-91) has helped to renovate and open a hostel in San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico, all conducted in Spanish, which he hardly speaks at all. Opened in November, although not quite ready, you can imagine the Basil Fawlty-esque moments for yourselves.

Roxanna Panufnik (1982-86) composed four songs in the new *A Violin For All Seasons* album, featuring the BBC Symphony Orchestra's strings, with Tasmin Little as both the soloist and conductor.

Rebecca Baldwin (1997-2002) had a commitment ceremony to Will Ashley-Cantello at Huntstile Farm in Somerset on 2 July. The ceremony was co-officiated by **Joanna Webster (1997-2002)**.

Jo Evershed (1993-97) was a finalist, from 500 applicants, in the *Innovate: UK Women in Innovation* competition run by the government. Jo works in the field of online behavioural science. To learn more, visit www.cauldron.sc

...**Chris Gorell-Barnes (1987-92)** is a Founder and Trustee and **Cara (2003-09)** and **Poppy Delevingne (1999-2004)** are Ambassadors, but, look a little deeper into the water and you find...



Hayley Harland (2005-08) was awarded the PRS Foundation *Lynsey de Paul Prize* for emerging female songwriters. The money went towards recording her album and gave her access to a mentoring team at the PRS.

...**Poppy Wetherill (2003-08)** as Head of Membership and Events. Even better, one of the projects they support is off the west coast of Scotland, exactly where my branch of the Scottish Greens is most active. Suddenly they are my favourite charity.

Ferenc Békássy's (1905-11) works have now been published for the first time, 100 years after his death in WWI, in a book entitled *The Alien in the Chapel*. Ferenc's love letters to **Noel Olivier (1908-11)** are included along with most of the poems he wrote in English.

Dan Wheeler (1995-2000) appeared at the National Theatre in his third production of *Peter Pan*.

Emma Goldie (née Simonis, 1987-92) is running a mostly self-funded homeless charity in Chelmsford. Sanctus provides meals and a day space for the cold, hungry, lonely and recovering. It feeds and supports up to 40 people per day. "Very raw to the heart and financially debilitating, but still is the right thing to do", says Emma.

Deborah Harwood's (1974-79) *The Textile Space* celebrated its sixth birthday in November. She is teaching a six-month foundation course in textiles and won the Sussex Woman of the Year in Arts award. Visit www.deborahharwood.com

Annemarieke Fleming (née Wubs, 1992-93) has published her third book of poetry, *Geef me / nu / ik wil*, under her pseudonym, Anne van Amstel. The title would translate as: *Give me / now / I want*. She has also written the non-fiction *Pain & the brain: the role of the brain in 'unexplained' complaints* (in Dutch).

Ellie Ezrine (née Strutt, 1994-99) and her husband have continued to gain accolades for their Big Green Egg ceramic barbecues. They were awarded 4 gold stars for their Chelsea Flower Show stand this year. Ellie is happy to offer a special OB discount: ellie@alfrescoconcepts.co.uk



Valerie Saint-Pierre (1983-85) has recently returned from circumnavigating the globe in the Clipper Round the World race, where amateur sailors crew twelve 70-foot racing yachts in a gruelling 48,000 mile race lasting for 11 months.

Brenda Tyler (née Lawrence, 1955-57) is honoured to be part of the City of York Civic Party, thanks to it being the Green Party's turn to propose the Civic Party. She has also written another children's book *The Tomtes in the Mansion House*, about the Tomtes who usually, somewhat mysteriously, look after the environment.



Fredi Devas (1991-96) has been working on wildlife television series for the last four years. He produced and directed the *Cities* episode of *Planet Earth II* which was broadcast in December on BBC1.

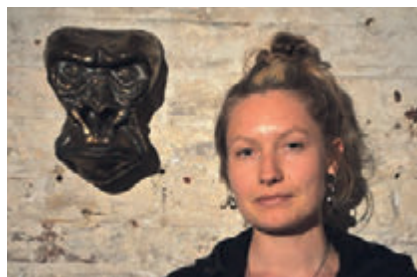
Emily Swettenham (2011-16) has set up a review blog called *SIS: So I Saw...* (sissoisaw.wordpress.com) where she writes about plays, exhibitions and other things she has seen.

Fiona Farrelly's (née Stuart, 1971-78) Kingston Vineyard Church and Growbaby project won the 'Commitment to the Community' award at the Kingston Business Excellence Awards.



Clare Schapiro (née Osdene, 1973-75) is a cooking columnist at *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* in Virginia USA. Her book *Stories and Recipes from Clare's Kitchen* was published by Pediment Publishing. She also blogs at www.clareskitchen.net

Lindsay Williams (1948-53) has now handed over his architectural practice to son **Jonathan (1978-86)**, who heads their office in Cardiff.



Bethan McFadden (1997-2002) exhibited in London. *Vanishing Species (pt.II)* is a body of work that reflects on the deteriorating state of the animal kingdom.

Tabitha Goldstaub (1999-2004) writes a daily briefing on artificial intelligence for the company CognitionX that she and CEO **Charlie Muirhead (1988-93)** started. Their mission is to democratise access to data science and AI techniques.

Hattie Garlick (1997-2000) has written *Born to be Wild*, aimed at parents and grandparents and full of free nature activities for under 12s. Available through RSPB.

Angus Finney (1975-82) was awarded a PhD in Management and Strategy from Cass Business School, City University in 2014. He is also a Visiting Professor to the Beijing Film Academy and runs the International Film Business module at Judge Business School, Cambridge University. His fifth book, *The Independent Film Business: A Market Guide Beyond Hollywood* has been translated into Chinese.

Ben Russell (1972-74) and his wife Joyce have written *Build a Better Vegetable Garden*, following their hugely successful *The Polytunnel Book*, which has sold over 30,000 copies now. Their new volume ingeniously combines their various skills – gardening, writing, making, illustration and photography. Published by Frances Lincoln.

Nina Hemmings (2006-11) graduated from Bard College in 2015. She is a graduate of the Royal Court Theatre Young Writers Programme and was the recipient of the prestigious Robert Rockwell Prize for dramatic writing. She is currently living in New York.

Rupert Muldoon's (1996-2001) exhibition *Shadowed Waters* took place in November at Timothy Langston's gallery in London. His paintings trace the ephemeral qualities of the River Avon near his home.

David Harris (1951-56), cruising the Thames in his narrow boat *Gongoozler*, unexpectedly found himself in a temporary mooring in Shepperton Marina alongside the royal barge *Gloriana*, shimmering in her resplendent gold and red livery, adorned with the Queen's crest.



Roly Botha (2010-15) starred in the UK premiere of the critically acclaimed Australian play *Strangers in Between* by Tommy Murphy.

Caroline Lodge (1960-66) has jointly written *The New Age of Ageing: how society needs to change* published by Policy Press. Apparently it demonstrates that we are capable of living better together longer in this new, older world. Perhaps I need to read it! 📖

Compiled by **Dennis Archer**

Michael Ralph Handley Ashken



Michael knew when he was four years old that he wanted to be a surgeon, not just a doctor, a surgeon. Our father was a GP and he heard Michael, at seven years old, telling a patient on the phone that “no, you cannot get measles twice”. Between them, our parents decided to send him to Dunhurst where he boarded from 1938, and on to Bedales until 1948. Dunhurst was an excellent choice during the war years and he spent many happy hours in Messingham’s workshop and in the Barn with Cor, weaving things on the wonderful looms, which sadly are no longer there. From Messingham, Michael began a lifetime love of making wooden furniture. At Bedales, Biff Barker kept Michael’s wood joint exercise hanging up permanently in the workshop. It was an example of perfection for others to follow and an admirable skill for a future surgeon.

Michael was eight years older than I was and we only overlapped

at Dunhurst/Bedales in his final two years. I remember once, walking up to Bedales to see him and finding him in the Biology lab dissecting a frog!

Michael’s medical training started in 1948 at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School (London University) when he was 17 years old. He qualified in 1955 with a BSc in Physiology, MRCS, LRCP, MB, BS. He won the Lyell Gold Medal and Scholarship in Surgery, the Fitton Prize in Orthopaedics, together with Honours in Medicine. He also won a Myerstein Scholarship, a State Scholarship, the Colin McKenzie Prize in Anatomy and Physiology and the Charles Bell Prize for Anatomy.

In his memoirs he speaks of being fortunate in the placings he gained as a young house surgeon, which were essential requirements on the path towards gaining his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. As the above list of honours and achievements show, this was too modest as he was

obviously the best choice for the offered jobs. He passed his FRCS exam in 1959 and became a surgical registrar at the Middlesex Hospital.

In 1950 Michael met Iris Platt, a South African medical student, at Guy’s Hospital. It was during Stoner Cricket week at Bedales, where Michael was playing for Stoner. Iris was there as the scorer for **Peter ‘Bunny’ Layton (1940-46)**, who had brought his own team to play against Stoner. Iris and Michael were married in 1956 and late in 1957 their daughter Sharon was born.

Early in 1960, Michael received his call up papers for National Service and was posted to Malaya as an Army Surgical Specialist. Michael used this time positively, gaining experiences he would not otherwise have had. It may have even changed his possible choice of Orthopaedic surgery to his final choice specialising in Urology. Iris and Sharon had followed Michael to Malaya, and their son Ian was born there in June. In 1964, Peter was born, completing the family.

Returning from Malaya, where he had achieved the rank of Major and become an honorary Gurkha, he was able to continue his registrar training with another eminent OB, **Richard Turner-Warwick (1938-42)**. Over these formative years, Michael became a very well trained surgeon experiencing many branches of surgery. Michael gained his Master of Surgery and was appointed Senior Registrar to Oz Lloyd Davies and Richard Turner-Warwick. Consequently, Michael decided to follow Richard and finally specialize in Urology. In 1966 he was appointed to a Hunterian Professorship by the Royal College of Surgeons and in 1968 he took the inaugural position of Consultant Urologist to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. In the mid-1970s Michael did some original surgical research in trying to develop a continent urinary diversion, similar to the work of Nils Kock in Sweden. He was the first British

Urologist in this field and consequently gave lectures and demonstrations of his technique nationally and internationally. In 1982 he edited a book published by Springer-Verlag called *Urinary Diversion*.

Michael was awarded many national honours and was appointed to the Court of Examiners at the English College, becoming the senior examiner for the FRCS for many years. He enjoyed this position very much and it took him to many countries, with visits to Sri Lanka and India being high points in this experience.

In 1992 Michael was elected by his peers to Vice President and then President of the BAUS (British Association of Urological Surgeons)

until 1996. This entailed visits to many 'colonial' countries including Canada, India, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and even the USA. On his visit to New Zealand, the Australian contingent were keen to walk the Milford Track, a strenuous three day walk in one of the most beautiful areas of the country, culminating at Milford Sound. My husband John Drawbridge, a well-known NZ artist and I joined them. I am very happy that I had that experience, as we wouldn't have done it otherwise.

Michael was a very good sportsman, excelling in cricket and tennis, and enjoying golf and hockey. While still at Bedales, he and **David Wheatcroft (1943-48)** were good enough at tennis

to be asked if they would like to play at Junior Wimbledon, but Michael preferred cricket! Later in life, when living in Norfolk, there arose a possible opportunity for him to play for Minor Counties, but he decided not to, putting family life first. However, while he was a consultant at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital he coached the Senior Doctors in their annual match against the Junior Doctors. The Seniors always won! Michael enjoyed many of the finer sides to life, like good wine, entertaining friends, a love of theatre and music and competitive bridge. Whether at work or play, he did everything with complete dedication and enthusiasm. 🍷

Tanya Ashken Drawbridge (1951-57)

Allan Frankland Hepburn

Allan was 'a very special man'. Those simple words were used in his obituary in *The Times* and were chosen well, so must be repeated in this obituary too. A simple phrase for a man whose life was very full and varied. Allan was complex; a man of many facets, a true gentleman and a man of honour. He was precise, organised and tidy. A man of mystery too! He was generous, funny and so very, very polite.

His funeral held on Wednesday 16 November 2016 was an occasion where his many worlds came together to celebrate his long life and to recall the man. It was as international as was his life. The congregation as diverse as his life. He was known in many different ways by his family and friends. He showed himself differently to all, but all were united by him.

Allan was born to Mildred and Sidney and had an older sister Valerie. Born into a family that probably would be described as privileged. His childhood was an unusual one – the

family being rather dominated by his grandmother, Lady Hepburn – who was eccentric and Bohemian. Nonetheless it was a sunny childhood in a lovely house and early years meant playing in the garden, family holidays, dressing up and parties. Allan and his sister enjoyed the model railway that ran all around the huge garden, big enough for the children to sit on.

Tennis courts to foster his budding Wimbledon interest – his father having signed him up as a member at birth – something he was proud of and committed to and involved with all his life. In recent years, Allan enjoyed immensely the privilege of escorting Bill Clinton round the Wimbledon grounds.

But along with this, the sort of childhood where the children had separate stairs so as not to disturb the adults and were only allowed to appear at tea time to see their parents. A childhood too where the parents had little control over what went on in the nursery and some of the nannies were not too kind.



Allan was a sensitive boy and often unwell, so the family would zip off round the world and leave him to a nanny. So it was somewhat of a relief at the age of seven for Allan to be sent to Bedales. This began his life-long interest, commitment and devotion to all that Bedales meant for him and for any who have had the fortune to be educated there. Bedales became his home and Bedalians his family.

At the time, his father Sidney chose Bedales because it was a bit different – different in many ways but in one way in particular. Different in that part of the school's ethos was not to beat the pupils. Corporal punishment was not used at Bedales. An alternative school. Sidney did not want his son going to a school where he would be beaten which was par for the course for most schools at that time.

Allan was a young and impressionable boy when the war broke out and his interest in Europe was fostered. He knew all the names of the planes flying overhead. Particularly the German ones. Germany became a fascination for him. He learned the language pretty quickly as he did all languages. Throughout his life he became fluent in nine languages – and difficult languages too: Russian, Korean, Vietnamese to name a few.

This acquiring of languages and interest in international affairs found its roots in his childhood, but ran alongside developing his career and becoming widely travelled. After his schooling at Bedales he went to Oxford and to Worcester College where his career took off.

This obituary could go through his career – but much of his work is fairly unclear. He worked in insurance and also was a Lloyd's Name. In later years he was an interpreter for Scotland Yard. His work took him to Russia during the Cold War. He was often quite rapidly taken out of Russia and escorted back to England. His work has an element of mystery attached to it. It took him to countries that most people didn't travel to at a time when they were not very accessible.

As his niece I recall him arriving at our home in Oxford with some unusual gift from far flung places. And he always arrived in a super sports car with a gorgeous girl on his arm;



the rather cool uncle to myself and my siblings. The handsome gentleman. The man of mystery.

A man of many contrasts too. As comfortable in his international business as he would be sitting on a park bench reading the Beano. A man who was as at home having lunch in a cafe on the King's Road as he was dining at the Sloane Club. Incidentally he was called and reprimanded by the Sloane Club for stealing the little pots of jam and the daily newspaper. And so he never returned.

A man who was very careful with his money but could also show huge acts of generosity to people he knew – or even to people he didn't know that well. Thanks to Uncle Allan, I saw Bjorn Borg win Wimbledon three years running in the 70s due to his generosity with Wimbledon tickets.

A man who despite his brilliance at communicating in many languages, listened to Magic Radio all day and had a collection of cuddly toys.

A man of strong principles and immaculate behavior – but who also always carried a pair of scissors with him to snip off flowers wherever he went and present them to his wife Hannah (even if they belonged in other people's gardens).

Allan married his first wife Sally – a family friend with whom he remained

friends. Secondly he married Agnitha and had his son Nicolas. Nicolas described his father as responsible and caring and a role model for him. His commitment to his son made visits to Sweden a regular occurrence.

But really it was his third wife Hannah who was the great love of his life. He met Hannah in London – she is from the Ukraine. He enjoyed communicating in Russian – the language he loved. And meeting Hannah opened up a whole new world for him. Being at the centre of her family changed him. Softened him. He had a lightness in his step and someone to lavish his generosity on. Someone who loved his humour. He even moved from Chelsea and enjoyed a more suburban life in Reading.

Allan's life ended in a truly international way surrounded by Hannah's Ukrainian family. But he stayed true to his background. Always the gentleman and an Englishman at heart.

He died after a long battle with declining health with Hannah and her family alongside him. A happy man in his final years and one who will be greatly missed by many. 🕊️

Pandora Driver (niece)

Christopher Compton Hall

Christopher died in hospital from complications, three days after a fall at home. He had been a relatively fit and active 85 year old and had just worked a full day (as he still often did), making good progress on a commissioned painting of a religious subject. So it was a great shock to everyone when he quickly declined and died leaving much unfinished business.

He was born in Slaugham, Sussex, but soon moved to rural west Berkshire where he grew up comfortably and well cared for. Here he began his first real and lifelong enthusiasm: postage stamps. His father was in the diplomatic service and often absent. When he was posted to Washington DC in 1940, Christopher followed with his mother and sister on a ship in one of the north Atlantic convoys, still a worrying prospect at the time, so they could live relatively nearby in rural Connecticut. He was there for about three years before he returned with his family and soon started at Bedales.

Christopher attended Bedales from 1943 to 1949. These were very important times where he developed his interest and skills in drawing and painting and began his lifelong love of cricket. The learning and student cultures there developed his character and the attitudes that helped him organise a busy life and career, which later took him into a long relationship with local and Liberal politics. During his time at Bedales he painted his first oil on hardboard – his usual medium. He was also drawn into playing cricket and his enthusiasm led him to continue playing in the summer holidays. He helped re-establish Falkland cricket club in 1946, now the most successful of clubs in West Berkshire.

His cricket playing lasted until around 1990 when a hernia cut short his playing career. He had risen to playing for Berkshire Gentlemen but after his third son was born in 1963 he



started playing less until, by the end of the decade, he was just raising teams to play his previous public schools.

Very soon after leaving Bedales he took the option of doing his National Service instead of continuing his education. He was posted for much of the time to Malaya. Here, in a unit connected with intelligence gathering, he passed a relatively danger-free time and made one or two lifelong friends. It was exciting for him and he later told his sons stories of his times and activities there.

Almost straight after finishing National Service he started at the Slade School of Art in London and developed the style he pretty much held to for the rest of his career. He painted, drew and learnt, enjoyed London and met many future contacts. Usually his paintings have at least one building in and he often liked to include people so that something is happening. Splashes or arrangements of a colour or colours were attractive to him. Important parts of the paintings were often meticulously detailed, but overall they usually had much atmosphere and feeling of place. His style is his own, romantic and atmospheric. Maybe 'friendly' is not an inappropriate word. The subjects

are often gritty or scruffy, making one, for a second or two, wonder what he painted it for. Then one would realise how striking it was, and the story it hinted at would make it feel like a still from a particularly sophisticated cartoon. I was amused to read in a review of an exhibition of paintings of Wales in the *Eastern Daily Press* in August 1966, "looking at his views of grey cottages and drab, almost pigmy people, one is tempted to say 'here is a Welsh Lowry'". Others have made this comparison, but Christopher's people are much better fed than any of Lowry's (as can be seen in his painting of Halkyn Mountain).

He began to travel abroad during summer holidays and after he left the Slade he went to Ireland, the Netherlands and, in particular, Italy, where he first met his future wife, Maria, late in 1954. He went back with friends several times, once in a car formerly owned by King Zog of Albania, painting and drawing every time. He and Maria married in 1957 and Christopher brought her back to England where Anthony was born in 1958, Robert followed early in 1961 and Andrew late in 1963. Christopher had begun teaching art in public schools to supplement his income,



working on his own paintings in his spare time and arranging for them to be shown in various exhibitions. His first solo show was in the Arthur Jeffress Gallery in London in 1958 and subsequently he had one most years. It was interesting to see him in a *Young Contemporaries* exhibition catalogue of 1955, among whose selection committee were Henry Moore and L.S. Lowry. Christopher was exhibiting along with his sister **Sarah van Niekerk (née Hall, 1945-50)**, friend Tom Cross and a certain Raymond Briggs.

Christopher lived in Aldermaston after London and moved to Wash Common, Newbury. Here he began to be involved in local politics and became a councillor in the early 1960s, at the forefront of a local revival of the Liberal party. With his help, the party gradually increased their representation on the local council until they ran it in the early 1970s. In the meantime he became the youngest mayor of Newbury ever at 36 in 1967/8 and the only mayor since Lucas Cranach to combine the role with being an artist. He said of his time as mayor, to the *Evening Post*, "Being mayor has not interfered very much with my work. I have found the job very pleasurable.

I do not find local government at all boring." Whoever would?

Christopher had travelled extensively, but as his family grew and money had to go further, he had to reduce visits to Italy. Instead there were more trips to Ireland, France, Scotland and, most of all, Wales, mainly in school holidays. His parents moved to North Wales in 1964 so his focus switched from the coal towns of the south to slate towns, mountains and farms. He was busier and had to give up teaching and a few years later he had to give up the council. He continued to play an active role in the local party helping them maintain their local strength and to be competitive at general elections. In 1974 the Liberals twice came within 1100 votes of winning, but probably the high point of his political involvement was when he played an important role in the local organisation to get David Rendel elected as Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury in the 1992 by-election.

In the time that had passed Christopher and Maria had become empty nesters and he worked even harder, additionally making more trips to Spain and Portugal, producing more local paintings and travelling beyond Europe. His son Andrew had sought

his fortune in America and a friend, Richard Royston, had long ago moved there, so several trips were made and many paintings produced. Anthony, a keen birdwatcher, persuaded him to visit Costa Rica with him. He took Mediterranean cruises with Maria from which paintings of Tunisia and Malta resulted. Then Anthony sought his fortune in Thailand for a few years and two visits produced a good number of paintings.

In recent years he developed cataracts which were operated on, but left him a far from confident driver, getting tired and uncomfortable and unable to drive in the dark. Also Maria had, since the 80s, been subject to increasing macular deterioration, and osteoporosis took hold from the late 90s, though she usually managed to travel with Christopher. They last went to Italy in 2011. Early in 2016 Maria found it increasingly difficult to walk, so he put off painting trips and concentrated on working locally and doing new versions of some of his foreign paintings. Busy with arranged exhibitions, he was planning to resume trips when he had more time, but then fate intervened. He is still sorely missed. 🌹

Anthony Hall (son)

Janet Ellie Leakey (née Brooke)

Adventure is a theme that runs through Janet's life. She never quite followed what might have been considered a traditional path. Rather, after completing her studies, she set off to travel and visited countless far-flung countries – quite unusual for a young woman at the time. Often through chance encounters or sometimes through luck, she was offered jobs in many of the places she visited and, always a great one for believing that 'things happened for a reason', she leapt on these opportunities with great enthusiasm and spontaneity – accounting perhaps for her rather varied CV!

Janet's and my paths first crossed at Bedales where her father and grandparents were also educated. Janet started boarding aged 11, whilst her parents were both still in Kenya, her father having been posted there to establish a printing works for Brooke Bond when Janet was just 18 months old.

It took Janet some time to adjust to English life when she first went to Bedales – an amusing story concerns one of the first suppers when she was asked to pass the 'marg'. Having never heard of margarine, she passed the water, as 'margi' is the Swahili word for water! Nevertheless, she soon settled in and loved her time at Bedales, building hugely valued friendships which have truly lasted the test of time. From my understanding of Janet's school years, academia was perhaps not her greatest focus – rather she was involved in all sorts of extra-curricular activities including brewing cider in the outhouse and sneaking in and out of school without being caught!

After finishing school and being interested in and good at languages, Janet moved to France, where she enrolled on a three year course at the Sorbonne to learn French – only to be forced to leave after a year due to the student riots.

Returning to Kenya and following a brief stint working for a broking company in Nairobi, Janet's next adventure was to Tanzania where she joined Jane Goodall, studying the behaviour of chimpanzees. She loved the work and often told stories of her time spent tracking the chimps and following them closely as they progressed through the forest each day. Whilst there, and on a brief visit to Nairobi, she met the project's leader, Louis Leakey. This led to her next adventure with Louis' wife, Mary, who was looking for early fossils at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. As a result of finding a fragmented skull of an important ape during her first visit, Janet was offered the job of assisting Mary in her archaeological work, a job she enjoyed immensely for five years. As the 'dig season' was for only four months each year, Janet found an additional job editing a wild life magazine, *Africana*, based in Nairobi.

Next up was a job offer in Ecuador researching the reasons why the country has the oldest people in the world. So as to learn the language, she spent a month in London studying basic Spanish. However, the day before she was due to leave for Ecuador, a coup took place in the country and the people she was due to work for felt the planned trip should be postponed.

Undeterred and still keen to travel, she set off eastwards across the world, stopping over in various countries with the hope of ending up in Ecuador after the coup. Her plan was to travel to Kathmandu in Nepal from Victoria Station in London using public transport, which she did with many lifts in lorries. By sheer chance, she bumped into an old friend, Dita Plage, in Nepal who suggested she might like to work at Tiger Tops, a lodge in Chitwan National Park which specialised in trekking and rafting holidays in the Himalayas. She took up the job and ran the lodge for six years. During the four month monsoon period when the park



closed, Janet also travelled to the Isle of Rum in the Scottish Inner Hebrides to help her close friend Fiona Guinness with marking and studying red deer, researching deer movements and monitoring numbers.

Following her time in Nepal, she continued her travels, working in Sri Lanka for two years and then Southern India, before moving on to Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia and finally ending up in Japan as she headed towards Vladivostok, from where her main ambition was to travel on the Trans-Siberian Railway. She spent six weeks crossing Russia, Finland and Sweden on the Trans-Siberian Railway which she loved – although she never ate another bowl of borsch again! She did, on occasion, however, manage to swap her bowl of borsch with the Russian soldiers for a meal of champagne and caviar.

She then returned to East Africa to take up a job studying the behaviour of red colobus monkeys in Uganda. She was thrilled to be researching animal behaviour again but sadly the

work had to be halted due to the start of the civil war in Uganda. It was soon after this that, after returning to Kenya, Janet had a serious car accident in Nairobi. However, whilst she was recuperating in Nairobi, she met Jonathan Leakey. Janet and Jonathan married soon after, in 1981, and lived together by Lake Baringo.

A year later, Tanya was born – unfortunately for Janet, she arrived during a political coup when all the doctors and nurses deserted the hospital due to curfew, leaving Janet completely alone. Luckily, Dr Kungu broke curfew and returned for the birth just in time. Eleven months later, and somewhat unexpectedly, Mary was born.

Sadly their marriage ended in divorce in 1990 and it was soon after that Janet and the two children returned to England and lived in Sway. Janet spent a number of years caring for her parents, Oliver and Betty, in Beaulieu before moving back to Sway more recently.

In spite of living with her injuries from the Nairobi accident which affected her

walking, and coping with the effects of hydrocephalus (water on the brain), Janet continued to travel every year, regularly to Kenya as well as on trips to spend time with Mary and her husband Maciej during their postings.

Her most recent overseas trip, last year, was with Fiona Guinness to the Serengeti in Tanzania where Tanya, Mary, Maciej and friends (also, by coincidence, on a camping trip in the Serengeti) managed to track them down with the most basic of directions ('turn east at the fourth tree, head north at the large rock, etc!') Both Tanya and Mary then spent half the night with mum keeping warm and catching up whilst a storm raged outside.

Janet was indeed a true adventurer sharing her experiences with her parents Oliver and Betty in the form of copious letters. She was also a loving mother who kept in very close touch with both her daughters Tanya and Mary in spite of them living and working in Africa. 🌹

David Harris (1951-56)

Charlotte Preston (née Wheatcroft)

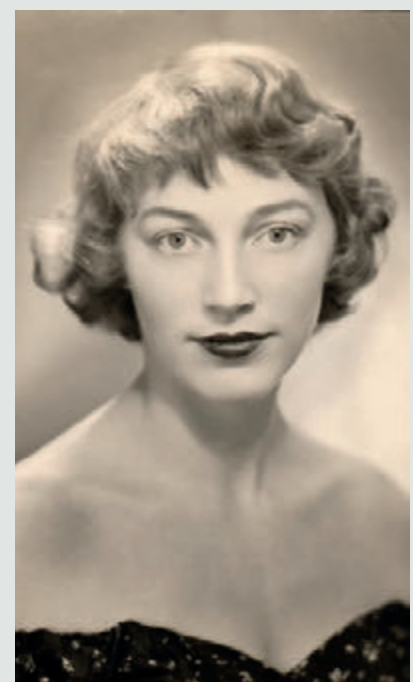
Charlotte's parents were unconventional – they started married life living in a caravan at the edge of a field of roses, but moved with their starter family to a house south of Nottingham before Charlotte was born on 4 August 1935. Father, Harry, had been imprisoned in Wormwood Scrubs as a conscientious objector in World War I. During World War II he was an enthusiastic socialist reading the *Daily Worker*, *News Chronicle* and the *Soviet War News*. He became a world renowned rose grower after the war. He believed in progressive co-education but was a strict disciplinarian and hard task

master, for whom his children always worked.

At the start of World War II, Charlotte at the age of four was despatched with her siblings, luggage labels attached, on a train journey to Keswick High School – away from industry and danger.

Later, at the age of nine, she moved on to Dunhurst, then Bedales, where she studied until 17. She loved her time at Bedales and made many good friends. **Andra Millington (1944-52)** recalls:

"As we grew up, we were very different in many ways. Charlotte was athletic, good at games and gym, captain of the lacrosse team and very



keen to play whatever games she could and I was hopelessly bad, dare I say even bored by them, but we stayed friends.

Charlotte was special. She was strong and resilient but at the same time vulnerable and sensitive. We shared many ideas and secrets and, though we were rarely together in the same dormitory again and usually found ourselves in different classes, she was like another sister in my life.

She had learned to tease, I think, from her older siblings, but she always laughed as she joked or teased and was never unkind. She was also good fun and taught me things I didn't know, like we could cook and eat nettles; so exciting when you are 11 to learn things one's parents obviously didn't know. When her younger brother Jonny and Tweedy Harris moved up from Dunhurst to Bedales we took the boys on a bike ride to the River Rother where we made a sorrel, nettle and tomato soup and went skinny dipping.

We both stayed until we were 17, when Charlotte went to the Middlesex Hospital to start her nurse's training, where fellow Bedalians were also working – **Jo Wilson (1947-53)**, **Mike Ashken (1942-48)** and sister **Josephine Wheatcroft (1945-48)**. When she married Richard Wilson in the late fifties I was, with Josephine, one of her bridesmaids and believed she was very brave to be taking such a step so early in her life."

Charlotte and Richard lived in London and then moved to Devon, opened the Left Bank record shop in Exeter and increased their family to four lovely daughters. Julia, Amanda, Natasha and Lucinda attended local schools and the home was awash with friends and animals, horses, hens, guinea pigs, ducks, rabbits and cats to mention but a few. Each of the



girls went to Bedales for Sixth Form between 1976 and 1983. With the girls at Bedales, Charlotte much enjoyed visiting the school and meeting up with old friends.

Charlotte's achievements were many – as well as raising a family and having her nursing career she was always up for learning new things and making a difference. She trained as a counsellor, became a Samaritan and set up one of the first Oxfam shops in the country in response to the war in Biafra. After her marriage ended she met Steve and moved back to London, where, aged 47, she trained and practised as a Health Visitor, when she wrote definitive works on looking after young children and their sleep issues – *The Little Terror*

series. She always had a passion for children, her grand-children and great grand-children.

In 1990 she married her beloved Steve, their two families happily combined and their home was always full of people, laughter and love. On retirement they moved to Topsham in Devon, where Charlotte became fully immersed in local life, still playing tennis and looking after the sick and always with her cheeky sense of humour. Her legacy is so many friends and family who have been enriched by knowing her. ☘

Extracts from eulogies prepared by
Andra Millington (1944-52),
David Wheatcroft (1943-48) and
Amanda Wilson (1977-79)

Joseph Mathieson Skeaping

Joe was the second of four brothers, all of whom were educated at Bedales. Being of small stature when he arrived in 1955, he was instantly nicknamed 'Gnome', a title which stuck throughout his time at school!

After attending Wimbledon College of Art and then the Royal Academy Schools, the rest of Joe's working life was notable for the extraordinarily wide range of both his interests and abilities. Joe had a brilliant musical ear (as well as the rare facility of perfect pitch) and his ability to play a wide range of both

string and wind instruments enabled him to join various groups such as The City Waites, a four-piece group specialising in the broadside ballads and popular songs and dance music of 17th century England. He particularly loved playing early music on a rebec, bass viol, krumhorn, raushpfeife or whatever came to hand, but he was also a brilliant and original maker of early musical instruments; perhaps his greatest achievement was in researching and discovering how to re-create the lira da braccio, played by Leonardo, Raphael and Michelangelo

in the great squares and courts of renaissance Italy. This instrument had completely died out until brought back to life by Joe some twenty years ago.

In the 1980s Joe married and moved first to Lacock and then Marlborough. When he arrived in Lacock, he set up a successful piano tuning business called Piano Medic. Joe repaired and saved hundreds of ancient domestic pianos in Wiltshire, which other tuners had rejected, by creating his own unusual techniques. At the same time he tuned for Humph at the Marlborough Jazz and was always asked for by Stefan Grappelli at the Theatre Royal, Bath. He was never grand and applied himself in equal measure to whatever the job might be.

Joe had an image of himself as Dr Keys running along the length of his van, and was so well known locally that children in the High Street would call out: "The Piano Man – there goes the Piano Man."

His last years were spent happily in Ireland, where friends would while away the time with Joe enjoying philosophical discussions, poetry and craic. Joe was interested in ideas and the origins of life and was terrified of dying. Sad though his family all were when the time came, they were so happy for him that he died peacefully, slipping away quietly onto his next journey. At his memorial service in Marlborough, The Rev Canon Studdert Kennedy thoughtfully placed Joe's beloved lira on the altar. He would have been pleased about that.

Joe was a complex, amusing, kind and good man. He has left many fond memories, and is greatly missed by all his family and friends. He is survived by his widow Dot and his two children, both of whom teach history: Joey, who is now Head of History at Brighton College, and Lizzie, currently teaching History and Politics at Westminster Harris School, London. 🌹

Alexander Skeaping (1957-60)





BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

Births

Malcolm and Becky **Archer**, a son, Henry Percival, on 1 June 2016

Henry Box and Gillian Weddell, a son, Jude Thomas, on 15 November 2016

Lucy (née Carp) and Mathew Gapper, a daughter, Phoebe Ella Anahera, on 20 June 2016

James Clark and Xiaohui Lan, a son, Horatio (Harry) Anthony, on 10 November 2016

Chris Gorell Barnes and Martha Lane Fox, twin sons, Felix and Milo, in May 2016

Harry and Emma **Grey**, a daughter, Pia Clara, on 1 February 2016

Tina (née Gwyn) and James Bretten, a daughter, Florence Alice Elizabeth, on 17 September 2016

Claire Hall and Peter Coysh, a daughter, Isobel, on 22 December 2016

Olivia (née Harrison) and Robert Shirville, a son, Finn Trevenen William, on 11 April 2016

Nikki Lack and Bruce Davidson, a son, William Oliver Harry, on 24 June 2016

Johnny Lance and Anna Ford, a son, William Kit, on 9 June 2016

Olivia Montgomerie and **Adam Kent**, a daughter, Isla Eimear, on 25 July 2016

Robin and Anya **Nuttall**, a son, Alexander, on 16 December 2016

Orlando Oliver and Rosie Pattison, a daughter, Ruby, on 18 November 2015

Shosannah (née Pick) and Matthew Larsen, a daughter Amelia May, on 12 May 2015

Dylan Roberts and Emily Boswell, a daughter, Josephine, on 20 July 2016

Mella Shaw, a son, Reuben Cinnabar, on 30 October 2016

Laurence Shorter and Norina Dixon, a son, Albert McCrary, on 15 February 2016

Louise (née Skinner) and James Gillham, a daughter, Megan Beatrice, on 21 September 2016

Alex Williams and Clare Kirkpatrick, a son, Sebastian, on 5 October 2016

Roddy and Rosie **Williams**, a daughter, Delilah Jasmine Vita, on 28 May 2016

Charlie Wolstenholme and Nina van der Beugel, twins, Olive and Theo, on 7 September 2016

Michael and Holly **Wilding**, a son, Max, on 8 November 2016

Engagements

Tilly Boys and Tim Howarth

Arthur Browne and Stephanie Raby

David Cover and Jess Leeds

Hayley Harland and Alex Wolfe

Charlie Muirhead and Janey Montgomery

Matthew Potter and Amanda Jane Welford

Clare Simm and Jonathan King

Victoria Sutherland and Suren Moodliar

Bart Warshaw and Chelsea Carter

Guy Wilmot and Antonina Paes

Marriages

Josephine Beynon and Dr Blair Dunlop on 20 August 2016

Alexia Brandram and **William Hicks** on 27 August 2016

Alice Clark and **Dan Wheeler** on 15 June 2016

James Clark and Xiaohui Lan on 9 July 2016

Freya Closs and Sam Haak on 8 October 2016

Mimi Gordon and Richard Fish on 26 November 2016

Rose Grey and Sam Thompson on 17 September 2016

Ina Hirschberger and David Lindsay on 20 August 2016

Eric Tse and Shuhui Yow on 29 October 2016

Liberty Wilson and Henry Peacock on 28 May 2016

Deaths

Hilary Joan Holmes-Smith (née Absalom) on 30 April 2016. Bedales 1937-39

***Michael Ralph Handley Ashken** on 22 September 2016. Bedales 1942-48

***Janet Ellie Leakey (née Brooke)** on 1 August 2016. Bedales 1959-65

Florian Louis de Vito on 18 November 2016. Bedales 2005-08

Catherine Campbell Taylor Adams (née Elder) on 16 April 2016. Bedales 1937-41

Jane Evans on 11 November 2016. Bedales staff 1973-84

Jacob (Jack) Fraenkel in February 2016. Bedales 1937-39

David Jeremy Gimson on 6 December 2014. Bedales 1950-55

Helga Forrester (née Haerem) on 15 November 2015. Bedales 1927-32

***Christopher Compton Hall** on 4 August 2016. Bedales 1943-49

***Allan Frankland Hepburn** on 4 November 2016. Bedales 1944-51

Susan Anne Howarth on 15 November 2016. Bedales 1971-75

Katherine Livinstone-Leamonth (née Kebbell) on 30 September 2016. Bedales 1961-67

Krisztian Kriston on 17 December 2016. Bedales staff 2008-16

Nicholas Lourie on 10 April 2016. Bedales 1966-72

Christopher (Crispin) Charles John Price on 12 March 2016. Bedales 1973-76

June Veronica Engel (née Revai) in March 2012. Bedales 1938-44

David Roberts on 5 September 2016. Bedales 1953-58

Judith Joyce Bolt (née Robinette) on 1 August 2016

***Joseph Mathieson Skeaping** on 18 September 2016. Bedales 1955-59

Maxine Patricia Mary Merrington (née Venables) on 4 July 2016. Dunhurst 1919-25

***Charlotte Preston (née Wheatcroft)** on 18 January 2016. Bedales 1944-52

Those marked with an asterisk have an obituary in the Newsletter.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2016

The following pages detail the new 2016 university destinations for recent leavers.

Class of 2016

Name	Destination	Course
Eve Allin	University of Warwick	English and Theatre Studies
Isabella Anderson	University of Oxford	Arabic
Nico Bradley	City College Brighton and Hove	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Ruben Brooke	New College of the Humanities	Philosophy
Chelsea Chu	University of the Arts London	Fashion Buying and Merchandising
Tilly Cook	University of Greenwich	Advertising and Marketing Communications
Cameron Cross	University of Edinburgh	French and German
Keir Dale	University of Hull	Physics
Rowan Eastabrook	Durham University	Anthropology
Angel Fang	University of Bath	Architecture
Archie Graves	University of Edinburgh	Philosophy and Theology
Max Hannam	University of Oxford	Biochemistry
Sam Headon	ESMOD, Paris	Fashion Design
Alex Houghton	Buckinghamshire New University	Animal Behaviour and Welfare
India Hulme	Kingston University	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Harriet Kelsey	University of Bristol	Social Policy and Politics
Hannah Lester	City College Brighton and Hove	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Amy Lock	University of Sheffield	Geography
Sam MacGuffog	University of Sussex	Physics and Astronomy with a foundation year
Freddy Mardlin	University of Durham	Classics
Morgan McKay	Kingston University	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Charlie Milliken	Trinity College Dublin	Classics
Ben Mynk	University of Liverpool	Sociology
Patrick Newlands	University of Bath	Mechanical with Automotive Engineering
Chloe Polkinghorne	Oxford Brookes University	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Nina Rebeiz Nielsen	Goldsmiths, University of London	Drama and Theatre Arts
Issie Rogers	University of Exeter	Business Economics with Industrial Experience
Katy Scott	New York University	Liberal Arts
Izzy Soper	Oxford Brookes	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Safiyya Subjally	Oxford Brookes University	Nutrition
Fernanda Verdon-Roe	Newcastle University	Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
Ashley Viljoen	University of British Columbia	Liberal Arts
Robbie Ward	New York University	Liberal Arts
Katharine Welch	University of Edinburgh	Chemistry
Alexander Weston	University of Edinburgh	Biological Sciences with Management
Robyn Whittaker	University College London	Ancient Languages with year abroad
Min Yu	City College Brighton and Hove	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Chloe Zhao	University of Warwick	Mathematics
Hilda Zhu	University of Sheffield	Biomedical Sciences

Class of 2015

Name	Destination	Course
Leo Arisco-Corrado	Newcastle University	Modern Languages and Business Studies
Harry Bonham Carter	Bournemouth Art College	Film Production
Roly Botha	Royal Holloway	Drama and Theatre Studies
Lily Brown	University of York	Music
Aidan Bunce-Waters	The Academy of Contemporary Music	Music
Lizzie Compton	University of Bristol	Law
Ella Dallaglio	University of Westminster	Fashion Design
Pace Gebbett	University of Sussex	Mechanical Engineering
Leonardo Graziosi	University of the Arts London	Film Practice
Kitty Hall	University of Brighton	3D Design and Craft
Lucy Hewett	Royal School of Needlework	Hand Embroidery for Fashion, Interiors and Textiles Art
James Holt	The Royal College of Music	Music
Arun Jayaseela Gorna	Kingston University	Product Design
Sofie Kitts	University College London	Scandinavian Studies
Radheka Kumari	University of Sussex	Anthropology and International Development
Phoebe Landers	Durham University	Modern Languages and Cultures
Enrico Luo	University of Edinburgh	Architecture
Alice May	City and Guilds, London	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Harry McWhirter	University of Manchester	Social Anthropology
Jack Merrett	University College London	Philosophy
Rob Miller	University of Birmingham	Medicine
Robbie Murray	University of Surrey	Computer Science
Lydia Nethercott-Garabet	University of Edinburgh	Classical Studies
Sofia Palm	SOAS, University of London	Social Anthropology
Tony Pang	Middlesex University	Fashion Design
Poppy Poulter	University of Westminster	Fashion Design
Diggy Priestly	Arts University Bournemouth	Fashion
Tilda Raphael	University of Bristol	Sociology
Margaret Rice	University of Edinburgh	Ancient History and Greek
Maddie Rodbert	University of Manchester	Archaeology and Anthropology
Rose Shuckburgh	University of Edinburgh	Fine Art
James Sweet	University of Reading	Economics
Olivia Wilkinson	Leeds College of Art	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Alice Wilson	Queen Mary University	English and Drama
Maya Wilson	University of Leeds	English and Film Studies
Alex Yetman	King's College London	Music

Class of 2014

Name	Destination	Course
Georgie Deane	King's College London	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Connor Ladion	University of Warwick	English Literature
Sofia Tavener	University of Cambridge	Law



