

# BEDALES ASSOCIATION & OLD BEDALIAN NEWSLETTER 2019









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*Please note we have included dates where possible of when staff worked at the school. If dates are omitted it is because they have been mentioned in an earlier section of the newsletter or because we do not have the exact dates they started or left the school. If you would be able to help us complete any missing dates, please contact a member of the Alumni Liaison Team.*

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Bedales Association and Old Bedalian Newsletter 2019.

It has been an eventful year. The refurbished Lupton Hall was the venue for Three Schools' Concert, the John Badley Fellowship Dinner, the JHB Society lunch and four Memorials for former staff: John Batstone, Kay Bennett, Bruce Moore and Ruth Whiting. The long awaited refurbishment has been very effective; the benches are now graced with cushions but otherwise it is the versatile much loved space it used to be.

Another successful event for Members working in media related sectors was held in Topolski Bar which about 80 of you attended. We hope to offer another event in 2019 for those in Business and Professional Services related careers.

The Steering Group met twice during the year, in London and at Bedales. The AGM in July was again held at the 1901 Arts Club in London, for which over 50 members booked tickets. It was unfortunately, overshadowed by the unexpected endurance of the England football team in the World Cup; the match against Croatia that same evening significantly diminished attendance at the AGM. Not even the prosecco and canapés could hold the attention of those who did attend, and we finished promptly so everyone could watch the nail-biting final 20 minutes of the game.



The Newsletter Editorial Board and the Steering Group would welcome new members if any of you would like to join in reporting, planning and hosting Association events.

The usual 10, 25 and 40 year reunions were held over the Parents' Day weekend. A 50 Year Reunion Lunch was held on Badley Day (formerly the 'Badley Weekend') in September and in June **Mark Hanson (1977-84)** arranged a gathering for the years 84/5. Other events included the 'Badley Behaved' Dog Show, Stoner Cricket week, the Stansted Players production, OB careers evening for 6.2s, the OB Football Event, the Great South Run and the Annual Donor Reception. Many of these events provide a very successful fundraising platform for the John Badley Foundation in addition to providing reunion and other social opportunities for members of the Association. The walk from Lindfield to Steep, to mark the school's 125th year,

took place over five days in June and was marked by some very special participants. Read more on page 14 of this Newsletter.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in and supported the activities of the Association and especially to the External Relations Office for making it all happen. We said farewell to Keith Budge after 17 years as Head. We are immensely grateful for his support of the Association; he rarely missed a meeting and never dodged a difficult question. We very much look forward to working with the new Bedales Head, Magnus Bashaarat. It seems no time at all since we said a temporary goodbye to Leana Seriau for her first maternity leave and we wish her all the best for her second which started in February. 🍀

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

## CONTACT THE ALUMNI LIAISON TEAM

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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 Alex Beckmann.

## STAY CONNECTED to your Old Bedalian community

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It might be assumed that Henry Newbolt's dangerously simplistic poem *Vitai Lampada*, a powerful articulation of those High Victorian values of violence and sacrifice, would contain little that is relevant to the welcome pages of an Old Bedalian magazine. It's a long way, both metaphorically and geographically, from the cricket pitches of Clifton College to the Outdoor Work barn at Bedales. But the feeling of inheriting an educational legacy, "This they all with a joyful mind/ Bear through life like a torch in flame,/ And falling fling to the host behind", of bearing a torch lit by Badley and Powell in 1893 and passed on through successive Heads at Bedales, is very real. Newbolt's poem was written in 1892, so is almost the same age as Bedales, and the educational values that the Old Rugbeian, John Badley, and Old Uppinghamian, Oswald Powell, brought to the foundation of Bedales, the antithesis of High Victorianism, are still central to the school's character and ethos.

A photograph of Badley hangs in my office, deliberately placed behind my desk so that he can look over my shoulder and scrutinise what I am writing to students, colleagues and parents and check its authenticity. In last year's edition of this magazine our Chairman of Governors, **Matthew Rice (1975-80)**, welcomed me warmly and gave me a clear mission, writing: "I believe Magnus will continue the liberal, progressive and innovative

tradition of Bedales whilst maintaining the rigorous standards we expect of our students." In January I was fortunate to attend a talk given to the Petersfield History Society by Ann Donnelly, whose grandfather was Oswald Powell, or 'Osbos' as he was called, to Badley's 'The Chief'. I've not asked the teaching staff at Bedales to call me 'The Chief' yet because it sounds rather hierarchical and undemocratic, and in Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* calling someone a 'chief' is quite a sharp insult, but the torch of life has been passed along the 125 year golden thread of Bedales history, and now lights my office.

One of my most moving and insightful engagements this year was attending our former Head of History, **Ruth Whiting's (staff 1963-2000)**, memorial service in the Lupton Hall, attended by a huge range of OBs, many of whom had been taught by Ruth, together with current and former staff. I never met Ruth, but her legacy and symbolic role within the Bedales community were clear to me and Camilla as we listened to the varied tributes. Ruth knew a great deal of history, and a great deal too about how to enthuse, inspire and challenge students. She also stood for rigour, exactness and hard work. Lazy expression, slapdash English and loose application of fact were anathema to her. Ruth taught students history, and then when she needed to, she



taught them how to pass exams. Her academic standards and the intellectual ambition she fostered in the students she taught should be an enduring Bedales beacon, and should inspire our current academic staff to keep striving for excellence in the classroom.

Every school has someone who acts as the guardian of the flame, usually a long serving teacher or recently retired long-serving former teacher who can reach back into their own memory and tell you the precise reason that jam roly-poly was dropped from the lunch menu in 1963 and the brouhaha that ensued. This kind of folk memory is what makes boarding school communities so rich in history and meaning for the students that pass through them. **Alastair Langlands (staff 1973-2001)**, former Dunhurst Head and unofficial story archivist, has been our own Arts and Crafts version of Tiresias since Camilla and I moved to Bedales. Tiresias knew seven generations of Thebans, and Alastair has interpreted the Bedales past for us so that we can appreciate the history, events and importance of the Bedales community, past and present. So far, I've probably only met a very small percentage of the OB diaspora, but I look forward to setting that right in the coming year, and hope that you enjoy reading about your old school and contemporaries in this publication. 🍷

**Magnus Bashaarat**  
Head



# OB EVENTS – REVIEWS OF 2018

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## **Sector Event – 8 February 2018**

An enjoyable gathering took place at Topolski Bar, London, for OBs working in or studying Music, Theatre, Media, Marketing, Film, TV and Journalism and related fields. Around 80 OBs attended the event. This was the third in a series of social events which brings together Bedalians who share similar professions.



## **Visit from Delilah Montagu – 19 April 2018**

**Delilah Montagu (2009-16)** returned to Bedales to deliver an incredible concert in the Bedales Theatre. Delilah has made waves in the music industry from London to LA working with artists such as Tom Odell, Diplo and David Guetta before signing a record deal with Columbia Records earlier this year.



## **Beyond Bedales Higher Education and Careers Fair – 9 June 2018**

Over 30 OBs from the classes of 2014-17 returned to Bedales to talk to and support current 6.1s at the Beyond Bedales Fair. Their experiences ranged from studying at university, art or music colleges to internships, work placements and gap years. The event is designed to give 6.1s a better idea of life after Bedales and encourage discussions about university options and career paths.







### **Classes of 1984/5 Gathering – 21 June 2018**

A gathering organised by **Mark Hanson (1977-84)** took place for the classes of 1984 and 1985 at The Draft House in Paddington. Thanks to **Charlie McVeigh (1979-83)** for kindly providing the venue.



### **Visit from Gyles Brandreth – 30 June 2018**

Actor, author, *One Show* reporter, former MP and government whip, **Gyles Brandreth (1961-66)**, returned to the Lupton Hall with his new one-man comedy show *Break a Leg!* – a celebration of all things theatrical, with a special Bedalian twist. An impressive £2,798 was raised for the John Badley Foundation.



### **10, 25 and 40 Year Reunions – 30 June 2018**

The 10, 25 and 40 year reunions were well attended and the beautiful day saw the OBs in high spirits. The class of 1978 enjoyed lunch in the marquee on the Mem Pitch before the Bedales Association as a whole gathered for drinks outside the Dining Hall. The classes of 1993 and 2008 then held their respective barbeques. Special thanks go to **Steuart Padwick (1973-78)**, **Chloe Ogilvie (née Guthrie, 1988-91)**, **Paul Isaac (1988-93)**, **Minty Nicholson (2003-08)** and **Ollie Waterhouse (2005-08)** for all their help with the reunion organisation.





### **AGM and Drinks Reception, 1901 Arts Club – 11 July 2018**

The Bedales Association hosted an evening gathering for OBs, former staff and former parents at the 1901 Arts Club in Waterloo. The event consisted of the Association's 35th Annual General Meeting and a drinks reception.

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### **OB Football Event – 22 September 2018**

Jack Deane, for his fourth and final year, organised a team of OBs to play against the Bedales 1st XI. This year's match was very closely fought and ended in penalties – with Bedales winning for the second year running. A tea and presentation was held in the Dining Room.

### **Stansted Players – 29 August -1 September 2018**

The Stansted Players offered their 28th annual production in the Bedales Theatre. A E W Mason's *Green Stockings* was produced, as ever, by **Alastair Langlands (staff 1973-2001)**. The cast included **Dom Ashton, Olivia Brett, Serena Brett, Alice Clark, Lucy Coates, Celeste MacIlwaine, Flo Robson, Jordan Theis, Nick Tier** and **Imogen Welch**.



### **50 Year Reunion Lunch – 22 September 2018**

The class of 1968 returned to Bedales for their 50 year reunion, which coincided with the school's Badley Celebration Weekend. A music recital and lunch were both held in the Lupton Hall, followed by guided tours with students and afternoon tea. Special thanks go to **Alison Allwright (née Kerlogue, 1963-68)** and **Suno Wood (née Warrick, 1963-68)** for all their help with the reunion organisation.

### **Class of 1998 Gathering – 22 September 2018**

Over 30 OBs from the class of 1998 got together at a pub in Islington, London, to mark their 20 years since leaving Bedales. It is always great to hear of OBs organising their own gatherings. Many thanks to **Guy Wilmot (1993-98)** for sending us this photo.





### Great South Run – 21 October 2018

A team of 32 Bedales runners entered the Great South Run and raised over £4,500 for the John Badley Foundation



and Cecily's Fund, which was set up in memory of **Cecily Eastwood (1991-96)**. As well as pupils, staff and parents, two OBs took part in the race: **George Vaughan-Barratt (2018-12)** and **Albie**



**Waterton (2012-14)**. The team is very grateful for the support of The Country House Company and fundraising platform Pledgit, founded by **Billy Jenks (2002-07)** and his father Philip.

### Visit from Hugo Burge – 27 November 2018

**Hugo Burge (1985-90)** returned to Bedales to give a Civics talk about the rush seated chairs in the Bedales

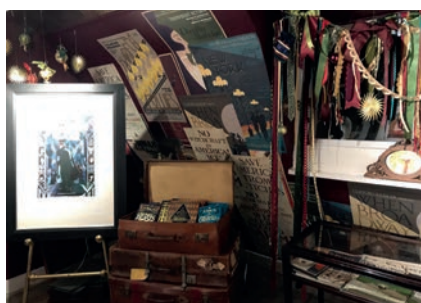
Library, a subject about which he has also produced a short film, *The Chair Maker*. Accompanying him on his

visit was the craftsman who makes the chairs, Lawrence Neal, an expert in Arts & Crafts furniture, Mary Greensted, and the filmmakers. Read Hugo's article on page 34.



### Bristol Reunion – 29 November 2018

A group of eight OBs currently studying in Bristol and Cardiff met up at the Hotel du Vin in Bristol to share their post-Bedales experiences. Joining them for the enjoyable evening were Alumni Officer, Philip Parsons and University Liaison Officer, Sarah Oakley. They were delighted to get positive feedback from the OBs who have embarked on courses such as Classics, Economics and Politics, French, History of Art, Law, Medicine, Religion and Theology, and Pharmacy.



### House of MinaLima – 29 November 2018

Following a very successful event in 2017, graphic designer **Miraphora Mina (1978-85)** once again hosted a magical evening for OBs, students, parents and staff at the House of MinaLima in Soho. Miraphora and her business partner Eduardo Lima treated guests

to an insightful talk and private tour of the enchanting four-storey Victorian townhouse, which showcases graphic art created by the duo for the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts films. The evening raised funds for the John Badley Foundation. 🍷



Photographer Jack Offord.

### Parents' Day 2018 Cricket Report: Bedales v Stoner

I'm sure that even those of you who weren't at Parents' Day will know that it was hot and sunny – as hot and sunny as I can remember! The pitch looked good for some runs, with a quick outfield.

Stoner elected to bat first, with **Paul Bradley (2002-07)** and **Hugo Boatright (2003-08)** opening the batting. It must be said that Hugo looked in distinctly better nick than Paul and raced off to 32 before being adjudged leg before wicket. **Alastair McConville (staff 2007-present)** interjected with seven and **Justin Jones (1987-92)** inelegantly bludgeoned 37 before being caught and bowled. There was a notably rapid contribution from **George Sinclair (2003-08)**, who arrived at 30 with some clean striking. Other contributions were short and sweet. Unfortunately, **Will Wollen (1987-92)** ended our innings at 162 with a golden duck, caught at deep cow with one over of the 25 to spare.

This felt like a slightly below par score given the outfield, with no one escaping beyond the thirties. Bedales had some very useful bowlers from Block 3 upwards, so the next few years may get tougher for Stoner.

The Bedales innings did not begin well for them, with **Joe Mabe (2003-08)** and Paul making inroads into the batting, reducing them to 20 something for four. This brought to the crease a gentleman wearing a 'Queensland Cricket' shirt, James Walton, who we established was the partner of a member of staff. He proceeded to drive our bowlers around the park until he retired on 50. However, he was dropped by **Arran Marais-Gilchrist (2003-08)** off a difficult chance behind from Hugo Boatright. Catches win... On the other hand, yours truly did take a quite reasonable catch running across from mid-off and diving one handed at mid-on. **Connor Wilkinson (1976-78)** was very flattering,

saying it was the best catch in his 45 years of cricket. Amazing bowling for that long and never getting a catch before. Bedales' score was approaching ours, with the rate remaining very gettable and wickets continuing to fall, except for Block 3 Hugo Napier-Munn, who scored an excellent 55 not out to steer Bedales home (though I can't help feeling that we should have caught him at some stage, somewhere). Catches win...

So we lost for the first time in quite a while, but we were up against a good competitive team. Tea was good, too. Maybe if we hadn't indulged to the same degree in cream cakes, we may have got to the catches. ☹

**Justin Jones (1987-92)**



Photographer Jack Offord.





Eighty-five years ago, at the end of their final year at Bedales, two boys had a meeting with their young games master to discuss the future. **Jim Atkinson (1930-34)** was about to embark on an engineering degree at Cambridge, and **John Fox (1929-34)** was preparing to study Civil Engineering. **'Benn' Bennett (staff 1930-71)** was in his fourth year at the school.

However, it was not their futures they talked about, but the much more important question of cricket and in particular, cricket at Bedales. An idea was suggested: at the end of the Summer term, OBs should be invited to return for a week of cricket. Benn agreed to approach 'The Chief' (Mr Badley) to see if the proposal met with his approval. It did, so he was promptly chosen to be the Club's first President, and Stoner Cricket was born.

Fifty years later, as the Club celebrated its half century, John recalled his memories: "Although a performer of little talent, I was quite potty about cricket and when I was due to leave, the idea of abandoning the cricket field was quite awful. I don't remember being overly impressed by the scenic marvels of the place where I spent 14 happy years successfully resisting being taught anything... but when I found myself leaving it for good, its beauty came upon me suddenly and the notion of arranging some cricket softened the blow".

Jim, who was not usually lost for words, was less effusive and wrote, "If the cricket has been no more than a vehicle for the making of friends and the interplay of eccentric personalities, then never mind". Jim was a more than useful village cricketer and was

a Stoner regular for the next 30 years, during which time he proved himself a considerable eccentric and made countless friends.

Benn was, of course the driving spirit and a cricketer good enough to have earned a place on the Lord's ground staff. As curator of the Bedales wicket he supervised the creation of the 'Mem' Pitch after the war, ensuring that it was the best ground in the district. On the death of Mr Badley in 1967, Benn became President of Stoner.

Since Stoner's foundation, hundreds of OBs and their friends have played for the Club including over half a dozen Head Boys. Staff have also played an important part including **Ken Keast (staff 1939-49)**, **Harold Gardiner (staff 1952-68)**, **John Batstone (staff 1968-93)**, **Norman Bellis (staff 1956-63)** and **Anthony Gillingham (staff 1946-70)**.



For those too young to know him, Anthony was an Old Etonian Marxist who helped sink the Bismarck during the war and had a father who played for Essex!

There have been many other interesting characters who have worn the club colours. **Richard Tomlinson (1970-76)** has written a highly acclaimed 400 page biography of W.G. Grace.

**Roger Lloyd Pack (1957-62)** became a film and TV star whose brief innings in the film *The Go-Between* was featured in its entirety. **Matthew Quantrill (1978-83)** was a remorseless compiler of runs who tragically died before he could record his 100th Century.

**Peter 'Bunny' Layton (1940-46)** was a stockbroker whose legendary generosity did not always extend to his racing tips or his running between wickets. **Alastair Britten (1957-62)** invariably slept in a tent during Stoner Week as a tribute to the Club's pioneers. Finally, **Connor Wilkinson (1976-78)**, was always available to make up the numbers and his unfailing optimism with both bat and ball won him wide admiration. I could go on but enough.

After 84 years, the news that the 2018 Cricket Week had to be cancelled due to lack of players saddened me and only Hitler had managed that. However, amid the wailing and gnashing

of teeth, there are cautious grounds for optimism that a renaissance may be round the corner. Cricket at Dunhurst is flourishing, and both the Bursar and the new Heads at Bedales and Dunhurst, love cricket and may even sport MCC ties, which shows the right spirit! We also hear that staff and parents have their own team trading

under the name 'Gentlemen of Bedales', which includes some enthusiastic pupils.

The idea of a week's cricket after the end of term has been discussed, and sounds an attractive possibility. Perhaps it's worth a try – it worked last time! 🏏

### **Rollo Wicksteed (1949-54)**

**S**toner Week involves playing both local club sides and national travelling sides, on the scenic Memorial Cricket Pitch. After a pre-season match against the school's 1st XI on Parents' Day, Stoner Week runs from Monday to Friday on the first week of the summer holidays. Matches typically commence at 2pm, to allow players time to work and/or travel before the afternoon of cricket commences. Match tea is provided (for a match fee), and the regular format is limited overs or timed cricket. The day normally ends at approximately 7.30pm, with players retiring to The Harrow Inn to recount the day's events. A memorable match is the Wednesday fixture against local club side Steep, which is played every year for the 'Rollo Wicksteed' highly contested trophy.

Accommodation-wise, non-local players stay with friends/family, at B&Bs, or arrange with Bedales to camp on the grounds. Some players play one or two games and some stay for the whole week – particularly if the sun is shining. It is rather pleasant. The wonderful club BBQ takes place on Thursday night in the marquee, followed by a warming bonfire. This is always a highlight and a nice way to nearly finish off the week. For those keen on club arrangements, the AGM is held on the Friday morning in the pavilion.

New players are very welcome. If you would like to join the team, please contact **Paul Bradley (2002-07)**: paul2016@hotmail.co.uk

[www.bedales.org.uk/bedales/sports-events/stoner-cricket-club](http://www.bedales.org.uk/bedales/sports-events/stoner-cricket-club)



# UPCOMING REUNIONS

This year, the three summer reunions will be taking place on Parents' Day, Saturday 29 June. All of the usual events and entertainment will be available.

## Class of 2009 Reunion

The 10 year reunion for the class of 2009 will start at 7.00pm in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch and includes a Block Barbecue Party.

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

**Jack Deane**

jack.fs.deane@icloud.com

**Louisa Millar**

louisa.millar@googlemail.com

## Class of 1994 Reunion

The 25 year reunion for the class of 1994 will start at 7.00pm and includes 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 Holly or James:

**Holly Beck (née Wilmot)**

holly@hollybeck.net

**James Serjeant**

James.Serjeant@dowgate.co.uk

## Class of 1979 Reunion

The 40 year reunion for the class of 1979 will start at noon and include a delicious lunch in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch.

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

**Lucy Forman**

lymebookshop@gmail.com

**Jane Kirby (née Williams)**

jkirby@bedales.org.uk

## Past Parents' Lunch

The Bedales Association Past Parents' Lunch Party will take place from 12.00-2.30pm in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch. Please join us for this informal social gathering to meet up with fellow former parents. Old Bedalian sons and daughters are very welcome. We would be most grateful if you could advise whether you can come by contacting Mary:

**Mary Hancox**

development@bedales.org.uk

01730 711 695



## PARENTS' DAY 2019

Saturday 29 June

All members of the Bedales Association are welcome.

- Exhibitions
- Afternoon Tea
- Concert in the Lupton Hall
- 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 ([www.bedales.org.uk/events](http://www.bedales.org.uk/events)) 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 2018*

## **January – Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) update** *By Paul Turner, Head of Geography and DofE Centre Coordinator*

Last year, students grasped the opportunities available through DofE with both hands and the number of participants increased fivefold with half the school involved. Students camped and walked in Dartmoor as well as Dorset and the South Downs. The DofE Award continues to be highly valued by employers and universities alike and is a useful badge – recognising much of what the students already do as part of everyday life at Bedales.

This year, we have expanded the team with Ana Simmons taking responsibility for the Silver Award (available to all Block 4s) and myself leading the Gold Award (available to all 6.1s) with the award running across the two sixth form years. Looking forward, we have Silver expeditions in the New Forest and South Downs planned as well as Gold expeditions: one walking in the Brecon Beacons, another canoeing on the River Wye.

## **February – Physicists on collision course to Geneva** *By Izzy Milford, 6.2, Physics Don*

Fifteen sixth form Physicists, accompanied by three teachers, had a very early start to travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to visit CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. We started our tour of Geneva with a visit to the United Nations Building, taking in the exquisite architecture and learning about the different locations of the UN buildings and what they are used for. There was another early start on Saturday as we prepared to head out to CERN itself; on arrival, we had a tour of the Proton Synchrotron, which is the oldest collider at CERN. Afterwards, we were lucky enough to get a tour of The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector (stationed at the Large Hadron Collider), which was open due to engineering works, so we descended 100m underground into the tunnel to see inside. We then had a look around the exhibits at CERN and headed back



into Geneva for an evening walk around the city. On Sunday we toured the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and the Science Museum, finishing up with a lovely boat tour on the lake.

## **March – First Give charity final 2018** *By Beatrice Bonsey, Block 4*



Just before half term, five Block 4 groups gave presentations for the First Give charity final with the aim of winning £1,000 for their charity of choice. The team representing Catalyst went first and showed us a unique video of interviews with people speaking on behalf of those helped by the charity. Next was the team representing Stone Pillow who managed to raise money with a charity bake sale. They made two very inventive videos, one showing facts on homelessness while the other was a motion picture showing that it could be you on the streets. After that, it was our charity, Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association. We showed a video about a child with Down Syndrome finding the charity online and his life improving greatly. We then spoke about how much we had raised and how much this charity has helped families and children with Down Syndrome. Following this, Jigsaw Trust, told us about their charity, which improves the lives of those with autism. Finally, the Salvation Army team reported statistics about homelessness and showed a short interview with a person saying how the charity helped him and others. They also told us how they were going to fundraise by one member of the team running two peaks in the Lake District. Judges then went off to make a decision and returned announcing Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association the winner! The £1,000 prize money will be spent funding 13 pre-school sessions (one year's worth) to help children develop their learning milestones and help families with the children. The representative who came to watch was over the moon to receive the money for her charity.





### April – Pizza shack

By Flora McFarlane, Block 5

Over the course of the last year, we have developed and perfected our running of the pizza business based in Outdoor Work. When we took it over last Easter, we just had the oven and the building, so we had lots of jobs to do to make it into the pizza shack it is now. We made storage, menu boards and equipment, all to make it look its best. The four of us (including Max, Dylan and Cameron) devised a way of making and selling pizzas as quickly and efficiently as possible. In the last few weeks of our BAC, we all feel we have a professional operation, making and selling around 50 pizzas to students on a Wednesday afternoon. As well as learning how to make the perfect pizza from scratch, we have also learned about woodwork, blacksmithing, laying a new floor, painting; plus invaluable skills like basic business accounting, sourcing ingredients, teamwork, customer relations, quality control, and an eye for detail. We have loved this project and feel proud of what we have achieved. We look forward to seeing how the next group will develop it further!

### May – A Necessary Woman, ‘No Vote, no Census’

By Ollie van Hoeken, 6.2

After teaching us about the context of the characters and events of the play in Jaw, Deborah Clair and Philippa



Urquhart headed over to the Theatre to prepare for their touring show.

The plot of the play is about Emily Davison and ‘necessary woman’, Mary, meeting in the cleaning cupboard, and discussing their views of the suffragists. Emily Davison, a historical suffragette famously threw herself under the King’s horse for the right of women to vote. In the play, the audience is given a rare chance to hear the voice of Emily, as she plans to address the House of Commons after the 1911 census but fails. Through the character of Mary, we see what life was like for women in the lower classes. She considered herself lucky to keep her job after having given her baby up for adoption; this moment of saddening confession provided clear juxtaposition from Emily’s speeches of power. Mary made it clear that this was not uncommon for women of the time. By the end of the evening, the audience took away a clear message: women have fought for the right to be equal and society has made huge leaps but there is still a long way to go. This topic is still relevant today; shown in a historical context, we see the similarities in prejudice.

### June – Leading professor returns to mother’s school to deliver science lecture

Sir Roger Penrose, Emeritus Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford and Emeritus Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, delivered the annual Science Eckersley lecture to a packed Bedales Theatre of students, staff, parents and local community.



Roger Penrose is known for his work in mathematical physics, and in particular his contributions to general relativity and cosmology. He has received several prizes and awards, including the 1988 Wolf Prize for physics, which he shared with Stephen Hawking for their work on singularities, such as black holes, proving that they can arise from the gravitational collapse of massive, dying stars.

Professor Penrose enthralled his audience on a wide range of scientific topics that included discussion of consciousness, life, infinity, quantum mechanics, general relativity, Schrödinger’s cat, gravity, microtubules and Penrose tiling.

Bedales Head of Sciences, Emily Seeber, commented: “It is not often that one plays host to a thinker who has radically changed the intellectual landscape in their field, but, in hosting Sir Roger Penrose, we had the opportunity to hear about how he has challenged thinking in Mathematics, Physics, Philosophy and beyond. He was extraordinarily moved by the places his mother would have lived and studied, long

before he was born – she attended Bedales 100 years ago and was Head Girl in 1919 so it was fitting that he should return as the school celebrates its 125th anniversary.”

The Eckersley Lecture is named after brothers and former Bedales students, Peter and Thomas Eckersley. Peter was the former chief engineer at the BBC and his brother Thomas was a theoretical research engineer. A video of the 2018 Eckersley Lecture is available at [vimeo.com/bedalesschool](https://vimeo.com/bedalesschool)

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### July – Bedales celebrates 125 years of education



Celebrations to commemorate the 125th anniversary year of Bedales came to a head at the end of the Summer term. A group of 24 students from Block 5 and 6.2 and their teachers completed an arduous five-day 125 km walk from the old Bedales in Lindfield, where the school spent its first six years from 1893, to the current estate in Steep.

The old school is now split into private residences, and the walkers were treated to a tour of the school and chatted with the owners before heading south, down the Sussex Border Path to link up with the South Downs Way. Sleeping under canvas for three nights, the walkers also spent one night in the splendid jockey accommodation at the stables of Goodwood House.

The group was met back at Bedales on 29 June by 98 year old SAS veteran and Old Bedalian, Mike Sadler, together with youngest member of the school, three year old Liberty Camping, before all school pupils and staff walked to the Memorial cricket pitch for a '125' drone photo. To mark the occasion, Mike and Liberty then helped plant a tree using soil carried by the walkers from the original school site.

In the final week of term, there were also many tributes to **Keith Budge (Head 2001-18)** by students, staff and governors as he left Bedales after 17 years as Head.

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### August – Bedales students secure places at Oxbridge, Yale, Music Conservatoires and Art Colleges

Students at Bedales celebrated after securing places at the most prestigious educational institutions in the world

– including Oxbridge, Yale, and a number of leading music conservatoires and art colleges – following the publication of A Level results.

This year's high achievers included: Lily Samarine, who gained three A\*s in English Literature, French and Russian, as well as an A in her Extended Project to meet the conditions of her offer to study French & Russian at Wadham College, Oxford, and Rachel Forsyth, who achieved three A\*s in Biology, English Literature and Religious Studies, and an A\* in her Extended Project to secure her place at Pembroke College, Cambridge, to read English.

Other Bedales students celebrating Oxbridge places include a number of 2017 leavers. Sam Harding will study Human, Social & Political Sciences at Newnham College, Cambridge; Emily Swettenham will read English at Girton College, Cambridge; and Jamie Murphy will read English Language & Literature at Queen's College, Oxford.

Jetting off to the highly rated US university, Yale in Connecticut, is Lucy Ellis, having achieved three A\*s in Drama & Theatre Studies, English Literature and French, and an A\* in her Extended Project, to study Liberal Arts with a major in Modern Languages.

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### September – Badley Day celebrations

Badley Day saw pupils, parents and staff work together to improve the outdoor environment of Bedales and beyond, as a celebration of the founding of the school.

This year's projects included the construction of a footpath from Dunhurst across the school estate to the A3 footbridge, as well as the installation of a mud kitchen and storage shed at Steep Primary School. Students in 6.2 planted bulbs in the green space outside Bedales' award-winning Art & Design building and carried out other improvements to pathways.

Meanwhile at Dunannie, new head Victoria Homewood welcomed parents and children as they took part in a range of activities – including bulb planting, clearing brambles in the nursery garden, and apple picking and cooking. As well as teaming up with Dunannie, Dunhurst pupils and parents,





along with Head, Colin Baty, enjoyed taking part in a number of Outdoor Work projects. These included clearing and weeding the school's vegetable plot, water blasting wooden decks, yarn bombing, knitting, trimming hedges, painting benches, clearing gardens in the nursery, building a chestnut post fence and erecting a metal chicken shed.

### October – Interview with new Dunannie Head



In an article for *Absolutely Education* magazine, Victoria Homewood explains why she simply had to take the job of Head of Bedales Pre-prep School, Dunannie, and talks about her passion for outdoor learning. Dunannie has a track record of pioneering and innovative education, with the school's

ethos as established by founder John Badley – 'Head, Hand and Heart' – prescribing an education for the whole child, combining the academic, the practical and the social. Victoria says: "The school's values and approach align very closely with my own philosophy, which focuses on the needs of the individual and the development of children's inquisitiveness and love of learning."

However, Victoria also observes that this requires interpretation to make it relevant for its time. For example, of her enthusiasm for outdoor education, she says, "These days, most of us spend the vast majority of our time indoors, and our connection with nature is consequently limited. It is time to reimagine education and rectify this balance". Victoria believes that exposure to nature can help children connect with themselves and others in an unpressurised way.

The full article can be read at [www.bedales.org.uk/news/interview-new-dunannie-head](http://www.bedales.org.uk/news/interview-new-dunannie-head)

### November – Kate Adie visits Bedales

Bedales welcomed journalist and broadcaster Kate Adie to a full Olivier Theatre, just months after she was awarded the BAFTA Fellowship in recognition of her exceptional contribution to television.

The former news correspondent, who became well known for reporting from war zones around the globe during her career, visited Bedales to deliver this year's annual Global Awareness lecture.

From an accidental foray into local journalism to a 14-year stint as the BBC's Chief News Correspondent, Kate talked about her extensive career, which included reporting on a series of kidnaps in Sardinia and being arrested in

Belgrade while trying to gather material about Marshal Tito. She also spoke about the two foreign assignments she is most often associated with – the American bombing of the Libyan capital Tripoli in 1986 and the Chinese authorities' killing of protestors in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in 1989.



Kate's lecture formed part of Bedales' Global Awareness series, which each year sees an external guest visit the school to deliver a lecture on a global issue. The lectures are of particular interest to Bedales students, many of whom are taking the bespoke Bedales Assessed Course in Global Awareness. The subject enables students to use 21st century skills such as critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration and communication to understand and address global issues.

### December – Dunhurst footballers win league to cap off unbeaten season



Dunhurst finished the term on a high note after their U13 football team were crowned winners of the North Hampshire Football League. The win comes after an unbeaten season for the side, who proved to be a tough team to beat from the outset, winning a series of friendlies at the start of September before the silverware began to mount up.

Their first competitive win came later that month, when they emerged as winners of a tough tournament at Highfield School. Beating Frensham Heights 8-4, their fine performance on the pitch continued in October as they claimed victories in another two tournaments – including the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) tournament in Oxfordshire.

The team's final league match against Ditcham Park was an incredibly close decider, but Dunhurst came through on top once again with a 4-3 victory. 🏆

# GLOBAL AWARENESS



Given the rate of social change in the 21st century, educators surely have a responsibility to equip young people with the skills to ensure that they are able to lead movements of any kind, and to become social innovators – not just when they become adults, but at any moment in their lives. Inspiring and feeding such an appetite and facility for change is the purpose of the Global Awareness programme, which is a key part of the curriculum across all three schools.

Perhaps the most visible example of this is the Bedales Global Awareness BAC, which challenges students in Blocks 4 and 5 to understand and address global issues, and recently saw its first cohort complete the programme. During the last academic year, our students communicated with a variety of organisations and governments across the globe and devised solutions for issues ranging from landmines in Angola, harvesting the mist in East Timor, educating children as young as six about human rights, and more.

In the first year of the course, we place an emphasis on students acquiring skills associated with action research and analysing different points of view. Action research sees the practitioner bring about an improvement to their own work, or that of their institution, by continually evaluating their practice,

designing changes, and then appraising the effects of those changes. In so doing, students learn that they can (and do) make a difference in the world, and that making mistakes is an important part of learning.

In the second year, students undertake both collaborative and individual projects selected from four areas – human rights, global health, peace and conflict, and the arms trade. They all begin with a very loose idea of a topic which they would like to cover, and they refine this through concentrated research and the setting of specific goals. Last year, one collaborative project was the Food Fund. Four students were given the topic of Hunger in the 21st century as their starting point, before identifying issues closer to home. *The Cost of A Child*,

published recently by the Child Poverty Action Group, draws attention to a shortfall in income for the families of the lowest paid. Portsmouth is home to some of the most deprived areas in the UK. Acting upon findings of a growing reliance on food banks by people in the UK, the students communicated with the Trussell Trust, and made contact with a food bank in the Petersfield area to discuss how Bedales might become involved in regular food donations. They placed donation boxes and notices around the school, and developed a website encouraging contributions from people beyond the school gates. Students are planning to volunteer at the Portsmouth Food Bank in the coming academic year, and food poverty will remain a key topic for the school.

If, as appears to be the case, we are on the cusp of the voting age being lowered universally, then we need to ensure that our young people have enough knowledge about the world to be fully politically active. I am confident that our commitment to Global Awareness, and the Global Awareness BAC more specifically, has begun the task of helping our students towards a meaningful and practical education in citizenship and, crucially, the sense that they can change the world in which they live. ☘

**Abi Wharton**  
**Head of Global Awareness**





# PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE FOR BEDALIANS



As dire predictions abound about the effects of artificial intelligence and robotics on the labour market that awaits school leavers, there is a particular onus right now on schools to make a serious and informed commitment to student guidance. Bedales makes such a commitment through constantly evolving provision, offered through its Professional Guidance Department. We use a range of approaches, with Old Bedalians also playing a crucial role in helping students to make good decisions. For various reasons there has been a reduction in students applying to UK universities through UCAS, with some students thinking more carefully about apprenticeships and work more generally. Careers advice has become as important as higher education guidance, and so receives commensurate attention at Bedales.

Many Bedales students will have a clear idea of the kind of work they would like to do and the implications of this for the qualifications they pursue at school. Others may be less sure, however, and require time and encouragement to give it the necessary attention. Accordingly, we place great emphasis on knowing our students, understanding their strengths and weaknesses, nurturing their skills, and over time, developing their awareness of their own learning styles.

We begin working with students in Block 4. It is worth saying that some can be reluctant participants, as work can seem a long way off to them.

We aim to provide them with a light touch introduction, which helps to prepare them for the careers work we will do with them later on without overwhelming them. A careers carousel held over a four-week period allows them to get a taste of various lines of work, and encourages them to start thinking about the subjects and combinations of subjects that might best help them get to where they might want to be. We also get them to think about soft skills; the school extra-curricular activities that might be useful to them in this regard, and of work for which their personalities might be best suited.

In Block 5, careers work becomes more focused and intensive. Students undergo a two hour-long Cambridge Profile Aptitude Test with follow-up interviews, in part with a view to helping them make well-informed A Level choices. Students tend to enjoy this part of the programme and find it useful. The Department is active in setting up relevant work experience where required, and we organise trips to various careers fairs at which students get the opportunity to talk in detail about particular industry job roles and requirements with employers.

Apprenticeships can provide some very attractive opportunities for school leavers. Despite concerns over a fall in uptake overall, high level apprenticeships

have become very popular, and are increasingly attractive to Bedales students. Today's apprenticeship is a very different animal to its predecessors, with major banking and accounting firms now offering post A Level programmes. Many high achieving students choose this route over university as it will allow them to pursue higher qualifications or a degree with no debt, whilst also establishing a career path. Typically, apprentices will work four days a week and study for one. It is a challenging route and important to get right, so we work closely with them as they explore their options, offering support and guidance as appropriate.

Tutors are available to discuss career choices and related decisions with students at all points of the process, and there is a list of OBs who are happy to be contacted. Their role in talking about their experiences with students and recent ex-students can be invaluable – especially for those struggling to make a choice. We are always keen to recruit more OBs to this end, so please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. It isn't a big commitment, and our current crop of volunteers will confirm that it is as fun as it is rewarding. 🌟

**Cheryl Osborne**  
**Careers Advisor**

If you would like to offer career support to Bedales Sixth Form students and recent leavers, please get in touch with Alex Beckmann, Alumni Liaison Manager; [abeckmann@bedales.org.uk](mailto:abeckmann@bedales.org.uk)

# THE CHANGING FACE OF BEDALES



Old Bedalians arrive for Parents' Day, memorials or reunions, to visit as prospective parents or grandparents, or just because we are nearby and would like to see school again. This is a welcome part of every day in Steep and we are always welcome. There is huge comfort in the place: the Library and Lupton Hall, the Orchard and the sand quarry, Steep Church or Steephurst. That familiarity is a good antidote to a life of moving house, one's own, or our parents', but what if it at first seems unrecognisable? In fact, while the overall landscape may be reassuringly familiar, the buildings are far from unchanged.

In the last 15 years, the buildings at the school have seen a period of development unmatched since the early years; nowhere is this more apparent than on arrival. The old blue Bedales School sign may be the same that was put up in the seventies (even earlier?) but modest wooden arrows direct you to reception. Those wondering how the S or N blocks will have fared since their erection in the heady days of

1960s expansion under Tim Slack will find the austere spare lines of those modular single storey classrooms, all piloti and oriental horizontals, have been swept away. The pond, with goldfish and prankish addition of the marble Venus de Milo, no longer forms the centre of the teaching part of Bedales; gone also are the grove of whispering crack-barked pine trees that fringed the orchard (the latter lost in the 1987 storm). Instead you will be welcomed in a large open hall lined with honey coloured vertical larch boarding. This is the Orchard Building (Walters and Cohen 2006) and it houses the Head, Bursar and Administrative staff, as well as all the new classrooms. Cleverly aligned to the Covered Way by a wide red brick path, this was built as a reaction to a long period of stasis in terms of bricks and mortar and was the first part of a current series of new buildings that have made major changes to the built environment at Bedales. The last time this happened was in the 1990s when New Boys' flat opened next to the San and the award winning

Olivier Theatre (no more plays in the Quad or Lupton Hall although the latter is seeing a renaissance as venue) appeared among some surviving pines between the Workshop and the Music School. This building (Feilden Clegg 1994) spreads the active part of Bedales westwards towards what was Mr Cobb's farmhouse. A gloomy end to that period of development was the indoor swimming pool. Built on the site of the old outdoor pool, this is amongst the least inspired buildings at Bedales. Noisy and inexpensive red brick, a huge and charmless tiled roof and inept windows make this a sad and ugly neighbour to the Mem Pitch, relating only to the utilitarian sports hall behind it. It is hard to make these essentially massive buildings interesting and the best one could have hoped for was a quieter and less strident statement. Beyond these two on the Dunhurst pitch is the Sam Banks Pavilion. This oak framed building comprising a single room with wrap around porch was built by **Gabriel Langlands (1977-90)** with the help of students and staff,



the roof shingles being fixed by a distinguished team including Keith Budge, the then Head. Designed (by me) as a focus for Dunhurst sport, it has quickly become a useful venue for general school use from reunions to fundraising events. Back at the centre of the school the old Studio and Workshop are, in contemporary parlance, undergoing repurposing and will re-emerge as The Studies, a replacement to the scattered study units of the last 50 years. Here, the architect is Richard Griffiths, responsible for the sensitive and thoughtful restoration of the Lupton Hall in 2017.

Cars have been another reason for change. Bigger vehicles and many more of them have meant giving in to more and more car parking. All efforts have been made to hide or soften the effect of this but it is a blight in what is, so importantly, a school in the country. Two more big changes are to the northeast. Outdoor Work, in its current form the brain child of the late **John Rogers (staff 1975-86)**, brought forward by **Peter Coates (staff 1989-93)** and now subject to the remarkable attention of **Andrew Martin (staff 2014-present)** has spread

its oak framed wings over an ever increasing area. Those who left before 1980 and have never returned will find the astonishing Sotherington Barn, a gift of Lord Selborne re-erected as part of a re-birth of good buildings at Bedales (oddly with minimal support from the Board at the time). Around it, lies the Bakery and a series of smaller barns and workshops frequenting the work of students. The observant might spot that the leaded windows that had perished in the main part of Steephurst have a new life in a substantial rustic orangery and find much snuffling of pigs, collecting of eggs and growing of vegetables in the plots around the barn.

Lastly, the new studio and workshop in the Art & Design building are a dramatic change. Designed by the same practice as the Theatre but by a different partner, Tom Jarman, this great Barn, part Transylvanian, part Midwestern, covers the area once occupied by the estate yard and the infamous huts (printing works, stage hut and BUNCO hut). The new studio is lofty and has wonderful views to the north, while the workshops still house the familiar benches, G clamps and vices. Perhaps this is the most dramatic

of the recent changes but I hope one that is a powerful expression of what is characteristic about Bedales.

The estate is changed but unchanged. Trees blow down and trees are planted, the Orchard is much restored; long grass and wildflowers have replaced endless mowing and the A3 carriageway has sliced off a bit of the Petersfield end of the school. Dunhurst and Dunannie are also altered – the subject of a later article – but imagining the roar of the traffic as being the sea on the shingle, standing on the Mem Pitch is a remarkable opportunity to lose 20, 40 or 60 years. There is permanence in the view of Butser, the backdrop of Stoner and the Hangers, the sand quarry, the Dining Room and of course the Library and Lupton Hall.

And the greatest permanence of all is the students, lying in the Orchard, leaning over the Covered Way or walking from the station. They are the continuum and amongst the new buildings and the altered views, the most reassuringly utterly unchanged thing of all. 🌳

**Matthew Rice (1975-80)**  
**Chairman of Governors**



# DUNHURST, A REMINISCENCE



To many people the thought of sending a child under six to boarding school sounds cruel, heartless or careless of the child's welfare and suggestive of Dotheboys Hall. It would be very much out of fashion these days according to the perceived present views. For me it gave the happiest start in life that I could have wished for had I been an adult and able to organise my own life. I was joined by two other boys, **Dan Wilson (1942-53)** and **Bastien Gomperts (1942-53)** and we were all three kindly and lovingly looked after by **Mr & Mrs Gimson (staff 1911-47)** 'The Gimmys' – as they were known – who lived in a lovely house, Five Oaks, Steep, about half a mile or so over the fields from the school, Dunhurst. How this happy state of affairs came about I don't know and my mother is now no longer around to ask her. However, in 1941 the war was at its height and not going well, so finding a safe haven for their son would have been uppermost in the minds of my parents and since both attended Bedales, it was natural for them to have chosen Dunhurst.

As one does when one gets old, I have vivid memories of life in Five Oaks. Things like having Radio Malt once a week to give us the vitamins in which we would have been deficient because

of war time rationing. I remember the children's books they had and can see one of them as I write. I also remember that there was a bureau in which I found a small, almost miniature pistol, a .22 I think. Why the pistol was there, or why anyone from that family would want such a weapon I cannot imagine. One morning we three boys cried out of the window in the bedroom which we all shared, "Oyez, oyez, it's seven o'clock in the morning, oyez". Mrs Gimmy came in and told us firmly but kindly to be quiet.

There was a garden with a swing and a large seesaw. There was also a pond which I think was deep enough to swim in, certainly to paddle, and there were five oak trees. We used to walk to school across the fields, over a stile or two and into the school grounds below the woodwork barn where **Mr Messingham (staff 1923-63)** aka 'Menningham' taught woodwork, a skill which remained with me for all my life and even more so to Bastien whose later works were quite extraordinarily and beautifully made. Under Menningham's guidance I made a periscope and wool winder, both of which lasted for very many years and the winder until quite recently. I also made a yacht and like the other pupils, made a bowl on the lathe, a special

treat. How he managed to get the materials in war time I cannot imagine. Menningham and **Miss Cocker** were married at some time while I was there. Great excitement!

All teachers were known by their nicknames, a quirk which is typical of the Bedalian psyche. But it worked. **Mr Tilley**, whose daughter **Wendy** attended the school, was called 'Toes', but Menningham was adamant that 'Messiman' was not permitted. Children were known by their Christian name plus the first letter of their surname. Thus I was 'Richard S' and Bastien was 'Bastien G'. Another quirk was that we all swam in the Bedales swimming pool quite naked. I can imagine the gasps of horror these days at such a notion, but speaking for myself, I was entirely asexual then. Since there was no mass media to promote sexuality, and certainly no pornography, prurient thoughts never crossed my mind or anybody else's as far as I am aware. Indeed, I think I'm right in saying that there were no full length doors on the lavatories either, just enough for modesty's sake, and this again did not give rise to any 'incidents' as far as I know.

Another reason to give the health and safety experts of today cause for



*Mr Messingham.*



concern was that we were allowed to build shelters, dens in the field below the woodworking barn. These were dug out of the ground and covered with beams, corrugated iron and earth and we had meetings there – though what we did or said during these I have no recollection, just childish chatter I expect. Were these intended to provide shelter in case of an air raid? Possibly, but I am not sure. I think it was more to promote inventiveness and self-sufficiency in us children. On the ground just outside there was a 'jungle gym', a wooden construction, climbing frame, on which we played a great deal and certainly helped our physical development. We also played a game, 'kick the can', enthusiastically supported by Menningham.

Across the playing field at the far end there was The Barn where **Miss Cormack (staff 1929-72)**, 'Cor', held sway and taught the more gentle arts of weaving, needlework and arts in general. The playing field was in front of this barn and lacrosse, I recall, was popular. The school was run by **Amy Clarke (staff 1918-54)**, and a more pleasant Head could not be imagined. Corporal punishment was unheard of – well, we were all very young and to be admonished was rare and always effective, certainly as far as I was concerned.

There was a main hall, off which was the Library. Some years later, Bastien asked me what books I remembered from those days. *The Menace of the Terribore* and *The Vikings are Coming*, I said without hesitation. He replied that he knew I would say that and they stuck in his memory too. I don't remember any religious teaching as such but we used to sing hymns on occasions and there was a large flip board with the words of the hymns and some painted pictures. On occasions there would be music



*Dunhurst string group Dolmetsch.*

played on records; the *Trout Quintet* was the first one that I remember hearing. The other annual source of music and stage productions I remember was going to the 'Merry Evening' in Bedales which both schools attended, an evening of song, dance and plays.

What else? The sound of "doodlebugs" passing overhead on their way to London, a sound once heard never forgotten. One landed in a field some way away but with no casualties. I saw my first helicopter flying over the school, an American Sikorsky, near to the end of the war. The notice that appeared on the board telling of the sinking of the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. The birthday parties when the birthday person was allowed to invite a number of friends to the centre table; a loud "whoooo", was sounded by all as the cake was cut. Having to give talks on a subject to the assembled company, which we all had to do in turn. I wanted to be a doctor in those days and chose that subject but having stood up and started talking about anatomy I became tongue-tied and was allowed to retire gracefully.

Sadly, my parents could not afford for me to go to Bedales so I completed my education elsewhere, for the most part as happily as I had started it. I still remember driving away from Dunhurst as I left for the last time.

Years later, I was in our local library and as there was a London telephone directory to hand, I looked up 'Gomperts, B'. I found a number or two and was delighted to find Bastien at the other end. He was startled and delighted to hear from me as I was to find him and sometime later, he and I made a pilgrimage to Bedales, Dunhurst and Five Oaks to see old friends and places, and remind ourselves of the happy times we had had. We then kept in touch and saw each other whenever possible.

We all have to go sometime, but Bastien's death in 2015 was sudden and, for me, quite unexpected. It may be trite but true that for me a door to my past has closed, but the happy memories of Bastien and Dunhurst will remain with me forever. ☘

**Richard Statham (1941-46)**

*P.S. Somehow my parents got Mr Badley to be my godfather and he always sent me a pound on my birthday every year. I still have the bronze figure of a boy plucking a thorn from his foot which he left to me. I am amazed!*

# THE GIMSONS



Stoneywell, Leicestershire NTPL Commissioned National Trust Images James Dobson.

Old Bedalians may wonder how Ernest Gimson came to be selected to design the Hall and Library. The answer is probably that his brother Sydney had chosen the school for his sons **Basil (1896-1904)** and **Humphrey (1900-07)**. Sydney was my great grandfather, from a Leicester family of engineer-businessmen who were also noted secularists and freethinkers. It is not clear how he came to know Badley and choose Bedales, but he may have made his acquaintance when Badley was teaching at Abbotsholme in the late 1880s, within reach of Leicester.

The Gimsions were leading lights of the Leicester Secular Society, which had a fascinating range of visiting speakers including Bradlaugh, Eleanor Marx, Kropotkin and William Morris. The latter helped the 19-year-old Ernest Gimson with a letter of introduction which got him a job in London. This led to many friends and contacts in the Arts and Crafts world, including Sidney and Ernest Barnsley, with whom he

went to Sapperton in Gloucestershire where they all practised as architects and designer-craftsmen.

After being Head Boy at Bedales and a stint with the family firm, **Geoffrey Lupton (1893-1901)** apprenticed himself to Ernest Gimson in 1905-6, and went on to set up his own workshop and home in Froxfield, built with his own hand. He also built the house next door for Edward Thomas and his family, who in the depths of his depression, never took to it. The Sykes family, connected to Bedales in multiple ways, later lived there. **Edward Barnsley (1910-17)**, Sidney's son, worked on the Lupton Hall as Lupton's assistant as a young man, soon taking over Lupton's house and workshop in Froxfield, which still bears the Edward Barnsley name.

Basil, my grandfather, loved 'The Chief', as Badley was known, as a second father. After Bedales, he went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to learn skills that would be useful in

the family engineering firm, but his vocation was teaching and he spent his career at Bedales (1911-47, apart from service in WWI). His brother Humphrey became an architect and designed Five Oaks for Basil and his bride Muriel in 1912-13, built by Lupton, the house a wedding gift from Sydney. That was where Basil's children **Janet, Brenda** (my mother) and **Donald** grew up – all OBs of course (**1918-32; 1919-35; 1928-32**). When Brenda met **Anthony Gillingham (staff 1946-70)** at Oxford in 1936 he was attracted to her but equally so to the 'Gimmies', Five Oaks, Bedales and its progressive values. After war service, Anthony taught maths at Bedales for 25 years, and his six children (I was the eldest) attended Dunannie, Dunhurst and Bedales. We moved into Five Oaks when Basil retired in 1947.

**Anna Keay (1987-92)** is right to describe the Hall and Library as Ernest Gimson's greatest commission, probably his best work, but his best house is Stoneywell, north of Leicester, now a National Trust property but lived in until a few years ago by Donald Gimson. Visitors to this magical house will find many reminders of Bedales, including lots of Arts and Crafts furniture, a nice picture of the covered way and nearby grounds and a great portrait of 'The Chief'. Stoneywell was Basil's home during his retirement, but sadly, he had less than six years to enjoy it. However, Donald lived there for almost 60 years with his family.

During his brief retirement, Basil edited the 1953 edition of the Bedales Roll. He was meticulous, some might say nerdy, but a wonderful grandfather to me, first during the war when Anthony was away with the Fleet Air Arm and later on our summer holidays in Stoneywell. He and 'Mrs Gimmy' were loved by generations of Bedalians. I'd love to hear from OBs who remember them. 🌻

**Jane Darke (née Gillingham, 1955-61)**



My first memory of the Lupton Hall goes back to the thirties and my single-figure age, just at Dunhurst. I had heard that a play was to be performed there and decided to see it. I was told that I couldn't as it was "unsuitable for young children". A challenge there! I slipped in with the audience and slid under one of the pews near the front. Somebody saw and hauled me out ignominiously. Some years later, once I had moved up to Bedales, I suffered many bum-numbing Jaws, admirable though the principle. How many activities come to mind: speech competitions, Merry Evenings, Gilbert and Sullivan, Shakespeare when not outdoors. Details like **Paul Williamson (1940-46)** clasping his hands over his chest declaring, "I never apologise!" **Bob Collet's (1919-22, staff 1929-46)** amazing hands playing Liszt; or the melting tones of Gervase de Peyer (1939-43) and Mozart.

The green rooms below were often used as practice rooms where in anonymous privacy one could loudly wail out one's soul with *Kol Nidrei* and the like.

My most striking adventure was musical. Two flautist friends, **Geoffrey**



**Spencer (1939-48)** and **Jan Fabricius (1942-46)**, got together a small band of volunteers to play a *Brandenburg Concerto*. Our first rehearsal was nearly terminal. With no conductor, we were all at sixes and sevens. So one after another, a player stood up and waved hands and arms around but, astonishingly, completely out of time. Finally Jan said: "Ali, you'll have to do it". Unconfident, I pulled a twig from **Miss Hobbs' (staff 1920-47)** beautiful flower arrangement, and waved it

around. Amazingly it seemed to work. Rehearsals became fun. Our music master, **Harry Platts (staff 1937-46)**, got to hear of our venture and lent me his baton and lots of advice. We were to perform to the whole school. "Start off with a bold upswing of the baton" Harry advised.

The two soloists stood close below me. I swung the baton up with a bold upswing. The tip caught Geoff's music and sent it flying over the orchestra to land on the resting big drum below the stage. Kerplon! The next few bars were drowned in laughter.

We used to get many lovely musical performances, from staff, pupils and visiting professionals. The Griller Quartet were much loved. All four were drafted into the RAF and turned up one visit in their uniform blue. Late Beethoven, out of this world. Except that the cellist's buttons rattled hideously against his instrument. Between two movements he called out to the audience "Can anyone lend me a pair of scissors?" Someone produced the scissors. The cellist then cut off all his buttons.

Now I trust future Bedalians will cherish lovely memories of the restored Lupton Hall. 🌸

**Alison Mallett (née Melville, 1939-46)**



# JOHN BADLEY FOUNDATION

The John Badley Foundation (JBF) was set up in 2010 to support the school's ability to award fully funded bursary places. It was established by the school as a separate charity and has significantly increased the ambition and scale of the school's bursary programme, broadening access to Dunhurst and Bedales. Since then it has helped transform the lives of many individuals, who have joined us from difficult home or school situations in both the UK and from countries abroad, including those suffering from armed conflict. The school is immensely grateful to all who support the JBF, in particular, those who have given generously and also Old Bedalians, parents and former parents who assist as volunteers, organising fundraising events and serving as trustees.

We are keener than ever to build on the successes achieved so far to help more young people, and offer them the chance to raise their ambitions and change the trajectory of their lives through making the most of a Bedales education. We currently have nine pupils who have joined us as JBF beneficiaries – which is the most in the school's history – and we want to increase this to 14, i.e. at least two pupils per year from Block 1 upwards. We are very pleased that many Old Bedalians and parents share this ambition, recognising the huge difference a Bedales education can make to a child, particularly one who faces significant difficulty in their lives.

The JBF initiative is now sufficiently mature to have had students moving on to university and beyond: two are currently studying at the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh, and another two are pursuing careers in technology.

**Albie Waterton (2012-14)** was awarded a JBF bursary and joined Bedales for Sixth Form. He is now an Applications Engineer, having graduated in Product Design from Nottingham Trent University. He has been a regular member of the Bedales Great South Run team, which has raised funds for Cecily's Fund and the JBF.

"My father was a chef, who gave up his job to look after my brother and me when we were young," he explains. "Neither my mum nor dad had ever been to university and if I was going to get to a fee-paying place of education, it would have to be via a scholarship or a bursary."

"I did think that I had better be ready to deliver what the school expected of me and I expected of myself. Within three weeks of arriving at Bedales, I stopped feeling that pressure and started to feel inspired by my surroundings, my teachers and my fellow students. No one tried to judge me and there was no time to be nervous or introspective – there was always far too much to do."

Although he wasn't conscious of the changes that Bedales was making on his character while they were happening, Albie was aware that he was a different person by the end



of his two years. "When I went back home during the holidays, I did find that I'd slightly grown. I never thought that I would get to where I was and I was so grateful for the opportunity. When it was time to move on from Bedales, I was ready for the next stage but deeply aware that this was because the school had allowed me to be that way. There's a huge bond between Bedales people – as a boarder, you live with your friends, you almost never have the chance to be away from them and they become more like family. The teachers too – when I come back to Bedales

now, I talk to them and think of them as friends."

"One of the key things that I came away from Bedales having learnt and I find myself using in my day to day life is to never miss an opportunity when it arises. So whenever there is a chance for me to give back to the John Badley Foundation – like joining the Bedales Great South Run team – it is the least that I can do for all it has given to me."

This is how Housemaster **Philip Parsons (staff 1979-2016)** summed up Albie in his final report:

"Albie is one of those students who make a big impression on the school in a comparatively short space of time. He was a very welcome addition to the Sixth Form and he has kept himself fully involved in life here ever since. In the 6.2 house, he has been a model boarder; very much at home sharing with others and knowing how to make a dorm work. He has made his A Levels his top priority and been very determined in his efforts to overcome any difficulties that he might have. Hard work went hand in hand with good physical exercise that also showed his competitive side. Albie is never afraid to reach out to others and he is very easy to get on with."



To kick off the academic year, the school was delighted to welcome Head of Westminster School, Patrick Derham, for a Civics talk. He spoke about his educational journey from the permanently moored training ship and children's home Arethusa which then closed, leading him, via a bursary, to attend Pangbourne College before gaining a First Class Degree in History at Pembroke College, Cambridge – specialising in the study of Ireland. Patrick is passionate about the transformational effect of education and has been a leading advocate for school bursary schemes. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 2018 Birthday Honours for services to Education. After Civics, Patrick gave an abridged version of his talk to a small gathering of students, parents and Old Bedalians over supper at 50 Church Road. The school is extremely grateful to Patrick for providing such inspiration to us all.



## Memorials

We were very grateful to the Batstone family for suggesting that donations to the JBF should be encouraged at the memorial event for **John Batstone (staff 1968-93)** held in April. **Avril Hardie (staff 1987-91)** continued this theme when planning the memorial for **Ruth Whiting (staff 1963-2000)**. The idea of creating a special Sixth Form Ruth Whiting Bursary award, was launched by **Matthew Rice (1975-80)** when he spoke about Ruth in November – specifically, he invited people to donate £50 per term for two years. We are delighted with the support for this so far from OBs and former colleagues – and there's still time for others to join in.

## Fundraising events

A number of events have become regular features in the annual Bedales calendar, raising significant funds for the JBF.

### Badley Behaved Dog Show,



**11 May 2019** – Bring your 4-legged friend and compete in classes, or simply enjoy a family day soaking up the atmosphere adjacent to the Sam Banks Pavilion on the Dunhurst pitch.

**Hamper Ball, 28 June 2019** – This kicks off with cocktails and jazz overlooking the Mem Pitch; bring

your own meal for an enjoyable evening in a classic marquee with an auction and dancing to live music. Tickets are £30.



Please book by emailing Mary Hancox: [development@bedales.org.uk](mailto:development@bedales.org.uk). The whole 'over 18' Bedalian community is welcome. Why not get together a table with your old school friends?!

How the Hamper Ball works: we provide the venue, tables and chairs and you bring your own food, drink, crockery, glassware, table linen and anything to decorate your table. Decide if your evening will be a bohemian gathering or a feast worthy of a Michelin star; and dress to match. Prizes will be awarded to the three most creatively decorated tables. No time to make a picnic? We can organise takeaway meals to be pre-ordered and delivered to the marquee on the night.

**Bedales Rock Show** – The show in February 2019 marked the 15th birthday of this now legendary Bedales event. The Rock Show has become a remarkable demonstration of the extraordinary talent and versatility of Bedales students. The overwhelming emotion radiating from the performers after the applause dies down at the end of each show, confirms the enormous amount that the shows have come to mean to so many members of the Bedales community and the incredible place they hold within the heart of the school itself. Tickets sell quickly so look out for the 2020 dates!

**John Haden Badley Society annual lunch** – This society comprises Old Bedalians, parents, and former staff who have kindly advised the school of their intention to remember the school in their will. Following a lunch at the Royal Academy of Arts in 2017, members returned to school in May 2018 for lunch. Current students, led by Director of Music **Doug McIlwraith (staff 2017-present)**, enchanted guests through their musical recital of singing, harp, violin, cello, guitar and bassoon. The students joined society members for lunch, served in the wonderfully restored Lupton Hall. Legacies provide significant fundraising income for school bursary programmes and capital projects, and they are also a tax efficient way for people to support their chosen causes. Please get in touch if you would like more details (contact details below).

We were saddened to hear of the death of Legacy Society member **Jean Symons (née Layton 1940-44)** in October. The school is extremely grateful for the support from Jean and her family, and to all members of the Legacy Society who make a commitment to the school.

### How you can change the life of an individual via the JBF

In addition to attending events, we welcome single gifts, regular donations, gifts-in-kind (e.g. auction prizes, talks, performances) and legacy pledges – all will help transform the lives of individuals benefiting from a fully funded bursary place. Why not become a member of the 1893 Club, marking the founding year of Bedales, by donating £18.93 monthly, quarterly or annually? Or treat yourself to some Bedales merchandise with proceeds going to the JBF – we are very grateful to Matthew

Rice for designing and supplying us with special Bedales branded Emma Bridgewater crockery.

In terms of giving their time, we are hugely grateful to Old Bedalians who offer Bedales exclusive access to special events – at Parents' Day, **Gyles Brandreth (1961-66)** performed his excellent one man show *Break a leg!* in the Lupton Hall; in the Autumn term **Miraphora Mina (1978-85)** once again invited Bedales guests to a November evening at her House of MinaLima, Soho, home to graphic art from JK Rowling's Wizarding World films and

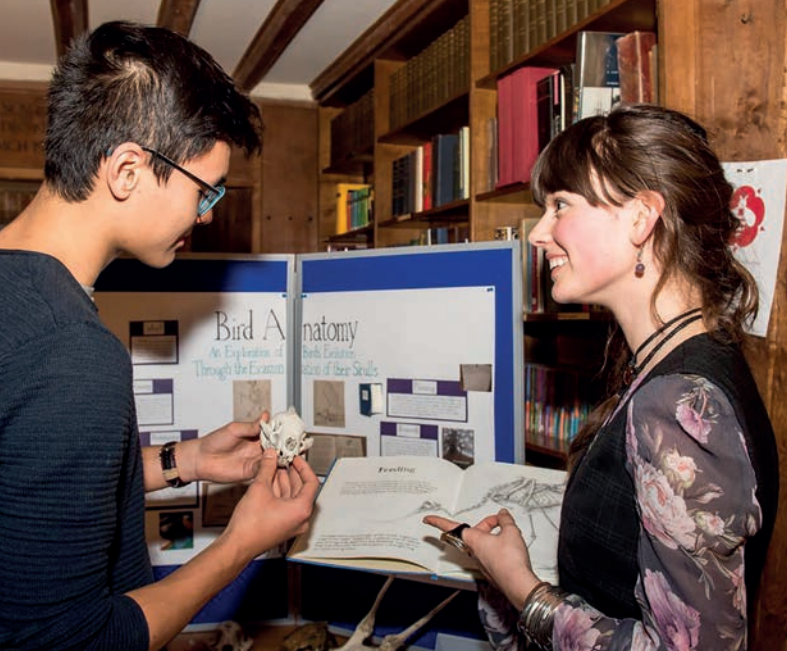
illustrated books for Harper Collins. Proceeds from both events were kindly donated to the JBF.

Whilst thanking people, the school is immensely grateful to **Veryan Vere Hodge (staff 2012-18)** who served Bedales tirelessly for five and half years leading our development, and playing a key role in raising funds for the Art & Design building and bursaries. She moved not too far away in summer 2018 to a role at St Swithun's and we wish her well. Her successor, Tanya Darlow, starts in April 2019. 🌟

If you would like to find out more about the John Badley Foundation or discuss ways of supporting the JBF, do please contact the Bedales Development team, Mary Hancox or Rob Reynolds, at [development@bedales.org.uk](mailto:development@bedales.org.uk), tel: 01730 711577 or see the website [www.bedales.org.uk/home/development](http://www.bedales.org.uk/home/development)









# BEDALES GRANTS TRUST FUND



The Bedales Grants Trust Fund (BGTF) was founded in 1927 with the aim of providing financial support for students at Bedales, with preference being given to children of Old Bedalians. There are currently 22 BGTF-funded student beneficiaries at Bedales, a number of whom have strong OB connections.

Since the last Newsletter update, we have welcomed **Lynn Pearcy (1972-77)** and **Stephen Davies (1989-94)** to their first Trustee AGM in 2018 following appointment during 2017. Lynn is a chartered accountant and former partner at one of the “Big 4” accountancy firms. Stephen has extensive experience in business management and runs his own property company, Homemade Properties. We are fortunate to have the benefit of their expertise to add to that of our other Trustees **Camilla Church (1989-92)**, **Simon Latham (1993-98)**, **Peter Hall (1975-80)** and **Dennis Archer (staff 1974-2008)**. It is a great bonus to be working with such a range of talent and experience in protecting and developing the Fund in order to support as many Bedalians as possible in a sustainable way.

We were particularly pleased that, through the combined efforts of Stephen Davies and James Ryan at the Edward Barnsley Educational Trust, the year started with the receipt of sale proceeds from one of the properties gifted under the Lilley bequest some years ago.

During 2018, we have re-evaluated our investment principles and adopted a more proactively ethical investment strategy for our portfolio, which avoids a range of industries and activities that are inconsistent with the protection of the planet and its species (including people).

Our investment strategy continues to be overseen by an Investment Committee comprising Simon Latham, Dennis Archer and Lynn Pearcy. For many years, Peter Hall has advised on the investments of the BGTF, which have grown by nearly £4m in value

during the period of his involvement. In 2017 he stepped back from this role on the basis of constraints the trustees felt needed to be imposed on his role in order to maintain compliance with charity legislation. Nonetheless, the Fund is glad that he remains willing to contribute his expertise and passionately held views as a Trustee.

At the time of writing, fund assets of a total of £6.6 million are divided between the Rathbone Greenback ethical fund (£2m) and cash or cash-equivalents of £4.6m. This approach has served well to conserve the underlying fund value at a period of high market uncertainty. We have also been very grateful for the continued generosity of OB donors, and legacies received during the year.

Bedales has recently welcomed a new Head, Magnus Bashaarat, and we look forward to working with him in this new phase of the life of our much-loved school. Thanks as always to Richard Lushington, who serves as Bursar and Secretary to the BGTF and provides great support, particularly in the administration and distribution of grants and handling of bequests.

The Trustees are committed to supporting as many students as possible while ensuring that the Fund's reserves are maintained. Despite the uncertainties of the current political climate and the unpredictability of the market, we continue for the time being to apply our policy of distributing 4% of our assets annually in the form of bursaries, which is in line with the targeted return on Fund investments over the longer term. 🌱

**Cathy Baxandall (née Dwyer, 1970-76)**  
**Chair of Trustees, BGTF**

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, [admissions@bedales.org.uk](mailto:admissions@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.

## Rodger Abey-Parris (2001-03)

Managing Director,  
Abbey Metals Europe



Rodger has often wished that Bedales had entered his life somewhat earlier than it did. The son of a Spanish father and an English mother, he was born in the UK but was soon taken to Spain, where all his formative school days would be spent. "My parents moved around Catalonia quite a bit in those days," he recalls. "My primary school years were spent at normal state schools and when we moved down the coast a bit, I was then sent to a small rural school where all ages were taught in the same class! That didn't work for me – I really didn't get on with the teacher – and at about the age of 12, I went to the only secondary school in our local town. I enjoyed it a lot more but I didn't exactly shine at school; I was more interested in being a teenager and when I passed my exams, I did so without any great distinction."

His mother accordingly decided that it was time for Rodger to try a completely different educational establishment. "My grandfather had been a cable engineer who moved round the world a lot, which meant that my mother was born in what is

now Zimbabwe and spent her early life in Jamaica," Rodger explains. "She and her brother were both then sent to Bedales. My uncle absolutely loved it and went all the way through but Mum, who could only fly back to Jamaica once a year, was so homesick that she eventually left after a couple of years. She always rather regretted that and she decided that Bedales might be the right place for me."

Rodger's father needed more convincing about the plan. "Dad wasn't sold on the idea, partly because boarding schools in Spain are often regarded as places for wayward children, not as particularly great educational establishments," he says. "The cost was the other issue he had, of course, so he asked a lot of questions about the whole thing but once he'd actually seen Bedales he became a lot happier about what the school might be able to do for me."

So it was that Rodger came over to base himself at his uncle's house in England for his three-day introduction to Bedales. "I sat a test, I imagine, although I can't really remember it," he says. "I had been very happy in Spain and I wasn't all that excited about moving just then but I do remember thinking how much I liked the rural setting of the school."

**Read more:** [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/rodger-abey-parris](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/rodger-abey-parris)

## Julian Coates (1997-2004)

Steel Trader, Cargill

It is one of life's little ironies that Julian, having spent much of his career in the Middle East, should derive some of his earliest memories of life from the time that he and his family spent in Kuwait.

"My stepfather had an oil-related job with a Dutch plastics company and we arrived in Kuwait just after the end of the first Gulf War," he recalls. "I was very young at the time but I



do remember the sight of burning oil wells as we came in to land and the lectures we got about the dangers of unexploded mines if you weren't careful where you walked. Other than that, we lived a fairly typical expat life in a rambling old villa and I went to the Kuwait English School – over a thousand students and a real mixture of expat and Arab kids."

Julian confesses to being unsure how Bedales arrived on his parents' radar: "There was no original family connection; I was just told that the woodwork shop at Dunhurst would be something that I would enjoy, I took the entrance exam out in Kuwait and then it happened – I was a Bedales student. As a ten year-old, I wasn't all that keen on the idea of boarding and was filled with trepidation, despite the fact that my sister would also be at Bedales with me. It probably took me a year to get used to the separation."

Working with his hands was, as originally promised, something that Julian enjoyed at Dunhurst but most of his early days at the school were devoted to making friends among a year that would become particularly close. "I really started to settle in after we moved up to Bedales itself," he explains. "My family returned to England, which meant that I became a day boy, and I dabbled at a lot of things.

I played the piano a bit, where **Nick Gleed (staff 1990-2017)** was a real mentor; but I was hardly a virtuoso; I liked the crafty stuff but I was no artist; sport was good fun but I tended more towards athletics and tennis – rather solitary sports, I can see in retrospect. I liked drama as well but usually preferred being behind the scenes, helping with the lighting and so on.”

Read more: [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/julian-coates](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/julian-coates)

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## Henrique Dolabella (2000-02)

Executive Manager of  
Forest Concessions,  
Brazilian Forest Service



Henrique's introduction to Bedales was entirely the result of coincidence – the man who was to become his step-father was one of the school's legendary cohort of teachers! **Harry Pearson (staff 1977-2006)**, mentor to a generation of chemistry students at Bedales, was one to take his holidays in Brazil, where he would eventually meet Henrique's mother. "Before I came to the UK, I'd been at school in Brazil for around seven years and my memories of those days are mixed, in all honesty," Henrique says. "There is a big gap between Brazilian private and state schools and I was at state schools, where the quality gradually seemed to worsen as I got older. The early days were pretty good but things went downhill a bit after that."

At the age of 12, therefore, Henrique was on his way to a new country, whose language he did not speak at all. His first educational stop in England would be The Petersfield School (TPS). "Instead of studying French, I took English," he explains. "That was my foreign language. Nevertheless, I enjoyed myself at TPS, particularly maths, which suddenly, for obvious reasons, became the most interesting subject to me. Even though I lived in the Wing, Bedales was still somewhat distant from my reality at that stage."

By the year 2000, Henrique was judged ready to join his step-father at Bedales on a permanent basis. "Harry never talked too much about Bedales to me, partly, I think, because he didn't want to give me any unrealistic expectations," Henrique reflects. "For myself, I wasn't too sure how I might fit in, bearing in mind that my English was still not that great and Bedales is obviously quite an academically demanding place. Financially, it would be a struggle too – Brazil had gone through an economic crisis towards the end of the 1990s and as a result the Real, the local currency, had halved in value against the pound. Still, my parents managed and I was particularly looking forward to playing sports in the great facilities, even though I wasn't especially desperate to change schools."

Bedales proved to be a place with an atmosphere to which Henrique could immediately relate. "Brazil is a pretty informal country and Bedales, with its absence of a school uniform and first name terms with the teachers was something that was familiar to me in that sense," he says. "Everyone was extremely friendly right from the word go and the only worry was to try and make sure that you didn't repeat what you were wearing too often!"

Read more: [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/henrique-dolabella](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/henrique-dolabella)

## Zoe Graham (1995-07)

Artist and Commercial Stylist



When Zoe and her family moved down from London to Froxfield, it soon became apparent that Bedales would be the ideal place to send her. "Mum was a talented artist and she particularly loved the ethos that she could see at Bedales, so sending me to Dunannie was a bit of an obvious choice," Zoe recalls. "I loved the place from day one. The school did everything that it could to nurture the love of art that I already had. I particularly remember a teaching assistant called Christina showing me all about watercolours and even when I produced written work, I would add a drawing at the bottom of it! Most teachers enjoyed this, but encouraged me to put as much time into my written work as the illustrations."

As she progressed through Dunhurst and into Bedales itself, Zoe worked hard academically. "Being dyslexic, I had regular extra English lessons to help with my academic work and there I was so lucky to have the help of the incredible **Sue Mabe** she says. "It was amazing to be taught by this methodical person who really got how my brain worked, I felt she unlocked something in me! I was always a bit anxious about not being as good as the rest of my peers but Sue helped me in a way that has always stayed with me and inspired me."

The sports field and strong friendship group were particular highlights of Zoe's time at Bedales. "I loved sport and was fortunate enough to take part



in the majority of the team sports that Bedales had to offer," Zoe remembers. "As for my fellow students, I would say that my best friends today are still those that I made at Bedales. I share a house with **Camilla Sadler**, for example, and I still regularly see old mates like **Imogen Major**, **Olivia Grant**, **Carmela Corbett** and **Olivia Hills**. I started boarding at the age of 12 and absolutely adored it. What could be better than to hang out with your friends the whole time, dancing and endlessly chatting?"

Read more: [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/zoe-graham](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/zoe-graham)

## Mary Harper (1978-83)

Writer and Africa Editor,  
BBC World Service



Mary's commitment to the African continent started early. Her father, an academic, worked mainly in Africa and India and much of his daughter's formative schooling took place in Kenya, a country which maintains its pull on her heart. "I'm probably more at home there than I am in many parts of the UK," Mary observes.

Meanwhile, Mary's mother had begun professional life in the world of fine art before becoming a teacher and subsequently a nurse with Save the Children. It was she who would play the leading role in the crucial next step of Mary's education. "Mum was an American, a bit of a hippy and she

was horrified by most of the boarding schools that she looked at for me in Britain. Bedales was the shining exception for her; I came over for the standard tests and interviews and loved it from the word go," Mary recalls. "I liked the other people who were being interviewed and tested with me and hoped that they would all get in as well and I liked **Alastair Langlands (staff 1973-2001)** too, even though I thought he was the most bizarre character! The outdoor setting was another huge plus for me – back in Kenya I would spend my whole time outside and I loved the sense of space and freedom that I saw at Bedales."

The early days at Bedales were made somewhat easier for Mary by the presence of a family friend in the year above. "That was **Marian Pocock (1975-82)**, who basically adopted me after I arrived and made life a lot smoother at a time when there was quite a sense of social hierarchy at the school," she recalls. "One of my early memories is of Alastair Langlands making us all write an observational essay each week on what seemed to us to be the most banal things. Two sides of A4 every week and we all hated it at that time but looking back as the journalist that I've become, I can see that it must have helped hugely in turning me into a more observant writer as I got older. We also had to learn a new poem every week, which was much more up my street."



Read more: [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/mary-harper](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/mary-harper)

## Lucy Holmes (1980-87)

Co-founder and Creative  
Director, Holmes Wood  
Design



Lucy's connections with Bedales originally date back all the way to the age of three, when her family were living in Hampshire and she was sent to Dunannie. "We weren't just round the corner from school," Lucy explains, "and Mum used to have to drive miles to get us to Bedales. I would have been five when my father, who was with IBM, was posted up to Scotland and we all went with him. It was there that I was converted from being naturally left-handed to using my right hand for everything – must have been a Scottish thing."

Not long afterwards, the Holmes family were on the move again, this time to Paris. "I started in the International School there, where I remember meeting the astronaut Neil Armstrong, and then went on to a local French school when I was about eight," Lucy recalls. "Neither was a great success; I learned next to nothing and eventually was sent back to the UK, where I joined Dunhurst in Group 3. It all seemed somehow familiar to me – a lot of the people I remembered were still there – but for some reason, I was unbelievably homesick when I started boarding. I was also dyslexic and thoroughly unacademic. I didn't take an entrance exam; instead, I had a lovely interview and a cup of tea with

**Alastair Langlands**, who asked me to spell the word 'station'. I got that wrong but I was still accepted!"

As she progressed through Dunhurst and into Bedales, Lucy at times showed flashes of her self-confessed anti-authoritarian streak. "Bedales was unbelievably tolerant towards me," she admits. "I got suspended a few times, mainly for smoking and drinking, and one term I arrived back at Bedales to find that my favourite field had been ploughed up and replaced by netball courts. That was too much for me. I vowed that I would never set foot on the courts – and I never have – and I negotiated with **Euan MacAlpine (staff 1981-92)** to spend time looking after the chickens instead. Honestly, if it weren't for **Jessie Sheeler (staff 1972-80)**, my house mistress, who always stuck up for me, I'm sure that Bedales would have kicked me out!"

Read more: [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/lucy-holmes](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/lucy-holmes)

## Jonathan Klein (1978-79) Co-founder and Chairman, Getty Images



The 1970s in South Africa were a grim time – this was the decade of the Soweto riots, the murder of Steve Biko by the Government and further repression across the country. Neither domestic unrest nor international opprobrium and ostracism seemed able to shake the country from its disastrous

policy of apartheid. The flames of freedom and resistance, however, still flickered in many places; among them were the King David Schools. Here was an oasis of relative sanity in the middle of a cultural and moral desert and it was where Jonathan received most of his education, both in the classroom and in growing up at this turbulent time.

"Mum was one of the first teachers at King David in the late 1940s and I was there from my earliest years until I graduated," Jonathan explains. "We were a liberal family, extremely conscious of the political situation in South Africa and reasonably but cautiously active in the anti-apartheid movement as a result. There were some at the school who appeared oblivious to the events around us, but most weren't; for our English, History and Latin teachers, the school was a place of relative safety where they could explain to some of us exactly what was happening. Mind you, if you had eyes, you could see what was happening. King David was on top of a hill with views across Johannesburg and I well remember watching Soweto burn from there in June 1976."

Jonathan graduated from King David at the age of 17 and immediately faced a crossroads. "I wasn't sure that I wanted to carry on with school elsewhere; in South Africa, we graduated earlier than in other countries and a number of my contemporaries were either going on to university or being conscripted into the army," he reflects. "I actually had an offer to go to New York University but my parents quite rightly felt that I was nowhere near mature enough to handle the centre of Manhattan and the responsibility of managing there after a somewhat sheltered home in Johannesburg."

The solution to the conundrum of Jonathan's further education arrived via the agency of a family friend who was living on the south coast of England. "It was she who suggested Bedales to

my mother as a place that might suit me and my mother went over on her own to check it out," Jonathan says. "It must have really impressed her because the arrangements were quickly made for me to go to the UK and start at Bedales in 6.1 at the beginning of the January term."

Read more: [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/jonathan-klein](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/jonathan-klein)

## Francesca Pheasant (2000-04) Design Researcher, 17 Triggers



Daughter of a leading, frequently Brussels-based English antitrust lawyer and a Jamaican mother, Francesca Pheasant's horizons were always global in their scope. She grew up in Belgium, attended a French-speaking school and found the culture shock of moving to the UK when she was ten to be a jarring experience.

"I found that traditional, uniform-wearing English schools didn't suit me at all, neither my primary school nor the Royal in Haslemere, whose motto seemed to be that they turned out eligible young ladies," Francesca recalls with an almost audible shudder. "Then, rather wonderfully, I found out from a friend of a friend about Bedales, which was thought to be far more up my street. When I went there for my interview, I knew straight away that I



wanted to be there, and I ended up starting a few weeks later in the middle of the second term of Block 3.”

Bedales proved to be precisely what Francesca was looking for: “Being able to call my teachers by their first names was a feeling of being liberated again and I really enjoyed being judged by my performance rather than by how I dressed; the lack of a hierarchical system was so refreshing,” she says. “When I wasn’t on the hockey field, I spent practically every afternoon I could in the design workshop, which is where I felt most at home – I won a design award at my primary school, much to my surprise but this workshop was like a new world opening up for me.”

Central to the furtherance of Francesca’s design talents were the duo of **Mo Halli (staff 1974-present)** and **Martin Box (staff 1970-2008)**. “Mo was absolutely lovely, a wonderful man,” Francesca enthuses. “And as for Martin, he was just my hero. He was quiet, down to earth, even unassuming, but you knew how much talent lay behind that modest exterior. He was my most influential teacher and his approval meant a lot to me. I wasn’t at my most confident in those days, which might surprise those people who think that I usually seem fairly sure of myself, but the feeling that I was pretty good at this made me feel alive.”

Read more: [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/francesca-pheasant](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/francesca-pheasant)

## Christopher Pietroni (1981-90)

Co-Director,  
Leading Communities

Bedales, when he first saw the school, represented something almost akin to paradise for the impressionable young Christopher. “As far as education was concerned, I’d spent my time before Dunhurst at a series of ordinary prep



schools in west London,” he says. “My parents were divorced, though, and home life was feeling a bit rocky when, as a nine year-old, I went on an adventure holiday to Cumbria and immediately announced that I wanted to become a boarder. I’m not sure that anyone thought that I would be able to pass the Common Entrance exam for St Paul’s at the time, but my step-mother had been schooled at Portsmouth High, knew the area and thought that Bedales might interest me.”

Strictly speaking, it was the wrong time of year to be applying for a boarding place at Dunhurst, but undaunted, Christopher’s family approached the school and in short order, he was being put through his paces by **Alastair Langlands**. “I must have done some sort of test, I think, which I don’t remember much about, but I vividly recall Alastair, his plus-fours, his monocle and the amazement I felt when he asked me about the poetry that I had read and enjoyed. My school in Ealing was still using the strap for various misdemeanours, after all, and here was this apparently heavenly place which might become my school. It was an extraordinary experience, all the more so when we emerged from Alastair’s study and I saw chocolate

cake and milk being doled out to the students. What was this place?!”

Just as Christopher had guessed it might, Dunhurst, when he arrived in earnest in the autumn of 1981, suited him immediately. “I was so glad to be there,” he enthuses. “To me, my parental figures seemed a little unreliable and it was as though I had arrived in the heart of an unconventional, slightly ramshackle, immensely loving family. I walked with a limp, the result of my left leg being paralysed by polio from the age of three months, but it didn’t matter. I was totally impractical as well – my art, design, pottery and woodwork were awful, I couldn’t thread a needle and I appeared to be bereft of any artistic talent at all but that didn’t matter either. I still loved it all, was encouraged to try everything and I so remember the glorious smell of sawdust and oil in **Mike Lucas’s (staff 1981-2000)** woodwork shop, for instance. I wasn’t a troubled child, exactly, but I did have issues to work through and the firm but loving supervision of people like the Perkinses, my house tutors, and Chris Daley, our Matron, was exactly what I needed.”

Read more: [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/christopher-pietroni](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni/christopher-pietroni) ☞

# THE BEDALES CHAIR



It was a very special experience to return to Bedales and celebrate the history of the Bedales chair – giving a Jaw to students and other guests, showing our film *The Chairmaker* and taking questions. After all, this is where my curiosity (and I confess a slight obsession) with rush seat chairs all began. Sitting in those chairs, in that majestic library and under the spell of the wonderful **David Butcher (staff 1963-92)**, wood, design and the Arts and Crafts movement got under my skin and started an unexpected journey. So, what is the history of these chairs? And why have we made a film that we brought to show everyone in the Lupton Hall? What does the chair symbolise when thinking about broader questions of design, longevity and sustainability?

The history of the Bedales chair is an under-told story but sits at the heart of the beautiful Bedales Memorial Library, arguably the ethos of the school and – more broadly – of the Arts and Crafts movement. Designed by Ernest Gimson, the visionary behind the extraordinary library and Lupton Hall that we have all come to love, the Bedales chair not only represents a long multi-generational tradition of making but also is a living tradition that has been under threat. Lawrence Neal has been making rush seat chairs for 50 years, learning from his father

– who made them for 61 years, who learned from Edward Gardiner, who was directly apprenticed to Ernest Gimson. It is little known that you can look at many chairs in the library and see who made them by the stamp with their name on. Each chair has a story, a specific maker and embodies hundreds of years of tradition.

So, how did I get involved? Upon leaving university my first significant purchase of furniture was six chairs from Lawrence Neal in 1994 – I simply felt that this was the most accessible reminder and embodiment of the library that I had come to love. More

recently, when doing up a house in Scotland which was substantially re-modelled by the leading Scottish arts and crafts designer Sir Robert Lorimer (who has parallels to Gimson and Lutyens) my interest in rush seat chairs grew. This humble chair structure, perhaps the first mass-produced chair in Britain, was appropriated by the Arts and Crafts greats of the time – Ernest Gimson, Edwin Lutyens, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott, William Morris, William Burgess, Charles Francis Annesley Voysey and more. So, as my curiosity and our collection grew, I became aware that newly purchased chairs kept having to go to Lawrence Neal to repair and restore. Was there no one else? After all, Lawrence had at least a six month waiting list. I later came to understand that Lawrence might be the last person in Britain making and repairing these chairs for a living, having raised a family on the back of it.

When visiting his history-layered workshop, with his father's SAS cap nonchalantly hanging on the back of the door, covered in layers of dust, I was struck by the beauty of the place and felt compelled to want to capture it in some way. Then, understanding that



Hugo and Mo.



this lineage was under threat because Lawrence needed to sell the workshop to retire, and wanting to capture his story and all the history – I agreed to make a film with Falcon Productions. The resulting film has tried to capture the beauty of the chair making, the history of the chairs, Lawrence's story and the living tradition. At the school, we also unveiled a short additional clip, celebrating the Bedales chair, with **Matthew Rice (1975-80)** reflecting on its iconic status, whilst **David Snowdon (former staff)** harks back to the time he learned to make them in the woods, speaking to its humble origins but noble enduring nature.

The film includes a provocation that suggests that in order to ensure ongoing craftsmanship with such a long history, we need to make conscious decisions to enable its survival, from celebrating the people who make them to deciding which products to buy. The Arts and Crafts movement was a reaction against the industrial revolution in a period of massive change and wealth creation. William Morris (who inspired Gimson) felt that we needed to celebrate the craftsman, nature and hand-crafted beauty of things that we bought. In many ways there was a tension at the heart of his message since, as a devout socialist, he really became a purveyor of luxury goods to the wealthy. Today, we are

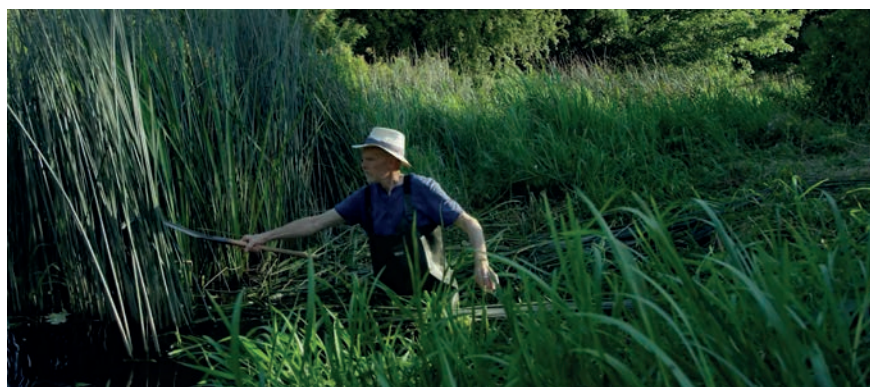
experiencing a powerful information and technology revolution, that again is creating a complementary ground swell of interest in locally made things that are sustainable, can endure and have a story. Some great questions came up from students during the Lupton Hall film screening, that asked about the importance of mass-produced machine-made products. How do we find balance in an age of global consumerism? How can we seek sustainability? Clearly individually hand-made things are not the only answer, but they form an important balance and perhaps can also have a lasting impact, in the same way that the Arts and Crafts movement impacted design and furniture making in the 21st century.

So, next time you are in the Library, do sit on a Bedales chair and become aware of its wonderful history, the broader story it is part of and the

symbol it represents as a handcrafted creation that is both timeless and subject to considerable longevity (even when exposed to the rough and tumble of school life).

In a cheery footnote to the Bedales Chair story, with the help of the Heritage Craft Association, we have managed to secure two apprentices to learn Lawrence's craft to ensure that it endures for generations to come. When the apprentices have come of age and Lawrence says that they can stand on their own two feet, the workshops – with all the tools dating back to Ernest Gimson's time at Daneway, will be moving up to new workshops in the old stables at Marchmont House in the Scottish Borders, so the lineage starts a new chapter that we hope will continue to evolve, inspire and endure. ☘

**Hugo Burge (1985-90)**



[lawrencenealchairs.co.uk](http://lawrencenealchairs.co.uk)

Watch *The Chair Maker*: [vimeo.com/283958058](https://vimeo.com/283958058)

Or search for 'The Chair Maker Lawrence Neal'

From 2020 we hope that the workshops will be operational at [marchmonthouse.com](http://marchmonthouse.com)

# ANDALUSIAN ART RETREATS



○ B friendships seem to weather the passing of time incredibly well. Decades after leaving school, **Julie Sajous (née Smith, 1976-81)** and **Katja Faber (1976-81)** reconnected following a school reunion and came up with an idea for a joint project, which they successfully launched in 2018.

"We were in touch through social media," says Julie, "and then one day, out of the blue, Katja phoned from southern Spain and suggested I travel down to her farm. She said she had an idea – that she wanted to run art workshops."

Intrigued, Julie jumped on a plane and headed for Andalusia where Katja owns and now runs an avocado and citrus farm. "To be honest, it was a long shot" admits Katja. "I knew Julie had her hands full with her art teaching but I thought, nothing ventured, nothing gained."

Indeed, Julie has been teaching art out of a charming caravan in her pretty garden down on the Isle of Wight since 2012. She originally studied fashion design, worked in New York, travelled extensively, and then returned to her beloved Solent coastline where she threw herself into building up her own art school. She teaches people of all abilities, in between cups of tea and cake and lots of laughter and chatter. In her spare time, Julie continues to paint and exhibit her work.

"I knew she was the perfect fit," says Katja. "You don't spend five years with someone in the 'refec' queue and evading trouble without becoming long-time friends. There's an intimacy you can't find with other people. You know how the other ticks, even after all these years."

Katja's idea was to bring 'guests' to her corner of paradise, a 33-acre fruit farm with a large Andalusian white-washed cortijo (farmhouse) overlooking the Guadalhorce Valley. Having previously been a barrister and then a journalist, eight years ago Katja decided to pursue a more holistic, nature-filled life, and follow her dream of owning her own homestead.

"Right from the start, friends and family had helped with planting and picking fruit," Katja explains. "During the harvest, the house would fill up and we'd all muck in. We'd work for several hours in the avocado grove and have big communal meals made with our own farm produce. Plenty of drinking too – we have our own wine."

After a couple of years, Katja began to offer farm tours and stays for those interested in learning more about a sub-tropical farm. "To my surprise, I ended up hosting several music weekends with musicians who had come on those very farm tours. One thing led to another."

It was therefore only a matter of time before Katja extended her sharing concept further and used the magical surroundings of her farm for art and music workshops.

"Katja is quite clear about what she wants to create," says Julie. "It's about connection and community. It's basically what I do too – teach art in a way that allows people to grow from the experience, not only in skill terms but also in reducing their fear where painting is concerned. Most importantly, it's about having fun."

The first of these art retreats took place in May 2018. Since then there have been several workshops. Shevaun

Doherty, who is a renowned botanical artist, has also now joined the Bonita Art project. At the last retreat with Julie this past October, afternoon yoga sessions by the pool were offered which guests really enjoyed. To that end, yoga retreats are planned for 2019 in combination with art workshops or as yoga weekend getaways.

"It's been an extraordinary experience," says Katja. "Not only is it fascinating to see Julie teach in her very personable and enthusiastic way, but it's also wonderful to meet like-minded ladies who come for a break and leave as friends."

And are men welcome? "Sure!" laughs Katja. "We've had one gentleman join us. He was very good at making cocktails!"

Julie, meanwhile, has discovered a part of the world previously unknown to her. "Having Katja speak the lingo and know the area is such an advantage," Julie explains. "It's so beautiful down there. The house sits atop a hill and there are orange and lemon groves as far as the eye can see. Plus there's a pool and the food is home-cooked. What's not to like?"

And what does the future hold? More retreats are planned for next year. "I definitely intend on broadening my 'Andalusian Sketchbook' workshops so as to include local fiestas and traditions. There's so much to discover. Plus Katja is simply the most laid-back and kind host. It's really a home-away-from-home for me now. And I suspect that's the same for the guests. They all say they're coming back."

For information about the farm, tours and art retreat/workshops:  
[labonitahacienda.com](http://labonitahacienda.com)  
[facebook.com/haciendalabonitaspain](https://facebook.com/haciendalabonitaspain)

Julie Sajous:  
[juliesajous.com](http://juliesajous.com)  
[instagram.com/julie\\_sajous\\_artist](https://instagram.com/julie_sajous_artist)



*The views from the house.*

## Hacienda La Bonita

It seems as if it's only yesterday that I wrote a piece for the OB Bulletin about avocados, sunshine and my fading memories of John Rogers' enthusiasm for Outdoor Work. Yet it's a lifetime in terms of the experience I have gained in building up a farming business in southern Spain. I could write a book, perhaps even several, about the ups and downs of taking on such a project. There have been times when I've pulled my hair out and yet I'm still here quite simply because I love what I'm doing. Back in 2011 the 'farm' was an abandoned piece of land with a dilapidated house. It's now a working farm, with trees that produce quality fruit that's sold all over Europe and a beautiful house that's been renovated – as far as I know, I'm the only female avocado producer in Europe. This may not sound like much to the average person, but to someone like me, who had zero agricultural experience when I signed the deeds to the land, it's a huge thing. Not surprisingly, it's been a challenge!

The first year was tough. The trees were either old, ill or had died from years of neglect. Add to that, the irrigation system looked as if it had been in place since Franco's time. But, with hard work and lots of planning, we dug up and placed pipes all over

the property. This means that today each and every tree that's been planted since has its own small sprinkler system which is controlled via valves and a computer from the irrigation hut. I'm doing all I can to protect the natural resources and environment. Irrigating at the smartest time and in the best way ensures that I get the most out of the water resources available. There are two wells that pump water up from the aquifer to the hut from where it's distributed to the various sectors on the farm. We control the water supply remotely, in amount and timing, and thereby minimize water wastage.

The farm is now producing three different types of avocado (Hass, Fuerte, Bacon), lemons, mandarins and pecan nuts. Whereas in the first year we had neither quality nor quantity, we now produce over 80,000 delicious avocados every harvest that we hand pick ourselves over the course of three months. The trees in our lemon grove now stand tall and produce all year round. Our pecan trees are finally beginning to bear fruit, although it's been touch and go at times because moles kept eating the juicy, tender roots of the newly-planted seedlings. You live and learn.

Now that the farm is up and running, I have more time to actively share my experience of what I do with others. I organise private tours and farm stays and this year began hosting art workshops and retreats. It's fun

having people visit and showing them around, getting them to pick their own lemons for G&Ts or the tomatoes for the gazpacho. There's always something to do and visitors regularly end up helping to harvest fruit or plant trees if they're keen to get involved. We also welcome volunteers during the avocado harvest season or students who'd like to spend time with us and learn about food production and what it takes to run a fruit farm.

My focus for the next few years is to develop the workshops alongside the farming business. I'd like to see the Hacienda become a place where artists, musicians, writers, and those wishing to get away and do something a little different, feel at home whilst learning about sustainable food production. I'd also like to host healing retreats for those recovering from illness, trauma or loss and so would love to partner with OBs who work in this field. It's all about feeling connected to nature and to yourself, of re-learning to find the joy in life again or simply having a break from the routine of daily life by coming to a place that's gentle on the soul. As one of the guests wrote in the guest book this autumn: "We met as strangers, and left after six days as friends. This wasn't just a holiday, it was a healing of the mind."

**Katja Faber (1976-81)**



### Wellow Art Academy

Tucked away in a private garden in a peaceful corner of the West Wight sits a long, low, white tin caravan. Its simple exterior belies the hive of activity inside. In this most unlikely of settings is a thriving art school, named affectionately (and with some humour), The Wellow Art Academy. This old mobile home, once condemned and fit for the crusher was allowed to re-emerge as a practical and light-filled open-plan room when **Julie Sajous (née Smith, 1976-81)**, her 77-year-old mum, and the occasional very patient carpenter, worked night and day to turn it into an art studio.

Initially, Julie used the space for herself, painting island-inspired seascapes in acrylics for galleries across the Isle of Wight. Then one day, Julie was casually asked by someone if she could teach her how to paint the sea. Although a seasoned lecturer and teacher, Julie had never taught painting but, as an artist herself, thought it would be an interesting proposition. Starting out with just this one student, Julie quickly found that word spread about her art teaching and she has never looked back. Now there are up to 30 students taking lessons each week.



"There never seems to be enough time to try out the raft of creative topics on the to-do list," explains Julie. "Drawing, painting, sketchbook skills, collaborative painting, colour theory, abstract work – the areas covered are diverse. The main lesson learned very early on was that there are so many adults who have a fear of art, of making a 'mistake', of being judged... and so with this in mind classes are designed to be fun and easy going."

Julie's students also appreciate the tea and cake, chatter and banter. "It certainly seems to fuel the creative juices and leads to amazing work!"

In fact, student work has been exhibited in the local Quay Arts Centre and one student has gone on to be a practising (and selling) painter. Lessons now extend to weekend workshops and summer schools and there is even a hen party planned in Spring next year.

Julie firmly believes anyone can draw or paint. "It's about having a go, shaking off that old anxiety about not making the right kind of art and gaining the confidence to find one's own individual style." 🌻

Wellow Art Academy  
[www.juliesajous.com](http://www.juliesajous.com)



On a sunny day last April, as I travelled up to London to join a walking tour of Bloomsbury – The Garretts of Gower Street – I was feeling guilty that I hadn't called **Ruth Whiting** to suggest that she join me, as she found Mrs Badley's extended family extremely interesting. An hour in to the tour, I was congratulating myself that I hadn't called Ruth, as she would have been very annoyed by the tour guide's lack of knowledge. A few minutes later, I had to excuse myself to take a phone call – the call that informed me that Ruth had died.

For the past five or six years, since Anthony Seldon and David Walsh first contacted us to ask for information on our WWI casualties to include in their book *Public Schools and the Great War*, Ruth had immersed herself in the life histories of the early Bedalians. Focussing on those who died in WWI she was inevitably drawn in to the tangled family histories that characterised the brave parents who sent their children to this new-fangled school in the 1890s and early 1900s. She brought to bear the research skills honed by family-history research for her own family and friends, and combed through the collections of the National Archives, the Imperial War Museum and the British Library. We miss her and her unsurpassed knowledge of Bedales history greatly, and hope that we have honoured her memory by completing the WWI project.

In the last few months of her life, Ruth had become more and more interested in Mrs Badley's views on suffrage, and had begun to question whether our description of Mrs Badley as a suffragist was entirely accurate, or whether she was more in favour of the militant approach of the suffragettes



than we had first thought. We have to thank local historian, **David Jeffery (staff 1983-86)**, for drawing attention to the fact that Mrs Badley had invited Mrs Pankhurst to address a meeting at Bedales in August 1907. This was an object lesson in using historical sources – there is no record of the meeting in any official school magazine, presumably because it took place in the summer holidays, and was not a school event, so at first we doubted it. It was, however, reported in the Hants and Sussex News of the time. This prompted Ruth to spend hours trawling through microfiche in Petersfield and London, to see what

else she could find, and is a project that we hope to continue.

Enquiries coming in to the Archive have again been extremely varied, from simple biographical details of former students for their descendants or biographers to the locations of donated trees planted around the estate. One of my favourites asked if we could let the enquirer have a photo of **Clement Hale (1924-31)**, who became a scene-painter at the Royal Opera House. At first I thought not, as we only have Whole School Photos without names from her era, until I realised she was a twin and clearly an identical twin. She and her sister had performed in *A Comedy of Errors*,

staged precisely because two pairs of identical twins were available to the director. Comparing the Whole School Photos (which luckily were taken every year in the early 1920s) allowed me to have a stab at identifying her and her twin, though of course I couldn't tell which was which.

We were extremely pleased to receive a considerable grant from the funds remaining in the Bedales Association

account towards the digitization of *The Bedales Record*. The entire run of the Record, from 1894 to 1935, is now available online: [bedaleschools.daisy.websds.net](http://bedaleschools.daisy.websds.net). There are still many years' worth of *The Chronicle* to do, and donations to this project are always welcome!

I am happy to report that Ian Douglas, who is jointly responsible for the Library with me, is now becoming more familiar with the Archive holdings as well, and records some of his experiences below.

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



Oswald Horsley.

Since Ruth's death, it has been my privilege to help complete her unfinished work profiling the Bedalians who fell in the First World War. This has involved a steep learning curve for me – I'm not a trained historian – but has become one of the most interesting and rewarding things I have done in my professional life. Readers had better judge for themselves, by reading the profiles online, whether I have done justice to Ruth's example, but let me share a few reflections about what I have learned from the process.

Firstly, I have a renewed respect for the sheer scale of the work that Ruth did for Bedales over the last few years. The files in The National Archives don't always give up their secrets easily. The job is to translate a rather arcane and usually incomplete set of bureaucratic notes into a coherent and comprehensible human story. Having worked my socks off on just a handful of cases, I now understand that this was a full time job for Ruth over the last four years: a true labour of love, crowning a lifetime's service to Bedales.

Just occasionally – let me make this confession – I used to feel that

Ruth was growing a touch obsessive over some mystery about one of her OBs. Well, I've caught the same bug myself now, and I'm showing all the symptoms. Ruth, forgive me if I was ever unsympathetic!

I now realise, too, that this is not just about the compulsion to solve a puzzle. The real reason is that one becomes emotionally attached to the subject, with a feeling – perhaps an illusion – that one really knows the unique human being.

I'm ambivalent about this feeling. I think there's a danger of over-interpreting the few fragmentary and randomly-preserved documentary remains. How do I know that what has been preserved is characteristic of the real person?

What does Remembrance actually mean, once the people being honoured have passed out of living memory? Can the historian 're-member' the dead; undo the dissolution of their individuality wrought by death and time; recall some part of what made them unique human beings?

My answer, based on this experience, is that sometimes we can at least catch a glimpse, and that we have a duty always to try. How wise it was of Mr Badley and the others who mourned this lost generation, that they chose to build a Memorial Library. In this place, we don't just have the names inscribed on the walls, we also preserve and re-tell their stories.

Most recently, we shared some of these stories – just a handful of examples – at our annual Remembrance Jaw. I believe I wasn't the only person with a tear in my eye that evening, and I'm proud to think that this work has helped our current students feel a closer kinship with these long-dead Bedalians.

If all this sounds terribly sombre, let me add that it has also been enormous *fun* spending time in the company of these colourful characters.

Bedalians then – just like Bedalians now – were never dull. I might mention **Peter Clement Layard (1907-14)**, who pinned up bright silk handkerchiefs in the trenches, so that his troops wouldn't suffer the monotony of looking at muted colours all day, or **Oswald Horsley (1906-12)** who joked that he always got wounded in time for an OB reunion. Even more than the tragedy of their deaths, it's the vitality of their lives that stays with me.



Horsley and Wolff from 'Wings Over the Somme'.

I've also learned more about the character of early Bedales: their fierce loyalty to one another and to their Chief; the strong ethos of public duty that went with being an OB; their sense of a vocation to go out and "make the world more Bedalian".

Finally, I have a renewed sense of our obligation to those who have generously shared letters, diaries and other family treasures with the Bedales Archive, and to those who support the Archive financially. I hope that OBs of all generations will continue to entrust their memories to us. 🌹

**Ian Douglas**  
**Bedales Librarian**



## Jo Alldridge (staff 1992-present)

At my school in Surrey, most of my peers weren't necessarily that ambitious or certainly weren't often encouraged in their future ambitions," Jo Alldridge recounts. "Most were steered to become secretaries or nurses and that's generally what happened to them. In my case, I was really lucky to have supportive parents, who were happy to back me up in my dream, which was to go to drama school in Guildford. The concession that I had to make to them was to do the dance and drama teacher training course there, rather than a pure performing course so that I had something to fall back on, and that was fine – I really enjoyed it."

A one-year stay in Eastbourne's Chelsea College would follow, during which Jo gained the PGCE qualification that would allow her to teach in the state sector. Pragmatically, she still hedged her bets at this point between a teaching career and a less certain future on the stage. "I've always been quite fatalistic," she says. "I strongly believe that if you nudge at enough doors, one will open for you and then you see where that takes you. I did a couple of open auditions but I also applied for various teaching jobs and the door that happened to open for me was at a school in North London – Finchley Manor Hill, a comprehensive in Friern Barnet."

In her role as Head of Dance, Jo immediately settled into her new career. "I was catapulted in, just 22 years old, still very naïve in many ways, of course, but I took to teaching at once and never wanted to do anything else once I saw what it was all about," she reflects. "Theatre was something I still did and the school was very good at letting me have time off to perform with the Theatre in Education Company of which I was a member but teaching really suited me. I absolutely fell on my feet at Finchley Manor – they

were so supportive and welcoming – and I taught lower school drama, dance as a CSE course and also had a sixth form class that was part of the school's enrichment programme. There were some bumpy moments, of course, as with any other walk of life, but basically, it was fantastic and I learned so much. I had the advantage of not being that much older than some of my sixth form pupils and my style was to blast my students with as much enthusiasm and positivity as I could. Without that energy, trying to teach anything is a complete waste of time!"

After almost three happy years, Jo made her first career move, striking out for Queenswood, a girls' boarding school near Hatfield. It was a different experience in more ways than one. "Quite a strange place in some ways," Jo laughs. "The school wanted dance to be brought into the curriculum so I had a blank canvas to work with, which was great, although the other members of my department were a good bit older than me and very different in their thinking. They weren't the only ones – I use to knock around school in things like a bright fuchsia tracksuit, accessorised with lycra tights and ra-ra skirts, and I actually got a number of



complaints from various staff members about my choice of attire. As I say, it was quite a strange place. I was never a natural rebel, though, and I stuck it out there until I got married in 1983."

Jo's husband Terry was an osteopath with a thriving practice in Fareham and the time had now come for the couple to move somewhere closer to his work. "We looked at the map and chose Petersfield, which looked lovely and, importantly, didn't have an osteopath in those days, which meant that it was a good place for Terry to consider opening another practice," Jo explains. "The move meant that I now needed a job, which I found at a school in Leigh Park, again as a Dance and Drama teacher."

It was a return to the atmosphere that Jo had enjoyed so much at her first teaching post. "The type of school it was, in the type of area meant that my students didn't come from a family of natural theatre-goers," she says, "but as a result, they seemed to value dance and drama all the more. It was accessible to everyone at school, it was seen and it was appreciated. Suddenly I was in with kids from a totally different background with so much to share and our drama improv sessions were real and they were raw. It was real heart on the sleeve stuff. The staff all bonded together as well – it was like being part of a gang."

It was while she was at Leigh Park that Jo welcomed the arrival of her first child. "Something we'd always wanted," she confirms. "I went back after my maternity leave but not long afterwards, I was pregnant again and that was it for me for a short while. A little later, I started taking evening dance classes at the local dance school and one day, I saw an ad in the paper that was looking for a dance teacher one day a week. It was Bedales – I'd been aware of the place, knew about its orientation towards the arts and was curious to discover more about somewhere that seemed so different to anywhere else that I'd been, so I applied and

was interviewed by **Euan MacAlpine (Head, 1981-92)** and **Liz Molton (staff 1989-98)**. Dance wasn't yet part of the Bedales curriculum and nor was Drama but a day a week suited me perfectly just then and that's how I started."

It was the beginning of a 28-year love affair: "When I look back, I took my Bedales career in such small steps that I virtually grew in time with the school," Jo says. "Bedales sort of worked out what they wanted for my role as we went along and I gradually went from one day a week to five, offering more and more opportunities to students who otherwise had mainly sport or PE to look at for their exercise alternatives. The timetable changed, accessibility to Dance and Drama grew and the big turning point was the appointment of **Mike Morrison (staff 1993-2000)** as the first Head of Drama at Bedales – at the same time as Drama was introduced as a GCSE subject and the Olivier Theatre was being built."

Jo was quickly to become an integral part of the new broom, helping to establish the Performing Arts exchange with Dubai College, which is now the school's longest-running exchange programme, and ensuring that dance performances such as Bedales Dance and the Youth Dance Platform became part of the school's annual programme. "Mike was very canny," she says. "He quickly realised that he had far too much work on his plate and he used to come and watch me teach in the old Drama Studio, where he also had an office. Eventually he asked me if I fancied teaching Drama to the Block 3s; until then I had been teaching Dance as an offered activity and I was dead keen to play a bigger part in everything. So I taught GCSE Drama, we introduced GCSE Dance as well and then AS and A Level Dance came in. Mike was very good like that – so encouraging and so good at taking you out of your comfort zone."

By now very much a full-time player in the Bedales daily merry-go-round,

Jo also lent her talents to choreographing and directing a number of school plays. "John Pearson was not only Head of Science at Bedales but also a musical director of the National Youth Music Theatre and we worked together on a whole spate of shows," Jo remembers. "*Honk!*, *Blood Brothers*, *Guys and Dolls* – loads of them. I was also enjoying having my own tutor group, my son had arrived at Dunhurst and I was starting to feel completely wedded to the school."

The arrival of **Keith Budge (Head, 2001-18)** would give added impetus to Jo's life at Bedales. "Keith started on the same day that my son **George (2001-06)** entered Block 3," she recalls and, in time, I was encouraged to apply for a position as a housemistress, initially with the day students. I think that it suited my maternal instincts at the time; my own nest seemed to be emptying and I could fill it with different children! Later, I was offered the chance to become housemistress for 6.2, which was an exhausting but absolutely wonderful seven years for me. **Philip Parsons (staff 1979-2016)** and I were a great team; Philip was totally immersed in the school and his depth of knowledge taught me so much."

Jo had already clocked up almost a quarter of a century of service to Bedales by the time she made the decision to make some alterations to her full and demanding schedule. "To start with I said goodbye to the housemistress's role, which was the result of a family decision to shift gears a bit," she explains. "I also told Keith Budge that I no longer wanted to teach full-time. By then I was too old to be rolling around on the dance floor and I was mainly teaching dance theory, which had been in place for ages. I was ready for a change and I said to Keith that I was very open to something new. 'Let's see what comes up', he said."

What came up was the position of Deputy Registrar, which Jo holds



to the present day. "It seemed ideal," Jo says. "I hadn't done a lot of administration before but I'd been at Bedales for 25 years, I'd been a parent and I was now going to be selling something about which I was absolutely passionate. Essentially my focus is on the externally-facing elements of the school – organising taster days, open days and meeting prospective parents." Such has been Jo's versatility that she even served as interim Deputy Head at Bedales for a term before the arrival of **Rick Cross (staff 2017-present)**.

It doesn't take much to get Jo to wax lyrical about the school that has

been her professional home for so long. "The ethos of the place is much the same as it was when I arrived here and the children are certainly as Bedalian now as they always were," she says. "One of the best things about the place is that OBs from ten years ago are regularly invited back here to talk to the students of today and have a bite to eat with them and you can see the connection that is always there between them. A lot of OBs would say that their strongest relationships in life are still with their mates from Bedales."

And so the love affair continues. "Oh, I shall be here a while longer –

I've certainly no plans to go anywhere else," says Jo. "I never really did; there was a moment, when the children were still very young, when I spent half a term away while a contract was worked out that allowed me to sort my life out properly and I thought that I might end up elsewhere, but honestly, it was never what I would have wanted. This school has been the biggest part of my own education – a continuous learning experience that is still happening today." 🌟

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

## Richard Sinclair (staff 1997-present)



In his school days, Richard Sinclair was such an academic all-rounder that it wasn't easy to predict that he would ultimately become a Biology teacher for the best part of three decades. "I was at prep school at Westbourne House, which I loved," says the Twickenham-raised Richard, "before going on to Bradfield College. Bradfield was one of those immensely sporty places where, if you didn't excel in that department, you didn't really fit in. I wasn't particularly sporty but I was

quite well-rounded on the academic side and my first intention was to take my A Levels in English, French and German. Bradfield seemed to think that I wasn't all that good at languages so I went slightly rebellious and chose exclusively science A Levels instead! The three best-taught departments at Bradfield in my time were English, Biology and Chemistry and I naturally gravitated to those subjects, I suppose."

He may have taken a circuitous route to studying the sciences but it

mattered not – Richard gained a place at St Catherine's, Oxford, where he would study Zoology. "In those days we were spat out of school quite young and scarcely mature enough to know what's what," Richard reflects. "Our first year tutors at Oxford didn't seem terribly interested in us either but crucially I was up there at a time when Richard Dawkins had just published *The Selfish Gene*; the debate that stimulated left a lasting impression on me and my peers, who included Matt Ridley, the noted writer on various popular scientific topics. A lot of our professors were critical of Dawkins, possibly as a result of professional jealousy, but they were heady times to be studying the subject and listening to the arguments."

After leaving Oxford, Richard spent two years working for a party catering company. "It was a young, fun place to work and that was a crazy, lively time," he remembers. From there, he would move into the wine trade, where he renewed acquaintances with Tim Potts, an erstwhile biology teacher at Bradfield. "I'd always thought of Tim as a great believer in Bradfield but he was actually fairly cynical about the place, which I found interesting," Richard comments. "The wine trade itself was something I liked, as much



for the people involved in it as the product, deeply as I still appreciate my wine. London was a good place to be in the 1980s but the wine trade was already beginning to change for ever as an industry – it was no longer the exclusive province of the upper-middle classes and the old established wine merchants were beginning to feel the heat of competition.”

Richard eventually began to hanker after something that might offer him a greater intellectual challenge. “I left the small company I worked for and initially pushed off to France with my wife, where we set about renovating a house,” he explains. “Our son **George (2003-08)** then arrived, so we returned to England, where it was time to consider my options. I wanted to use my brain more – not doing so had become rather frustrating – and I realised that I missed science. Whatever I did from now on needed to involve biology, I decided, and that’s where my road to becoming a teacher began.”

To his delight, the passage of time had affected neither Richard’s recall of the subject of biology nor his passion for it. “It all came back to me quite easily and I went off to Kingston to do my PGCE,” he recalls. “There I was given all the assistance I needed, the confidence that I could deal with a class of children and the recognition that those children needed to be taught science in a way that would facilitate learning and help them to understand the subject as it related to the examinations in front of them.”

Richard’s PGCE course had allowed him to gain an introduction to the classroom at a comprehensive school in Guildford. “Guildford is a rather genteel place and very often, its comprehensives were relatively genteel as well,” he observes with a chuckle. “That was certainly not the case with my first proper teaching appointment, at Bishop Reindorp School, which may have been in Guildford (it no longer exists under the original name) but

was definitely on the wrong side of the A3! I taught Biology and Chemistry there and all sorts of things went on. Quite early in my time there, I led a tree-planting initiative at the school, which was vandalised within barely a week. On another occasion, a student threw a tantrum having been excluded and launched a metal rod through my classroom window, showering glass over students at the back of the class.”

Despite these setbacks, Richard looks back on his seven years at Bishop Reindorp benevolently: “Resources in the state sector are and were always tight – I had a class of 35 pupils in a lab where space was so limited that there wasn’t room to conduct practical experiments,” he says. “There were some marvellous teachers in all departments, though, who were totally committed to comprehensive education and I got a lot of pleasure at seeing bright students realising some of their potential. I certainly had no plans to leave, no real future game plan at all,



which is ironic when you consider how much time I have subsequently spent advising students to think ahead and be aware of their own futures.”

It was a newspaper advertisement that would presage the seminal move in Richard’s teaching career. “My wife saw the ad – I’m not quite sure why she was looking – and it turned out that Bedales was searching for someone to teach Biology and another science,” Richard explains. “I wouldn’t have been interested in going back to Bradfield or a similar environment but what little I knew about Bedales did make a fair bit of appeal. I went down there and was interviewed by **Alison Willcocks (staff 1983-2001)** and **Gary Skinner (staff 1984-2008)**. Gary was Head of Biology at the time and I clearly remember my interview with him as being much more of a discussion than a grilling. I happened to mention the name of E.O. Wilson, one of the world’s great experts on ants, and Gary, who also had a formidable knowledge in that area, and I discussed ants for about twenty minutes! The only minor problem was that I would have to teach Physics, rather than Chemistry, in addition to Biology, which necessitated a whole lot of boning up on the subject. I rather hope that my first students at Bedales have forgotten those early physics lessons of mine!”

Richard’s initial impressions of Bedales had made his acceptance of the job almost a foregone conclusion even before it was offered to him. “I was so struck by the quiet across the school, a silence that was only broken by the sound of chamber music floating out of the Quad,” he remembers. “From the time that I had been at teacher training, the harsh sound of school bells had been part of my life; you never heard one at Bedales. Yes, it was an easy decision for me to join.”

Those favourable early thoughts were swiftly confirmed for Richard when he began to teach at Bedales. “The first time that a student called me Richard, I thought how wonderful this

was,” he says. “This had to be the right way to do things. It was also such a pleasant change not to have to bother with enforcing uniform regulations. I was warned that I would be getting some students with “attitude” but I found that the “attitude” was invariably expressed so charmingly that the challenge it posed was always an enjoyable and refreshing one. I have always tried to engage students with the subject but there is never a set formula to it. One thing has always remained true – if you want respect, you have to give it.”

Bedales has long been associated with its success in the Arts and Humanities. More quietly, however, the school’s Science departments have been amassing their own remarkably successful track record. “We’ve always had a strong Science department here and certainly the continued uptake of the various subjects by students has been constantly encouraging,” Richard says. “There have been many fine science teachers at Bedales, which has in turn led to a number of successful science students, and that tradition continues, I’m happy to say. It’s always been important to strike the right balance here between the Arts and the Sciences. We do have to fight our corner in some ways; the Sciences don’t produce canvases or textiles for onlookers to admire so we have tended to speak to people through our results, which have been consistently excellent.”

Richard’s long career at Bedales is highlighted by the nine years he has spent as the school’s Head of Science. Now operating as Head of Biology, he is enthusiastic about the way in which the Science departments have adapted to changing times. “If you have a look at a typical student timetable, you can see how much of it is devoted to the Sciences,” he remarks. “It means that we need a clear sense of direction on the one hand while always updating our knowledge in a group of subjects

that are evolving all the time. The challenge of teaching is to adapt – we now have a Director of Learning and Innovation at Bedales, **Al McConville (staff 2007-present)**, and he is excellent at encouraging teachers to try out different methods. It’s very healthy – we can all get set in our ways at times but change can be a positive thing.”

Looking back across more than 20 years as a Bedales teacher, Richard’s affection for the place has deepened with the passing years. “The great thing about the school is that you’re encouraged in every way, which is an emphasis that has only become greater while I’ve been here,” he notes. “I may have been at Bedales for 21 years but the school belongs far more to students who may only have spent five years here than it does to me, which is just as it should be. Students here aren’t just passing through; they have a real sense of passion and pride in their school.”

“What I have valued so much is keeping in touch with students after they have left, delighting in their achievements and their success,” Richard continues. “You spend a lot of time with them and you get to know them here in a way that’s beyond most other schools – it breeds a properly caring relationship between us. Bedales students are always full of surprises; I’m always staggered by the talent that each student reveals and they all retain a curiosity about life that is so healthy. When I arrived, I never imagined that I would spend more than half my working life at Bedales and yet I can honestly say that I have never once found going to work to be a chore here. When I do eventually leave, I shall miss my colleagues, I shall miss the students and above all, I shall miss the enjoyment that I’ve always found in designing each individual lesson. It’s all been a lot of fun.” 🌟

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

## SHOWTIME CHALLENGE 48-HOUR MUSICALS

**E**sther Biddle (1994-99) is a professional actress and musician. Over the past 15 years, she has specialised particularly in performing in musicals and plays as an actor-musician, which has taken her all over the UK, abroad and to the West End.

Alongside her professional stage career, Esther has been a producer and a director of a theatre company called SHOWTIME CHALLENGE, set up specifically to produce theatre for charity since she co-founded it in 2004.



Esther will direct 'Singin' In The Rain' at London's Adelphi Theatre in October 2019 for this year's Showtime Challenge 48 hour musical. This will be the company's seventh West End production where all cast and crew are given only 48 hours to rehearse. All proceeds from this year's one

night only event will go to the Lewy Body Society, whose mission is to fund research into Lewy body dementia and to raise awareness of the disease. So far Showtime Challenge have raised nearly £100,000 for charity.

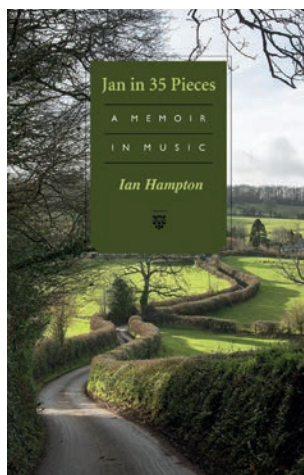
Everyone involved is a volunteer, from the creative team, the cast, the orchestra, the crew and technicians, the costume department... And the end result is a professional, fully staged, fully choreographed production which has been completely rehearsed in just 48 hours. It really must be seen to be believed.

Auditions will be held in spring in London and are open to all. The company is also always looking for sponsorship – ranging from contributing to the cost of hiring the theatre to donating prizes for the raffle. For more information about getting involved, or to find out about how to audition please visit [www.showtimechallenge.co.uk](http://www.showtimechallenge.co.uk) 🌟

## MUSICAL MEMOIRS

**B**y a remarkable coincidence, two OBs who went on to successful careers as professional musicians have published memoirs in recent months. **Ian Hampton (1947-52)** has written *Jan in 35 Pieces: A Memoir in Music* (The Porcupine's Quill, Erin, Ontario, 2018) and **Nicholas Braithwaite (1951-57)** has published *So what does a conductor do? The people, the places, the music making* (Amazon Books, 2018). Both came to Bedales as sons of musicians and both eventually followed their parental specialisations – Ian as a cellist in a string quartet, Nick, who started as a trombonist, as a conductor, largely, though by no means exclusively, of opera. Both played in the National Youth Orchestra, and trained in London but after early careers in the UK and the peripatetic lives that were almost the inevitable consequence of their career choices, eventually lived, and worked and retired in distant places – Ian in British Columbia, Nick in Australia.

Bedales figures prominently in both books. Nick's mostly chronological account devotes an entire early chapter to his school experience. The daily cold baths of the 1950s evidently created life-long memories both for him and for Ian.



Ian's memoir is more discursive, structured around individual pieces of music, with references to Bedales and Bedalians appearing from time to time. The leader of the Vancouver-based Purcell Quartet to which Ian belonged was the late Norman Nelson, who was married to an OB, **Jenny King (1951-57)** to whom Ian makes occasional reference. Jenny also appears in Nick's Bedales chapter. 🌟

**Timothy King (1950-57)**



**Callum Anderson (2008-14)** graduated with a degree in Music from Bristol University. He is now studying for an MA in Historical Performance at the Royal Academy of Music, with the harpsichord being his main instrument of study. Callum is also the Organ Scholar at St Marylebone Parish Church.

**Eleanor Bell (1985-90)** is an architectural lighting designer, light artist and fully qualified electrician. She recently worked for the American light artist James Turrell – programming and installing a new lighting system in the 'Skyspace' for Kielder Forest & Water Park, Northumberland.



**Jared Blumenfeld (1981-84)** has launched an environmental podcast channel. Podship Earth features over 40 episodes about how we connect with ourselves, each other, nature and the universe. In episode 37, Jared interviews his guest **Andrew Graham-Brown (1978-85)**, a TV producer, director and cameraman, who has focused on nature and wildlife filmmaking for over twenty years.

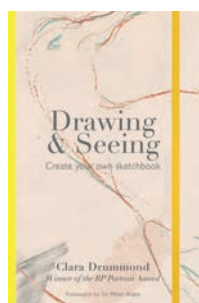
**Louis Burrows (2007-12)** graduated from the Sir John Cass School of Art last year in Fine Art Photography. He has a real passion for portraiture and has already worked with some great performers and personalities – most recently Nicky Haslam.



**Martin Cahn (1964-67)** has been elected to the local district council in South Cambridgeshire for the Liberal Democrats. This was Martin's first political campaign and he is delighted to have been voted in to represent the Histon & Impington ward. The Liberal Democrats took control of the South Cambridgeshire District Council by more than doubling their seats in a shock result, which saw an end to the decade long Conservative control of the area.

**Matthew Derrick (1972-79)** studied at Cambridge, followed by medical training at the London Hospital. He completed paediatric training at Northwestern University and a neonatal fellowship at the University of San Francisco. He is now a Neonatologist in Evanston, Illinois with an academic appointment at the University of Chicago. His current clinical research project involves Minimally Invasive Surfactant Treatment for neonates with immature lungs. He is married and has two children.

Artist **Clara Drummond (1991-96)** was awarded first prize for the BP Portrait Award in 2016. In 2017 she was commissioned by Her Majesty



the Queen to do an Order of Merit portrait which is now part of the Royal Collection. She is a tutor at The Royal Drawing School and has now released her first book, *Drawing & Seeing*.

Busy **Johnny Flynn (1996-2001)** has appeared in a feature film (*Beast*), two TV series (ITV's *Vanity Fair* and the BBC's *Les Misérables*) and a West End play (*True West*) over the last year. We look forward to finding out what 2019 has in store for him.

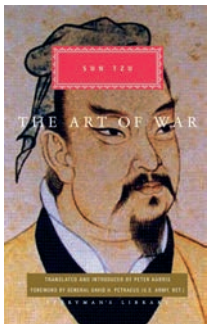
**Josh Graham (2004-12)** is the CEO and founder of ehab – a digital platform designed to engage with communities and manage construction projects, with the aim to completely change the way homes are created so that they are more sustainable and affordable. The platform is being tested with 20 partners across five continents, including a partner who is building Africa's first sustainable smart home.



**Peter Hall's (1975-79)** café, Flat White, has won the title of Best Coffee House in the Harden's London Restaurant Awards 2018. Peter founded Flat White in Berwick Street, Soho 13 years ago and believes that it was the first place to serve 'flat whites' in Europe, but certainly the first in the UK.



**Hayley Harland (2005-08)** aka TYGERMYLK has released her first single, *What God Would Keep Us Apart*. It is the first of three singles being released by Hayley as part of her debut EP. The song tells the tale of Hayley's first love and the challenges that the couple faced.



**Peter Harris (1960-65)** has had his translation of Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, published by Everyman's Library (Penguin Random House). Written over

two thousand years ago, it contains penetrating insights into the nature of power, inter-state rivalry, realpolitik and military success.

Composer **Alex (Ali) Harwood (1979-84)** scored two feature films last year: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* follows a writer (Lily James) who forms a life-changing bond with the eccentric society. *The Escape* follows Tara (Gemma Arterton) who, unhappy with her life, leaves her husband (Dominic Cooper) and children behind and sets off to Paris to rediscover herself.

Artist **Simon Hitchens (1978-85)** has been chosen to develop the Elizabeth Landmark in Cold Law, Northumberland. His proposal, a 55m high sculpture entitled *Ascendant* is inspired by the rugged and undulating landscape in which it will sit.



**Lucy Holmes (1980-87)**, co-founder and Creative Director of Holmes Wood Design, has left her post to concentrate on new aspects of her career. Since the company's inception in 2000, it has become a world leader in the design of direction and information schemes, focusing on visitor spaces as an expression of branding. She is looking forward to taking up new challenges in 2019. Her OB profile is featured on page 31.

**Victoria Hoskyns (1984-87)** has spent most of her career working in broadcasting (CBS, Al Jazeera, Associated Press) but has now decided to unleash her creativity, founding KraftworkN7 – a small online business, designing and selling t-shirts and accessories.

**Frieda Hughes (1973-78)** has gathered together her first four poetry collections in *Out of the Ashes*. Her introduction gives background to



some of the poems, and includes an anecdote about **John Batstone (staff 1963-93)**. The book takes the reader on a journey through Frieda's life – the fable-like poems draw on her early years in Devon and Yorkshire, a lifelong engagement with nature and itinerant wildlife, and later experiences when living in Australia, London, and most recently, Wales.

**Alana Hurd (1995-2000)** is touring the UK for three years in a campervan called 'Mill(y)onaire Milly'. Through Mission Milly, Alana hopes to raise £1,000,000 en route to make a difference to eight abandoned disabled youngsters in Swaziland: providing them with a home for life.

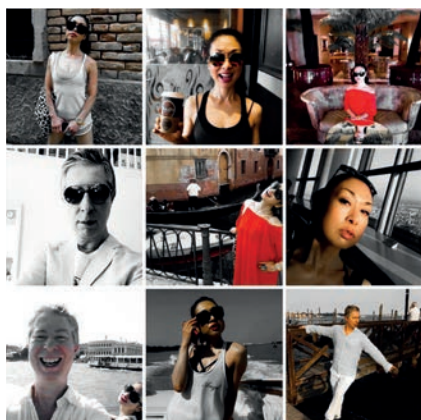
**Tim Hutchinson (1960-64)** spent 50 years working in the film industry in the art department, as a draughtsman to production designers. Recently he has been tutoring in design at the National Film and Television School. Two of his three daughters (see below) are Old Bedalians.

**Polly Collingridge (née Hutchinson, 1985-92)** has just completed an MSc in Cross-Cultural Psychology from Brunel University. After re-locating with her family to the San Francisco Bay Area for three years, she has returned to London and is now focusing on freelance intercultural training work, providing support to others making intercultural transitions.

**Georgina Hutchinson (1992-99)** worked in Los Angeles for several years and studied screenwriting at UCLA. She currently lives in south west Spain, where she is developing her third feature film script and working as a copywriter, poet and more recently the content manager for a short film streaming platform.

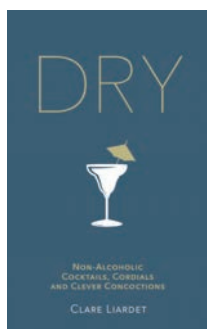


**Andrew King (1976-81)** and his partner Nana Takahashi have released a new album *One Magic Afternoon* under their pop duo name of Bonbon. They toured internationally in 2018 to promote the album and ended in the Bahamas in December where they played at an early Junkanoo (local Mardi Gras) in Nassau.



**Elize Layton (2008-13)** graduated in musical theatre from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance last year. Since then, she has played Lucy Pevensie in a musical of *Narnia* and was part of developing a new physical theatre production *Love Across The Line* with Ambitus Theatre. Elize is now playing Juliet in Palchetto Stage's contemporary musical adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, which is touring Italy for seven months.

**Clare Liardet (1975-82)** has published her first book *Dry: Non-Alcoholic Cocktails, Cordials and Clever Concoctions* with Bantam Press (Penguin Random House).



The book features adventurous recipes, distinctive combinations and delicious flavours – most of which can be created with ingredients found in your kitchen or garden.



**Leah Mason (2002-09)**, also known as Minke, has released her third single, *Maybe 25*. Reviewed by Earmilk as an 'indie-pop sensation', Minke is 'supported by the likes of Zane Lowe and Spotify'.



**Clare McCaldin (1979-85)** has developed a solo opera called *Mary's Hand*, with writer-director Di Sherlock and composer Martin Bussey. The show had its premiere last year and will now be touring the UK in 2019. Clare plays Queen Mary I, Bloody Mary to her enemies, who loves to play dice and cards. Over a game in which the audience chooses the next card to be turned, Mary reflects on her life: her royal family, faith, marriage, her desperate desire for a child, and her blackened reputation.



**William Miller (1980-82)** has published a book: *Gloucester Crescent: Me, My Dad and Other Grown-Ups*. Written through the eyes of a

growing child and adolescent, it is the story of a family and their circle of well-known, left-wing, idealistic and intellectual friends, who all lived in the street between the 60s and 80s. He covers his time at Bedales in part three.

For the last 12 years **Robbie Mills (1981-86)**



has been a freelance storyboard artist based in Henley-on-Thames, providing illustrations and storyboards for TV, film and advertising. Robbie has now launched his first children's e-book for the Amazon Kindle, *Hugo the Sausage Dog and the Dinosaurs*. Inspired by his own dachshund, it is a simple bedtime story for early readers (3-5 years).

**Jo Murphy (staff 2001-10)** has brought out a new book, black comedy memoir *Burnt Dress*. Calling on a variety of forms including prose pieces, play-scripts, rhyming satirical verse – and even a multiple choice paper – it charts the rollercoaster of growing up with a manic-depressive (now known as bipolar) parent in the 1960s.



Composer **Roxanna Panufnik (1982-86)** received last year's coveted Last Night of the Proms commission. *Songs of Darkness, Dreams of Light* was performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. Scored for two choirs and orchestra, it was one of the festival's biggest contributions to the WWI centenary celebrations.

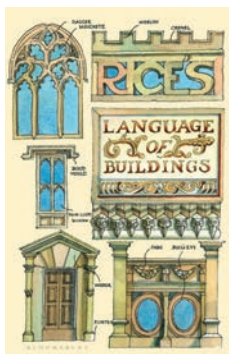
**Deborah Parris (1970-71)** has lived in Catalunya for the last 36 years. She is an animal activist and was closely involved in the abolition of Catalan bullfighting in 2010. She is now a member of CAC, trying to get 'correbous' abolished.



**Julie Perry (2008-15)** rowed for Oxford University against Cambridge in the Women's Boat Race this year, during her final year of her Philosophy, Politics and Economics degree. During her time at university, Julie impressively went from being a complete rowing novice to being selected for Oxford's Blue Boat. The crew unfortunately lost the race but this has not deterred Julie from rowing – having graduated, she now continues to row for another club.

**Matthew Rice's (1975-80)**

*Rice's Language of Buildings* is an updated and larger format edition of Rice's Architectural Primer (2009). This beautifully illustrated book



covers the grammar and vocabulary of British buildings, explaining the evolution of styles. Its aim is to enable the reader to recognise, understand and date any British building. Complete with over 400 watercolours and hand-drawn annotations.

**When Caroline Rollings (née Giddens, 1969-75)**

started boarding at Dunhurst, she had only just turned seven – an experience she personally struggled with, even though she enjoyed her time there, and eventually Bedales, where she stayed until the age of 18. She has written about her experience in *Finding Our Way Home*, a collection of stories from 16 women who were all sent to boarding school at a young age.



**Camila Sadler (1997-2007)** has launched her new business, St Palo. The St Palo Necklace carries self-diffusing essential oil blends and is a new way to experience the benefits of aromatherapy. Whilst working full time in other jobs, Camila spent over three years developing the cleverly crafted silver-plated pendant which unscrews to carry a self-diffusing vial containing one of seven available organic aromatherapy blends.

**Anna Sampson (1995-2000)** is the founder of The Chalet Edit, a specialist ski chalet and travel concierge company which launched last year. Anna offers a carefully edited portfolio of hand-picked chalets and a complimentary concierge service to take care of all the little details from ski school bookings to mountain restaurant reservations, ski experiences and more. Anna is a mountain enthusiast with over 15 years' experience in the industry.

**Sophie Smith (1994-99)** is an associate professor of Political Theory at the University of Oxford and a tutorial fellow at University College. She has co-edited and recently published a volume of essays investigating how the history of political ideas can help us

make sense of climate change – *Nature, Action and the Future: Political Thought and the Environment*.

**Andy Steed (1994-99)** and his wife Aileen have volunteered in Myanmar, teaching physiotherapy. Based in Yangon, they have helped set up acute stroke and musculoskeletal services – a big change from their usual jobs in London, working for the NHS, private practices and Arsenal Women's FC.

**Richard Tomlinson (1966-76)** has

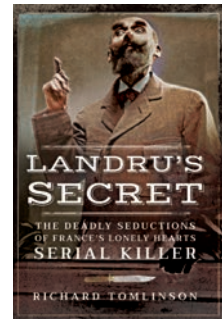
published a book about France's

most infamous serial killer Henri Désiré Landru. In *Landru's Secret:*

*The Deadly Seductions of*

*France's Lonely Hearts Serial Killer*,

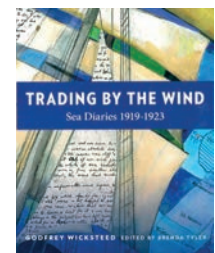
Richard concludes that Landru murdered more women than the 10 who vanished between 1915 and 1919. The book also reveals the first convincing solution to a murder mystery with no bodies and no conclusive proof of how Landru disposed of his victims.



**Brenda Tyler (née Lawrence, 1955-57)**

has edited and released a book about her uncle's sea voyages, *Trading by the Wind*. **Godfrey**

**Wicksteed (1913-17)** was employed as a seaman on the *Bellands*, one of the last British-built full-rigged sailing barques. Godfrey was at sea for four years and kept a diary. Brenda has illustrated the vivid accounts with maps, diagrams, photographs and sketches. The book also includes interviews with Godfrey when he was in his 90s. 🌟





## John Batstone (staff 1968-93)

John Batstone was an inspirational colleague, a great teacher and a big character in every way – whether it be as a fearsome fast bowler with an inimitable action that seemed to defy the laws of gravity, a dominant squash player who could run rings around opponents, or a superb theatre director with an output that was as prolific as it was professional.

As Head of English, John didn't just teach his subject, he lived it as an essential, empowering and civilising force, relishing both the intellectual challenge but also the thrill of expanding young imaginations through the power of language.

As a colleague, John was unfailingly encouraging and supportive: always open to new ideas, new work and new approaches, giving us the freedom to roam across the literary landscape in ways that just would not be possible today. With his effervescent character and his disarming humour, together with his disdain for all humbug and his intellectual acuity, he fostered a vibrant English department that was always fun, appropriately serious but never solemn. One of his favourite quotations was [from Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*]: "I love order. It is my dream!" – and for him this was a mantra that captured the double imperative of developing rigour alongside wonder. Or, as Arthur Miller surely meant to write (to corrupt another John-ism) "A teacher's got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory".

John could seem intimidating at times – truth to tell, we were all probably a little in awe of him. "Sorry, I've got a John Bat essay to do," was a constant student rejoinder, said with a frisson of excitement-cum-terror. You always knew – and your students always knew you knew – that the essay for John would be the first one to be completed! We accepted this because we knew that whatever demands he made of us, John made even more of himself, nowhere more so than when

it came to marking! We could only admire his stamina, determination and powers of concentration, as he set out on sustained red-ink fuelled marathons for hours at a time, wielding his pen with rapier-like ruthlessness and efficiency, while we found excuses not to emulate him!

Perhaps John's greatest contribution, though, was as a theatre director where he was in a league of his own. Year after year, in between the teaching and marking, the squash and the cricket, he would unfailingly conjure magical productions that were as innovative as they were exciting, inspiring aspiring thespians to levels of performance way beyond their years. *Phineas Finn* and *As You Like It* are just two unforgettable examples from my era that transcended any received notion of "The School Play".

None of this would have been possible – as John would have been the first to admit – without the formidable (in the very best sense) Margaret, whose unstinting and selfless commitment to the family ensured that John had the time and space to express himself to the full. An abiding image is of John donning his helmet and waterproofs at the end of each day and firing up the famous Honda – which inexplicably on occasions seemed to need refuelling at The Harrow on the way home!

Beyond Bedales, John regularly walked the theatrical boards himself which perhaps provided the impetus, after his retirement, for him to become an unlikely late entrant into local politics, becoming, as a Liberal Democrat, Deputy Mayor of Petersfield, despite a campaigning line almost certainly not in the handbook: "Actually I am a socialist". He also ran a book club through the WEA, taking his passion for literature to a new audience. In his final years, even when bedevilled by the ill health and infirmity that confined him to his



room at Downs House, John never lost his ebullience, his zest for life, his irrepressible sense of humour, his love of Portsmouth FC, and his thirst for a good read.

Ruth Whiting, George Bird and John Batstone were, quite simply, a triumvirate of brilliant teachers and fierce personalities who made Bedales an extraordinarily privileged place to work. (And there were others – too numerous to name here.) What is certain is that we were lucky to have had them either as teachers, colleagues or friends. It is the hallmark of a great teacher that he/she touches minds, expands imaginations, inspires futures and changes lives. John certainly did all of these in so many ways over so many decades. He will be affectionately remembered and sorely missed by, quite literally, thousands. ☺

**David Simmons (staff 1975-81)**  
with **Tim Williams (staff 1966-93)**,  
**David Thompson (staff 1971-75)**  
and **Graham Banks (staff 1980-2013)**

## George Bird (staff 1962-88)

George Bird, who has died at the age of 90, taught German and Russian at Bedales from 1962 until his retirement in 1988. He was Head of Modern Languages for much of that time and is remembered by generations of students as an exacting and inspirational teacher.

He was born in Exeter, where he attended Hele's School. He was, though, quite largely self-taught. Some nearby gable-ended Dutch merchants' houses inspired him to teach himself Dutch. When the war came, he devoted himself to studying German. Anticipating the Cold War, he also taught himself Russian. He even started studying Hindi with a view to joining the Indian Army, but India became independent and he did National Service with the British Army in occupied Germany instead, allowing him to perfect his German and Russian.

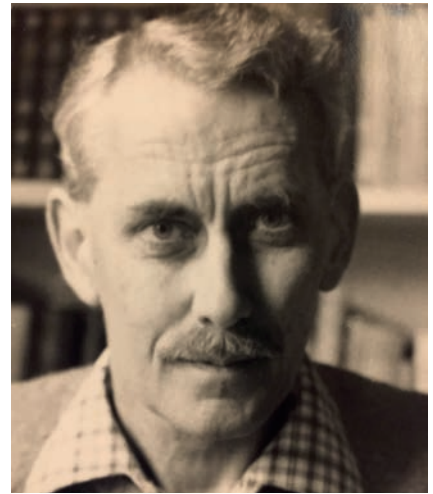
He was the first member of his family to go to university, with an army scholarship to Cambridge. There he was recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6. This was common knowledge later when he taught at Bedales, but little is really known about this period of his life, except that he was stationed in Berlin, where the operation in which he was involved became notorious as it was betrayed

by a double agent (and later fictionalised in Ian McEwan's *The Innocent*).

It was at MI6 that George met his future wife Margaret. When they married, they left the intelligence service and moved to Cornwall where he trained National Servicemen to become Russian interpreters at the Joint Services School for Linguists. This remarkable institution, born out of fear of the Soviet Union, created a generation of men who loved Russian language, literature and culture, including writers Alan Bennett and Michael Frayn.

The school relocated first to RAF Crail in Scotland and then to RAF Tangmere in Sussex. A walk in neighbouring Hampshire led George to Bedales, his discovery of which was virtually an epiphany. He turned down an invitation to set up a Russian department at Strathclyde University, and instead joined the staff of Bedales where he spent the rest of his career.

"Inspirational, original, funny and the most incredible teacher", he is also remembered by Old Bedalians on social media as a great character. He stole the show in staff plays in the Lupton Hall, while his hilarious annual pre-exam briefings broke the ice for even the most nervous candidates. The Head excused him of staff duty weeks in return for locking up the school at



night. Good news for his Labradors, but not for nocturnal rule breakers ("he was a fine tracker...many a difficult night escaping his torch in the quarry"), although he seems rarely, if ever, to have reported them.

In 1988, when he retired, TV South made a documentary called *End of Term* which featured him, in which he says: "I have invariably learned as much from my students as I have taught them", adding, with characteristic self-deprecation: "if I have succeeded in teaching them anything at all".

There is no doubt about that. "George was without a shadow of a doubt my favourite teacher while I was at Bedales – he made a lasting impression on me. Every so often, when signing up for online accounts, I get asked the security question: Who was your most memorable teacher? To which I always reply: George Bird."

On top of his teaching, he translated a dozen books, from Dostoyevsky's *The Double* to Andrei Kurkov's *Death and the Penguin*. With his colleague Richard Stokes, he co-translated *The Fischer-Dieskau Book of Lieder*, a standard reference work for singers and students of German song. And his own novel, *Death in Leningrad*, won the Pluto Crime Prize.

George and Margaret retired to Sticklepath in Devon, where George undertook epic walks with his dogs, collecting Dartmoor 'letter boxes',



George Bird in staff play 'Hotel Paradiso'.



and was a pillar of the local church and wider community. When Margaret survived a stroke, he was her full-time carer until her death four years later. He lived independently in his own house, translated Chekhov and continued

to teach himself new languages until just a week before he died in the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. Those attending his funeral included former Bedales staff, parents and students. He is survived by his four children,

**Michael, Edward, Helen and Elizabeth**, all of them Old Bedalians (**1970-77; 1966-80; 1967-82; 1968-83**), and by four grandchildren. ☛

**Michael Bird (1970-77)**

## David Boswell (1935-40)

**D**avid Boswell, pioneer of British microelectronics and developer of the first implantable, wireless heart pacemaker, has died aged 94.

He was born in Brompton Hospital on the 1 June 1923. At that time his mother, Diane, was a writer and his father, Ronald Boswell, was a publisher, director of the Bodley Head Press alongside soon to be Penguin Books supremo Allen Lane. David's parents divorced in 1927 when he was four years old and he was immediately sent off to Telegraph House, an isolated boarding school in Sussex. It was the first term of a new 'no rules' educational experiment run by Bertrand Russell the philosopher and his wife Dora. After causing a giant chandelier to fall on Dora's bed nearly killing her, grabbing the wheel of the Russell's car from their chauffeur and driving it across the front lawn thereby ruining it and subsequently starting a fire that took fire-brigades from several nearby towns to quell, he was expelled, aged five and came home to live with his father, his younger brother Martin and an Irish nanny, Kathleen. Russell himself referred to this 'disturbed child' who had made him pause for thought in his 'no rules' experiment, in his autobiography of 1950.

Later, David and his brother, **Martin (1933-42)** went to Bedales – where he says he did, at least, learn how to play cricket and cope properly with girls. Destined for the Civil Service, he rebelled again and, as a birthday present from his

remorseful mother, secretly learned to fly at 15. Later, there followed three years during WW2 in the RAF as an engineer officer. As his mother had become a 'Spitfire lady' delivering planes from factory to airfield, they were the only mother and son flying regularly on active service during the war. After periods at airfields during fighting in Burma and Europe, he returned physically unharmed and qualified at London University as an aerodynamicist. Whilst at college he fell in love with Mary Goodburn (known as Meg) from Hythe in Kent. They were married in 1949, a year after she finished her degree while she was still working in the Russian section of the Government Communication Centre at Bletchley Park.

After the war, David decided to give up aeronautics and began a long career pioneering in microelectronics. In his GEC laboratory at Wembley, he was part of the team that made the first germanium transistors and silicon diodes in England. Later he was a founder of the International Society for Hybrid Microelectronics, a society that now has more than 30,000 members worldwide. Most importantly, whilst working for US company ITT in Devon, England he led the team that designed and manufactured the first implantable heart 'pacemaker' in the UK.

After having had several books published on miniature electronic technologies and their management, he was asked by Arthur C Clarke, the author of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, to



lecture at his university in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

At 75 he retired from consulting but his restless workaholic spirit remained. He developed complex software for a unique and very accurate costing system initially for the Government which was later sold to a Dutch engineering company. His freelance journalism included many humorous articles for the *New Scientist*, medical magazines and local newspapers.

In later life David managed a website dedicated to helping patients with emphysema and he began writing and publishing several volumes of poetry.

He described himself as a 'soft atheist', happy in practice to support ancient church buildings and accept religion as part of other people's lives, but not his own.

He died peacefully in his sleep on 1 February 2018 and leaves behind his wife Meg (90), his sons, Christopher and Simon and five grandchildren. ☛

**Simon Boswell (son)**

## Leo Singto Gauvain (2008-12)

On the late afternoon of 17 December 2017, the brand-new Design Graduate, Leo Gauvain, with a lovely girlfriend and a beautiful future about to bloom, was doing the stereotypical Bangkok thing: at the end of the day, he nipped out of the house for a bowl of noodles on the street nearby. On his way home, a one-ton iron gate at the construction site for a new apartment block fell on him, killing him instantly. This mind-numbing tragedy has shaken this high-rise-menaced village to its core.

Leo Singto Gauvain was born in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 June 1996. Both he and his brother Justin spent their elementary years at a traditional Thai kindergarten before moving to Shrewsbury International School where Leo stayed until the age of 13. At that age Leo's artistic focus was already showing, especially his passion for expression in the areas of Photography and Graphic Design, as well as his interest in the Classics and Mathematics.

Leo passed the entrance examination into Stowe School, one of the UK's top private schools. However, being more creatively inclined, he really needed a better environment and after one year

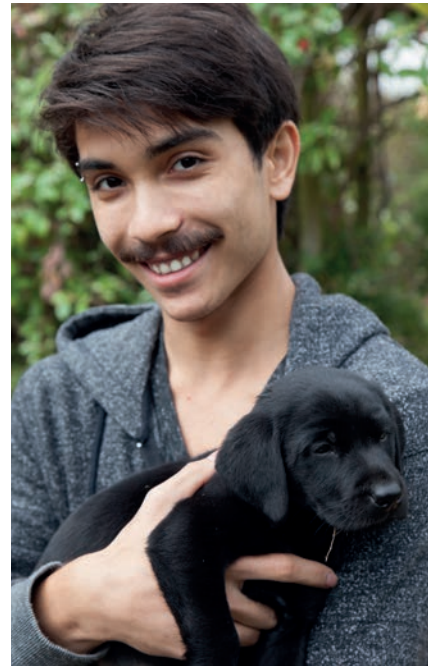
moved to Bedales where his life totally changed and he could focus on subjects he really enjoyed: Design, Photography, Mathematics, and the Classics.

In 2013, Leo entered Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) where he built a foundation in the fields of Photography, Graphic Design and Fine Art... following the ethos and acumen of his father's business in Thailand. In July 2016 Leo graduated with Honours and after a short break back in Thailand returned to AUB as a visiting/guest lecturer, while also pursuing a career in Publishing, Curating, Photography and Design. Leo's first company was called 'the button, press'. In appreciation of his support for AUB, the university held a Memorial Service and exhibition of his works, as well as naming their new Exhibition Gallery the 'Leo Gauvain Gallery'; some recognition in his short life.

Leo was an exceptional young man, full of life, love and kindness; always sharing and giving and had the exceptional gift of sharing his knowledge and talent with others. He was a creator, innovator and epistemologist; the philosophy of the nature of knowledge, justification, and the rationality of belief; his soul, spirit and ideological beliefs will surely live on in his work.

He was a true artist of our time, with a talented eye for imagery: patient, intelligent wit, clarity and kindness, courage and certainty, a generous humility – a very marvellous and special young man who will now always be young and always in a class of his own.

**Keith Budge (staff 2001-18)**, the then Head of Bedales said of Leo: "I remember Leo as being the gentlest of characters with a ready smile and a friendly look in his eye. I hope that his time at Bedales provided a happy and secure foundation for his subsequent tragically short period of life. I am glad that since leaving Bedales he had been able to pursue his passions so fully."



Leo returned to Thailand to re-unite with his family after being away for 10 years. He worked in conjunction with me in my branding and design business, but also pursued his passion for photography, curation of exhibitions and book making. Leo had a unique combination of creative thought and fiscal ingenuity. This rare combination would allow him to segue seamlessly into our business at both creative and management levels.

His initial plans were a start-up on-line/off-line skating magazine 'Flip-board' – skating being another of his passions; and an affordable scanning, printing and publishing service to help struggling students.

My family and I received hundreds of letters of condolences and love for Leo. Several hundred people showed up at his funeral at the Buddhist temple in Bangkok – old and young – many of whom we had never met and did not know. His exceptional creative talent, love, and kindness for others will be part of his legacy, along with his inimitable infectious smile.

We miss you. 🌹

**Patrick Gauvain (father) and Ing K (family friend)**  
 Photographer/Designer      Film Producer/Director





## Katy Krabel (née Allcard) (1980-87)



When I first met Katy, aged 11, she talked matter-of-factly about pirate attacks, whales, phosphorescence lighting up the ocean and the dangers of playing with Matchbox cars when your home was a Baltic trading ketch: an extra big wave would roll them off the deck and down adventuring into the deep ocean. I learnt about camping on deserted tropical islands miles from anywhere, growing up in the Seychelles and Antigua, and how it felt to lie in the netting under the bowsprit and fly soundlessly over the speeding sea below.

Katy's father, Edward, was one of the pioneering post-war sailors who travelled the globe for sheer love of the sea, without the safety nets of modern sailing equipment. Edward became the first person to sail single-handed across the Atlantic in both directions. He later met Katy's mother, Clare Thompson, who embraced his life wholeheartedly and taught herself how to run a household with no running water or fridge and shop in the local markets of any country and culture. Katy was born in New Zealand and by

the age of 11 had already had more adventure than most people ever do. She continued to follow in her parents' untrammelled footsteps.

Katy stayed in touch with many of the people she met in her travels, and has been described by friends as an extraordinary woman and a beautiful soul: a warrior with grace. When diagnosed with terminal cancer and given a few months to live "She was not defined by her illness, rather continued life to the full, true to form – adventuring, discovering, creating, contributing, challenging, loving, enriching us all. She was a wonderful caring person, and extremely positive until the end."

We met on our first day of school, and had things in common: we were both home-schooled, came from the tropics and we both loved the sea. I was lucky to meet her so early in my life as even at that young age she was an inspiring role model. If something needed doing, Katy simply did it, with no fuss and no trying to wriggle out of an unpleasant job. She took whatever life threw at her and just dealt with it.

However to Katy, school was an interruption. She wanted to explore as many new horizons and experience as much as possible, and she remarked later that her seven years at Bedales were the longest she'd stayed in one place. Although her school results would easily have got her to university, she went instead to the US and renewed her life of immersive experiences and travel. She planned to work five months a year to pay for seven months of adventuring, and over a nine year stretch she turned her hand to manning a T-shirt street stall in the San Francisco docks, being a super-yacht bar maid, ski liftie, crew on a TransAtlantic race, boatyard worker, Colorado cowgirl, and volunteering in a Guatemalan orphanage.

When she first arrived in the US in 1988 she worked in a summer camp for socially maladjusted children and then took a road trip to Florida, where she chose to live on the streets with the homeless while working as a waitress by day. She drove across Europe before working as a canoe guide in Canada, as the skipper of a day charter boat in the Caribbean, and as a trapper living in a tent through the Canadian winter, and panning for gold in the summer. All of her travels were an education. In Mexico she drank tea with Zapatista guerrillas, interested, as always, in seeing alternative lives and viewpoints.

Danger in her travels came in other forms, such as grizzly bears when canoeing for five months alone across 2,000 kms of northern Canadian wilderness. She canoed into a wildfire burning on both sides of the river and with no way of knowing how far it stretched, she decided to press on through, and spent some hair-raising hours dodging the flames across the water and watching burning trees falling in around her.

She met her future husband Eckhard further upriver – another wilderness traveller and a space engineer. He joined her in the Caribbean as her crew when she was skipper for the season, and later they married in typically low-key style: the ceremony was near Hudson Bay, with a lone witness brought in from the street.

In the Yukon they built themselves a cabin on a trailer, fixed drums underneath, and drove out onto a frozen lake, so that when the ice melted they could live afloat with their newborn son Franz, safe from both bears and council fees. The first spring was suspenseful, as they waited to see if the cabin would float. It tilted in the melting ice, but righted again.

After their second son Flynn was born, they built a house on land, and apart from the family's outdoor lifestyle of skiing, trekking and canoeing, and some forays to live in Spain and England, life became more conventional for a while, as she sacrificed her days of adventure to devote the last 20 years of her life to raising her beloved boys.

When you've come to terms with pirates in your first decade of life, all of the above probably seems normal. Having suffered most of her

young life from seasickness, Katy was perplexed at school when anyone made a fuss of minor illness, and when her terminal diagnosis came, she stayed true to form: after her first round of treatment she went sky-diving and in between treatments she still managed to travel from her Yukon home to Australia and the Caribbean, and revisit her birthplace in New Zealand.

Katy died aged 49, in the Yukon, soon after her birthday, saying she was glad to have made it till spring. In the words of one of the many

people who crossed paths with her and permanently stayed in touch, a brilliant light has gone out.

The world has lost someone quite extraordinary. I hope you are still adventuring somewhere. Thank you for crossing my path so early, Katy: warrior with grace. ☘

**Juliet Corley (1980-87)**

*A Gypsy Life by Clare Allcard gives the background to Katy's childhood.*

## Dr Hilary Mitchell (née Haden, formerly Elphick, 1936-42)



Hilary was born in Trowbridge, Wiltshire in 1924. She was the first of four daughters of Nelson and Phyllis Haden and the first of quite a line of family to come to Bedales. Her sisters **Sheila (1937-44)**, **Bar (1939-47)** and **Jo (1946-52)** followed, so too Hilary's three children and three of her nieces. Hilary's father was a school Governor and later Chairman. So there was a considerable connection with the school over these two generations.

Hilary admitted to being a bit of a dreamer at school but Bedales

encouraged and nurtured her interests in the arts, music and most especially science. It was, in the end, science that won the day, leading to life as a medical student during the war and qualifying as a doctor in 1948. But at the same time throughout her life she enjoyed a knowledge and love of the arts and was always keen to learn and be involved. She was an accomplished painter and worked across several media, including sculpture and printmaking. Time at Bedales gave her a rounded education. She was resourceful and practical (attributes so necessary in what was to follow in her life) and she soon woke up to ambition and determination, evident in following a career in medicine few women of her generation aspired to.

Hilary gained a place at The London School of Medicine for Women and in the same year that she qualified as a doctor she married Michael Elphick and found herself on a ship bound for Nigeria to take up the role of a colonial wife, with part time work at the Maternity Hospital. Nigeria was home for twelve years and she returned to England in 1960, now a family with Sue and Will and Caroline looking for a home and work in London.

After settling in Hampstead and following a divorce, Hilary trained and qualified as a Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. In 1969 she met and married Dr Alan Gardiner when they were both working at Claybury Hospital. In 1974, keen to escape the city and get back to their country roots they moved to Hampshire where growing vegetables, keeping a small flock of sheep and cultivating a wonderful garden were all managed alongside their work in hospitals.

After Alan's death in 1985 Hilary retired and concentrated on her painting and sculpture. She married Rear Admiral Geoffrey Mitchell in 1990 and in 1994 they moved to Stockbridge in Hampshire, soon becoming involved in the local community, joining the amateur dramatics, and both painting and writing groups. She was always a welcoming host ready to conjure up a meal with generous servings of warmth and hospitality, as our friends from school remember. She nurtured her talents and the homes she made reflected this. They were relaxed and comfortable, full of books and paintings and always an open door. ☘

**Caroline Maxwell Wood (née Elphick, 1967-73)** (daughter)



## John Rogers (staff 1975-86)

John Rogers, who revitalised and ran Outdoor Work from 1975 to 1986 has been described by **Matthew Rice (1975-80)** as 'one of the master builders of Bedales'. This judgement is true both metaphorically and literally, its literal aptness being manifested in the Sotherington and Bonham's barns, reconstructed at Bedales between 1980 and 1985 and forming a distinctive and much loved heart of the school.

John's route to Bedales – like John himself – was somewhat unconventional. He had thought to follow his father, a dynamic Anglican clergyman, into ordination, but found theological college too stuffy. He read English at Cambridge, but failed to keep up with the work and was sent down.

Before these false starts he had spent two years at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth from which he derived certain lasting values: he admired the way a ship's company must work together and how the officers must first learn to swab the decks and develop respect for the humblest of tasks. Those who worked alongside John in Outdoor Work will at once recognise these principles.

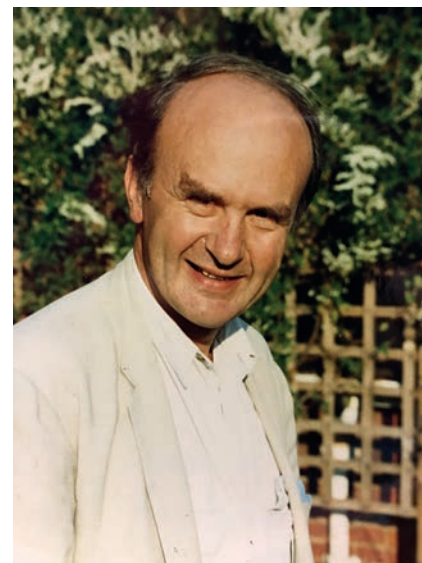
After a spell in a prep school near Salisbury, John came to Dunhurst in the early seventies to teach woodwork and science. Then he moved to Cheshire for two years where he learnt about forestry. He returned to Bedales to take over Outdoor Work. Since the early days of levelling the Mem Pitch and building the Cricket Pavilion, this area of school life had more or less reduced to gardening. John, influenced by Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful* and the self-sufficiency and ecology movements, had much more ambitious plans. Children would learn to manage the land, plant trees, keep animals, build in traditional ways, sell produce and keep the accounts. This last was as important to John as anything, since he

firmly believed that the whole project must be run in a businesslike manner, paying its way and not being a drain on the school's resources.

As the centrepiece, he created the barnyard. First came the Sotherington Barn, carefully dismantled and brought to Bedales under the expert eye of Charlie Brentnall. When Bonham's Barn came to be built later those who had been in Block 3 at the start of barn building were now in 6.2. It was typical of John that he slipped into the background and allowed this group to run the rebuilding. For several of them this was the formative experience of their lives and shaped their future careers. It always seemed a tribute to John's influence when some of them turned up years later to work on the Olivier Theatre or the Sam Banks Pavilion.

John also taught 'Bible'. This was not RE or RK as conventionally understood, but something which arose from his conviction that it was necessary to be acquainted with the essentials of the Bible 'without the distraction of the various religions that roost in its branches'. His painstaking book *The Basic Bible*, which threaded together sections of the Bible, with commentary, was published by Hutchinson and sold 18,000 copies.

John and his wife, Jo, lived with daughters Lucy and Hannah adjacent to the barnyard and the girls grew up with an extended family of outdoor workers trailing through the house. Once the girls had finished their schooling, John and Jo left Bedales for Suffolk where they were able to buy a farmhouse with 25 acres. They planted a wood of 3,000 trees and an orchard. John set up a business as a tree planter and later took to keeping bees. He would mark on his jars which hive the honey was from because origins mattered. Similarly with people, he wanted to know all about where you had come



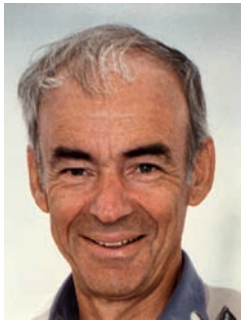
from and what influences had made you who you were. He was always genuinely and deeply interested in people. He was also a devoted family man and Hannah's three sons warmly acknowledge his influence.

After suffering a heart attack some ten years ago, and being confronted with his own mortality, John wrote a remarkable book, part memoir, part meditation. *The Undelivered Mardle* was described as 'a masterpiece' in the Spectator and Professor John Carey called it 'inspiring'.

John was an intriguing mix of traditionalist and maverick. He had no time for arbitrary rules and bureaucracy, and yet he was insistent on using the right tools in the right way and keeping precise records of Outdoor Work accounts or how many hours each pupil and member of staff had contributed to the building of a barn. He had a mischievous sense of humour and could disintegrate into giggles. He was warm-hearted, particularly in his kindness to those pupils who struggled to fit in or were going through a period of unhappiness; he was generous in friendship and passionate in his beliefs.

John is buried in his Suffolk wood in accordance with his wishes. ☘

**Graham Banks (staff 1980-2013)**



## John Redcliffe Salaman (1949-57)

John Salaman was one of a large clan of Bedalians with the surname Salaman. His father, **Arthur Salaman**

(1918-23), had been Head Boy under John Badley, and John himself was Head Boy in his final year. He gained a place at Clare College, Cambridge, where he achieved a first class degree in Natural Sciences, and pursued a further three years of training in medicine at the London Hospital.

He undertook his higher surgical training in Cambridge when Sir Roy Calne was professor of surgery there. Calne was a pioneer in transplant surgery in this country, and his trainees rapidly acquired consultant posts across the UK.

John's fascination with the workings of the human body (and everything else for that matter) led to some rapid advancement in the field of transplant surgery, with a prime focus on kidneys. When he moved to Wales to lead the kidney transplant unit at the University Hospital in Cardiff, he had no idea that the rest of his career would be spent entirely at that institution. He was appointed professor of transplant surgery and made notable contributions to journals, symposia and conferences. His service as a surgeon was outstanding, with a success rate higher than that of almost everyone else in the field. He refused to undertake any private practice; every minute of his working life was devoted to the NHS.

But not every minute was work. Soon after graduating he married his Cambridge girlfriend, Pat Burkett, also a medic, and together they enjoyed a rich family life, a marriage lasting well over 50 years with four loyal and devoted children.

Two of his activities at Bedales provided him with enormous enjoyment in later life. One was sailing, which he learnt on the Norfolk broads with other Bedalians. He and Pat explored most of the waters around the UK in their sea-going yacht, especially during retirement. They eventually exchanged the yacht for a canal boat, only disposing of that when they had covered almost the entire network of canals in the UK.

The other was woodworking which he learnt at Bedales, in a few evening classes and through a pre-retirement 'apprenticeship' with a gifted local cabinet maker. He became a superb carpenter, specialising in furniture, often emulating great 18th century masters such as Thomas Chippendale and Thomas Sheraton. Cabinets, tables, chairs, a revolving bookcase, chests and a lot more appeared in a steady stream. John was a master of tools, working in metal and wood, coupling his practical skills with a clear knowledge and understanding of how things worked. He was a qualified silversmith with his own hallmark and a skilled photographer, developing and printing from negatives.

Despite his distinguished career and natural talent, John was a remarkably modest person, immensely considerate

towards others and always willing to help when asked. Descended from a Cabinet Minister (Home Secretary) and born into a position of privilege to some extent, he was happy to 'muck in' without a trace of condescension. Although his family background was Jewish, he adopted the Christian faith in the early 1970s. He used his practical talents to the benefit of the church. During refurbishment to its interior, he made a new altar rail, communion table, preaching desk, preacher's chair, and a table top bible stand. He served as Property Secretary and only reduced the physical work involved in his final few years. He was on other committees and a member of the choir. Although John did not discuss his faith, his cheerfulness and steadfastness in the face of illness impressed many.

Around the age of 60, he was diagnosed with a chronic myeloid leukaemia which, at the time, had a 50% five-year survival rate. He and Pat had an enjoyable retirement until his health began to deteriorate about six years ago. He never complained and always fought back, working through amputations and other hardships. In a sense he emerged the winner, living 20 years longer than the five predicted. ☘

*Anonymous*

## Geoffrey Spencer (1939-48)

Geoffrey was an only child who, when small, lived with his mother and grandmother in Hatch End. His father did not feature much at this early stage, as he did not like babies, nor did he like his mother-in-law. At the outbreak of war Geoffrey and his mother were holidaying in Branscombe, Devon, so they stayed on and made it the family home.

Geoffrey went to Bedales from 1939-48 and true to character finished up as Head Boy. After that it was national service, in which he chose to enter the Medical Corps. Army life as an 'other rank' came as a rude shock after the idealistic environment of Bedales. He was posted to the army hospital in Colchester, where he learnt how to go AWOL without detection, how



to light the incinerator without letting the rats escape, and most valuably, he acquired empathy for employees at all levels in hospital life. He was always proud to relate he finished his army career with the rank of local acting unpaid lance corporal.

Next came St Thomas's Hospital. He seems to have spent his student days playing the flute and running an orchestra. He was happy to fail his 'midder' and 'gynae' finals, as it gave him a further few months as a student so he could continue to play the flute. Nevertheless, once qualified he became an amazingly conscientious and devoted doctor.

He set out on a career in anaesthetics, but at the time that he became a senior registrar people began thinking it might be a good idea to concentrate all severely ill patients in one place, so that you could care for them intensively. Intensive care was born and Geoffrey was told to plan and oversee the building of a unit at St Thomas's, which opened in 1966. Then in 1968 he was asked to take on the patients from a polio unit in the Western Hospital, Fulham, so he founded and ran the Phipps Respiratory Unit at The South Western Hospital. From that time on he was actually continuously on call (except for family holidays) until his retirement in 1994. His strong drive and inability to take no for an answer meant he often achieved the impossible for his



patients. He was awarded the OBE for services to disabled people in 1981.

His official retirement was on his 65th birthday in June 1994, with a celebration at St Thomas's. The event was attended by several hundred patients and staff, including Robert Runcie, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, who in his brilliant valedictory speech, mentioned that Mrs Thatcher had invited him to attend the D-day celebrations on that very day, but he declined, explaining that he was to attend Geoffrey Spencer's retirement party.

Geoffrey was a hard act to follow, and had to continue working for another six months while a replacement was trained up. He has since been replaced by a large team. And the work has also grown.

Geoffrey found retirement, when it came, very sad, having so enjoyed his work. He busied himself initially with running Refresh, the charity he started in the 1970s with his good friend and patient Robin Cavendish, to provide holidays for severely disabled people.

The first blow came with deteriorating eyesight. An obscure untreatable condition called Foveomacular Vitelliform Dystrophy was diagnosed, and in 2011, Geoffrey was registered blind. He put an amazingly good face on it, although he could no longer read or recognise faces, and, worse still for him, he could no longer drive a car. He liked to have read to him books mainly about the Second World War, a familiar subject that interested him, so it was easier for him to follow.

From 2014 onwards his life really became tough. He had four eye operations for glaucoma, two mini strokes, a carotid endarterectomy, two heart attacks, a TAVI and dementia, a truly cruel disease. As one who had always been active, he found it frustrating that he could no longer chop wood or work in the garden. He had loved listening to classical music, but now he no longer enjoyed it. He deteriorated steadily, and spent the last four months of his life in a care home, much of the time asleep. He lost the use of his legs and could speak only a few words, in a whisper. Reading material became Winnie the Pooh. Then one day he was unarousable and that night he died.

Geoffrey is survived by his wife Felicity, daughter Hilary (1985-90), son Ian (1987-92) and four grandchildren. ☘

**Felicity Spencer** (wife)

## Hazel Straker (1931-38)

Although the family lived near to Bedales, Hazel and her three older brothers boarded at the school through their secondary school years. Her experience of school and the surrounding countryside nurtured for Hazel a lifelong love of the natural world. In her final year, as with her

brothers before her, Hazel was a Head student. On leaving Bedales aged 18 she took a one year child care course at the suggestion of her housemistress. While on the course she met with others who introduced her to the teachings of Rudolf Steiner, the leading thinker in the Anthroposophical

movement which brought to this country, inter alia, fresh ideas about valuing and working with people with special needs.

From this point onwards Hazel spent her life caring for and teaching children and young people, here in Britain and in California, in Waldorf schools and in residential community settings run by the Camphill Village

Trust. She developed a passionate interest in researching the movements of stars and planets and their influence on life on earth through the perspective of Astrosophy, writing and lecturing widely on this subject well into her nineties.

At the age of 60 Hazel moved to Colleg Elidyr in mid Wales where she worked for the next 30 years in further education with young disabled people, preparing them where possible for more independent living. She

finally retired in 2011 to a Steiner campus in Stroud where she lived in her own flat independently until her health declined quite rapidly over a few months. She died in hospital on 21 October following a stroke. There was a wonderful funeral and memorial gathering at the Community Church on the Stroud campus where family and many friends celebrated Hazel's long and fulfilled life.

Hazel was a great traveller and in more recent times made three carefully

organised trips to Australia, Madagascar and finally China in 2009 to witness total eclipses of the sun, our nearest star. She was an independent spirit with a great zest for life: one can picture the scene in Madagascar with her diverse bunch of travelling companions and the perplexity of her guide in China amazed that this venerable old lady should venture forth without her family. That is the sort of person Hazel was. ☼

**David Straker** (nephew)

## Jean Symons (née Layton, 1940-44)

On 29 October 2018, Jean Symons passed away peacefully, after a life filled with great achievements and experiences. Those who knew Jean will know that she was a strong-willed woman, who was not afraid to speak her mind and would not rest until all was right and fair – a characteristic not uncommon to Bedalians and one that led her to be respected and admired.

Jean was at Bedales from 1940-1944, alongside her older brother, **Peter 'Bunny' (1940-46)**, who used to chase her round the Quad to a chorus of 'Run Rabbit Run'. There were only two things she didn't much like about boarding: starting the day with a cold bath, and sport. She chose lacrosse: a friend reminisced that she would never forget, "the way Jean held and waggled her lacrosse stick," – it was to keep everyone away!



Bedales has a tendency to spark lifelong friendships, and Jean met hers in **Karin Antonini (née Barnsley, 1939-43)**. She also became an enduring supporter of the Barnsley Workshop.

Always looking to the future, Jean gave up Latin in favour of German... however; Germany did not win the war. Jean was at Bedales on D-Day and wrote about it in her diary, which is now kept in the Library Archive, "It seems to be the beginning of a new phase in history, and yet for all the ideas about reform, I wonder how much better life will become when so many thousands have given their lives. I feel I've got some mission in life to fulfil and my premonition of the invasion has made me feel rather like Joan of Arc."

Jean discovered her mission in life in the architecture section of the Library, where she conceived a desire to help rebuild Britain after the war. Applying to the Architectural Association, she was nervous of her poor drawing skills, but the interviewer wasn't worried at all, "You went to Bedales, you're in." Before qualifying, she insisted she needed to see something built, so got a placement working on the construction of The Royal Festival Hall (RFH). Originally for three months, she remained for 15 – Jean liked to see things through to the very end. For the 50th anniversary,

her Concert Hall Notebook was published, images of which were used in a promenade concert in the roof space in 2016/17.

After qualifying, Jean was hospitalised with Tuberculosis, sadly resulting in her being unable to have children; yet it was also where she met her husband, the doctor Cecil Symons, who followed her out to a sanatorium in Switzerland in his Austin A30 to propose. They initially lived in New York, and then between Wimpole Street in London, and the Rubbin House in Sussex.

Jean knew she was never going to be a conventional architect, but her qualification enabled her to specialise in a new field of access for the disabled. She wrote many papers and delivered lectures on the subject in which she became an acknowledged specialist, and became a member of the first Area Health Authority, for Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham. Jean had one underlying recommendation: that architects should understand people's needs. It was thinking architecture rather than building architecture.

Jean travelled widely, and with her husband became a collector of 18th century medical instruments. Upon Cecil's death in 1987, Jean catalogued the 'Symons Collection', lending it to the Royal College of Physicians, who





made her an Honorary Fellow and awarded her the President's Medal. She was also an active and popular member of the Franco-British Union of Architects, and became their first female president.

Jean never fully retired, working as a volunteer guide for the Weald and Downland Museum in Sussex, and when moving to Chichester in her eighties became a member of the Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee. Her lasting contribution to the city was to ensure that Chichester Festival Theatre provided those in need with an absolute thicket of handrails.

Having no children in turn made Jean a wonderful and fully committed aunt and great aunt, and her love, generosity and passion was felt by all those around her; and by the many charitable causes she supported. The Tuesday before her death, she officially handed over the Symons Collection, via the Arts Council's Cultural Gifts Scheme, to the Royal College of Physicians. With family, friends and colleagues gathered, Jean gave her thank you speech. She was on sparkling form. Aged 90, she had fulfilled her final mission in this life. 🌹

**Elize Layton (2008-13), Clare Layton (1971-76) and Jasper Rees**

## Jean Trubshawe (née Wood, 1934-41)

Jean had early memories of roller skating on the runways at Farnborough, sometimes being buzzed by aircraft wanting to land! Her father, Ronald McKinnon Wood, was an aeronautical engineer, Head of the Aerodynamics Department at the Royal Aeronautical Institute from 1919-34. Ronald and his wife Gwen (née Spicer) came from political families – both grandfathers were Liberal MPs. In 1935, Ronald embarked on a political career for Labour that included serving as Chairman of the London County Council 1957-58.

Jean's brothers David and Alistair went to Bryanston and Jean, the youngest, to Bedales. Jean met **Waveney Bayly (1935-39)** at school and they remained close throughout their lives. Jean played the flute in the orchestra and was swimming captain. Swimming remained important to Jean even into her nineties. Her future husband, **Peter Trubshawe (1936-42)**, was one of her friends and his sister **Biddy Petersen (née Trubshawe, 1937-44)** comments, "As a Dorm Boss, Jean was strict but fair".

At Upper Vann near Godalming, Jean's aunt Meta, an explorer and naturalist, had a market garden, farm and cottage. A large barn there was converted into the family home. As her parents were occupied in London, Jean's holidays were mainly with her aunt, brothers and others working on the farm.

Leaving Bedales in spring 1941, Jean worked as a Land Girl, then joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1942. She was assigned to the meteorology branch and spent two years based at Boscombe Down (an aircraft research and testing base) and Porton Down, then two years at Northwood, Coastal Command HQ. She was involved in crucial met reports and analysis for research and for flying missions. Her interest in meteorology continued all her life.

Demobbed in 1946, Jean spent a year teaching in an infant school. During this time she met Peter frequently. He had joined the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors – his training based at Greenwich. They married in 1947 and began a life that included fourteen moves as Peter's career took him four times to Bath, three times to Devonport (Plymouth) dockyard and also to Chatham and Malta. Jean was very efficient managing these moves; many involved selling and buying houses. She was known to one estate agent as "Mrs Nice Nuisance"! She loved gardening, which often meant reviving a derelict area or establishing something new – only to have to leave it. A vegetable plot was always essential.

They had four children Anne, Brian, Caroline and Diana. Anne was asked if she wanted to go to Bedales but said, "No, thank you". The decision was made for the family to stay together and be educated locally. Home was a loving and active environment.

Jean took great interest in the different places they lived – often not conforming to the expected pattern of naval wives. Peter and Jean disliked alcohol so tended to avoid the frequent cocktail parties in Malta. Jean got to know the island in detail, walking with a friend when the children were at school, though always home to greet them. The children's memories are particularly of swimming and exploring.



After Peter's retirement, they lived in Bosham for many years. Jean's lovely garden edged the creek and bird watching was a great interest. Peter frequently sailed – and kept a motor boat for taking grandchildren and guests around the harbour for picnics and swimming. Jean and Peter loved walking – completing the South Downs Way in sections when quite old. They also enjoyed concerts and theatres in the Chichester area. They were involved socially, organising the Bosham Forum and were generous

to chosen causes. For holidays they liked visiting islands particularly Orkney and Shetland – part of Jean's ancestral background.

Jean was a superb knitter from childhood and could multitask brilliantly while knitting clothes, blankets and toys for family and charities. She had an extensive range of games and puzzles to entertain and instruct the visiting grandchildren. She kept careful records of food likes and dislikes. Her home-made cakes were especially popular:

Jean's final years were blighted by Alzheimer's so they moved to Dorset to be nearer family. The children were all immensely supportive and Jean remained able to knit and play games until close to the end – surrounded by photos to help her recognize her extensive family.

She is very lovingly remembered by her family, including four children, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. 🌸

*The Trubshawe Family*

## Sarah Compton van Niekerk (née Hall, 1945-50)



Sarah was born in London in 1934 and after spending the war in America where her father was a diplomat, with her parents and brother, the painter **Christopher Hall (1943-49)** the family returned to the UK and to a more rural life in Berkshire. After a brief spell at a local convent school, Sarah joined her brother Christopher at Bedales where she made a valued life-long group of friends. Life could have taken a very different turn for Sarah, as she was keen to take up farming as a career. However, after an inspirational trip to the Festival of Britain (and the intervention of her parents) she enrolled at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in 1951 and so began her life long

association with printmaking, especially wood engraving.

At Central, she met Gertrude Hermes who taught drawing and wood engraving. As well as mentor, Gertrude became a good friend and remained so until her death in 1983. After a brief spell working at an advertising agency, Sarah returned to college and attended The Slade School of Fine Art in 1955 under the tutelage of William Coldstream, Anthony Gross and Lynton Lamb.

In 1956 she married Chris van Niekerk, who she met while at Central and they went on to have three children – Sophie, Max and Jess – and set up home in London. After the acquisition of her beloved Albion press, Sarah began engraving – lino and wood cuts, in earnest. She was influenced by family holidays to Chris' home country of South Africa, as well as the subjects she became best known for, rural landscapes and animals.

In 1979 Sarah and Chris left London and moved to rural Oxfordshire, where alongside her artistic work, she finally got to farm – albeit on a small scale, with a flock of Jacob sheep, geese, ducks and chickens. These creatures along with the various family cats and dogs began appearing in her

engravings. Here she lived a quiet life, alternating with brief bursts of London (about as much as she could take) – teaching in London at the Royal Academy Schools, and the City and Guilds of London Art School. In the 1980s Sarah and Chris moved to Gloucestershire to their dream house in an idyllic setting on the banks on the River Severn. During this time she continued her involvement with the world of wood engraving, including her Chairmanship of The Society of Wood Engravers 1995-98. She exhibited in many solo and group exhibitions, including exhibitions with Chris (also a talented print maker) and her brother Christopher. Sarah also taught short courses, including at West Dean College, where her influential teaching brought many people to the art. An unassuming, modest person, she was widely considered to be one of the most distinctive and influential engravers of her generation. This led to her work being exhibited widely and now held in permanent collections of museums around the world.

In Gloucestershire, Sarah fully embraced country life and became involved with the local Women's Institute and other village societies, also supplying fruit and veg for the



local market – gardening was another great passion in her life.

Sadly, Chris died in 2015 and life slowed down for Sarah after this, although she continued to engrave.

Despite suffering from ill-health in recent years, she continued to enjoy outings with friends and family, and visits from friends who would keep her up to date with local news and gossip.

She is sorely missed by her surviving children, Sophie and Jess and grandchildren, Tom and Beth. ☹️

**Jess van Niekerk** (daughter)

## David Redford Warwick (1940-47)

David was born prematurely on 22 February 1930 in Turner's Wood, Barnet. The second of twins, he was under 2 lbs in weight and had to be carried around by the nurse as he was so tiny.

After spending a lot of his formative years between London and Studland in Dorset, David and his twin brother, Christopher, soon followed the family tradition and went first to Dunhurst from September 1940 and then Bedales from September 1942. His parents, **William Turner Warwick (staff 1909-11)** and **Joan Warwick (née Harris, 1907-13)** met at Bedales. His eldest brother **Richard (1938-42)** and his sister **Shirley (1938-40)** had been to Bedales.

After he left school, his father found him a job at Fitzroy Metals making

artificial limbs, but he soon found that he preferred other forms of engineering. His good friend from Bedales **Peter Lean (1944-47)**, helped him find a job at Connaught Cars in Guildford. Whilst working there, he met Colin Chapman, who was just starting up Lotus and got in on the ground floor. He became an invaluable part of the team. Traveling extensively in Europe and meeting people such as Mike Costin and Keith Duckworth (of Cosworth engine fame) and racing drivers such as Graham Hill.

He eventually left Lotus to start up his own racing team and formed Dual Rear Wheel (DRW) racing with a close friend who he met while at Lotus, Jack Murrell. See above one of their early cars, the MK 6 imp (yellow car).



He then went on to build around the Ford engine racing in Formula Ford for many years in the 1960s under name DRW – Ford.



David Redford Warwick (right) whilst at Team Lotus.

Eventually it became more expensive to make racing cars and he formed another company, DRW Engineering, repairing cars instead, especially Fords, and had a garage in London originally in Shaftesbury Mews but eventually in Highgate. When London became too much for him, he moved to the Gloucester area and started to build trailers under the brand name DRW Trailers.

He was taken ill in early 2017 and never really recovered. He was moved to a home in Mitcheldean in July 2017, but was taken ill again in February 2018 and was moved to Gloucester Royal Hospital where he sadly died on 27 February 2018. ☹️

**Zoe Warwick** (niece)

## Ruth Whiting (staff 1963-2000)



For many Bedalians, Ruth Whiting was the best teacher they ever had. As Head of History she had some notable predecessors: after teaching at Bedales in the 1950s **Roy Wake (staff 1949-59)** went on to become an HMI and eventually Chairman of Governors; in 1967 **John Slater (staff 1952-67)** also left to become an HMI and later a visiting professor at the Institute of Education, London. Ruth chose to stay at Bedales and develop her unique qualities as a historian, a teacher and a leading member of the community: as such, she was an inspiration to students for over 50 years.

Ruth was a graduate of St Anne's College, Oxford, and Oxford remained dear to her heart throughout her life. When **Tim Slack (staff 1962-74)** became Head of Bedales in 1962, she was one of his first appointments. It was an exciting time when the school was expanding, questioning and re-evaluating itself, and the atmosphere matched Ruth's own intellectual energy and enthusiasm.

Like Tim, she was committed to the theory that serious academic education could flourish in a liberal and humane environment, and her appointment as Head of History in 1967 gave her the means to put it into practice. She relished the critical analysis of evidence and argument; her knowledge of early modern English History in particular, was outstanding, but she was extremely well read in other periods, and to many it seemed that she would have easily held her own on the staff of a top university. She introduced pupils to local history, and to the history of Bedales. She eagerly embraced new media and technology. She refused to rely on standard textbooks and encouraged her pupils to read and compare different accounts critically; and above all she taught them how to think rigorously and to write clearly.

Anyone with such an outgoing personality, intellect and energy, inevitably made a big impact on the school at large. This was particularly true in staff meetings: of Ruth it could rightly be said that she always had something to say. But underlying everything she did was her belief in the value of Bedales as a community and of the importance of the individual in that community. Her contributions were endless, and whenever she took on a responsibility she did so with fierce determination. She could appear formidable and in her prime, with her elegant wardrobe complete with menacing high heels, she cut an unmistakeable figure. But those who knew her well also saw a sensitivity and an awareness of vulnerability, and her instinctive concern for others, her kindness, and her generosity were also a fundamental part of her nature. Her long and well-crafted reports showed an extraordinary awareness of the

individuality and needs of her pupils. She felt a personal responsibility for all those she taught and wanted them to aspire to the same intellectual excitement and fulfilment that she herself found in history. She could be a hard taskmaster – her marginal comments on essays included the withering and the explosive – but she also knew how to encourage and to communicate her lifelong passion for her subject.

When she retired from teaching Ruth maintained her links with Bedalians as an invigilator and undertook research to commemorate the lives of OBs who died in the First World War. She also uncovered the role that Bedales had played in the suffragist movement. These activities occupied her right up to the time of her death. Her funeral, held in a packed Steep parish church, was a moving occasion, and gave many an awareness of her as a member of a family and as a godmother, and of her roots in Lancashire. The celebration of her life, held in an equally full Lupton Hall, enabled former pupils and colleagues to pay tribute, and to wonder whether she would not have been cross at being the object of so much attention.

It is sad to think of what Bedales has lost. No one knew more than Ruth about the history of the school and its rationale; no one was more loyal and more outspoken in defending the best that Bedales has to offer and in reminding others of its unique heritage. Her legacy is a rich one: in the importance that she gave to the role of history in Bedales, and to generations of students, many of whom went on to achieve high academic success, and on whom she was such a strong and lasting influence. 🌹

**Philip Parsons (staff 1979-2016)**



# BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

## Births

**Nico** and **Nadine Ball**, a daughter  
Adriana Eva, on 2 January 2019

**Esther Biddle** and Ben Scriven, a son,  
Huck, on 28 February 2017

**Berni Johnen-Baxter** and Karl Baxter,  
a daughter, Clara Fern, on 6 July 2018

**Adam** and **Olivia Kent (née  
Montgomerie)**, a daughter, India Elizabeth,  
on 2 August 2018

**Andrew** and **Aideen Steed**, a daughter,  
Sorcha Ava, on 16 April 2018

**Sophie Waring** and Jonathan Roberts,  
a daughter, Luna, on the 4 May 2018

**Lauren (née Cross)** and Stephen Vasil,  
twins, Zinnia and Alexander, on  
26 October 2018

## Engagements

**Nathalie Mares** and Andrew MacCallum

**Joanna Webster** and David Jones

**Oscar Braun-White** and Georgia Hills

## Marriages

**Eleanor Bell** and Andrew Aston on  
30 June 2018

**Stephen Davidson** and Lauren Rowden  
on 5 May 2018

**Piper Griffin** and Dr Seth Osborne in  
July 2018

**Kitty Jenks** and Charlie Van Straubenzee  
on 4 August 2018

**Francesca Pheasant** and Stewart Clayton  
on 15 September 2018

**Joanna Tomlinson** and Neil Ferris on  
2 January 2019

## Deaths

**Karin Antonini (née Barnsley)** on  
24 December 2018. Bedales 1939-43

**Susan Elizabeth Bates (née Pritt)** on  
21 February 2016. Bedales 1941-43

**John Batstone** on 23 December 2017.  
Staff 1968-93

**George Bird** on 6 October 2018.  
Staff 1962-88

**David Boswell** on 1 February 2018.  
Bedales 1935-40

**Jeanne-Marie Dolmetsch** on 29 October  
2018. Staff

**John Gordon Bray** on 7 March 2018.  
Bedales 1943-48

**Margaret Wendy Brownsort (née Melville)**  
on 20 January 2018. Bedales 1937-43

**John Cousin** on 24 August 2018.  
Bedales 1943-49

**Joan Mary Cullen** on 8 February 2016.  
Bedales 1942-47

**Polly d'Abo** on 16 December 2018.  
Bedales 1997-2001

**Leo Singto Gauvain** on 17 December  
2017. Bedales 2008-12

**Margaret Holland (née Green, formerly  
de Bary)** on 26 September 2018.  
Bedales 1939-42

**John Howard** on 19 August 2018.  
Bedales 1935-40

**Katherine Krabel (née Allcard)** on  
4 June 2017. Bedales 1980-87

**Robert (Sandy) Mackilligin** on  
14 January 2018. Bedales 1943-49

**Hilary Mitchell (née Haden, formerly  
Elphick)** on 8 April 2018. Bedales  
1936-42

**Mirabel Edith Osler (née Birnstingl)** on  
20 October 2016. Bedales 1938-40

**Amanda Pasquier (née Robertson)** on  
17 December 2018. Bedales 1950-56

**Martyn Edward Pease** on 5 April 2018.  
Bedales 1939-40

**Felix Arnold Edward Pirani** on  
31 December 2015. Bedales 1939-40

**John Rawson-Smith** on 8 October 2018.  
Bedales 1946-50

**Anne Shirley Reed (née Charlton)** in  
2018. Bedales 1949-55

**Virginia Helen Renshaw (née  
Nagelschmidt)** on 24 October 2016.  
Bedales 1950-56

**David Richards** on 30 July 2018. Bedales  
1955-60

**Helena Robinson (née Seymour)** on  
7 July 2018. Bedales 1938-40

**John Rogers** on 26 July 2018. Staff  
1975-86

**John Redcliffe Salaman** on 16 February  
2018. Bedales 1949-57

**Geoffrey Spencer** on 12 September  
2018. Bedales 1939-48

**Hazel Straker** on 21 October 2018.  
Bedales 1921-38

**Patricia Straker (née Melville)** on  
20 August 2017. Bedales 1936-41

**Jean Symons (née Layton)** on  
29 October 2018. Bedales 1940-44

**Jean Trubshawe (née Wood)** on  
23 June 2018. Bedales 1934-41

**Sarah Compton van Niekerk (née Hall)**  
on 4 June 2018. Bedales 1945-50

**David Redford Warwick** on 24 February  
2018. Bedales 1940-47

**Klaus Weisselberg** on 8 February 2018.  
Bedales 1946-51

**Anne Ruth Whiting** on 13 April 2018.  
Staff 1963-2000

**Charmion Murtagh Woods (née  
Croccombe)** on 9 November 2017.  
Bedales 1934-34

# UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2018

## Class of 2018

Name	Destination	Course
Robben Alier	University of Sussex	Psychology
Ethan Altern-Bance	Solent University	Film Production
Josephine Binney	Royal Drawing School	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Maud Bonham Carter	Loughborough University	Sport and Exercise Psychology
Finnian Davidson	London College of Creative Media	Music Performance and Production
Isabella Dunn	Arts University Bournemouth	Fashion
Isabella Edgeworth	University of Edinburgh	Classics
Lucy Ellis	Yale University	Liberal Arts majoring in Modern languages
Scovia England	Brunel University London	Occupational Therapy
Ellie Evans	Goldsmiths, University of London	Music
Georgina Fairs	University of Exeter	History
Robert Garnett	City and Guilds, London	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
James Grout-Smith	Guildhall School of Music and Drama	Electronic Music
Bart Hill-Reid	City, University of London	Investment and Financial Risk Management
Isadora Houghton	University of Exeter	English with Study in North America
Sophie Jarrett	University of Leeds	Environment and Business
Nizatel Kaliyeva	University of the Arts London	Fashion Buying and Merchandising
Alice Lester	University of Plymouth	Psychology
Shanise Liang	King's College London	Music
Tallula MacIlwaine	University of the Arts London	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Lauren MacMillan	University of Brighton	Applied Psychology
Maisie McGregor	University of Edinburgh	History
Ollie Meredith	Guildhall School of Music and Drama	Jazz
Isobel Milford	Keele University	Physics with Astrophysics
Abigail Morris	King's College London	English with Film Studies
Will Morrison	University of Amsterdam	European Studies
Joseph Murray	Glasgow School of Art	Architecture
Scheherazade Piddiu	Greater Brighton Metropolitan College	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Nancy Pilkington	Royal Drawing School	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Verity Platt	Manchester Metropolitan University	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
George Richardson	Kingston University	Product and Furniture Design
Anastasia Romanova	Goldsmiths, University of London	Design
Phineas Sajous	Kingston University	Product and Furniture Design
Richard Sweet	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	Percussion and Drum Kit
Scarlet Topley	University of the Arts London	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Leonie von Geyre	City and Guilds, London	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Marcus Walker	University of Leeds	Art and Design
Purdey Williams	Royal Drawing School	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Alannah Wilson	University of the Arts London	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Peifing Wu	Birkbeck, University of London	Global Politics and International Relations
Siqi Wu	Manchester Metropolitan University	Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
Yuanchen Yao	University of Manchester	Japanese Studies



## Class of 2017

Name	Destination	Course
Izzy Adams	Loughborough University	Fine Art
Tobias Andruskevicius	Manchester Metropolitan University	Three Dimensional Design
Ella Bardoe	King's College London	Film Studies
Anna Baring	University of Oxford	French
Molly Beardall	Falmouth University	Illustration
Molly Brooks	University of Exeter	English and Drama
Nicholas Buckham	Portsmouth University	Biochemistry
Polly Caines	University of Exeter	Zoology
Yoji Caird	University of the Arts London	Product Design
Finn Carter	Goldsmiths, University of London	Music
Noah Clarke Hall	University of Manchester	Physics
Lauren Clift	University of Bristol	Social Policy and Politics
Millicent Clough	Oxford Brookes University	Foundation in Art
Eliza Denton	University of Liverpool	Sociology with Spanish
Lachlan Dix	Condé Nast College	Foundation in Fashion Communication
Scott Emerson	Instituto Marangoni, London	Fashion
Poppy Enfield	University of Sussex	Politics and International Relations
Celia Fraser	Newcastle University	Ancient History and Archaeology
Imogen Gibbon	University of the Arts London	Fashion Marketing
Jemima Goodfellow	University of the West of England, Bristol	Graphic Design
Jesse Goring	Manchester Metropolitan University	Hospitality Business Management
Harry Green	Newcastle University	Civil Engineering
Daisy Hannam	Condé Nast College	Fashion Buying
Sam Harding	University of Cambridge	Human, Social and Political Sciences
Sophie Jenkins	Glasgow School of Art	Fashion Design
Rebecca Lawson	University of Brighton	Business Management with Marketing
Josh Mazas	University of Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
George McMenemy	University of Sussex	Politics
Elmo Meath Baker	University of Manchester	Music
Jamie Murphy	University of Oxford	English Language and Literature
Raphaella Parker	Falmouth University	Film
Poppy Pierce	Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London	Fashion Knitwear
George Robson	Nottingham Trent University	Fashion Buying
Ollie Shinder	Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London	Fashion and Marketing
Holly Stevens	Bristol Old Vic Theatre School	Production Arts, Stage and Screen
Abigail Upton	University of the Arts London	Textile Design
Bertie Warner	Camberwell, University of the Arts London	Illustration
Cy Worthington	King's College London	English
Fengren Yang	University of Washington	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Maya Ziv	University of San Diego	Liberal Arts

## Class of 2016

Name	Destination	Course
Sophia Berger	King's College London	Spanish and Portuguese
Harriet Kelsey	King's College London	Classical Studies with English
Harriet King	London South Bank University	Psychology
Izzy Rollason	King's College London	Global Health and Social Medicine

## Class of 2015

Name	Destination	Course
Ochre Seagrim	University College London	Education Studies



*The Old Bedales, summer 1896.*



*Students visit Old Bedales, summer 2018.*







