

OLD BEDALLAN

NEWSLETTER 2021



BEDALES

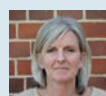






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Thank you to **Matthew Rice (1975-80)** for the front cover drawing.

# WELCOME

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

This year has been different and challenging. Our newsletter illustrates that even in 2020 life at Bedales retained its usual inventiveness and positive approach which underpins so much of the three schools' ethos.

Spring term ended early with lockdown and a growing awareness of the potential dangers posed by the COVID-19 virus. Remote learning was the order of the day during the Summer term, but students returned for the Autumn term and school life and teaching continued suitably socially distanced. You can read more about how this worked out on pages 7-10.

Regardless of lockdown and curtailed social interaction the school has maintained its outward, global focus; a number of you will have been co-signatories on the letter to the Head (full text available in the June e-bulletin) about increasing critical assessment of equality, diversity and privilege across the curriculum, and many of you will have joined the fundraising effort for the Rural Refugee Network in a combination of virtual and actual activity – find more on these events on pages 34 and 8.

Several OB events did actually take place early in the year; there was another successful Under 25s drinks gathering in January at Bar Topolski in London and two careers events on Business/Consultancy (see picture below) and Third Sector, whilst a third event in Fashion/Art/Design went ahead virtually. Beyond Bedales careers events went virtual but as ever the Bedales Association is so grateful to all those OBs who give their time to help students in 6.1 and 6.2 find their way through the post-Bedales life choices. You can find out more on pages 4 and 5.

Parents' Day was virtual and many of the music, dance and drama contributions can still be seen at [bedales.org.uk/parentsday](https://bedales.org.uk/parentsday). Reunions in person did not happen and sadly the Bedales Dog Show, OB Charity Football Match, Stansted Players production, and Stoner Week cricket were cancelled.

The Steering Group did not meet in person this year. The Group, and the wider Bedales community, suffered a huge loss in March when Philip Parsons died. He was

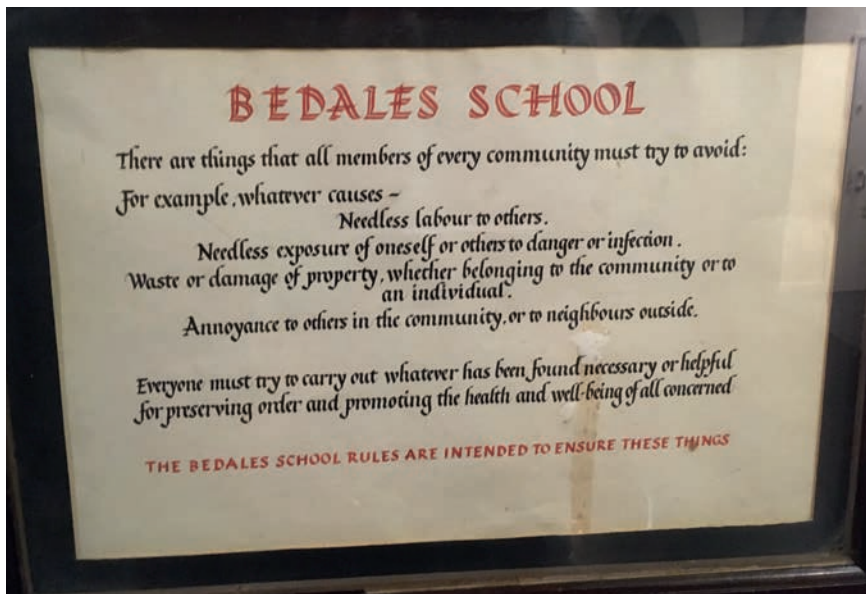
unstinting in his contribution to the Bedales Association, not only through his work for the Steering Group but also for his real and sympathetic individual interactions during his many years as part of the community. You can read his obituary on page 70.

Communications with OBs and the wider community are changing; more communication through social media and half-termly e-bulletins. However, your emails, letters or calls to the Alumni Office are always very welcome. There have also been some changes to the personnel in the External Relations office; sadly Leana Seriau was furloughed shortly after returning from maternity leave and has since left. We are very grateful for all her work over the years for the BA. Alex Beckmann, who covered Leana's maternity leave and left at the end of it, has returned to the school in an admissions role. As ever on behalf of the BA membership I would like to thank Rob and Mary in the External Relations office for holding the fort and keeping in touch with the OB community. 🌻





## Magnus Bashaarat, Head



Thomas Hardy's poem, *In Time of 'The Breaking of Nations'* was written in 1915, one year into the war to end all wars that the jingoists had predicted would be over by Christmas. For a gloomy old soul who had eschewed writing fiction after the death of his first wife, Emma, in 1912, Hardy's poem does quite a good job searching for reassurance, continuity and signs of life at home, against the background of death and devastation abroad.

"Only thin smoke without flame  
From the heaps of couch-grass;  
Yet this will go onward the same  
Though Dynasties pass."

The parochial, local and seasonal offer reassurance at a time of national and international conflict and rupture. This has certainly been my experience over this past year, looking out over the orchard for hours, days and months, from 18 March, when Gavin Williamson managed to achieve what the Spanish 'Flu and the Great War hadn't, and close Bedales. Apple blossom, then trees in full leaf singed yellow by unrelenting sun, then apples growing small and hard, then falling to the sodden ground in autumn, and now trees stripped bare

of leaves like crooked hands reaching to a slate grey sky.

We managed to get to the end of the Autumn term without closing the school, with infection kept more or less at the school gates, and not ripping through the student and staff communities as many other schools had experienced. In 1913, a year before Hardy wrote his poem, Bedales celebrated its 21st birthday, and Badley had 'rehearsed what he thought the school was about: Health, Freedom, Comradeship, Service, Religion' (Wake and Denton; 1993). The 1923 Bedales' rules that we file past outside the quad on our way to the dining room are the closest thing I feel we have to Moses' tablets. The second rule shows Badley's awareness of how quickly disease can be transmitted in a school environment; perhaps he had recent recollections of 'flu outbreaks at Rugby. My own experience at prep school, where we slept in dormitories of 45 with no curtains or carpets, was that once patient zero went down with 'flu, we tended to follow Kissinger's domino theory in alphabetical order, which was how the beds were spaced, with no deviation; Atkins, Barker, Barry, Bashaarat, Beach, Brett, two metres

between beds would have heralded something approaching privacy.

But in 1913 'Health' and 'Freedom' were first and second, and the students' experience in 2020 has been that the primacy of the first has compromised the second. Joan King, who came to teach at Bedales in 1921, recalled rules about 'when to get up, when to have cold baths, when to have meals, what shoes were worn... what and when to wear in the way of uniform, when to take a siesta (which had to be silent), when to do games, when to have showers, and even how to do your hair (Mrs Badley did not approve of side partings or slides) (Wake and Denton; 1993).

We don't do cold baths now, but we do have to manage mealtimes in COVID pods, and the games programme too has had to happen within year group pods and boarders and day students separate too. Our later start to the academic day has happened, but COVID restrictions have meant that the full benefit across all the Blocks has yet to be fully felt. So we still decide when students get up, but at least it's later than used to be the case.

Bedales' creative output in our remote learning term was extraordinary, with the end of term finale being a brilliantly engineered Rock Show, bringing together past and present performers from all over the world in a wonderful evening of collaboration. The collective re-interpretation of Fleetwood Mac's *The Chain* has become one of my Bedales Vimeo go-to highlights, made even more poignant this year as Peter Green, founder member of the group died in July.

The school's full, busy life has continued unabated, following the Summer term of remote learning, and then socially distanced from September, but the output and enjoyment have been undimmed. The richness and variety of experience amongst the extended OB community is captured in these pages, and I hope you enjoy reading them. 🍷



# OB EVENTS – REVIEW OF 2020

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## Ann Donnelly talk on Oswald Powell – 16 January 2020

"It is never good for the governed or for the government that injustice should be tolerated without protest," began Oswald Powell in his letter to the Hants & Sussex News in 1913. At the time he was fighting alongside Winifred Powell in solidarity with all women, in a society that took women's work, money and lives whilst refusing them the right to be seen as people. The Powells would protest this injustice for five more years before any UK women had voting rights. They confronted the tax authorities, took local action in Petersfield and international action at a Budapest conference, and of course, tried to model social change in their work at Bedales. This collaborative, action-driven spirit seems to have been at the heart of the man who co-founded Bedales, and certainly put life into the ideas of



*l to r: Magnus Bashaarat, Ann Donnelly and Bedales librarians Ian Douglas and Matilda McMorro*

John Badley, whose name we might be more familiar with. This is why it was a privilege to hear about Powell from a woman who knew him – his

granddaughter, Ann Donnelly. Ann gave a talk on this unique man in the Lupton Hall with insight and detail nobody else could have. (See her article on page 20).



## OB Drinks: Bar Topolski – 30 January 2020

We were pleased to catch up with 50 Old Bedalians in London at a reunion for 18-25 year olds. OBs gathered at Bar Topolski in Waterloo, where they shared post-school experiences with each other and caught up with some of their former teachers over drinks and tapas. Enjoying drinks with OBs were Gordon Dale and Nick Meigh in addition to Alex Beckmann and Rob Reynolds from the External Relations team.

## Beyond Bedales: Business and Consultancy – 31 January 2020

The second Beyond Bedales career event took place for current students. OBs **Charlotte Glass (2008-10)**, **Robin Nuttall (1981-88)** and **Ollie Waterhouse (2005-08)**, were joined by a friend of the school and three current parents on the panel. Organisations represented included Google, IBM and McKinsey & Company and the event covered careers in consulting, marketing, law, finance, IT and research. The Q&A session involved students asking key questions about the importance of sustainability in business strategies and the future impact of Artificial Intelligence. The evening was a great success with OBs offering such inspiration and enthusiastic support for current students.



### Beyond Bedales: Third Sector – 28 February 2020

Speakers including **Katie Schuster (2000-10)**, Communications Executive at Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and parent Alex Mayhook-Walker, Partner at Citrus Advisors; Special Advisor, Africa Oil Corp spoke on the theme of sustainability, renewable energy, responsibly sourcing gems and oil, fundraising and working in communications for non-profits. There were questions on the change in demand for renewable energy, opportunities for apprenticeships and how they think that has changed in recent years. The event was a great success and we were pleased to have another fantastic range of OBs to share their knowledge and experiences with students.

### Beyond Bedales: Art, Fashion and Design – 15 May 2020

We held our first virtual Beyond Bedales careers event, covering the fashion and design industries. Students spent an hour and a half listening to and engaging with our sector experts: **Zoe Berman (1998-2003)**, who is a founding director of UK based design group Studio Berman; **Juliette Bigley (1991-96)**, who had an interesting career path to her life now as a sculptor; before which she

had been a musician and worked in healthcare; **Matthew Shave (1984-86)**, an acclaimed photographer of 25 years whose lucky break came when he submitted his portfolio to a prestigious magazine; **Alexander Bond (1994-99)** and Fraser Park (current parent), both of whom work for The Business of Fashion and discussed the alternative roles within the fashion world.

### Digital Rock Show – 2 July 2020

On the penultimate night of term, the community was treated to a very special online Summer Rock Show, led by Head of Contemporary Music, Neil Hornsby, and with a number of OB guest appearances for which the school was hugely grateful. Do have a listen to the original Bedales talent... and some old favourites at [vimeo.com/bedaleschool](https://vimeo.com/bedaleschool)

### Product Design collaboration with architect Patrick Lewis – November 2020



6.1 Product Design students started a new architecture-based project to design a new stand-alone learning space situated on the school estate. The project was kick-started in collaboration with architect **Patrick Lewis (1992-97)** who offered an authentic, professional and objective perspective. Head of Design, Alex McNaughton launched the project alongside Patrick via an online video conference where they set out the constraints of the task and allocated each of the students a prominent historical designer and two driving materials to focus research and to use as inspiration for the designs and concepts. Patrick later visited school for one-to-one COVID-safe critiques with each student where they presented him with their research, showed him initial material investigations and discussed some early design intentions. Students were very grateful for Patrick's help and industry insights. 🌟



# REUNIONS

We were very sad last year when we realised the June 10, 25 and 40 year reunions could not take place due to the closure of all schools in the Summer term. The reunions would have traditionally taken place on Parents' Day (which was a virtual event in 2020 – see page 8). In addition, we would have liked to host a 50 year

reunion in September which was also unable to take place due to the COVID restrictions.

At the time of writing, Parents' Day is scheduled for Saturday 26 June 2021, but we are unable to confirm any arrangements for the 2021 reunions. As soon as we can, we will put in place the arrangements to re-instate last year's

cancelled events as well as this year's reunions. The years affected are:

2020 reunions:	2021 reunions:
----------------	----------------

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| ■ Class of 2010 | ■ Class of 2011   |
| ■ Class of 1995 | ■ Class of 1996   |
| ■ Class of 1980 | ■ Class of 1981   |
| ■ Class of 1970 | ■ Class of 1971 🍁 |





# A YEAR AT BEDALES

*A selection of stories to give a flavour of life at Bedales in 2020*



## **JANUARY – Bedales joins Round Square; international network of like-minded schools**

*By Al McConville, Director of Learning and Innovation*

We have received the very good news that Bedales has been accepted into the Round Square organisation. Round Square is an international network of schools inspired by the educational philosophy of Kurt Hahn, who had corresponded with John Badley, and who himself founded schools based on experiential learning principles. The Bedales ethos has a great deal of resonance with the six 'IDEALS' of Round Square, which are Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership and Service, and we plan to use our membership of the network to learn from and teach other member schools about how to enact these ideals even more successfully than we (or they) currently do.

## **FEBRUARY – *Why is life the way it is?* – Professor Nick Lane at annual Eckersley Lecture**

*By Richard Sinclair, Head of Science*

The annual Eckersley Lecture was given by Professor Nick Lane of University College London (UCL). Nick Lane is an evolutionary biochemist who tackles some of the most fundamental questions in biology, and his lecture explored the theme of *Why is life the way it is?* The underlying science was at times quite challenging, but Professor Lane adeptly presented it in clear and manageable portions, carrying the audience through the work of many great scientists (including Peter Mitchell, Carl Woese and John Walker), as well as his own research at UCL. Professor Lane was keen to stress just how much is not known in this field, and there are many questions for which we simply do not have an answer; yet – there is plenty of work for the biologists of tomorrow to get to grips with! This was another outstanding Eckersley Lecture and we are very grateful to Professor Lane for taking the time to visit Bedales and deliver it.

## **MARCH – Singing Evensong at Queens' College, Cambridge**

*By Sampson Keung, 6.2 and Music Don*

The Bedales Choir had the opportunity to go to the University of Cambridge and join the Choir from Queens' College for their Evensong service in the college chapel. It was a wonderful experience to sing in a beautiful chapel with fantastic acoustics and such a rich history. Repertoires from the evening included Dyson's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D*, as well as Haydn's *Insanae et vanae curae* and music by William Smith and Richard Farrant which was composed in the Elizabethan period. The service was conducted by Queens' College Director of Music, Ralph Allwood MBE, who, some will remember, visited Bedales in October 2019 for a sight-reading workshop. As well as the Evensong service, we had the chance to take a tour around King's College, Cambridge with Old Bedalian **Josh Mazas (2007-15)**, who is studying Spanish and Portuguese there.



## **APRIL – Supporting the local community**

From an essential supplies shop to a mobile library service, staff and students at Bedales have rallied to support the local community during the Coronavirus crisis. As the UK entered lockdown on 23 March, Bedales' Head of Catering, Matt Potts responded to news that many members of the local community and staff were having trouble getting hold of household staples in their local supermarkets by opening up the school's larder to set up a supplies shop. Stocking a range of essentials – from dried pasta and tinned tomatoes to fresh fruit and vegetables – as well as offering individually packed frozen meals prepared by the school's Catering department,



the shop predominantly serves residents in Steep and nearby Steep Marsh, making around 10 to 20 deliveries per day, six days a week. The statistics speak for themselves – since the supplies shop launched on 24 March, 616 chicken breasts, 5040 eggs, 312 loaves of bread and 460 frozen meals have been dispatched.

### MAY – #SyriatoSteep – We've arrived!

By Rob Reynolds, Director of External Relations

Thank you so much to all who joined in our #SyriatoSteep challenge in this final week before the half term break. We have been overwhelmed by the support and energy out there. All contributions helped us head closer to the target – we thought covering the 4,066 km distance from Idlib to Bedales in a week would be a big challenge, but with your help, we had it nailed on Wednesday. Today (Friday) is our final day and we have already surpassed 6,000 kms. At time of writing, £5,105 has been raised for the Rural Refugee Network and John Badley Foundation, two charities helping transform the lives of people who face severe challenges, and many of whom are in extremely vulnerable situations. Thank you to those who have already generously supported.

### JUNE – New issue of Poet's Stone poetry magazine

By Berit Pill, 6.2

Every year a collection of beautiful original Bedalian writing is published in *The Poet's Stone* magazine. This year is a little different: owing to the lockdown, we have put together the work online. We were able to create a great finished piece, thanks to the considerable efforts of all who contributed. As ever, the contributions from students across the school years created a variety of topics including some linked to our current circumstances. The written work is complemented by artwork from Georgie Du Boulay and photos by Alex Campbell. We would love for you to read the wonderful hard work that the students have put in. [bedales.org.uk/parentsday](https://bedales.org.uk/parentsday)

### JULY – Virtual Parents' Day

Parents' Day is our annual day of celebration of our students' creativity and abilities. This year, however, we know we won't be together on the Orchard. What we do have, are many of those events and opportunities students and parents have come to love. Students and staff have worked hard this term to create this year's digital offering and that concerted industry has given rise to a wonderfully creative output. Throughout the day, you'll be able to drop in on the art and design exhibition and marvel at the ways students have used

raw materials to bring out their inner possibilities. We have two dance performances: *Household* and *Site-Specific Solos*. Both these films reflect the creativity and innovation that our dancers have shown while being in the confines of their homes and gardens. *The Ash Girl* (our Summer Production) will be shown, reimagined as a site-specific, animated radio play performed by Block 3 and 4 students. Our Music Concert showcases the skill and enthusiasm of our musicians, and the annual student-directed production is reinvented as a film combining visuals, poetry, and performance. All of these performances are available on our school video channel [vimeo.com/bedaleschool](https://vimeo.com/bedaleschool)







### **AUGUST – Bedales students progress to top global universities – update**

Students at Bedales are celebrating securing places at some of the most prestigious educational institutions following the publication of A Level results this year with 31 students set to study at QS World top 100 universities. This year's high achievers include: Toby Fairs, who achieved four A\*s in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, as well as an A grade in his Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), and will now go on to study Chemistry at the University of St Andrews; Head Student and academic scholar Norpell Wilberforce, who gained three A\*s in Psychology, English Literature and Religious Studies, plus a further A\* in his EPQ; and Freya Leonard, who also achieved three A\*s in Art, Mathematics and English Literature. An academic and art scholar, Freya was one of only two Bedales students selected to attend the Round Square International Conference in India last year. Other students achieving the highest grades include academic scholar Thomasina Rowntree, whose three A\*s in Latin, English Literature and History have earned her an offer of a place to read English Literature at Newcastle University; and music scholar Mary Wang, who gained two A\*s in Mathematics and History and a D I in Music Pre-U and will read Music at Durham University.

Read more: [bedales.org.uk/news/bedales-students-progress-top-global-universities-update](https://bedales.org.uk/news/bedales-students-progress-top-global-universities-update)

### **SEPTEMBER – National award for partnership work**

*By Rob Reynolds, Director of External Relations*

Bedales has won a national award for its partnership work with The Key Education Centre, a pupil referral unit in

Gosport. The Independent Schools' AMCIS Awards recognise and celebrate campaigns which have made a significant impact on schools and their communities. The aim of the collaboration with The Key has been to develop a mutually beneficial relationship. For Bedales students, the aim has been to broaden their understanding of different social and economic circumstances from their own and associated educational challenges. For students at The Key, the aim has been to give them experiences to which they would not ordinarily have access, developing their vocational skills and extending the range of future opportunities. Staff at The Key identified a group of young people to work with Bedales and develop vocational skills. Bedales Outdoor Work has been the site of weekly visits, with students from The Key taking part in activities including blacksmithing, animal husbandry, pizza baking, and woodwork – supervised by Bedales staff, and often alongside Bedales students.

### **OCTOBER – New courses update: Music Technology, Sport BTEC and Living with the Land**

One of the most exciting things about the Music Technology A Level that we are now offering is that a significant amount of the course can be specifically tailored to each individual student's musical passions. Whilst the final practical projects in 6.2 are set to structured briefs, there is a lot of leeway within that structure to explore different genres of music. So far this term we have listened to and analysed lots of music recorded by successful Old Bedalians who started their musical journeys in the very studio our current students have their lessons in.





In the new Sport BTEC introduced in September, students are studying the sports coaching and development options and have started by looking at the roles and responsibilities of a sports coach and what legislation and school policy affects them as a coach. There have been some case studies of coaching in action at the top level as students learn about coaching theories before beginning to develop their own style through planning, preparation and delivery of coaching sessions after half term.

The Living with the Land course aims to equip students with the necessary practical skills to live lightly off the land, and enable them to look at the issues surrounding the environment and our impact upon it. It is a natural progression from our Outdoor Work Bedales Assessed Course, however it goes into far greater depth and includes significant self-directed work, including a portfolio and a 'major' project in the final year.

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### **NOVEMBER – Multidisciplinary performer kicks off new Sixth Form Wellbeing programme**

*By Kirsten McLintock, Head of Wellbeing & PSHE*

The new Sixth Form Wellbeing programme has launched with a performance and Q&A in the Theatre with multidisciplinary writer and performer, Tanaka Mhishi. Showcasing current and past work, Tanaka's visit gave students the opportunity to gain insight into a career which blends social activism, artistic practice and independent research. Touching on issues surrounding activism, masculinity and sexual violence, Tanaka shared stories designed to make the world a kinder place.

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### **DECEMBER – Christmas cards for sale**

Congratulations to Block 5 student, Stella Miller; whose artwork has been chosen to feature on the Bedales Christmas card this year. ❄️





# THE TRIALS OF COMRADE DUCH

## Nic Dunlop (1986-88)



Photo by Nic Dunlop/Panos

Comrade Duch, Pol Pot's chief executioner and former head of the Khmer Rouge secret police died last September. He was 77. The first former Khmer Rouge to be tried and convicted at the UN-backed court in Cambodia, he was serving a life term for his role as commandant of a prison known as S-21, where more than 12,000 men, women and children were tortured and killed. Between 1975 and 1979 as many as two million people died under the Khmer Rouge.

Today the prison is a museum where thousands of mug shots of prisoners adorn the walls as they arrived at S-21. It is these images that have come to represent the horrors of Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia. Ousted by Vietnam in 1979, the Khmer Rouge fought a guerrilla war that continued until 1998 when they were finally defeated by the Cambodian government. Those responsible for the killings had never faced international justice.

Towards the end of the war, in 1998, I took to carrying Duch's photograph from the prison (taken when the Khmer Rouge were in power) to see

if anyone recognised him. If there was one man who could shed light on this period, I believed, it was Duch; he was a key link between the Khmer Rouge leadership and the killing. I never expected I'd actually find him.

Then, in early 1999, I hitched a ride with Canadian sappers into a former Khmer Rouge zone. The war between the Cambodian government and the Khmer Rouge had just ended. I wandered around taking photographs when a small, wiry man walked up to me and introduced himself. I was stunned. It was Duch.

I returned several times to meet him. Finally, with another journalist, we confronted Duch and he confessed to his role as executioner, establishing the chain of command and revealing that the Khmer Rouge had deliberately planned mass murder. A born-again Christian, Duch expressed what appeared to be genuine remorse saying, 'I feel very bad about the killings ... there were many who were innocent'. As a result of his extraordinary confession, he was arrested and taken to Phnom Penh to await trial.

Cambodia is a country plagued by violence. Many saw the UN-backed tribunal as a first step toward ending Cambodia's 'culture of impunity'. Human rights workers have investigated hundreds of political murders, but no one has ever been convicted. Newspapers often carry reports of 'people's courts' where mobs act as police, judge and executioner, where suspected thieves are caught by angry mobs and killed. This rage is a measure of the frustration of a people who have never known any form of justice – a lack of accountability many consider an enduring legacy of Khmer Rouge rule.

At his trial in 2009, Duch's sentence was read out. He was found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity and sentenced to 35 years in prison. Prosecutors had sought a 40-year sentence but, because of mitigating circumstances – time already served in prison, his willingness to assist the court, his stated remorse and his repeated apologies to the victims throughout the trial – his sentence was reduced to 19 years.





After the sentencing, the media rushed to get the responses of survivors. Many saw the verdict as a betrayal. They were outraged that a man who ordered the killing of so many thousands of people should be sentenced to a mere 19 years. 'He tricked everybody', said Chum Mey, a survivor of Duch's prison, as he wiped tears from his eyes. 'I was a victim during the Khmer Rouge, and now I'm a victim again.'

Nothing can compensate for the misery people like Duch inflict. As one Judge said, 'a sentence can only be symbolic' but the judgement

'finally represents credible legal acknowledgement of the Khmer Rouge's criminal policies'. But the acknowledgment of mitigating circumstances and unlawful detention in the sentence by Cambodian legal professionals set a legal precedent. And this was lost in the media coverage, which focussed almost entirely on the response of the victims. When Duch appealed, his term was extended to life and I wondered if we in the media had understood the purpose of the trial at all. To me, the tribunal – which faced mounting criticism – had caved to public opinion.

In the West, the voice of the victim has come to be seen as the only authentic voice in times of extremity. It is only natural that we empathise with their pain and suffering – it is vital that we do. But this can blind us to other truths. The Duch trial was there to establish a precedent of due process; that those accused of the most heinous crimes have the right to a fair trial with both a defence and prosecution.

To this background few remembered that S-21 was set up to purge the ranks of the Khmer Rouge itself. Like Stalin's Soviet Union and Mao's China, the Khmer Rouge were obsessed with internal enemies that had to be killed. Among the photographs of Duch's victims at the museum are also those of former executioners who fell foul of the regime as it devoured its own, further complicating the history.

The last time I saw Duch was at his trial in 2010. He peered through the glass of the court at the crowd that assembled to watch the proceedings. He looked directly at me. An amused expression came over his face as I returned his gaze. He slowly raised his hand and gave me an American military salute. I returned the gesture. With an approving nod Duch resumed his position to face the judges' bench.

My identification of Duch all those years ago was a small, accidental part of something far larger. Today it is Duch's trial and our reaction to it that I struggle with. With his death, perhaps the trial and the acknowledgement of the horrors inflicted by the Khmer Rouge can bring a measure of comfort to the victims. But I can't help thinking that an attempt to render justice and set a legal precedent reverted to the very thing the tribunal was set up as a response against; where public reaction – not legal proceedings – dictated the outcome. ☹

*Nic Dunlop is a photographer and author of 'The Lost Executioner, the story of Comrade Duch and the Khmer Rouge'. A version of this article appeared in The Globe and Mail in Canada. © Nic Dunlop 2020, all rights reserved.*



# HOME FOR MAKERS AND CREATORS

## Hugo Burge (1985-90)



To start with the blindingly obvious, it has been a strange, often painful and discombobulating year. Plans have been shattered, new realities thrust upon us and where possible we have been seeking silver linings.

At Marchmont House, where we dream of making a home for makers and creators (perhaps with a subconscious, or even blatant, manifestation and nurturing of the Bedalian creative purpose of head, hand and heart) we had planned to hold a series of events, hosting guests and celebrating creativity. All had to be cancelled.

However, our silver lining has been the work done on our creative spaces. This focused on a re-purposing of old estate buildings into art studios and on sculpture projects in the surrounding landscape. This has flourished with the help of brilliant (mainly) local trades and craftspeople. In short, this is an update on what we have achieved in a challenging year. Plunged into a Scottish Borders bubble, we have put in place the foundations for the continued transformation of this stately home and estate. The house had been a nursing home for many years (a noble but impractical idea for this kind of building) and had deteriorated. We are now transforming it into a retreat for those seeking creative inspiration.

The focus has been to turn the unused and dilapidated old stables built by the leading Scottish Arts and Crafts architect Sir Robert Lorimer in the early 20th century, into art studios, creative community and pop-up gallery space for open studios events. Some of the buildings have roots going back to the 16th century, but they now form a charming Arts and Crafts courtyard, including what is probably an old tythe barn converted into a squash court, a Gothic tower, and a line of stables. There is also one of the UK's first garages (as horses went rapidly out of fashion in 1913). It is a wonderful listed structure, combining Arts and Crafts vernacular with bold concrete, cantilevered beams supporting a glass awning where cars could sit out of the rain. These buildings now form The Marchmont Workshop, four other artists' studios, a common room with kitchen, and a three-bedroom cottage. There are two versatile spaces that can be used for artists' residencies or as pop-up galleries, plus a woodshed in the Barnsley Workshop vernacular with loos, for open studios and garden tours. These spaces are already brimming with creative talent.

Richard Platt and Sam Cooper arrived at the start of lockdown, fresh from graduating from their two-year apprenticeships with Lawrence Neal,

the last person in Britain making rush seat chairs for a living. He had been following his craft for 50 years, learning from his dad who made them for 60 years – in a lineage going back to Ernest Gimson, who designed the Bedales Memorial Library. Indeed, Lawrence and Neville made many of the chairs in the Library today.

Lockdown meant Richard and Sam had no electricity and only a fraction of the tools from Lawrence's workshop that they needed, many dating back to Gimson's Daneway workshop. But over time they got going and it's a joy to see this sixth-generation tradition alive and well in their new workshop. Orders for these simple, beautiful, timeless chairs have grown and the waiting list has gone from four months to over a year. One of the most popular chairs is the Bedales chair of course, now made in Marchmont ash or Scottish oak. It's been heart-warming to see the new makers grow in confidence, even passing on their skills to Simon Worthington who came for a five-week residency thanks to the Prince's Foundation. They also made a gloriously innovative and successful black Clissett No 2, with gold finials, to donate to the QEST (Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust) 30th anniversary auction, to support ongoing excellence in British craft.

Art historian and fresco painter Julia Alexandra Mee joined our community in the summer, taking a studio and a cottage in the makers' village. She was well known to us all as she has been our artist-in-residence and a beacon of cheeriness during lockdown. Right now, she is two years into a three-year project to create The Marchmont Mural Cycle in Marchmont's Cupola Hall, in the spirit of Phoebe Anna Traquair – one of our nation's greatest treasures. It has five main panels lavishing attention on the four seasons and our dream to be a home to makers and creators. Hot on Julia's heels were four more artists including Michelle de Bruin – one of Scotland's leading stone carvers,





In it nestles a kitchen, long dining table, rush seating, log burner and a scattering of art to give a space for artists to get together, share food, hear talks and stage openings/exhibitions. Secondly, some key sculptures have been created to energise the landscape. Charlie Poulsen's work was selected for two epic sculptures. *Dancing Tree* stands in the middle of the courtyard, standing five metres tall and is cast directly from an ash tree that was split in two and carved out. It's constructed as a steel industrial pipe with flanges and held together by giant rivets; a comment on the relationship between humanity and nature. And the second sculpture deserves special mention on a few counts. *Skyboat* is a 10-metre wooden fishing boat from the Tyne valley – *Girl Hannah* – suspended five metres in the air on a wooden frame. The wood support design has a distinctly Bedales and Gimson vibe – wondrously chunky oak sections, pegged together to give strength and beauty. So, it is no coincidence that this creation was by someone known to you – **Gabriel Langlands (1987-90)**, the enormously talented artist craftsman, who we have been lucky enough to have help us on a range of projects here at Marchmont. The key to the sculpture though, is five four-metre tall oak trees planted under the boat. Over the next hundred years they will grow to envelope the boat, perhaps even carrying it above the crest of the valley slope it is perched upon, like a wave.

Future plans are now taking shape, to complete the spaces available for residencies by painters, poets, writers and composers starting in 2021. They will be available for private hire and some as supported residencies in partnership with art organisations. We are now plotting our next projects – likely to be a silversmiths' and a print workshop, so if you know any rising stars who want to be part of a rural creative community with a purpose to find inspiration in creativity, please spread the word.



who has done much inspiring work at Marchmont along with her graduate apprentice, Jo Crossland. Then came Endellion Lycett Green and Annabel Wightman, both accomplished visual artists. The community of artists has a heart-warming energy and is hopefully the start of something special, akin to the Arts and Crafts communities of yesteryear. While they sought to balance the industrial age, we seek balance and sustainability in a technology driven era that is gathering pace.

Nurturing a creative community, supporting makers and inspiring energy are core parts of the project. These are being done in several ways. Firstly, the common room is a large space opening onto the base of the gothic tower.





And we look forward to your visits on future tours, for executive retreats or for our open studios. And – ahem – if you want a Bedales rush seat chair, Richard and Sam of The Marchmont Workshop, the last makers in the UK earning their living from making chairs – and soon Gimson tables – would be pleased to oblige. It's a tradition going back hundreds of years that has a strong tie with Bedales. In a strange time, we have been lucky to keep hope and creativity alive – we are thankful for that and look forward to the next chapter of our adventure.

In a post-script that I hope resonates with my Old Bedalian contemporaries, the one silver lining I will never have is to show our legendary woodwork and design teacher **David Butcher** (staff,



1963-92) what we have done here, as I think he would approve, as it feels to be infused with the enthusiasm and

teaching that I was lucky enough to get from him; I have to suffice with doing this in my imagination. 🌱

For more information, see [marchmonthouse.com](http://marchmonthouse.com) and [themarchmontworkshop.com](http://themarchmontworkshop.com)

Films of making of Skyboat, making of the Marchmont Mural Cycle and more [vimeo.com/marchmont](https://vimeo.com/marchmont)

The Chair Maker – Lawrence Neal. The story of the Bedales chair [vimeo.com/283958058](https://vimeo.com/283958058)

The Bedales Chair; reflections – addendum with David Linley, Matthew Rice, Ben Shaw, Jane Kirby & Bedales Students [vimeo.com/325854141](https://vimeo.com/325854141)



# NEW AND IMPROVED PETERSFIELD MUSEUM

## Alice Shaw (née Sedgwick, 1992-99)



Alice and Lead Trustee Bill Gosney (far left) and the construction Directors, July 2019

After spending most of my time in the Bedales Art Block, I left in 1999 to study Art History at the University of York followed by a Masters in Museum Studies at the University of Essex. I always knew I wanted to be around art but was realistic about my own abilities not to rely on making a living from it!

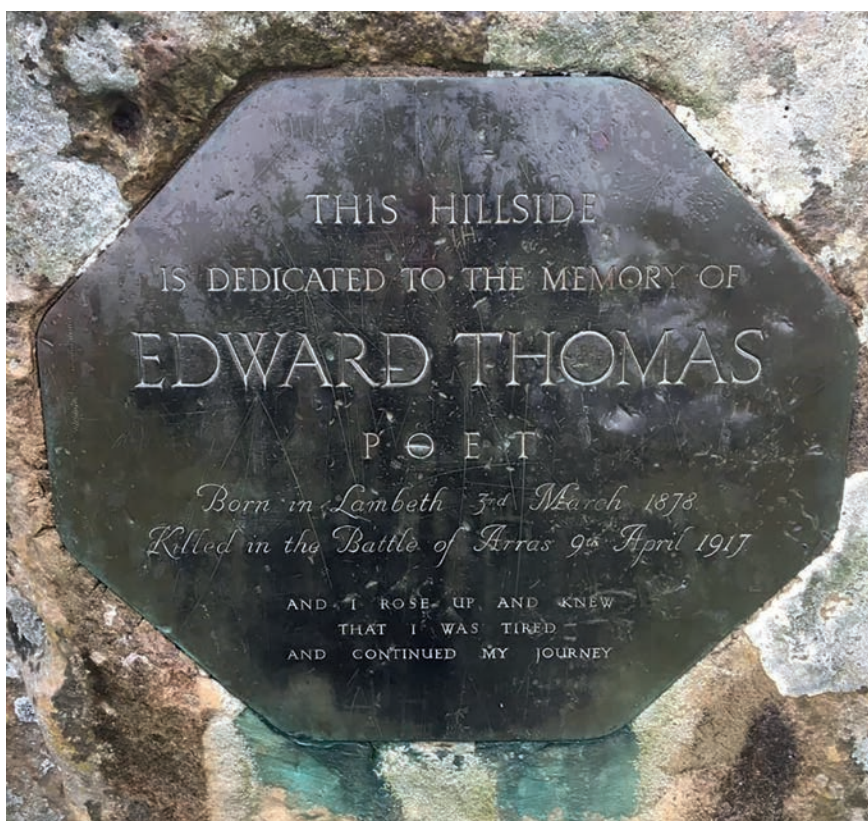
After graduating I worked at The British Museum and V&A in temporary exhibitions then, at the Science Museum on permanent galleries and capital projects. In 2015 my family and I left London and moved back to Steep in search of space and fresh air for our two young boys. At this point it felt inevitable that my career in museums would be put on hold while our family grew up.

Soon after, however, I heard that the local Petersfield Museum, which opened the year I left Bedales, had recently purchased the adjoining Police Station. It also received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to renovate its existing building in the Old Courthouse, and design and build new galleries, collections facilities, exhibition and learning spaces and a courtyard café. I felt strongly that this project and I shared a destiny and was delighted to be appointed as Project Manager in December 2016.

My job was to engage and lead a design team to deliver the museum's vision of being at the heart of local life and also offer a compelling attraction for visitors from further afield. The historic Victorian buildings combined with striking contemporary architecture will create welcoming

social areas and stimulating learning spaces. It will be a family friendly space that will inspire visitors of all ages to investigate the region's many historic and cultural assets and to explore the surrounding countryside.

During the design development process, it was proposed that a map of the South Downs National Park be inlaid into the surface of the courtyard. This is made of granite slabs showing Petersfield and surrounding villages represented by brass and stainless steel icons. Some will be easily recognisable to those who know the area but some are more obscure so accompanying interpretation will be used as a guide to explore this striking artwork and the local area. This was all designed pre-COVID, but now offers a safe way to access the museum in an outdoor setting. Visitors can enter the cosy courtyard for a coffee and enjoy the wide-ranging, engaging collections and diverse educational and events programmes.



Poet's Stone





*The team celebrate the end of construction in November 2020*

The new and improved Petersfield Museum will tell the story of this ancient market town and surrounding villages through objects, art, literature and dress produced or collected by its residents. The collection includes the work of local artist, Flora Twort and archaeology from prehistoric barrows on Petersfield Heath. Forming a significant part of the collection is The Bedales Collection of Historic Dress donated to the museum in 2007. This includes over 1,000 items from the 18th century to modern day and was built up over a 50-year period by the school, and particularly by music

and drama teacher **Rachel Cary Field (staff, 1941-75).**

The collection mirrors 250 years of social and cultural change and includes rare and nationally significant pieces including an item recently loaned to the Design Museum for the 'Women Fashion Power' exhibition. A number of garments have strong local provenance and the great majority of the collection formed part of Bedales Wardrobe.

Of the dresses, an aesthetic, Liberty style, cream silk dress from the mid-1890s is particularly rare, as are comparable Arts and Crafts garments from the early 1900s. Such 'countercultural garments' survive in small numbers, with the V&A, Museum of London and Platt Hall, Manchester holding most of the few surviving examples.

The museum also holds a nationally important collection of some 2,000 books by and about the renowned poet, writer and Steep resident, Edward Thomas (1878-1917). Like so many others, and this is still so true today, the Thomas family were

attracted to this area by three things: its direct rail link to London, its countryside and, of course, Bedales which Edward's wife Helen knew of before it relocated from Haywards Heath in the early 20th century.

The collection is held within a new Edward Thomas Study Centre which is open, by appointment, to students, readers, researchers and visitors who can explore

Image courtesy of Michel Focard de Fontefiguieres



first his work and then the wonderful landscape around us that inspired him, and many others, so much – and continues to do so. Edward Thomas is amongst the War Poets commemorated in Westminster Abbey. The Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes considered Thomas to be, "the Father of us all", and his life and work is included in the National Curriculum. Thomas' time living in Steep coincides with a critical phase in his life when he made the transition from literary critic to poet.

Thomas' connections to Petersfield are important to understanding his life and work which features and interprets the countryside of Hampshire, the South Downs and the south of England. Amongst items on display, or available to view, in the Edward Thomas Study Centre is a copy of one of his daughter's Bedales exercise books in which he has drafted three poems.

In the museum's final gallery, visitors can see a film of original footage shot on location in Petersfield and the surrounding area, capturing the local diversity of architecture, history, landscape, wildlife and culture. This includes shots of both the Harrow Inn and views from the Poet's Stone, which many of you will be familiar with. The stone is a memorial to Edward Thomas which is still the subject of regular walks from both the main school and Dunhurst and Dunnanie.

What makes this film so special, emotive and rooted in the area, is that it is overlaid with a recording of **Daniel Day-Lewis (1970-75)** reading Thomas' poetry, the use of which was kindly permitted by the Poetry Archive.

Like so many things, the pandemic has delayed the opening of the museum, but we very much hope that doors will open to the public later this year. Working at the London national museums was infinitely inspiring, exciting and challenging, but having the chance to be part of the team to create a museum in my hometown, is a dream come true. 🍷



# CLIMATE EMERGENCY CENTRES

## Ruth Allen (1981-90)



As my time at Bedales has moved further into the rear-view mirror of my life, I am becoming more aware and appreciative of the unique experience my time there was. I attended Bedales as a boarder, initially at Dunhurst in 1981, through to graduation after A levels in 1990. Going out into the world I see, in sharp relief, the essential and invaluable differences of a Bedales education. The times we are living in, and the momentous changes occurring, has deepened that appreciation. I am now keenly aware of the flexibility of thinking and emotional resilience afforded to me by the philosophy and values espoused by the school and those who live, learn and work in it.

This resilience has enabled me to feel the despair for the deepening social inequalities, divisions and injustices, and the horrific damage being done to our only home, Earth,

and all its living things. This pandemic is one of the consequences of the harm we are doing to this planet, and a timely reminder that we are interdependent with Earth, we cannot survive without her. We are facing multiple crises from climate change, ecological destruction, ever worsening social injustice and inequality and the impacts of COVID. These have arisen due to a socio-economic system that values growth and financial prosperity over life, both human and non-human. There is a chronic lack of community space as 'austerity' has closed an untold number of spaces, such as youth centres and libraries. This leaves us struggling to come together to respond to these crises.

I accept all this without judgement but with a determination to act for systemic change. Humanity acts as it does because of the systems we are in. However, Bedales has taught me to recognise that humanity is the system,

we are not helpless within it, and our actions are the change we need.

I met Phoenix through my involvement with Extinction Rebellion. Phoenix is a lifelong community/environmental activist. His focus is building the solutions needed and he has been doing this with some success for 30 years, setting up eco-centres and supporting local, national and global movements. He now runs a charity, [spacegenerators.org](https://spacegenerators.org) that developed from his work. Our conversations led to the development of the Climate Emergency Centre project that started last year. Over 300 councils have declared a climate emergency yet do not have the funds or resources to take the next step. It needs the cooperation of the local community, local business and councils to work together on the next steps to create a sustainable future for all. We have the solutions, but we need the spaces to build a fair, just and sustainable future.



Our vision is a network of autonomous community-led centres that, while focused on meeting local needs and building local resilience, are strengthened by the coordination, support and skill/resource sharing provided by a broader web of centres across the country. We have a business model that enables the property owner to save up to 100% on business rates while temporarily giving a community a space on a 'meanwhile lease', and donating some of the savings they make to support the Centre. The Centres are focused on building solutions, adaptation and resilience to the multiple environmental and social crises created by our current system. The East London centre is working on an eco-solutions exhibition with practical working examples of energy, housing, transport and agriculture solutions. The vision is held in the knowledge that people hold the answers, within us and between us, to where we need to evolve in order not just to survive, but to thrive.

This vision has energised people. We now have approximately 20 teams across the country at various stages of setting up their local CEC, and three Centres are already open – in East London, Staines and Lewes. We have a website – [climateemergencycentre.co.uk](https://climateemergencycentre.co.uk) – and the first draft of a handbook available

via the website and through a social media group that teams join. We also meet online on a weekly basis to provide mutual support and advice.

Our project has also aligned with the Trust the People project ([trustthethepeople.earth](https://trustthethepeople.earth)) so the spaces can be used to activate communities and link in with local politics, to re-energise our local democratic systems to better reflect the priorities and needs of the communities they serve.

All those involved with the CEC project are running on free time and positive energy. However, the project is growing and may be able to move internationally. We were recently interviewed by Facing Futures TV and discussed that the issues are global in nature, and require a globally connected response. As Phoenix states: "we need a global eco-solutions Marshall plan for a sustainable future". And Greta Thunberg says: "our house is on fire". Now is the time for action – we are reaching several environmental tipping points.

I decided to write this article as there comes a time when the privileges I have gained from being able to attend a school like Bedales can be of most use. Old Bedalians are an amazing bunch of creative, strong, forceful and successful people with a wealth of resources, skills, connections

and networks in media, arts, politics, business, technology. These skills can be the rising seas that lift all ships. That feeds communities and provides the spaces and resources needed to build anew. Now is the time. If you have anything you would like to share or contribute, we would all be immensely grateful. Let's use the skills and strengths we have to build a new system of empowered communities and a sustainable, ethical and just future. You can contact us on [climateec@gmail.com](mailto:climateec@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you! 🌱

#### Wish-list for inspiration

- Property industry connections – empty building addresses
- Media connections and social media skills
- Art and tech skills
- Funding
- Graphics and marketing skills
- Volunteers
- Renewable energy equipment
- Donations of equipment or tools
- Trees and plants
- Land for projects, communities or tree planting

[climateec@gmail.com](mailto:climateec@gmail.com)

[climateemergencycentre.co.uk](https://climateemergencycentre.co.uk)





# MY GRANDFATHER – BEDALES CO-FOUNDER

## Ann Donnelly



*Oswald Byrom Powell, 30 August 1867 – 26 March 1967, aka OBP, Osbos and Granddad*

“Wot? No names?” Remember the Mr Chad of the “Wot no ...?” cartoon? Those of us in our 80s or 90s do. We also remember the two oil portraits that hung on the chimney breast in the Bedales dining room. They were together, as in their life’s work.

Will they be titled asked my father and mother, Roger and Rita Powell, in the 1950s or 60s or even 70s? Sadly, they waited in vain. Then in the 1990s, one granddaughter, Jill Thompson-Lewis (my sister), wrote to a Headmaster: they remained unnamed. Then oldest granddaughter by seven minutes, Ann (that’s me) made louder noises at a fortuitous time at Bedales.

I was asked by Fran Box of Steep History Group to give a talk about Granddad’s house *Little Hawsted* in Church Lane, but I knew practically nothing about it. That was the catalyst to finding out more of what my brother, sister and I had somehow always known: that Granddad or OBP was co-founder of Bedales.

Bedales was about to celebrate its 125th anniversary, but I found not one single word about him in any notice of this forthcoming event. However, such an omission was rectified on Parents’ Day in 2018! The placard *A Badley-Run*

*School?* shows a delightful summary of the Powell family activities at Bedales. It seemed as if OBP had previously faded from Bedales’ collective memory, but was now returning. As he had written very little detail about how closely he had been involved in its foundation, it’s not surprising. In Wake and Denton’s book on Bedales, there is a short, inaccurate reference to him as joining Badley in 1893, [it was 1892]. There is also a totally fictitious account of his death, amongst other mistakes. Alas, there is no biography of him. My short article is insufficient to cover a lifetime, but it’s a start. However, luck was on my side for gathering material. My talk and this article are based on accounts taken from family diaries, letters (transcribed by Jill), photograph albums and notes, the latter sometimes written on scraps of paper. Through them, I’ve been able to extract the narrative of how Granddad became the co-founder of Bedales. This work culminated in an initial mini account of OBP’s life for the Steep History Group, then blossomed into a longer talk on 16 January 2020. I’m immensely thankful to Magnus and all others involved, for giving me the chance to add missing facts to the history of Bedales.

Let me introduce you to the man who has been described as “the hand and heart of Bedales” and his journey to it.

Oswald was the sixth and last son of the 10 surviving children of The Rev. Thomas E Powell, (Vicar of Bisham near Marlow from 1848-1900) and Emma. When Thomas E was appointed Vicar by the Vansittart family, one of his duties was the supervision of the village school, which was in an area where poverty and crime were still rampant; it was badly run by two ‘ladies’ who clearly hit the children on the head; they were sacked. He started the task of reforming it, making it co-educational, with the infants separate. Early in his endeavours, whilst out walking nearby, he met The Rev. Edward Thring, who was recovering from overwork in the slums of Gloucester. They formed a friendship which, ‘with vicissitudes’, had a lifelong reciprocal influence for both of them and, indirectly, for Bedales. Three years later, Thring refounded Uppingham as a public school. Cormac Rigby stated in his PhD, “In the Vicar of Bisham... Thring found a man after his own heart. Thomas Powell (had) set out to raise the educational level of his parish, and naturally he found an ally in Edward Thring.”

Thring, in a speech to the Education Society: “...how on earth the Cambridge Honour Man, with his success and his brain-world, was to get at the minds of those little labourers’ sons with their unfurnished heads, and no time to give...”

“Everything that I most value of teaching thought and teaching practice, and teaching experience came from that... [work in the slums] ...”

“They gave me the great axiom, ‘the worse the material, the greater the skill of the worker’.

They bred in me a supreme contempt for knowledge in lumps, for emptying out knowledge lumps in a heap like stones at a roadside, and calling it teaching...”

All six Bisham sons were sent to Uppingham School. All 10 children



learnt to watercolour, make things with their hands, play an instrument and sing. Forget the von Trapps! The South Bucks Free Press named them the 'Bisham Family Singers'. During family concerts on the vicarage lawn, passing rowers would stop, blocking the Thames from side to side to listen. The garden was unfenced; none of them drowned. But one nearly did – it was Oswald, fished out by passing rowers who gave him a few hearty shakes, his brothers' cries diminished.

A sense of duty to others was also instilled. Aged 11, Oswald notes in his 1878 diary of the times he had to serve the family at table, dressed in his best clothes if there were visitors, but excused from the duty on his bath night! This last was a worry to him – he told me once that he felt it quite wrong that a maid should carry hot water upstairs to pour into the zinc bath in front of his fire; that it should be he who did it. Another time, he said to me with a twinkle in his eyes, looking up from reading the Collects one Sunday morning: "You know, Ann, the Church would be all right if it wasn't for the clergy!"

Unlikely to have absorbed Thring's theories before being sent to Uppingham, the young Oswald certainly experienced the unusual attitudes of a Victorian reformer who saw the boys in his care 'in the round'. Flogging remained, but Thring was the only person permitted to do it: no masters, no prefects allowed to. OBP wrote later that he was disappointed not to have been on the receiving end of the cane; he was also aware that a flogging started and/or ended in a talk with the culprit, not at him. A letter from Thring tells how oldest brother Edgar had been chastised, but then spoken to. Edgar wept. In his diary of 1882, Oswald describes the defacement of a portrait of Horace by an unknown culprit. It seems clear that Thring wanted to avoid caning the vandal, who was never found.



## BEDALES – A BADLEY RUN SCHOOL?

The name most associated with the foundation of Bedales is of course, that of John Haden Badley, but there is some feeling that the contribution of Oswald Powell has been overlooked. 'Osbo's' joined Badley right from the start, and stayed as second master until 1933. Oswald and his brothers had been educated at Uppingham, where Thring had already introduced many of the innovations we might claim for Bedales – handicrafts, nature study, modern history, modern languages, English literature and music. Oswald brought this experience to his work at Bedales, as well as his dislike of the style of Manchester Grammar School where he first taught. His contribution (and that of his brother Malcolm) was noted in one of the earliest inspections



Mr. Powell.



Mr. Powell and a pupil. Bedales.



### PICTURES

TOP RIGHT: Oswald Powell circa 1893  
RIGHT: Roger Powell (Oswald's son) teaching Bedalians  
LEFT: Oswald Powell and pupil  
BOTTOM LEFT: Oswald Powell (l) and John Badley (r) 1902



of the school, in 1901, by Professor Withers of Owens College, Manchester: "...what could not be omitted from even the briefest Report on the School, that no small part of its efficiency is due to the work of the two masters just named [the Powells], and to the unusually wide range of Mr. Oswald Powell's interests and gifts."

*On Parents' Day 2018 this placard was placed in the main entrance and was read with great pleasure by family members*

The 'Classics' of Victorian times continued at Uppingham, the basis of education in that era. However, Thring added: Music, practice under Paul David (son of Ferdinand David); Modern languages; Singing, including a choir; Carpentry; A school garden; A love of Nature; Athletics, tennis – even teaching it himself; A gymnasium; A swimming pool; Country walks, with no masters; Private study rooms, "where a boy could cry"; Works of Art to inspire the boys.

Away from the school, there were supervised cookery lessons for the

village ladies. Then there was the question of sport. Thring was very much in favour of it but did not want it to dominate to such an extent that the boys felt the world was coming to an end if they lost cricket or football matches against other schools. But what about inter-house prizes and trophies? Each of the 'Houses' consisted of about 30 boys of mixed ages, "the essential influence was that of a happy house". The Housemasters were encouraged to marry and have children of their own, so imitating family life. Trophies? Well... First Prize: A whole goose, to be





Amy Badley, 1939, with Rita Powell, David, Ann (l), Jill (r)

shared by all. Second Prize: A very large pork pie, to be shared by all. Third Prize: A huge pot of jam, to be shared by all.

The word 'progressive' had not yet been attached to education: Thring just got on with anything that he felt to be correct. Boys and masters joined in games together; with Thring a fierce competitor. He felt sport enabled the less intelligent "to attain some position among their fellows". This led to The Schools Inquiry Commissioners being surprised that he considered games as educational.

On leaving Uppingham, OBP obtained a modest degree from Trinity College, Cambridge, then seemed to drift into teaching in Manchester. His "teaching work [had been] with huge classes in the fog and stench of an unwieldy Grammar School" where it was hard to see the boys at the back. He said the aim was to tutor the boys who might be destined for Oxford or Cambridge, but the remainder were 40 or 50 to a class, lumped together for Oswald and his colleagues to try to teach. Hardly satisfactory. Wishing to find a better placement, perhaps in the Pestalozzi style or even one similar to Uppingham, in 1892 he wrote to a family friend, the philosopher and political commentator, 'Goldie' Lowes-Dickinson, for advice.

Goldie advised him to contact "...one Badley who is just leaving Abbotsholme to start a school of his own". In spite of an MGS colleague thinking that Badley sounded like a crank, Oswald arranged to go to Dudley to meet him. OBP also remembered seeing him in the Great Court at Trinity and had thought, "His face was very beautiful". Wearing plimsolls, an old pair of dress trousers and a 'cad cap' [?], JHB took OBP up a hill where they had a long talk before continuing to the Badley home. It was not an auspicious visit; Dr Badley commented later to his son that he hoped he wasn't "going to take on that lackadaisical young man". On the advice of the MGS colleague, OBP arrived "well dressed, [and] if occasion offers show that you smoke and are not anti-alcohol". Social gaffes in a very strict rather abstemious and cheerless, household ensued!

However, OBP had been impressed by Badley's prospectus. On that very day the two pioneers decided to go forward together. So JHB set about finding a suitable house, while OBP set off to Montreux for about two months of intensive lessons to perfect his French. The travel and course were paid for by JHB: the journey, 37 shillings; Sillig Crammer, £7.14s. Oswald also

borrowed £20 from brother Malcolm and took "58s & 6d in French cash".

After cramming French, as well as having much fun driving the owner's four-in-hand at weekends, OBP then went to Paris from 1 November until just after Christmas in order to learn new methods of language teaching from Prof François Gouin, which Oswald later introduced to Bedales. From letters to his mother it seems that Oswald paid for this himself. He says in his diary that he returned to England on 29 December 1892 [In later years he recalled it as before Christmas]. On arrival at 'Bedales' in Lindfield, the house found by Badley, Oswald recalled that "my firm resolve to join the family party [...] at Bisham seemed strange to the Badleys".

OBP wrote to RP [son Roger] on 15 November 1949 "It all recalls all the strange atmosphere of the 'Old Bedales' – we were out not only to introduce a new sort of school with a new sort of curriculum 'learning by doing' – but also to break down class distinctions – to respect honest work and workers however menial the job – we were looked on as bolshies – a widely current rumour said we were a home for mentally deficient – having our own Sunday services was alone sufficient to exclude us from society



Malcolm Powell teaching woodwork at Bedales



– and our clothes! Open shirts, shorts, wet runs!!! even on Sundays. I don't think anybody (who was anybody) called on us – and of course like most reformers we felt superior to them all... And when we entertained, our guests were all tradesmen and their families who served us in any way; the doctor was the nearest approach to 'gentry' as far as I can remember – Edward Carpenter... used to come and stay and play Beethoven in the evenings – he was one of the sponsors or whatever our backers were called – and Olive Schreiner used to come – and Ed C of course in those days was considered very very 'leftist' – (he was turned out of the British Museum, because he was wearing sandals on bare feet!). JHB had turned left long before I did and his home had been terribly narrow and drab... There is no doubt that I felt at first at the house on Bedales Hill that life was losing a bit of colour – I don't think JHB approved when I went to see, near Haywards Heath, Lord Bowen (distinguished lawyer and translator of Virgil into verse) the maternal grandfather of the present Jos Wedgwood – It seems to me at this distance that drama, music and cricket gradually broke down or at least weakened the social barriers. Mrs Badley had a card index containing the names of all the 'common' people – and different coloured cards for those who were invited, when parents came down... When we moved to Steep the social atmosphere we felt at once to be different though feudal landlords Bonham Carter and such like and Tories wished we hadn't come... During those early years at Lindfield JHB's financial position was truly perilous but he was adamant against receiving money help that might in any way limit his freedom of action – I suppose it is not reasonable to expect headmasters appointed by governors and who are not founders to face the risks with the courage JHB had ... From every point of view it is desirable for the school to be free to experiment & pioneer..."

So, with staff outnumbering the pupils, Bedales was founded. Apart from the traditional subjects, the following were gradually introduced:

Woodworking. OBP's talented cabinet-maker brother Malcolm taught this. He later became science master, probably May 1897 when Rice left. He also set up the new laboratories in Steep. He had previously taught science (BA, Trinity College Cambridge, Nat. Science Tripos 1891) in Sunderland and Mill Hill.

Beekeeping. OBP, knowing nothing about them, found that two of the boys' families kept bees so were able to assist him.

Sewing classes for both boys and girls.

Bookbinding. He had to give up part of his bedroom for this. Oldest brother, Edgar (friend of John Bonham Carter) was an accomplished binder, so is the probable source of OBP's knowledge of the craft.

Choir. With an impressive singing voice but no experience in leading a choir, OBP recalls that he "was bold enough to ask the organist at Westminster Abbey who had a great reputation as a choirmaster, to let me watch him at work". The ensuing choir was small. At Lindfield, the choir had been augmented by the maids who felt that this was not part of their job!

'Learning by doing' also included the earth closets. These were used by all and emptied by all, including JHB and OBP.

As can be seen, much of the above 'curriculum' had shades of Uppingham for OBP.

Space does not allow for details of the arrival of three Bedales babies in the two families. It seems not to have been all plain sailing, however; as can be seen from this comment:

"It was about this time that JHB felt moved to let me know that I was attempting to live a double life, that my position on the staff of Bedales was suffering from our 'having a home of our own and the beginning of a family'.



OBP aged about 10, with Edgar and his friend John Bonham Carter

Before WMP [Winifred Marion Powell (née Cobb, Bedales staff)] and I had become engaged, I had..." [This is where the extract ended. Date unclear.]

The arrival of girl pupils.

Oswald was no stranger to women in education; his oldest sister, having helped bring up her siblings, then went on to obtain a 1st class degree at Newnham in 1887, aged 40. Family rumour always said that Aunt Amy (my siblings and I always called her that) would not marry John Badley unless he agreed to girls being admitted into his planned school! Oswald's sister-in-law, Octavia Lewin Cobb, was certainly involved in some way; on 26 June 1898 she cycled several miles over The Downs in the pouring rain to see Helen Yorke Stanger "who is coming next term we hope [...] the girl is quite the right sort". (OBP)

OBP showed how forward-thinking he was in his attitude to women in a letter to brother Edgar, dated 14 July 1897: "I think it is your duty to your country and yourself [to marry]. Families will obviously tend to grow smaller as woman becomes something more than a child-bearing machine..."

Numbers increased, the lease was ending, a new place had to be found.

OBP wrote to his father on 3 November 1898 for a loan. "Badley is going to Dudley on Monday to consult his father about the matter."

What Wake & Denton wrote in their book about Bedales is a different account. Both men asked their fathers for money in the same week, according to my Grandfather:



Full text of letter from OBP to his father:

"I am writing today about a matter which I have always been loath to bother you with in any way – money. I am very anxious to know whether you would feel willing to advance me any money to put into the new Bedales. I should very much like to have a share in it and Badley would be willing I think to have my help.

The place near Petersfield seems to be the most suitable and an offer has been made for the present house and 80 acres – but there will be much to be built.

Badley is going to Dudley on Monday to consult with his father about the matter. I should very much like to know, if possible so that I might speak to Badley on Monday, whether you feel at all inclined to consider the advancing to me of £1,000 or £1,500 at whatever interest you consider proper.

I feel very strongly that the work we are trying to do here is good. We certainly receive great encouragement and backing up from the parents. I have made a poor return though I trust it will not seem so always.

If you feel able and quite willing to invest something in me and my work at this time, I shall be immensely glad of it."

The final sum borrowed was £1,017.

On 28 January 1899, Malcolm Powell wrote to their mother that "the place is bought now, and all hands are turned on in the architects [sic] office..." By rail and horse and cart, the school moved house. The Powell family moved into 'Burnt Ash' on the Farnham Road rented from the Bonham Carters.

Bedales came to its final home in Steep ...and the rest is history. Or is it?

Osbos, as he was named affectionately, was well aware that a school should never be cocooned, separated from the wider world. It was natural for him to be involved in the community, away from Bedales, with all its trials and tribulations. The following list of activities clearly illustrates this. He didn't expound by written word on his ethics and philosophy, he lived it. (NB. I have intermingled other important events in the list)

1898/9. Probably as early as this, Edmund Demolins offered OBP the headship of the former's new school in France, L'Ecole des Roches. He recalled this in later writings, but he said he had felt unready for such a post.

1903, circa. Pollution? Sons Roger and Oliver instructed to jump into the ditch and hold noses as cars passed.

1904. Gave lecture to The Petersfield Literary & Debating Society.

Approx 1904-14. The Powell Family walked all the local footpaths, "with two goats which followed [...] like dogs". (Roger Powell)

1912. Gave lecture in Petersfield on the Songs of Brahms.

1912-1914 circa. The Petersfield Woman's [sic] Suffrage Society; Mrs O B Powell [Winifred], was the Hon Treasurer. A Mr G H Hooper was the Hon Secretary. Mrs J H Badley was on the Committee, as was Oswald. Winifred's sister Octavia Lewin Cobb was also actively involved.

1913. Letter in The Hampshire & Sussex News about "the iniquitous absurdity" of the law concerning married women and income tax.

1913. He and Winifred attended The Women's International Congress in Budapest. Millicent Fawcett, Amy Badley's cousin was there. Also there was Kate Harvey, a well-known deaf Suffragist, coincidentally my father's future mother-in-law.

1913. In December, Amy and Osbos supported a Miss Cummins of Froxfield by attending the sale of goods that had been impounded for non-payment of tax. This incident ended as a farce; the report is quite comical! [see: the December 19, 1913 issue of "The Vote"]

1913/4? Unfortunately lost, there was a family photo of Amy, Winifred & Oswald marching with a banner spanning the entire road, with "Votes for Women" emblazoned on it.

1915. Osbos was now Chairman of Steep Parish Council. During his time in office there was "The Great Steep Election Controversy". [See Steep & Stroud Newsletter, No 571, by Fran Box.]

1917. In May an appeal from the wartime Food Controller OHMS had been circulated, pleading with the public to eat less bread. Osbos took up the challenge to do so. He cut parsnips into thin rounds, put them into the oven early in the morning and declared them delicious to eat with butter and honey by breakfast time.

1917. *Little Hawsted*, lawns and rose bushes were converted into vegetable plots during the 1914-18 War.



*Little Hawsted, lawns and rose bushes were converted into vegetable plots during the 1914-18 War*

1916-19. Winifred and Oswald received regular letters from son Roger, stationed in Egypt, Sudan and Palestine. These are bound, now forming part of the Powell Archive in The British Library.

1918. Oswald presided over a meeting to choose the Labour Candidate for East Hampshire. He stated in later writings that Badley had “turned left” long before he, Oswald, had.

Quote from the newspaper report: (OBP) “expressed distrust of all political parties”.

1919. Recently come to light is a very full diary by Osborn of his activities in 1919, as well as notes about his work during the war. There has been no time to transcribe it. However, it seems as if much of his time during WWI was devoted to being the Estate Manager of Bedales rather than as a teacher. Coal supply was a huge problem.

1919. In a letter, OBP publicly criticised The Urban District council in their choice of a possible war memorial in Petersfield.

1919. He gave a stirring speech for the Workers' Educational Association in St Peter's Hall, aimed at the young

people of Petersfield. He noted in his 1919 diary, “Too many grown-ups [attended]”.

1925. He gave a speech at a conference in Heidelberg, Germany about Bedales which “was very well received [...] and all sorts of people said very pretty things”.

1927. Petersfield Operatic Society. “...our people [Bedales] having a good deal to do with it also.”

1927. Letter from OBP May reporting the school Inspector's visit.

“never in our experience have we come across such a school spirit... Mr Badley's dedication of his whole life and fortune to produce a work should be of greatest service to education etc.” (OBP: ‘not omitting a little scratch on the back for his “right hand” through all these years, ahem!’)

1928. JHB went on holiday from March – June. Oswald took over the headship temporarily. He called it



*Little Hawsted's last apple crop*



“being on the Bridge.” [From other extracts, JHB seems to have been prone to breakdowns quite early in the 1900s and having to go away to recuperate.]

1928, 2 July. Oswald and Winifred drove Amy to Lady Astor’s Garden Party in Cliveden “in honour of Dame Millicent [Fawcett] and the passing of the Bill [granting of the Vote to all women]”.

1929. Oswald gave a speech on Bedales at a conference of The New Education Fellowship in Elsinore, Denmark, attended by about 2000 delegates.

1933/34. Leaving home, leaving Bedales, leaving Steep...

*Little Hawsted’s* last apple crop.

I do not know Grandfather’s thoughts or feelings about retiring. However, for him time was something to be filled with ‘doing’. The new *Little Hawsted* was in Headington, near Oxford.

He kept bees. He kept goats. He planted an orchard and built an apple store. He started his Orchard Service, tending others’ fruit trees. He sang in the Oxford Bach Choir until well over 80 years old. He remarried a few years after Winifred died of appendicitis. Margaret Donington was a musician, playing the viola da gamba with the Dolmetschs, some of whom lived in Headington a few doors away.

1950s-1960s. There are signs in notes and letters that he was attempting an autobiography. A failure, not enough time!

1965, 22 June. Badley, shortly after his 100th birthday, wrote to Oswald:



Goldsworthy Lowes-Dickinson (“Goldie”)

“I quite thought all this fuss about the birthday would make an end of me, but I just managed to survive...”

I hope you realized from the greeting that I sent to the luncheon party how much I feel that Bedales owes to you. People ought always to speak of it as our work (yours and Winifred’s as much as Amy’s and mine); and I can never adequately thank you for all you did in helping to make it what it was – and is.

To Goldie Dickinson [Goldsworthy Lowes-Dickinson] in the first place with all his wisdom and loving-kindness, and introduction first of me to Reddy [sic] [Cecil Reddie] and then of you to me, I owe an immeasurable debt of thankfulness and I hope that all who know Bedales know how much it owes to him as well as to its actual founders.

... the wealth of loving remembrances that scores of birthday letters brought me this year, in so much of which, I hope you realise that you share to the full.” (sic)

1967, 7 January. John Badley dictated and signed, his last letter to OBP in readiness for his, OBP’s, 100th birthday.

“... it was one of the happiest things in my life that you joined me at Bedales and helped to shape it into what it has become. One of the many pieces of good fortune was in having you, for which I have to be thankful... warmest thanks for all that you have done for me and been to me all my working life – It is one of the many things that I have so much cause to be thankful for...”

Sadly, they both died before that event. Grandfather died a few months too soon for a telegram from the Queen.

1967 in March. Roger and Rita came to *Little Hawsted*, Kiln Lane, Headington to relate the events of restoring books in Florence after the flooding of the Arno, with the subsequent severe damage and destruction of thousands of volumes. That was on Easter Saturday; Granddad was entranced. The following morning, Easter Sunday 26 March 1967, he greeted my parents with “What a beautiful Easter Morning!”, went into his downstairs bathroom and quietly died. A man loved not only by his family but by the very many who were touched by the “hands and heart of Bedales”, reaching well beyond those 80 acres in Hampshire.

Postscript: “...I have a memory that consistently refuses to record unpleasant events of which, no doubt, there were many.” (Words from Grandfather; ‘Osbo’s’ Published in the ‘Bedales Society’.) ☘

# CENTURY OF PLAYERS AROUND BEDALES

## Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)

**R**oger Fry (later to become a Bedales parent) painted the backcloth for *Macbeth*, the first annual play. "From its earliest days, Bedales paid much attention to dramatic activities and the Chief's productions of Shakespeare's plays were memorable events for participants and audience alike. Though he had no theatrical experience he created and maintained an interest in plays and everyone became keen and fond of it." (*A Journey in My Head*, **Geoffrey Crump, staff, 1919-45**)

Geoffrey came to Bedales in 1919, was appointed senior English master in 1922 becoming the first head of a fully-fledged English department in a school the size and status of Bedales. He insisted that if possible, at least one Shakespeare play should be acted by the older children every year, preferably with some of the staff acting with them. His enthusiasm led in the summer of 1923, with the permission of the Chief, to a production of *Twelfth Night* on the lower lawn of the garden at Steephurst; the cast consisted chiefly of local people, Bedales staff and Old Bedalians.

The triple arch of Steephurst porch, with a balcony facing south, appealed to Geoffrey as a suitable setting for *Romeo and Juliet* and there in 1926 he established Steep Shakespeare Players. He needed two years to prepare properly and to secure an adequate cast. He decided on *Much Ado about Nothing* for 1928.

"An incursion, however, in the month of June of a quantity of handsome young men in magnificent costumes was too much for some of the girls and the scale of the production as a whole caused an undue amount of disorganisation in the life of the school." So, after *Henry IVth, Part One* in 1930, the Players moved a mile away, down to the gardens of Lord Horder's Ashford Chace with his lordship as cordial president: *Twelfth Night* in 1932. These became monumental productions. The stage set



*Twelfth Night in the grounds of Bedales, 1923*

was magnificent, the lavish costumes by **Henriette Sturge Moore (1919-25)** and a princely cast fitted neatly into Shakespeare's roles which had been hallowed for centuries.

Players appeared from all over the land. Donald Beves, Vice-provost of King's College, Cambridge (often spoken of as the finest amateur comedian in the country), lauded by George Rylands of The Marlowe Society, starred as Malvolio and Friar Lawrence and Geoffrey himself as Capulet and Falstaff. Starring was something Geoffrey promoted and here something conspicuous occurred: performances attracted The Times Theatre Critic with sometimes a half page photograph of the cast or a star; Tatler, Telegraph, Sketch, Sphere, Petersfield Post, Hampshire and Sussex News, Hampshire Chronicle and Portsmouth Evening News. There were players from OUDS in Oxford and ADC in Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music. **Joanna Dunham (1949-52)** and **Tessa Mayor (1929-34)** were among pupils who starred. They were accompanied by **Harold Gardiner (staff, 1952-68)**, **Basil Gimson (1896-1904; staff, 1911-1947)**, **John Slater (staff, 1952-67)**, **Anthony Gillingham (staff, 1946-70)**, **Robin Murray (1953-59)**, **Christopher Weisselberg (1954-61)**, **Bert Upton (estate staff, 1954-61)**, **E L Grant Watson (1895-1904)** and **Roger Powell (1907-1915)** with music

by **Harry Platts (staff, 1937-46)** and **Roland Biggs (staff at various times between 1923 and 1967)**.

An archive of large albums (12 x 16 inches), lovingly assembled to survive the Players, stylishly portrays spectacular scenes and actors. It would (of course) take Geoffrey two whole years to prepare such handsome shows (where interval tea was provided by the 'Petersfield Tea Shop', price 9d).

The ambition and success of Steep Shakespeare Players and the splendidly designed and extensive stage structures, by **Gigi Meo (1923-40)** and then **Christopher Cash (1950-78)**, were swamped by post-war restrictions and finances.

They made an annual loss. Geoffrey had targeted Shakespeare and from 1923 managed 23 productions finishing in Ashford Chace with *The Tempest* in 1961. He saw the play as Shakespeare's farewell to the stage and his own regretful farewell to Ashford Chace. He was no longer able to fund these sumptuous productions.

Local press headline 'Find a home for them on the heath' badgered the council to action but it was Mary More Gordon (Bedales parent) picking up the threads in 1964 who approached Arthur Gill, the owner of the beautiful Ecclesiastical Court House in East Meon. She inquired if he were willing for his 14th century hall to be used





*Romeo and Juliet, Ashford Chace Garden Theatre, 1953*

as a small theatre. He was content to have his vast hall filled with a massive structure of tiered seats. The Players had found a fine new interior site. Now called The Court Players they introduced variety. Geoffrey's last show was *Everyman* and *A Phoenix Too Frequent* in 1965; then followed Bae Lubbock's assistance in Anouilh's *Antigone*, Peacock's *Nightmare Abbey*, Strindberg's *Creditors*, Shaw's *Arms and the Man* and finally Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, **Paul Townsend (staff, 1957-64)** and **Kate Slack (staff, 1962-74)**, wife of the headmaster appearing.

Bedales staff at this time put on frequent staff plays with **Ruth Whiting (1963-2000)**, **Geoffrey Robinson (1949-80)**, **William Agnew (1967-78)**, **Tim Slack (1962-74)**, **George Smith (1959-81)**, **Anne Archer (1971-77, 1986-2008)**, **Philip Young (1971-74 and 1977-2007)** and **John Batstone (1968-93)** and others involved.

But it was the extra mural playing which would not cease: active and valuable members of the company, Kate Slack and Mary More Gordon, assumed organisation in 1978. Still at the Court House, with Arthur Gill's keen interest, they put on John O'Keeffe's *Wild Oats* (1791) which had been revived by the RSC in 1976. **Jane Bevan (staff, 1977-83)**, **Nicholas Wood (1974-81)**, **Jessica Cecil (1980-82)** and **Victoria Chester (1978-80)** and players from the erstwhile Court Players' productions, took part with local amateurs in East Meon. There followed

George Colman's *Clandestine Marriage*, Pirandello's *Henry IV*, Ibsen's *Enemy of the People* (with music by Philip Young) and Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*.

After Arthur left the Court House, we left too to lodge in Mill Court, Binsted, a fine malmstone barn with a queen-strut roof which could be cold and audiences were encouraged to arrive with a blanket. *Twelfth Night* was first in 1988 with OBs **Phyllida Hancock (1973-80)** and **Nick Tier (1982-86)**. To avoid royalties Kate put on a revue *We're Court on the Hop*, followed by William Douglas Hume's *David and Jonathan*, Stephen Poliakoff's *Breaking the Silence*. **Isobel Ballantine Dykes (staff, 1983-89)**, **Paul Townsend** and **John Batstone**, **Victoria Chester**, **Will Rye (1987-89)**, **Kate Day (née Fairweather, 1978-85)**, **Polly Wreford (1973-80)**, **Richard Quine (1981-86)**, **Caroline Rye (1983-85)**, **Christian Taylor (1981-86)**, **Lucia Gahlin (1986-88)** and **Sarah Hulbert (1984-86)** with musicians **Hannah Rogers (1979-86)**, **Alexandra Harwood (1970-84)** and **Kristina von der Becke (1978-85)** appeared. On each occasion it was necessary to construct a stage and audience seating. It was clear to Kate that the Players were looking for a permanent playhouse.

Lord Bessborough had been a semi-professional actor during his time in Canada. He was chairman of the Chichester Festival Theatre which under the directorship of Laurence Olivier was to become the foundation

of the National Theatre. In Stansted Park, Bessborough had recently installed a theatre in the stables replacing one of the 1920s destroyed during the war. Here, at Bessborough's invitation, the Court Players performed three of Chekhov's short plays. Chekhov was followed at Stansted by Simon Gray's *Quartermaine's Terms*.

Bessborough was extremely eager to have one of his own several plays performed in his new theatre (designed by Peter Rice, parent) which seated 100; he asked me to produce a dramatic reading of his *King of Gods*. I employed Bedales pupils **Georgia Malden (1985-90)**, **Esther Godfrey (1989-91)**, **Helen Isaac (1986-91)**, **Josy Best (1989-91)**, **Emma Jenkins (1986-90)** and staff and the professional Tony Britten who was a friend of the Bessboroughs. This was in 1990 to an audience invited by the host. As a result, I was invited to take the name of the company The Stansted Players, founded by the ninth earl in 1929 but eclipsed by the outbreak of war.

The Stansted Players' productions have differed from the reverent canon followed by predecessors: I have endeavoured to find plays which have never before been performed (*The Noble Jilt*, by Anthony Trollope) or have once been popular but fallen into desuetude (George Lillo's *The London Merchant*: it was performed annually for 100 years until c1850). These plays cannot be desecrated by reducing the length to One Act of 90 minutes and including four-part songs. We meet at Sparrow's Hanger in Selborne for 10 days of rehearsal in the theatre.

We played at Stansted Park until that theatre, following the death of Eric Bessborough, was converted into offices in 2000, our last choice being Shakespeare's *Hamlet the bad quarto*.

A theatre group ETC, for OBs to meet at school and perform, managed two productions: in April **Barney Powell's (1991-96)** *The Cherry Orchard* and then in September 1999 with

**Daisy Parente (1997-99)** directing *The Memory of Water* with **Lisa Jackson (1992-97)**, **Lydia Leonard (1995-99)** and **Georgina Hutchinson (1994-99)** and some 40 other former pupils. Support was not, however, forthcoming in the following year.

This collapse of ETC bereft the school of OBs returning to play and consequently the Stansted Players were invited to the newly erected theatre drawing an audience shortly before the start of the Autumn term. Since 2001 we have been made welcome and comfortable. When the theatre was under repair we were invited to use the Lupton Hall, before its recent refurbishment as a concert hall, with St John Hankin's *The Cassilis Engagement*; the last of four performances was fully booked for a 60th wedding anniversary.

The Stansted Players have never sought stars but rather have given Bedalians opportunity to enjoy themselves for a fortnight during the summer. Staff took part in early plays: **Geoffrey Robinson, Paul Townsend, Caroline Walmsley (1981 and 1990s), Graham Banks (1980-2013)** and **Jonathan Taylor (Deputy Head, 1996-2004)** but it is pupils who have peopled the productions. The now familiar singing began with **Amanda Boyd (1987-89)** as soloist marking the intervals of *Lady Audley's Secret* a performance which began with the National Anthem in the days when an audience was perfectly tuned to stand respectfully. Thereafter the Players have been included for their singing qualities.

Over the three decades about 75 Bedalians have appeared on stage and some have proceeded to a professional career in music or drama: **Johnny Flynn (1996-2001)**, **Dan Wheeler (1995-2000)**, **Jack Finch (2003-08)**, **Esther Biddle (1994-99)**, **Elizabeth Bichard (1996-98)**, **Natasha Ruiz Barrero (1996-2001)**, **Grace Banks (1998-2003)**, **Gabriel Bruce (2002-07)**, **Stephen Davidson (2000-05)**, **Anna Dennis (1994-96)**, **Dominic Floyd**

**(1997-2002)**, **Simon Gallear (1991-96)**, **Jo Horsley (1994-99)**, **Sofia Larsson (2001-06)**, **Katie Manning (2000-05)**, **Beth Murray (1986-89)**, **Jo Tomlinson (1997-99)**, **Bart Warshaw (1996-01)**, **William Wollen (1987-92)**, **Olivia Brett (2006-14)**. The plays have included more

than 100 four-part songs dating from C14 to popular music of the present day and it is this playing-and-singing that attracts audiences. An essential part of every production has been the musical arrangements of **Nicholas Gleed (staff, 1990-2017)** and lighting by **Janet Auty (staff, 1990-2015)**. Each year, towards the end of August, the Stansted Players return to the school, lying in the orchard and rehearsing in the theatre.

- 2020 *plague*
- 2019 *The Watched Pot (or The Mistress of Briony)* by Saki, 1911
- 2018 *Green Stockings* by A E W Mason, 1911
- 2017 *Speed the Plough* by Thomas Morton, 1798
- 2016 *The Princess Zoubaroff* by Ronald Firbank, 1920
- 2015 *The Master of Mrs Chilvers* by Jerome K Jerome, 1911
- 2014 *The Good-natured Man* by Oliver Goldsmith, 1750
- 2013 *The Cassilis Engagement* by St John Hankin, 1907
- 2012 *Gretchen* by W S Gilbert
- 2011 *The Foresters* by Lord Tennyson, 1881
- 2010 *A Double Falsehood or the Distressed Lovers* by William Shakespeare and John Fletcher, 1727
- 2009 *The Bells* by Leopold Lewis 1871 & (world première) *Jack o' the Cudgel* by William McGonagall, 1870
- 2008 *A Fair Quarrel* by Middleton and Rowley, 1616



Dan Wheeler and Natasha Ruiz Barrero in *Two Noble Kinsmen*, Bedales Theatre, 2004

- 2007 *World Première Barchester Revisited* by Simon Raven, 2000
- 2006 (first staged production) *A Noble Jilt* by Anthony Trollope, 1850
- 2005 *The West Indian* by Richard Cumberland, 1730
- 2004 *Two Noble Kinsmen* by William Shakespeare and John Fletcher, 1612
- 2003 *Vortigern and Rowena* by W H Ireland, 1790
- 2002 *The Princess Zoubaroff* by Ronald Firbank, 1920
- 2001 *The Tender Husband* by Richard Steele, 1720
- 2000 *Hamlet (the bad quarto)*, 1600
- 1999 *Daisy Miller* by Henry James, 1900
- 1998 *Pygmalion and Galatea* by W S Gilbert, 1885
- 1997 *The Frozen Deep* by Wilkie Collins and Charles Dickens, 1850
- 1996 *Our American Cousin* by Tom Taylor, 1860
- 1995 *The Lady of Lyons* by Lord Lytton, 1850
- 1994 *The Frantic Stockjobbers* by William Taverner, 1750
- 1993 *Lovers' Vows* by Kotzbue, 1798
- 1992 *The London Merchant* by George Lillo, 1745
- 1991 *Lady Audley's Secret* by CH Hazelwood, 1850

2023 will be the 100th anniversary of the Players descending directly from the Steep Shakespeare Players via the Court Players which Kate Slack bequeathed (with a cheque for £74) to the Stansted Players. ♡

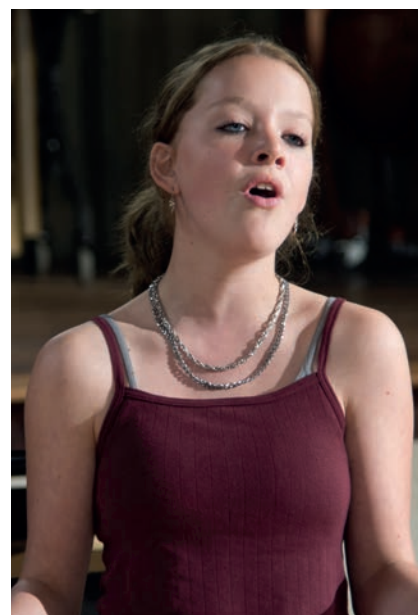


# RETHINKING ASSESSMENT

## Alistair McConville, Director of Learning and Innovation

Even before the first lockdown struck last March, conversations had begun behind closed doors and in the back room of The Harrow about how Bedales might use its independence and experience of curricular adventure to impact on the wider educational community. The work of the Futures and Innovation Group had identified the need to push forward even more boldly on the curriculum front, and in my role as Director of Learning and Innovation I set about building a coalition of fellow would-be reformers to challenge the dreary status quo of an exam-obsessed education culture. Lockdown afforded a chance to connect with all sorts of people virtually, and we established a

group of head teachers from the state and independent sectors, professors, a former education secretary and others to start a campaign. You can read below the 'kick-off' letter of Rethinking Assessment, and you can see more about us on our website (see web link below). Since this letter, we have built a community of over 1,000 supporters, published 25 blogs, received coverage in all the major newspapers, and had audiences with major politicians. The case for reform is building strongly. We are currently running working groups to develop concrete proposals for a broader, more relevant way of valuing the learning and strengths of young people.



### Rethinking Assessment: Mutant exam system is failing our children

*In this letter, leading educators demand urgent action as they launch a group aiming to overhaul the testing regime in schools.*

"We were told this summer that it was a "mutant algorithm" that had caused the anguish of the exam fiasco. COVID may have exposed the failings, but in truth, something more profound is going on, and it has been brewing for years: we have a mutant exam system.

Created with good intentions – "to raise standards" – it has mutated into something that neither measures the right things nor is very reliable, and leaves in its wake a trail of stress and unfairness.

Many of those who are involved in the exams merry-go-round are reaching the same conclusion – it's not fit for purpose and needs to change.

This week a new group – Rethinking Assessment – is being launched to do something about it.

Independent schools, together with a range of head teachers and

key figures from the state sector, are joining neuroscientists and business people, universities and others to make the argument for change and to provide workable solutions and practical ideas that we will pilot in our schools and offer as real alternatives.

Two things unite us. We believe that the purpose of education is to develop the full and diverse range of strengths of every child.

We are also doers and not just thinkers; deeply worried at the impact the current system has on the lives of the children we teach, and we are determined to make lasting change. We are sick of talk without action.

The case for change is becoming more compelling by the day. Many young people find the relentless practice for exams increasingly stressful; depression and self-harm statistics confirm this. The over-crammed curriculum on which tests are premised ensures "covering content" matters more than a love for the richness of a subject.

Thirty or more GCSEs in one month; intense high stakes written exams couldn't be designed better to induce anxiety. The UK has the lowest happiness levels in Europe, according to OECD statistics.

More than that, all pupils, however successful they are at exams, leave school with only a partial record of their strengths. No credit is given to those who are skilled communicators, thoughtful team players, clever problem solvers or creative thinkers; in short the stuff that helps you thrive in life, and makes you invaluable to employers.

That is why, though some companies still use traditional qualifications as a way of sifting candidates, increasing numbers, including accounting firms PwC, KPMG and EY, are developing their own assessment processes to recruit the employees they are looking for. We can learn a lot from their work.

Perhaps worst of all, each year – not just in these exceptional COVID

times – there is an algorithm that is designed to ration the number who pass exams.

Unlike most other countries, a young person in the UK does not get a qualification if they meet the required level, but only if they are better than enough of their peers.

The result is that after 12 years of education, a third leave with nothing. We are passionate about social mobility and believe this is wrong.

GCSEs are in many ways a good starting point for reform. They were introduced to bring O-levels and CSEs together in a fairer way at a time when the school leaving age was 16. Now that the school leaving age is 18, and the exam has become less fair, the vast majority of school leaders, and politicians including the former Education Secretary, Lord Baker, who brought them in, believe they are no longer needed.

To those who say GCSEs may be flawed but they're the most reliable thing we've got, look at Ofqual's own 2018 research which shows that around 50% of grades may have been wrongly awarded in some subjects.

Dame Glenys Stacey, who heads Ofqual, the exams regulator, told MPs that exams "are reliable to one grade either way". In other words if you get a B grade at A level, it could equally have been an A or a C. This is the system we are meant to have so much faith in.

For us, it is not enough for the case for change to be strong. Moving to a better system takes time and needs skill; there are no easy answers. But what we do know is that across the world there are great examples of assessment practices that we could learn from.

The OECD's Pisa programme has drawn on worldwide expertise to devise assessments that measure problem solving, creativity, and social

and emotional learning, not just English and Maths. The principles from these assessments could be applied here in order to measure and value more than subjects.

Technology is providing new possibilities. Portfolios and electronic badging enable recognition for broad accomplishments. The Mastery Transcript Consortium in America brings together a range of schools to do just that. Every child could leave school with a portfolio that could be used in a range of different ways.

Many countries rely more on teacher judgment, and for those worried about inflated results, these can be moderated in skilled ways as already happens for

drama, art, music, and languages at GCSEs and A levels.

All of this is achievable, and post COVID there is a growing appetite for change. Please join us in our quest to make this a reality; add your voice and ideas.

Just as students marched for fairer assessment this summer, all of us have it within us to make this generation and the next feel valued and well prepared for a complex and challenging world beyond school." 🌱

*This letter was first published in the Sunday Times on 26 September.*  
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[rethinkingassessment.com](https://rethinkingassessment.com)

### Signatories

**Peter Hyman**, Co-Director, Big Education, co-founder and first headteacher, School 21

**Simon Henderson**, Head Master, Eton College

**Sarah Fletcher**, High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School

**Sarah-Jayne Blakemore**, Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, Cambridge University

**Kenneth Baker**, Baron Baker of Dorking, former Secretary of State for Education

**Geoff Barton**, General Secretary, Association of School and College Leaders

**Neil Strowger**, CEO, Bohunt Education Trust and Headteacher, Bohunt School

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**Robert Lebatto**, Headmaster, The King Alfred School, London

**Tamsin Ford**, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Cambridge

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**Rachel Macfarlane**, Director of Education Services, Herts for Learning



# ROLE OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

## Colin Baty, Head of Bedales Prep, Dunhurst



**L**ike all headteachers across the country, I am occupied 24/7 with ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and staff in my care. This is no small undertaking, and the job does not end with ensuring that we keep the Coronavirus at bay.

No less important, so far as is possible, is that our children get to enjoy the benefits of school – learning, of course, but also feeling secure, having fun and developing a sense of themselves.

None of these things are easy when whatever we do is framed by physical constraints, and a sense that the world is beyond our control. Our efforts to keep the show on the road have seen us develop new ways of doing things that, pandemic or not, will be useful to us in the future.

In the spring, our online learning platform allowed us to maintain the school's connection with our children, and so continue to offer routine and pastoral care. Since returning to school [in the Autumn term] we have been able to ensure pupil wellbeing is once again at the heart of everything we do.

We have held a 'Living Together' day of outdoor activities, encouraged a tech detox, and our COVID Recovery Plan through our Wellbeing curriculum and across the school has involved lots of discussion about mental health, self-esteem and coping strategies.

The re-opening of schools has seen a renewed appeal for government to support the use of outdoor learning in response to the pandemic. In a letter to the Chair of the Education Select Committee, the group 'Our Bright Future', which includes representatives from The Wildlife Trusts, The National Youth Agency, the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Friends of the Earth, has identified recovery from the pandemic as an opportunity to reassess "how we socialise, work and learn".

Research shows that time spent learning outdoors and interacting with the natural world can raise children's educational attainment, resilience, and wellbeing. The group says this should be the subject of a government inquiry, with a view to making outdoor learning part of the regular curriculum. I strongly add my voice to this cause.

Dunhurst teaches an educationally demanding curriculum in the most interesting and imaginative ways we can conceive. This means getting out into the school grounds for Outdoor Work which is a core weekly curriculum subject all year round, and is designed to be both greatly enjoyed by the boys and girls and also a learning experience. We are fortunate to have a working farm at school.

Welly boots and a hardy cagoule are as essential as a pencil case and a calculator. Learning is led by the seasons – investigating Daddy longlegs, hibernating hedgehogs, growing vegetables, blackberry picking, apple pressing and lambing, for example.

Without them ever having to think about it, our pupils are physically active throughout their school day and beyond. We believe a good and interesting education should be an absorbing one, and that it is perfectly possible to combine all manner of personal and educational benefits when pupils are suitably distracted by having fun.

This is particularly important when times are fraught, and of course when the virus remains a risk to us all we are safer outdoors than in.

Whilst our commitment to outdoor learning might make us unusual amongst our contemporaries in the UK, a little research shows that it has a long and important history. As long ago as 1904, government regulations for elementary schools stressed the value of practical work as part of a wider emphasis on educating the 'total being' rather than simply imparting knowledge.

A quarter of a century later, the 1931 Hadow Report proposed that the primary school curriculum be thought of in terms of 'activity and experience'. Thus, what is now understood by some to be a woolly 1960s permissive educational orthodoxy – that of learning at one's own pace through discovery rather



than the mechanical transmission of facts through instruction – was welcomed by policy makers half a century earlier. We must trust young people, working with their teachers,

as they work out what education, and indeed the world, means for them. If educators do our work well, we will help them to develop the wherewithal to do this.

A key component of this is getting our hands dirty outside, and on a regular basis. If it keeps us healthier and happier, and better able to thrive, it is hard to see a downside. 🌱

*This article was first published on the Telegraph website on 17 November 2020 during the Autumn term when schools were open and we are grateful for their permission to reproduce it here.*

[telegraph.co.uk/education-and-careers/2020/11/17/need-wellies-cagoules-much-pencils-calculator-school](https://telegraph.co.uk/education-and-careers/2020/11/17/need-wellies-cagoules-much-pencils-calculator-school)





# READING LIST – FRAMES OF REFERENCE

## Daniel Alexander (1976-82)

The death of George Floyd, the man suffocated to death by the police in the US, and the publicity surrounding the recent deaths of a number of other African-American men and women has promoted an outpouring of sadness, solidarity and anger. Among the many horrific aspects of the event, one of the most striking is that it was filmed. That footage, and the consequences that flowed from it, have made aspects of the daily lived experience of particularly many African-Americans manifest and has made certain truths undeniable and certain stances untenable.

The impact on educational institutions both in the UK and in the US has been profound. One example: as recently as 2016, one of the great Ivy League colleges in the US, Princeton University, voted to retain the name of its school of international relations: the Woodrow Wilson School. Woodrow Wilson was a revered President of Princeton who transformed it from a sleepy second-rate college into one of the leading universities in the world. Wilson became President of the United States, was a key figure in the founding of the League of Nations and won a Nobel Prize. Who could be worthier of having a school of international relations named after him? Yet last year, Princeton decided to remove his name from one of its most prominent institutions. Woodrow Wilson had been resolutely opposed to African-American attendance at Princeton and played a large role in actively re-segregating parts of the US Government that had been de-segregated. All these facts were known four years ago. So what changed? The public and filmed killing of George Floyd, witnessed and whose witnessing was in turn witnessed around the world has released a flood of recognition – or perception. Those familiar with the plays of Arthur



*Daniel Alexander*

Miller – like many other great works of the literature of transformative recognition – know that truths, like misfortunes, never come singly. The fact of seeing – and being seen to have seen – previously unrecognised things changes the perception of much else. The German word for ‘perception’ is *wahrnehmung* – literally taking something to be true. At such moments of perception, the truth has not changed but what is taken to be true has. Certain facts, certain kinds of lives and ways of being which have been less recognised, less entitled are suddenly in sharper relief and can no longer be overlooked. Part of doing justice involves truthful recognition of aspects of culture and community present but unseen. It requires a dispassionate understanding of the lives of families and communities unjustly dispossessed of freedom and prosperity and of families and communities unjustly enriched from the lives of others.

Many educational institutions have been realising that their frames of reference need some adjustment to take in truths about culture and cultures not universally acknowledged.

They have been looking more intently at what has been overlooked. Bedales is no exception. I was a student at Bedales and later a Governor. My family is partly Ghanaian and partly German Jewish. By and large, I think the staff (and some students) do a good job – and increasingly so in recent years – in encouraging those at the school to look outwards and take a real interest in a range of cultural perspectives. However, it is not easy to turn every Bedalian head in that direction. Students are largely from affluent families. Some have a correlate belief in their own entitlement. The school is less ethnically and socially mixed than some and many staff and students are – as I was – from an untroubled and leafy corner of the South East. Aspects of the daily experience of many in the UK, let alone minority communities here or further afield, do not impinge greatly. This gives rise to a risk of insularity. However, recent events have changed the extent to which certain kinds of perception – or lack of perception – are acceptable and, among other things, correspondence from some past and current students suggests an increasing appetite for a broader view.



*Small Island National Theatre*

Having been locked in, this is a good moment to look out. That is where this reading list comes in. It is not comprehensive but it has a number of different, largely historical, windows into some areas of lives less often explored. They provide ways of understanding some background, since aspects of this history are often neither dead nor even past. Understanding them is no less important than having a grip on the core canon of (say) French or Russian literature.

The list starts with Magnus Bashaarat's choice of Derek Walcott's poems. It is particularly fitting since, as well as being a poet of international standing, Walcott was an accomplished painter. Although more of a successor to the later modernists, one of his longer poems was influenced by Greek epic and lyrical verse and makes a good comparative read for those studying (say) Virgil and Catullan epics. *Orientalism*, by one of the most famous literary critics of the last century,

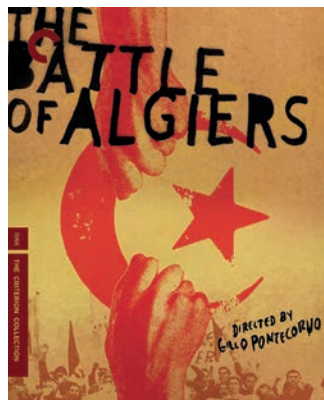
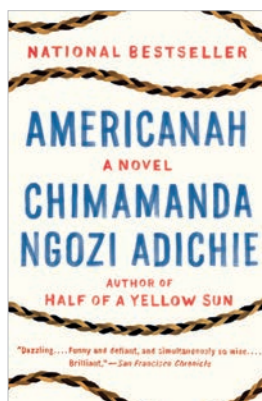
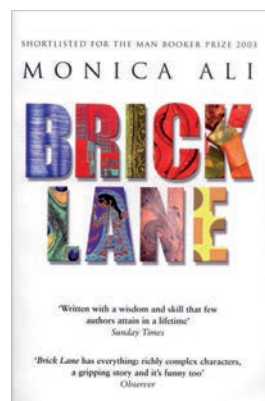
Edward Saïd, has at its heart an analysis of how the exotic in 'foreign' cultures are represented and perceived in arts and humanities. Saïd was, among other things, a pianist and passionate supporter of Palestinian rights. He

created a magnificent Arab-Israeli orchestra with his close friend, the Jewish conductor Daniel Barenboim, as a way of bridging (or rendering irrelevant) by music apparently irreconcilable territorial and cultural



*Syria-Harbour – painted by John Badley*





claims. Barenboim described it as “a project against ignorance”. One might say that *Orientalism* is that too in its own way – and in the words of Tony Just, the historian, it continues to generate “irritation, veneration and imitation” many years after its publication. *Things Fall Apart* is one of the classics of the colonial novel written in the 1950s by one of the masters of Nigerian literature, Chinua Achebe. It is not only a great novel in itself but is a sort of counterpoint to the “imperial gaze” criticised by Saïd. One of Achebe’s successors said of it that it is “the first novel in English which spoke from the interior of the African character, rather than portraying the African as an exotic, as the white man would see him”. That characterisation, by a famous African writer, now seems anachronistic with its presumption that there is or ever was such a thing as an “African character”.

*The Battle for Algiers* and *Xala* (Sembène) in some ways go together – since they are both about elements of Francophone colonial experience – but they could not be more different. *The Battle* is a documentary style of the minutiae – street by street – of the independence war in a French North African colony directed by an Italian director. *Xala* is also a fictional account of the state of another nation, Senegal, but after independence. More recently, women’s voices have reflected both a changed perception

and subject matter. There has also been an increasing focus on the British Caribbean, African and South Asian diaspora. Two very different works, Andrea Levy’s *Small Island* and Monica Ali’s *Brick Lane* combine the two perspectives and are great places to start with this. Levy’s work focusses on the experience of Caribbean families coming to the UK – and *Brick Lane* on the Bangladeshi community in London. Since I have been asked to write a foreword I will exercise droit d’auteur and add another suggestion to create a trio of modern diasporic female perspectives: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah* (2013) about a Nigerian student in the United States and Lagos and the difficulties of the coming to terms with what has become an alien and imagined ‘home’.

Some suggestions may be controversial. Please don’t blame those who have provided these suggestions if your favourite is not here – or pet hates are. Instead, write in to [externalrelations@bedales.org.uk](mailto:externalrelations@bedales.org.uk) with ideas for the next one. Don’t blame them for omitting history, politics or economics, art, architecture, design or science. They will be the subject

of other lists. As to the latter, at Bedales, I tended to sciences and took a degree in Physics and Philosophy at Oxford. I later studied law at Harvard and am now a barrister and part-time judge. So it seems fitting to end with something from a celebrated African-American mathematician who died in 2010 aged 91.

Professor David Blackwell, was born to a poor family in Illinois where his father was a railroad worker. He had finished his first maths degree at 19, an age when most people are just starting theirs – and had to work part-time to pay for it. As an indication of what academics like him were up against at that time, he was invited as a researcher to the Institute of Advanced Study, where Einstein – another person excluded from educational institutions in his home country to preserve their racial purity – later worked. The IAS was affiliated with Princeton and researchers could use its facilities and go to its lectures. But not if one was African-American – thanks to those who shared Woodrow Wilson’s approach. Many years later, Blackwell became Chair of the Department at the University of California at Berkeley where he had previously been refused a post, it is reported, because the wife of the faculty head did not want to have a “darkie” for dinner. He had words of advice which apply just as much to a reading list as to scientific research: keep trying different things, try to find something you like and don’t worry about its overall importance: “there’s a sufficient correlation between interest and importance.” I hope you will find something to interest you on this list. Happy reading. 🌟

Daniel Alexander kindly wrote this foreword to a reading list circulated to Bedales students and families by the school in Summer 2020. The full document with reviews of each book recommendation can be seen here:

[bedales.org.uk/news/wide-range-cultural-perspectives-summer-reading-list](https://bedales.org.uk/news/wide-range-cultural-perspectives-summer-reading-list)

# WHAT'S ON MR BADLEY'S BOOKSHELF?

## Ian Douglas, Librarian

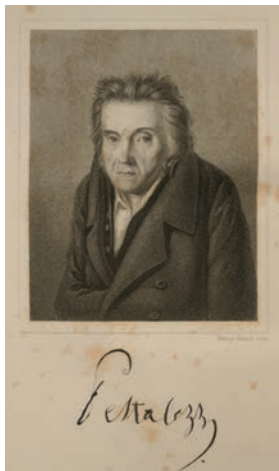
Few of us can resist the temptation to peek at a friend's bookcases, looking for insights into their character and preoccupations.

Many relics of Mr Badley's personal library survive in the school. Shall we permit ourselves to be a little nosy?

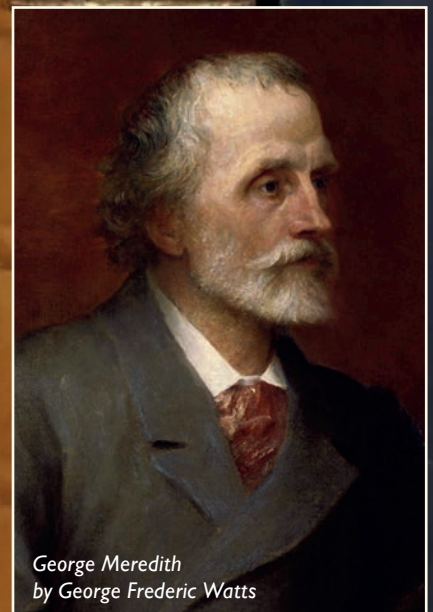
Mr Badley himself was always generous in acknowledging his inspirations. It's no disrespect to his towering importance in the history of progressive education that we should recognise his influences. At the same time, JHB stressed that experience and pragmatism were, for him, the highest authorities.

One such influence was John Locke. Mr Badley owned a 1772 edition of his *Thoughts Concerning Education*.

it may give some small Light to those, whose Concern for their dear little Ones makes them so irregularly bold, that they dare venture to consult their own Reason, in the Education of their Children, rather than wholly to rely upon old Custom.

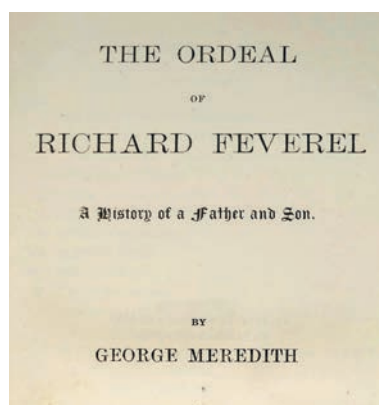


There are numerous books by and about the Swiss educational reformer Pestalozzi, including his 1781 novel *Leonard and Gertrude*, in which a teacher sets out to remake his school after the model of a loving family home. Among our debts to Pestalozzi is our adaptation of his slogan 'Learning by head, hand and heart'. Also well represented are Pestalozzi's disciple Froebel, inventor of the Kindergarten, and pioneer of learning through play, as is Maria Montessori, whose ideas did so much to shape early education at Bedales, especially through her student **Amy Clarke (1904-1909; staff, 1918-54)**, later Head of Dunhurst.



George Meredith  
by George Frederic Watts

Each of the Badleys – both John and Amy – left behind a well-used copy of George Meredith's 1859 novel *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel*. The hero of the story is the victim of his father's austere educational doctrines, not least his determination to shield young Richard from any contact with girls of his own age. I wonder if this cautionary tale influenced the Badleys' commitment to co-education.



Other books tell of the fascinating mixture of progressive causes that clustered around the New School movement. They remind us that Bedales was founded not only to change education but to change the world. 'Any philosophy of education', wrote Badley, 'implies a whole philosophy of life'.



Mr Badley has left us many books by his friend Edward Carpenter. Carpenter was a utopian socialist and back-to-the-land pioneer, but is probably best remembered today as a fearless champion of gay rights, living openly with his partner George Merill from 1898 until the latter's death 30 years later, in defiance of the repressive climate following the Oscar Wilde scandal.

Mr Badley's copy of Carpenter's *The Intermediate Sex* is inscribed to him 'with hearty regard from EC'.

This fascinating book remains a moving and impressive monument to a pioneering generation.

'Anyone who realises what Love is, the dedication of the heart, so profound, so absorbing, so imperative, and always just in the noblest natures so strong, cannot fail to see how difficult, how tragic even, must often be the fate of those whose deepest feelings are destined to be a riddle and a stumbling block, unexplained to themselves, passed over in silence by others.'

It is interesting, too, to see which of his ideas have not stood the test of time. To many 21st century readers, Carpenter seems to conflate quite separate issues of gender and sexuality, as the title of the book suggests.



J. H. Badley  
with hearty regard  
from E. C.  
Jan 1909

### ANIMALS' RIGHTS

CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO  
SOCIAL PROGRESS

BY  
HENRY S. SALT

Henry S Salt – the 'father of animal rights' and colleague of Gandhi – also takes his place on the shelf.

Nearby are many books by or about members of the Garrett family. There are works by the Suffragist leader Millicent Garrett Fawcett, who was Amy's cousin and guardian. Here too are many mementoes of Edmund Garrett, Amy's brother and JHB's closest friend, who died tragically young following a literary and political career in the Cape Colony. Edmund is just one of many links between Bedales and the liberal tradition in South Africa. John Molteno, the first Prime Minister of the Cape Colony who, like Edmund Garrett fought to preserve the colour-blind franchise, was the grandfather of numerous Bedalians.

The fact that this dream of racial equality in South Africa was later defeated by the likes of Cecil Rhodes, shouldn't prevent us remembering it with respect.



Fydel Edmund Garrett

This book deserves to be held sacred by all Bedalians. It is the biography of one important Bloomsbury figure by another: Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson, by E M Forster. It was 'Goldie' who suggested that Badley join Cecil Reddie in launching the first of The New Schools at Abbotsholme. Even more important, two years later it was Goldie who first brought together Badley and Oswald Powell – the yin and yang of Bedales – two men of very different gifts and temperaments, to whose complementary partnership we owe so much.



G. L. D.

From the portrait by Roger Fry



### Third International Gathering of School-children.

Réunion Internationale d'Enfants.

Internationale Zusammenkunft von  
Schulkindern.

Held at Bedales School, Hants., England, by the  
kind permission of J. H. Badley, Esq.,  
August, 1929.

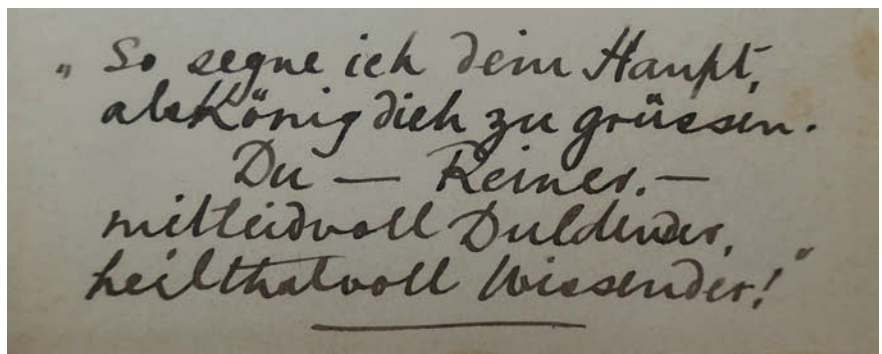
There are books which speak of the impact of Bedales on the wider world. These include many works by Badley disciples, such as Joseph H Wicksteed and Laurin Zilliacus, who have transplanted off-shoots of Bedales in other soils.

There are books by admirers such as Edmond Demolins, whose *À quoi tient la supériorité des Anglo-Saxons* did so much to bring pupils to Bedales from all round the world.

The book pictured here is one of those which show Bedales at the heart of movements for peace and international friendship, in a world still recovering from the disillusionment of the First World War:

Some books speak of the private side of the Badleys' life. An exquisitely bound copy of Wagner's *Parsifal* – with watered silk doublures – was Amy's birthday present to John in 1892, during their engagement. Quoting Act III, she has inscribed it to one 'pure of heart. Pitying sufferer; enlightened healer'

A gift from John to Amy is inscribed 'in memory of August and September 1888', which must refer to a holiday spent in Norway during their courtship. The gift was Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, which for John was 'a sacred book ... it seemed to open a great shining window in my narrow house of life'.



Someone – Amy? – has pressed a flower next to the verse:

*Not I, not anyone else can travel that road for you,  
You must travel it for yourself.*

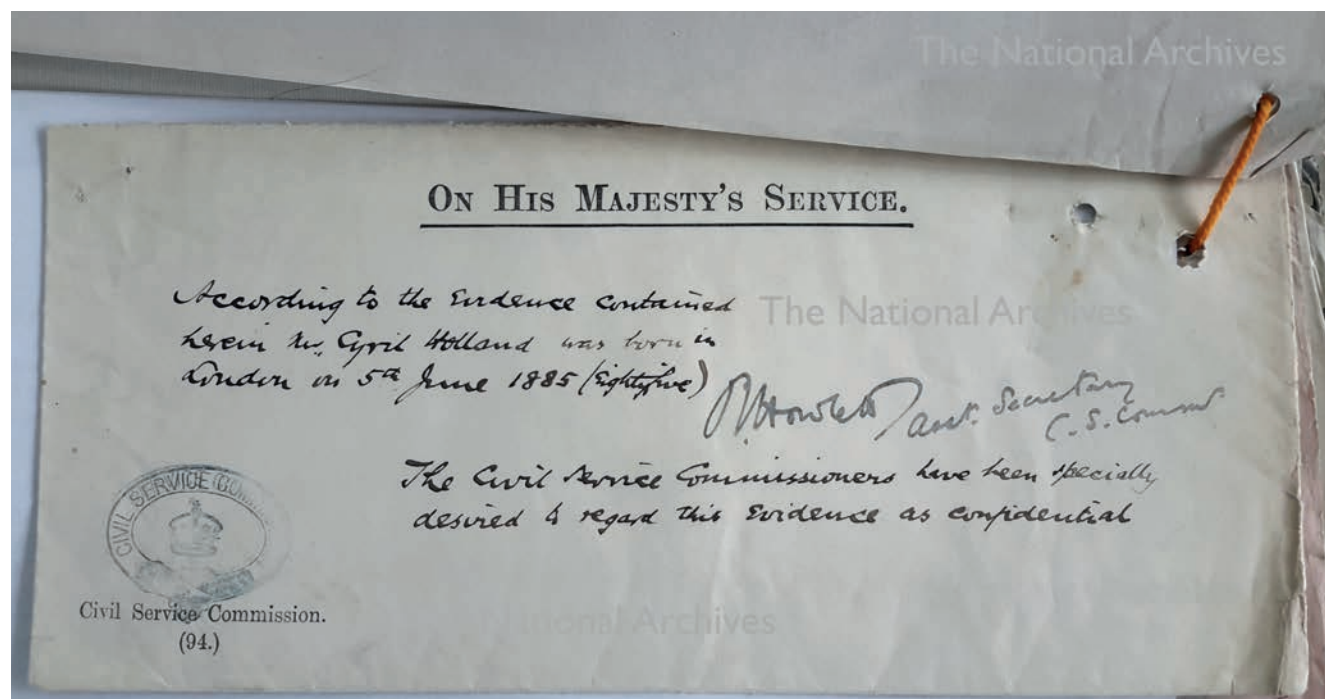
If this strikes you as a fitting motto for John Badley, and for the school he founded, you are not alone. A special presentation copy of JHB's *Memories and Reflections*, bound by Roger Powell for the Chief's 90th birthday, has the same line discreetly worked into the gilt tooling of the binding. ✨





# THIS ENVELOPE CONTAINED A SECRET

Ian Douglas, Librarian



Officials working in the War Office in 1907 were surely accustomed to dealing with top secret information. Their files must have bulged with secret intelligence about troop strengths, contingency plans for attack or defence, and cutting-edge weapons technology.

And yet in this particular War Office file, one document was considered so sensitive that it had to remain in a

sealed envelope. For the sake of those not privy to the secret, a note on the outside of the envelope told them all they were entitled to know: that the army officer known to them as Lieutenant Cyril Holland had been born in London in 1885. The document inside – had they been allowed to see it – would have told them his real name.

But this was considered so sensitive, so shameful, that even War Office civil servants were not allowed to know the truth.

What is remembrance? What are we trying to do when we remember the dead? Well, perhaps it will help to think about an antonym. To be dis-membered – is to be torn apart, broken up. In a literal sense that's exactly what happened to many of the Bedalians honoured in the Memorial Library. They were torn apart by bombs or bullets, or smashed into pieces when their planes fell from the sky. Their friends and families wanted to prevent them being dismembered in another way too: if everything that they had been was forgotten, scattered by the winds of time, then they would

be doubly lost. I think this is one of the reasons why a library is such a fitting war memorial. It's not just a place where their names are recorded, it's a place where their stories are re-told, and passed on. So if we re-member someone, we're trying to recall something of who they were when they were whole. To get a sense of the real person whose life was brought to a sudden and premature end. And the possible futures that came to nothing.

As the Old Bedalian poet **Ferenc Békássy (1905-11)** put it, shortly before his own death in the First World War:

*Not blood, but the beautiful years of  
his coming life have been spilled,  
The days that should have followed*

At last year's Remembrance Jaw, we made a change to the way we read out the names of our war dead. Previously, we have named them quite formally, the way the names appear on the war memorial. Last year, we decided to use their first names, and we did a lot of work to make sure we used the name, or sometimes the



Cyril and mother

nickname, by which they were actually known to their friends and family. So H M Procter became **Harry Procter (1909-12)**. G W R Mapplebeck became **Gib Mapplebeck (1904)**. His first name was actually Gilbert – but Gib is what he was always called by those close to him. We felt that this was a better fit for the informal way we do things at Bedales, and also a better reminder that there's a real person, a real story, behind every name in that long, long list. But having looked at the first names, there was one person who gave us a difficult dilemma about his surname. What should we call Cyril Holland?

Cyril was one of the very earliest Bedalians. At the age of nine, he can be seen in one of the first school photographs, when the whole Bedales community, staff and students, numbered just 33 people. Mr Badley

was a friend of Cyril's father, who was one of the greatest celebrities of the day. Not long after this photo was taken, Cyril's father was convicted of "gross indecency" with other men, and sent to prison. That was only the beginning of the punishment that society expected. There was also an attempt to ensure that his name was completely forgotten. The Echo (one of the main London newspapers at the time) wrote, "Let him go into silence, and be heard no more". The Daily Telegraph predicted – or perhaps hoped for, "The grave of contemptuous oblivion". The night that their father was sent to prison, Cyril and his brother were smuggled out of the country by their governess. They weren't told where they were going, or for how long. They didn't know why they were being spirited out of the country, or whether they

would ever return. As they were driven through London they could see that every newspaper headline began with their father's name, but no one told them what had happened to him, and they didn't dare to ask.

Cyril's brother Vyvyan remembered that they used to cry for the toys which they had left behind – their train set and toy soldiers. Vyvyan later found out this was because their toys had been seized by the bailiffs to pay their father's debts, along with everything else they owned. Their crying particularly upset their mother, so they learned to bury their feelings, and keep silent. It's little wonder that, as Vyvyan said of his brother, "the iron entered into his soul".

He ended up a professional soldier in India, rather a solitary figure who kept himself aloof from the social life of the officers' mess. He took part in



THE SCHOOL GROUP, DECEMBER, 1894.



various expeditions in remote parts of Central Asia, completely alone, in fact there's some suggestion he may have been a spy. In June 1914, he summed himself up in a letter to his brother.

*Gradually, I became obsessed with the idea that I must retrieve what had been lost.*

*All these years my great incentive has been to wipe that stain away; to retrieve, if may be, by some action of mine, a name no longer honoured in the land. For that I have laboured; for that I have toiled ... over difficult country in dangerous times,*

*This has been my purpose for sixteen years. It is so still. I ask nothing better than to end in honourable battle for my King and Country.*

His wish was soon granted. The same month in which he wrote that letter, June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo. Far away in India, his brother officers didn't give it much thought, but Cyril bet his CO fifty pounds that within six weeks the world would be at war.

At the time, no one foresaw the years of stalemate on the Western

front. Many really did believe it would "all be over by Christmas". So when Cyril learned that his regiment was to remain in India he moved heaven and earth to get a transfer. In fact he said he would give up his rank as Captain and his nine years' seniority, in order to become the most junior subaltern in any regiment going to France. On 9 May 1915, in the trenches, he got involved in a sort of duel with a German sniper, and was shot dead.

The former poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, in her war poem *The Last Post* asks us to imagine

*If poetry could tell it backwards ...  
... watch bleed bad blood  
run upwards from the slime into its wounds;  
see lines and lines of British boys rewind  
back to their trenches ...*

I think that part of what she's doing in this poem is reminding us that our acts of remembrance cannot ever undo the destruction and the loss. Maybe I was wrong in what I said earlier about remembering. Perhaps it's wrong, as well as futile, to imagine we can recapture what is lost. Perhaps it's more important to come to terms with the irreversibility of the



Cyril and parents

destruction that we human beings visit on one another.

In the case of Cyril, we certainly can't give him back the years of life he might have lived. We can't undo the savage process that, because his father was gay, turned him from a happy little boy into a young man who only wanted to die. We can never give him back his happy home, or the lost toys that he cried for.

But there's one thing we can undo. We can undo what Cyril called the stain on his real surname. And we can name him with pride, **Cyril Wilde (1894-95)**, the son of Oscar Wilde. 🌹

### Note on sources

The words attributed to Cyril above are taken – in a much abbreviated form – from a letter written to his brother in June 1914, and published in *Son of Oscar Wilde* by Vyvyan Holland (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1954), p.140. The same book is the source for the details of the young brothers' flight and exile in 1895, and for Cyril's military career and war service.

The image of the confidential envelope is from Cyril's service record (TNA:WO 339/6404) and is reproduced here courtesy of The National Archives. All rights reserved.

The Ferenc Békassy lines are from his poem *1914*. This appeared in *Adriatica and Other Poems*, a posthumous collection of his poetry, published in a small edition by Leonard and Virginia Woolf's Hogarth Press in 1925. The Bedales Memorial Library is fortunate to hold a copy of this rather rare book, given by a fellow Cambridge Apostle, the poet R C Trevelyan, when the latter was a Bedales parent.

Carol Ann Duffy's *The Last Post* was commissioned by the BBC and first performed on the Radio 4 Today programme on 30 July 2009. It is published in her collection *The Bees* (London: Picador, 2011).

The 1894 whole school photograph is from the Bedales Archive.

The photographs of Cyril and his mother c.1889, and with both parents a year or two later, are understood to be in the public domain.

## Anna Keay (1987-92)



Smell is the best time machine. The elderflower and wild garlic lanes of Steep; the sweet, fermenting apples of the orchard in autumn; the vinegary tang of the dining room; the booky, oakish, rush-matting air of the Library; frosty night air your fingertips sharp with cigarettes and oranges. When you start summoning up the smells of Bedales they keep on coming. Wet footprints on brick steps up to the Lupton Hall; the rubber and plastic, roller-skates and shuttlecocks of the sports hall; the dry, husky sweet-stale air of the cricket pavilion; the warm fug of Steephurst, all Alberto VO5, Loulou perfume and toast. All these smells have been in my mind recently. How much experience and memory is formed by the physical qualities of a place, what they feel and smell and sound like.

Over my last five years as the buildings rep on the Board of Governors I have been thinking a lot

about Bedales buildings and, for reasons of environmental sustainability as well as nostalgia, pursuing a plan of sorts to make them better. Treating the best with the reverence they deserve, making better places of the decent ones which have become a bit grim, avoiding putting buildings where there were none before, and getting rid of the shocking ones that frankly should have gone years ago. Key to doing this well has been Richard Griffiths, the brilliant conservation architect behind, among other things, the revival of St Pancras Station, who has been our architectural guru throughout.

The Lupton Hall, Library and Covered Way are Bedales' brightest gems. Work in these Grade I listed buildings has been about ensuring they are repaired with the right expertise and materials, and that they are then properly used, and not left as empty hulks. Twenty years after

laptop use became commonplace the Bedales Library finally has power sockets in every bay – long regarded as something impossible to achieve because of the building's listed status but now carefully and discreetly done. When the late great **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)** was spotted in a remote rear bay clackering away on her keyboard, it was clear this had not been an innovation too far.

The Lupton Hall has had a full renaissance. After over 20 years of being rarely used, a comprehensive repair project has brought the building back to life. Major interventions have made this possible: the back of the stage has been dropped to achieve an almost level surface usable for music and performance without everyone rolling slowly to the front or becoming seasick. The heavy stage curtains have been taken down to reveal the great round east window, now repaired, and



leaded lights have replaced 1960s plate glass in the windows overlooking the Orchard. The final part of this work will come this summer with the repair of the Covered Way, legendary look-out point and place of rendezvous. Its lovely timber gutters and downpipes will be repaired, and in places remade entirely, and the shockingly neglected tile roof taken off and carefully reinstated.

Moving beyond these gems much else has been happening. At Dunhurst an awful pair of prefabs in which languages were taught, forming the grimmest imaginable sight at the far end of the lower carpark, have been removed. In their place we have built Bees' Barn. Designed in the style of Dunhurst's two vernacular barns – the Workshop and the Crèche (or 'Barn' as it was when home to the weaving looms) – it is a timber framed and boarded structure with casement windows and a roof of handmade tiles, all nestling under the great branches of a Dunhurst oak.

At Bedales, the new Art and Design Building masterminded by Matthew Rice (Chairman of Governors) left the complex of old art and design buildings on the north side of the Orchard redundant. These are now



being reborn, and largely rebuilt, as 'the Studies', a complex of Sixth Form Study Units, communal workspaces and staff offices. The Old Reading Room is being replaced with a new sixth form bar and common room opening directly onto the Orchard. I hope yoga will happen here again when the work is complete. Meanwhile the miserable black excrescence known as the 'Academic Village' which has squatted like a toad on Steephurst Lawn for too

long will disappear and grass and trees will take its place.

But it does not end there. Two more projects are planned. Ever since the school became too big to hold assemblies in the Lupton Hall, the Quad has been filled with a mountain of utilitarian tiered seating. This towering hulk of metal and plastic fills two-thirds of the space making it unlovely and unloved, and creating a claustrophobic, oppressive space at the heart of the school. The plan is to form a light, airy new assembly space on the south side of the Orchard by adapting and extending to the rear the former gym. This in turn will liberate the Quad. With its tiered seating gone, it can be repaired and improved to bring out its character as a handsome brick-arcaded internal courtyard, with casement windows and a new lightweight roof. Once again, we hope, such core Bedales activities as mooching about, waiting to go into lunch, dancing, discussing the fall of the patriarchy, plaiting your friends' hair and hanging-about-with-your-mates will return to this terrific and rejuvenated space. After a year of facemasks and social distancing, it will not come a moment too soon. 🍀



## Mark Hanson (1977-84), JBF Chair



**B**y the time you read this, the COVID crisis will be 12 months old. Thanks to the scientists at Pfizer and elsewhere, we can now see an end to this bleakest of periods but the world has been much changed.

Here in the US, where my wife and I live, we've seen some of the best and worst of it. A bitter and divisive presidential campaign has underscored the deep divisions in American society and a sense that this country still needs a fuller reckoning for the racial injustices of the past in order to move forward. It's also a year in which critical issues, whether on the environment, racial injustice or gender identity are being addressed more openly and constructively. In that context, it has been interesting to observe in the media how more traditional schools than Bedales have been unable to bring these issues into debate without questioning their very identities. And as I reflect on that, it strikes me that the Bedalian 'traditions' of tolerance, daring to think differently, innovation and healthy debate have never been as valuable as they are today. It's not what you know but what you think and do about it that matters. It's also not surprising to me that faced with the challenges of COVID, Bedales has adapted nimbly, creatively and thoughtfully to deliver the best educational experience it can.

Over the last year, I've served as a Bedales governor and as the chair of trustees for the John Badley Foundation (JBF), the charity that gives children facing severe challenges at home or school, the life-changing opportunity of a Bedales education that they could not normally access. And what has struck me most positively over this period is that those same 'traditions' that I remember, cherish and have given me so much personally, are alive and well at Bedales but in a more modern context. My own self-memory is of a student who was industrious rather than gifted but who was blessed to be taught by, amongst other very good teachers, **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)**. She inspired in me a love of History and wouldn't accept idle thought. Ever! In short, Ruth taught

me to think and I couldn't be more grateful for that.

Since 2011, together with the school, JBF has enabled 17 students to have a full Bedales education. With thanks to some of those JBF scholars, there are now some wonderful stories to tell (see weblink below for more details) and it has been brilliant to welcome one JBF alumna, **Esme Allman (2013-15)** onto the JBF board where she'll make a great contribution. Meeting Esme recently was very special, because it confirmed that my own modest contribution has helped some exceptional young people to flourish. This space in the OB Newsletter allows me to thank those OBs, parents and friends of Bedales for their generous contributions to the JBF. You have directly and demonstrably changed people's lives through Bedales.

At JBF, we've recently raised our sights higher and would like to double the number of students we can support from what is still a small financial base. This year has been economically challenging for so many people across the UK and that makes it more difficult to reach out to people for their support. But at the same time, the need is even greater and the gift of a Bedales education never so empowering. If you'd like to learn more, then Tanya Darlow ([tdarlow@bedales.org.uk](mailto:tdarlow@bedales.org.uk)) or I would welcome that. ☺

[bedales.org.uk/support-us/impact](https://bedales.org.uk/support-us/impact)





## Jessica Cross, JBF Trustee



I grew up in Johannesburg during the 1960s and 70s. These were the height of the apartheid years and my education

reflected the status quo. At secondary school, as a teenager, I had exactly two art lessons. Art was considered frivolous. The only music lessons I had were private, financed and encouraged by my parents. Furthermore, since the Government deemed it undesirable that we were exposed to the outside world, television was banned and therefore access to news was tightly controlled by the state. I first saw TV when I was 17 (1976) and even then, the content was strictly limited.

My only access to the real world was historical with a 12 month time lag via a set of Encyclopaedia Britannica that my mother bought in hard copy on a monthly basis for my sisters and

me. And we were the fortunate ones – the segregated education system ensured that the vast majority of my fellow South Africans fared a lot worse than I did, and hence the origin of the term ‘the lost generations’ and its wide usage by historians.

So attending an open day at Bedales, many years later with my son, was a game-changer for me and I vividly recall coming away from the tour feeling wistful and thinking: how different would my life have turned out if I had benefitted from a Bedales education?

And that is exactly my starting point in acting as a Trustee of the John Badley Foundation as we consider each and every application from the lists of potential beneficiaries. I ask myself: how will a Bedales education transform the life of this particular student? And then of course, I ask the same question but the other way round: what will be the fate of this applicant if they don’t get the opportunity to attend Bedales?

The former I can answer having watched my son flourish during his intervening Bedales years and as for the latter, I have personal first-hand experience.

As a Trustee, I get to see this transformation take place and this has inspired me to support the John Badley Foundation by volunteering my time since its inception, and with a pledged legacy. For me, it’s important to give back to the school that allowed my son to become more of who he already was. My relationship with the school, therefore, continues in this way and this feels very right. It’s a unique community and one that I’m humbly proud to be a part of.

I hope that your time at Bedales was in some way transformative too. And I hope that you will consider joining me in affording this opportunity to others. My fellow trustees and I are hugely grateful for the support of the OB community, but most importantly – so are the kids. And that’s what it’s all about – it’s just the Bedales way. 🌟

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## Valerie Saint-Pierre (1982-90)



If you are reading this then you must already understand that Bedales is not an ordinary school. The environment that is

fostered there is one which encourages independent thinking, self-reliance and creativity, all within a nurturing and supportive environment. This is a place that gives its students the opportunity to explore a wide breadth of new experiences alongside the traditional ‘core’ subjects, discover what they love and expand their horizons safely.

For me, an independent, creative thinker, this was an environment I could flourish in. However, it was only after

I finished my schooling that I realised exactly how lucky I was to have had these opportunities, rather than being encouraged only into those areas for which I had a natural inclination or which were rated as ‘more important’ by career services or government bodies. In fact, ironically, my first ever job in publishing came about precisely because I had a wide breadth of knowledge rather than simply a degree in English Literature; as my employer later told me, he hired me because I could hold a conversation about pretty much anything!

In the intervening 30-odd years I have become more and more aware of how important my schooling was to me, and subsequently how important

it is to enable the same opportunities for other children. I have been supporting the JBF since its foundation over 10 years ago regardless of whether I have been employed or not, because I continue to believe every penny extremely well spent if it allows even one child to access the breadth of knowledge that I was given access to – which I believe is the foundation of a true education. I have no children of my own, but it gives me enormous satisfaction to know that I, even in a very small way, am enabling the broadening of young and curious minds through my monthly donations. I hope you will consider donating as well. 🌟

[bedales.org.uk/support-us](https://bedales.org.uk/support-us)

In the 2020 Newsletter, we featured an interview with artist **John Hitchens (1952-57)**. Among the Bedalian influences on John's life, he recalled that **Mr Messingham (staff, 1923-63)**, the woodwork teacher at Dunhurst gave him a love of working with tools. This love was apparent at John's recent exhibition *Aspects of Landscape* at Southampton City Art Gallery when we took a group of Bedales parents to meet John during the Autumn term. The Gallery have created a virtual tour of the exhibition along with an interview with John about his life and work (see weblink below).

John writes on his Instagram account [@jhitchens](https://www.instagram.com/jhitchens) "the 1990s saw the beginning of a move away from painting on canvas only. Many of the new paintings were influenced by works in 3-dimensional form that were done at the same time. This led to pictures on irregular, layered canvases or on shaped wooden logs. All of them represent

forms found in the landscape". John's most recent work, including 'Wooden Blades', is now represented by Felix and Spear Gallery in Ealing.

We are delighted that John's relationship with Bedales continues in many ways: through his own art and his willingness to share this with the school community; through his family, with his two sons and now grandchildren attending the school; and most recently by donating a painting from his father's

collection to the school as a token of appreciation. The painting by Ivon Hitchens was auctioned by Christie's on 2 March 2021 with all proceeds going to the John Badley Foundation. We would like to thank John for this most generous and thoughtful gift. Our thanks also go to Jonathan Clark Fine Art for facilitating this donation. 🌟

[southamptoncityartgallery.com](https://southamptoncityartgallery.com)



John Hitchens' *Aspects of Landscape* exhibition, Southampton City Art Gallery



## Tanya Darlow, Head of Development

Over the last year, many of you have generously donated to the John Badley Foundation. Some of you supported the charity with a monthly gift, many of you remembered Bedales in your will and a wonderfully large number of you bought mugs, plates and puzzles from our fundraising shop. Thank you for sticking with us during this difficult year.

With your support, we have opened our doors to 17 children who faced severe challenges at home or at school. Nine of these children are still at the school and at the time of writing, are receiving extra pastoral support during this second school lockdown. For our leavers, the experience has been transformational; **Roly Botha (2010-15)** and **Albie Waterton (2012-14)** have explained why in two short films on the school website (see weblink below). Please do take a look.

As this newsletter lands on your doorstep, we will be meeting applicants for 2021 bursary places. We continue to work closely with Royal SpringBoard and Buttle UK to ensure we are giving places to children most likely to benefit from a Bedales boarding education. Our partnership with these charities also means we can be part of a focus on impact and learning. Royal SpringBoard can now demonstrate evidence that bursary placements, including those at Bedales, for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people lead to – improved academic performance; improvements to pupils' emotional and social wellbeing; improved chances of securing places at university or competitive apprenticeships; and a ripple effect of rising aspirations in home communities.

So, we know that the programme works and we know that we want to continue. But crucially, given the significant learning loss for disadvantaged pupils over the last year, our mission is even more urgent. Our target, as

mentioned by Mark Hanson in his piece (page 45), is to increase the number of children supported each year from nine to fourteen over the next four years. This is a huge step for the charity and will only be possible if we double annual donations from £250,000 to £500,000 by 2025.

We cannot do this without you. You appreciate the value of a Bedales education. You understand why a boy who joined the school with JBF funding last year felt like he was 'coming home'. You can imagine why, for a child like this, it is the first time he has ever felt truly accepted.

For the younger generations reading this, it may be your first foray into philanthropy. You may be wondering how your small contribution can make a difference. Collectively, I promise you that you can. Your gift, combined with others, is match-funded by the school and directly funds a place for a child. The more we raise, the more places we can offer. Some donors choose to fund a full place. Others choose to give a monthly amount. Every pound counts and the programme would not exist without your support.

There are so many ways you can help. You can donate or set up a regular gift online (see weblink below), email [tdarlow@bedales.org.uk](mailto:tdarlow@bedales.org.uk) or call me to discuss legacy giving or to speak to me about our major donor programme. You could also donate an item or experience for the summer auction. This must be COVID safe so we will need to be creative! It could be a holiday home in the UK, a painting, a writing retreat, a year's supply of chocolate, or a sheep shearing workshop. The more Bedalian the better.

Not all our donations come directly from individuals. If you, or a member of your family serve as a trustee for a charitable trust or foundation, your employer offers a company giving scheme, or you want to offer a venue or location for a fundraising event, please let me know.

When I talk to bursary students about their first impressions of the school, they often say that it feels like a very open and giving community. I hope that together, we can keep it that way. Thank you for your support. 🌟

[bedales.org.uk/support-us/impact](https://bedales.org.uk/support-us/impact)  
[bedales.org.uk/support-us](https://bedales.org.uk/support-us)



Albie Waterton in the Art and Design building

## Cathy Baxandall (1970-76), Chair of Trustees, BGTF

**T**he Bedales Grants Trust Fund (BGTF) is now in its ninth decade! Founded in 1927 by John Badley (and a group of close friends, colleagues and supporters of the Bedales' ethos) its purpose is to provide financial support through bursaries for students at Bedales, particularly (but not exclusively) those with Old Bedalian connections. Over its long existence it has, through a combination of generous lifetime giving and some magnificent legacies, particularly in the last 10 years, been able to award a significant number of bursaries for students in need of fee support during their time at Bedales.

On average, we support between 20-25 students by funding a third of annual fees over their school career at Bedales. In 2020 we made means-tested bursary awards in aggregate of around £267,000, helping 24 current students to pursue their education at Bedales.

The BGTF is a registered charity (No 1036179) which is independent from the school and governed by independent trustees. The current trustees are myself as Chair (since 2016), **Dennis Archer (staff, 1974-2008)**, **Camilla Church (1989-1992)**, **Stephen Davies (1989-1994)**, **Josephine Jonathan (2006-2008)** and **Lynn Percy (1972-1977)**.

**Peter Hall (1975-79)** retired as a trustee after the 2020 AGM. Peter, who has had a stellar career covering investment, journalism and publishing, and also latterly conservation and political activism, gave a massive boost to BGTF through his generous donation of £250,000 back in 2005-06. Becoming a trustee shortly after, over the next seven years he used his expertise in investment to enable this fund to grow exponentially and it is thanks to his exceptional generosity, coupled with his talented investment record, that the BGTF today can make such a difference. I would like to record huge thanks to him for his dedication:

he has been an incredible force for change and we will not forget his willingness to challenge, his enthusiasm for Bedales and his amazing positive energy, providing inspiration throughout his tenure as a trustee.

With the fund currently standing at £6.7 million, the BGTF Trustees' aim is to generate sufficient returns through investment, without depleting capital but retaining flexibility to respond to particular student needs, so that we can sustainably continue to pay bursaries for many years to come. The funds are independently and ethically managed, overseen by an Investment Committee, currently comprising Lynn Percy, Josephine Jonathan and Dennis Archer.

In 2018, the trustees resolved that its share portfolio should include only ethical investments, with the remainder in cash or cash equivalents. BGTF's investment assets are divided between

the Rathbone Greenbank ethical fund (£3.6m) and cash or cash-equivalents of £3.1 million.

In 2020, we were also very grateful to receive legacies amounting in aggregate to £66,000. It is very touching that Bedalian roots and loyalties remain so strong, and rewarding to know that the generous spirit of those who leave legacies to BGTF will be carried through to the next generation. Our deepest thanks go to those who have seen fit to donate in this way. New donations to BGTF, whether lifetime or by means of a legacy in a will, are always welcomed.

Thanks go to Richard Lushington, Bedales Bursar, who acts as BGTF's Bursar and Secretary, and to Magnus Bashaarat and the rest of the administrative team for their help and support. Whatever the circumstances, through the award of new bursaries we expect to continue sustainably supporting as many pupils as possible to experience a Bedales education. 🌱





## Mark Bromley (1992-99)



When people think about the careers and professions of Old Bedalians, their thoughts tend to run towards the arts and crafts, perhaps towards media or journalism. The commercial world is not always top of mind and yet there are a number of OBs who have not only thrived in that arena but ascribe their success to the lessons that they learned at Bedales.

Such a case is Mark Bromley, who takes us through his life in procurement at home and abroad after leaving Bedales and looks back fondly on school days that were filled with a competitive ethos, a great deal of sport and an environment in which encouragement to succeed in any field was ever-present.

His father was a diplomat and for the formative years of his life, Mark became accustomed to adapting to very different environments at more or less regular intervals. "I was born in the UK but then we moved to Norway when I was two, to Dubai a couple of years later and then to Malawi when I was around seven", he explains. "That kind of travelling life wasn't the best for a settled education and my parents recognised the need to find a good boarding school back in England for my brother and me."

The family choice fell on Bedales. "I think that my parents just loved the

ethos of the place," says Mark. "It was something different, a mixture of all kinds of people, and although I was initially taken aback by sharing space with so many other kids, some of whom were quite home-sick in the early days, I never looked back after the first couple of weeks."

"Adapting quickly had never been a problem for me," Mark continues. "I had obviously travelled a fair bit by then, which had given me a degree of openness to other people, and I embraced the new challenge. Bedales is very much about extending a family feeling, I always felt a natural part of that and I was quickly able to build new relationships. When you have a place with such supportive teachers and so many people who shared the same kind of overseas-based background that I had, it was comparatively easy for me."

At school, Mark found his extra-curricular activities to be chiefly occupied by sport. "I wasn't the most artistic person," he cheerfully admits. "There were a couple of shining drama stars among my contemporaries but while I gave both art and drama a go, I excelled at neither. On the other hand, I absolutely loved sport and the feeling of being a part of the team, which Bedales was very good at emphasising. We were an extremely competitive bunch, both within the group and against other school opposition, and as I remember, our win/loss ratio across most sports was pretty good at the time. I have fond memories of always being outdoors at the weekends, sometimes doing the odd bit of outdoor work, but mostly playing matches and not being ashamed of the fact that we wanted to win them! I knew where my strengths lay and one of the great things about Bedales was that wherever that happened to be, you were encouraged to go and make the most of those strengths."

Read more: [bedales.org.uk/alumni/mark-bromley](https://bedales.org.uk/alumni/mark-bromley)

## Mick Csáky (1951-63)



*We thank Mick for kindly writing up the following account of his life, which includes 50 years of documentary film-making.*

Fuelled by the optimism and arrogance of youth, back in 1971, after eight years of further education (five years of art school and three years of film school), I felt very ready to enter the world of work. The big question in my mind was: "How am I going to earn a living?"

With one or two detours along the way, I eventually decided that my chosen career was to be a writer, producer and director of documentary films for television. However, nobody warned me that life as a documentary film maker was going to be fraught with financial insecurity, but that was the last thing on my mind. Nevertheless, in spite of numerous ups and downs during the following half century, I have had a lot of fun making more than 50 documentary films as a director, and a further 600 as a producer. It has not proved to be very enriching financially, but very rewarding in so many different ways. I have no regrets and would not have had it any other way. It has given me the chance to tell the stories of an extraordinary range of people in more than 100 countries, and to stick my

nose into so many different subject areas of personal interest, in the fields of politics, science, economics, history, religion and the arts. Truly, I feel very blessed to have had the chance to experience so much of the world during the past 50 years. Equally, I feel very blessed to have had the generous support of my inspirational wife Jean and our three adorable children Leo, Corinna and Tim (along with their own eight wonderful children), plus our circle of close friends.

I was born in August 1945, just after the end of WW2, along with my twin brother John. My second brother Adrian arrived three years later. Initially, we all grew up on a farm in Shropshire, not far from Ironbridge. My mother (Mary Baker) was English, the daughter of a tenant farmer near Oxford. My father (Alexander Csáky) was Hungarian. In the late 20s he was sent to England to receive an English education, initially in London and then at Claysmore School in Dorset. My parents met as students at the University of Reading during the late

1930s. He was studying agriculture. She was studying botany. They married during WW2.

From the age of 6 to 18, I attended the preparatory and senior schools of Bedales. What with Bedales being the UK's very first "progressive co-educational boarding school", girls inevitably played a significant role in my life. However, one of my fondest memories of the fairer sex is being rewarded with a kiss from the Headmaster's very glamorous young wife (Kate Slack) after I won the annual *Le Mans* cycle race in 1963.

Learning drawing and painting in The Studio under the guidance of the Art Master **Christopher Cash (1950-78)** was a valuable experience, as was making things from metal and wood in The Workshop under the stern instruction of "**Bif**" **Barker (staff, 1930-64)**. I was able to bring these two strands together when designing and building several stage sets for plays in The Lupton Hall Theatre. Productions included '*Tiger At The Gates*' and '*Pelléas & Mélisande*'.

Although I never progressed beyond Grade 5, I enjoyed playing the trumpet in the second school orchestra. However, I would have preferred to have been playing in a jazz band alongside Louis Armstrong.

From my early teens I developed a keen interest in following national and international news by reading the daily newspapers in the Common Room for an hour every morning before lessons. This interest was brought into sharp focus when one of the staff was kind enough to give me a copy of a newly published book called *The Anatomy of Britain* by Anthony Sampson (a journalist and historian who was to play a significant role in my future career as a documentary film maker). Sampson's subsequent books ignited a life-long interest in modern history, eventually prompting me to make numerous documentary programmes about the historical context surrounding several of the major events that have occurred within my own lifetime.

Read more: [bedales.org.uk/alumni/mick-csaky](https://bedales.org.uk/alumni/mick-csaky) 📖



Mick Csáky passing the workshop on his way to winning *Le Mans* in 1963



# NEWS IN BRIEF

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**Claudia Arney (1982-89)** has been appointed the new Chair of food delivery service Deliveroo. Described in the Evening Standard as: "One of the UK's top businesspeople, Arney has held senior positions at the Treasury and Goldman Sachs, and comes with board-level experience at Ocado Group, the property developer Derwent London, and Kingfisher." Tied in with this announcement, Claudia steps down from the board of the Premier League whose Chair, Gary Hoffman, said: "In her role as Interim Chair, she guided the organisation and our clubs through the most challenging and unprecedented time in Premier League history as a result of the pandemic."

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Having been to summer music courses as a child in Winchester, when **John Bush (1936-46)** emigrated to Australia in 1969 as a farmer and music teacher, he sought out such camps for his family. At the (non-residential) State Music Camp in Perth in 1973, he talked to various people about starting a camp for amateur musicians of all ages to play together for pleasure and people were encouraging. Having heard of a new site near Albany, 30 miles south of his home near Mt. Barker, he took the plunge and established a new residential music camp there. The first one was attended by 50 people which grew over the years. 2018 was the 45th annual camp. In his 90s, John has now stepped down as President. He reports: "I learnt music at school from **Tom Holding (staff 1926-44)**, who had played in the Grenadier Guards Band at Queen Victoria's funeral!"

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**Corin Corley (1970-74)**, having retired from the Civil Service, has become an honorary Fellow at Bristol University and returned to his first love, Old French Arthurian romance. He is currently assisting postgraduates and working on his own research projects.

He is also the Treasurer of the British Branch of the International Arthurian Society (a seed perhaps sown when he was Treasurer of the Bedales Wargaming Society and on the Finance Committee).

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**Rebecca Fossett (née Langton, 1971-81)** runs a company, 'Joseph's Amazing Camels', with her husband. They offer a range of camel trekking and experiences from their home in Warwickshire, and are also diversifying into camel milk. [jacamels.co.uk](http://jacamels.co.uk)

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**Joanna Hardman (1980-82)** has worked for 30 years as a highly specialist speech and language therapist in early childhood communication. She is now Deputy Head of Children's Therapies at St George's Hospital and has recently become the communication advisor for Jojo Maman Bebe mother and baby brand. [instagram.com/tv/CGrwIxGw8q](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CGrwIxGw8q)

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**Marcus Johns (1946-49)** has been in touch with school, reminiscing about his time at Dunhurst and he would love to hear from any old Dunhurstians who remember him. Marcus went into medicine and became a psychoanalyst. He can be emailed at [marcus@mjjohns.com](mailto:marcus@mjjohns.com)

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**Michael Jones (2005-12)** has been volunteering in schools and facilitating workshops on positive gender

equality with the charity, GLI. The initiative involves speaking to boys and university students and discussing gender stereotypes and roles, as well as covering topics such as racism and bullying. [goodladinitiative.com/our-team](http://goodladinitiative.com/our-team)

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Congratulations to **George McMenemy (2014-17)** who we were delighted to see featured in this year's Sports Personality of the Year Awards after his 'greatest sporting moment' was selected by the BBC. The Sussex final year student explains: "This year, I got my first-ever wicket in village cricket. I have dyspraxia; a mild condition meaning I have poor co-ordination. (Not very suited to cricket!) My mother passed away suddenly two years ago, which affected me more than anything else in my life. She was my biggest supporter, always telling me to believe in myself and prove the doubters wrong. I was bullied at school for a while [prior to coming to Bedales] and told I would never achieve anything in sport, but I joined my local cricket club after my mum passed away, and the rest is history. Playing has helped me overcome my grief and I love the spirit of cricket. Above all else, it has given me the opportunity to turn my life around and try to make my darling mummy proud, which is all I ever want to do!" George is fully immersed in the sporting life at Sussex as Vice President of the Cricket Club, Third Team Captain, President of the University Darts Club and elected as student council member in charge of sport. Go George!



Congratulations to **Clare Murphy (1990-94)** who has taken over as Chief Executive of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS). She was previously a Deputy Chief Executive at BPAS where she oversaw the development of BPAS' highly successful advocacy and campaigning activities, including the expansion of its remit to champion women's rights across the reproductive spectrum. BPAS is widely recognised for its commitment to advocating for women's choice in pregnancy while providing high-quality services, and with the launch of its IVF service, BPAS fertility, it will be able to help women and couples who wish to start pregnancies.

Congratulations to **Andrew Penney (2007-2015)** for his selection for the Lawn Tennis Association's Wheelchair National Age Group Programme – the governing body's wide-ranging package of support designed to help high potential wheelchair players progress towards future international success. As part of the programme,



players have access to training and tournament guidance from LTA coaches, international competitions, training camps, home training visits from LTA coaches and support to maintain a sport/life balance. After two years of illness and only six months of competing pre-COVID, Andrew is currently ranked number 3 UK boys junior and in the top 20 wheelchair tennis juniors worldwide. In 2021,

he will once again be competing nationally and internationally. Andrew has also been selected to receive an elite sports grant from Hampshire County Council. He is now fundraising to top up his LTA grant, install gym equipment at home to support his training and looking for companies that would like to support his elite journey.



After over 10 years as an Interior Designer working for the most well-known companies in the business, **Alice Scott (2000-05)** now designs and manufactures Linen Fabric & Matt Wallpaper in abstract designs. She uses sustainable materials and these are ethically printed in the North of England. [chelseagem.com](http://chelseagem.com)

**Gary M Skinner (1987-92)** is working on a new DNA sequencing machine



from Illumina, that employs the technique of super-resolution imaging. Gary used to work for the company and is pleased to share that this new machine has a much higher data output, which reduces cost, making DNA sequencing more affordable for a range of medical applications. Gary led the concept phase of this project and is co-inventor of a number of the patents covering the technology. He is currently working on a machine that will create synthetic DNA at a Cambridge-based startup, Evonetix.

**Joseph Smith (1995-97)** has launched an independent coffee roastery in Lewes. He says: "We may be small and local, but we've big ambitions to do things right ethically and environmentally. Drinking our coffee means growers get a fair and sustainable income. And we think seriously about how to minimise our environmental impact." [tigermothroastery.co.uk](http://tigermothroastery.co.uk)

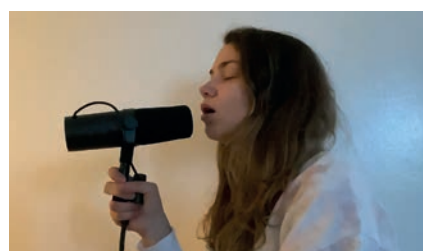
**Claire Whalley (1980-85)** is running a Community Interest Not for Profit Company which, working with highly qualified yoga teachers and yoga therapists, aims to bring the well-researched, mental and physical health benefits of yoga into the NHS and to a more diverse community. During lockdown, she created 20 classes online across the week to support people's mental and physical wellbeing, including a 'Breathing through COVID' class to support people with Coronavirus, or others who want to strengthen their respiratory system. She has received funding to provide therapeutic yoga to metastatic breast cancer patients at Barts Hospital, BME staff at St George's Mental Health Trust and to run a teacher training programme for young BME yoga students to become teachers. [theyogaforlifeproject.co.uk](http://theyogaforlifeproject.co.uk)



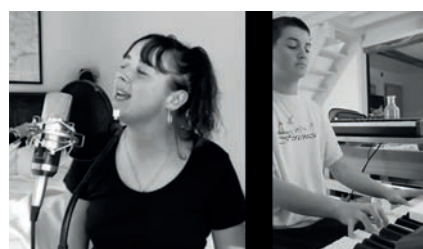
## HAVE YOU HEARD?



OB musicians have been impressively productive. **Emma-Lee Moss (1998-02)** (Emmy the Great) has released a new album, *April/月音*. Following her first release *Version of Me*, singer songwriter **Delilah Montagu (2009-16)** released a new single, *Loud*.



Leah Mason



Chilli Chilton

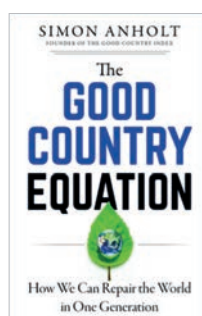
**Leah Mason (2002-09)** (Minke) has collaborated with producer Tyzo Bloom to release *Bedroom*. **Chilli Chilton (2009-18)** worked with Isaac Gracie on a new track, written and produced by Elbow frontman Guy Garvey for Apple TV+ series *Trying* soundtrack. Congratulations to all!

**Blossom Gottlieb (2017-19)** has launched a self-care podcast *Tea with HB*. It started in March 2020 and over six months it reached 1000 listeners and she was interviewed about it on BBC Radio 4 Extra. [teawithhb.com](http://teawithhb.com) – also available Spotify and Apple podcasts.

## HAVE YOU READ?

Having founded *The Good Country Index*, **Simon Anholt (1974-79)**

– advisor to Presidents, Prime Ministers and monarchs – has written *The Good Country Equation* – *How We Can Repair the World in One Generation*. The book tackles the big questions of why the world doesn't work like it should, and how to make it better. [goodcountry.org/book](http://goodcountry.org/book)



*What's Black and White and Red All Over?* Penguin Books encourages us to “laugh ourselves silly in this fantastic collection of jokes and riddles from master of funny

**Gyles Brandreth (1961-66)** in his book published in August. From ‘Knock, knock’ to ‘Waiter waiter’, with some funny elephants and giraffes thrown in for good measure, there’s also a



bit of expert joke advice, so you can show others just how funny you can be! “Collected by jokesmith Gyles are some of the best and worst jokes ever (plus a few riddles to keep you on your toes).”



**Barty Brereton (1946-50)** was Design Correspondent for *The Observer* from 1968 to 1983, and has written around 30 books on various aspects of gardening and the home. She is also a gardener, garden designer and garden historian. Barty says: “I live on my own and decided I needed a serious focus for the periods of isolation this year and started a gardening blog which has kept me very busy and focussed. In case other people relying on their gardens might be entertained, the link is [bartysgarden.blogspot.com](http://bartysgarden.blogspot.com)”

**Jane Corbett (1953-1958)** has written a new novel, *The Last Musketeer*. It is a story that is both a psychological thriller and a love story, set in Dublin's rapidly expanding business community during the time of the 2008 financial crisis. It is not so much a whodunnit as an exploration of what gives rise to an increasingly violent series of events, the choices each character makes and their consequences in a growing climate of fear and suspicion. Jane also has two

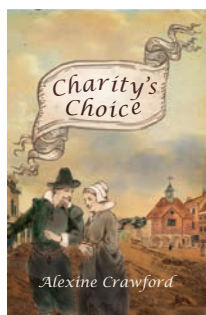


previous titles, *Looking for Home*, a novel set primarily in Berlin and Paris and spanning a period from 1904 to 2001, and a volume of short stories, *Beasts and Lovers*, which are modern fairy tales. “*The Last Musketeer* is a pacey, intelligent and very topical thriller about trust and betrayal within a group of friends, with a rattling, high-stakes plot that tantalises until the very end,” says Kate Saunders, Costa prize-winning novelist and Sunday Times book reviewer.

In time for her 90th birthday  
**Alexine Crawford (1944-48)**

published *Charity's Choice*, which tells of ordinary people caught up in extraordinary times around 1648.

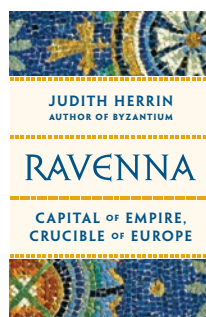
“Levellers” campaigning for democracy and local tradesmen vying for advantage come alive, while orphan Charity faces choices amidst the kindness and betrayals of strangers. A prequel *Comely Grace* was published in 2011.



**Patricia Duncker (1964-69)**, Professor Emeritus, Department of English, American Studies and Creative Writing at the University of Manchester has won a prestigious

Russian prize for the best foreign fiction in Russian translation. This is one of their major awards, and she won it for her second novel *James Miranda Barry*. She couldn't go to Moscow in person due to the COVID lockdown, but managed to film her acceptance speech in the ruins of the castle at Aberystwyth. [patriciaduncker.com](http://patriciaduncker.com)

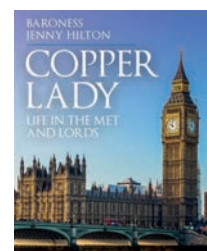
*Brooke Bond: The Story of a Great Family Enterprise* – This new book tells the story of how Arthur Brooke laid the foundations of a global tea business from the time he opened his first shop in Manchester in 1869 to the take-over by Unilever in 1985. From the beginning, Brooke Bond was a family run business whose members played a decisive role in its remarkable growth and success encompassing brand leading packet teas throughout the world and tea estates in India, Africa and Sri Lanka in support. The 96-page hardback book is a private publication which emerged from the 150th Anniversary Exhibition held at Brooke Bond's Reunion Luncheon in October 2019. The book is the work of **David Harris (1951-57)** who was employed by Brooke Bond as a writer and photographer for 30 years. The historic Luncheon and Exhibition, both of which David organised, was attended by 100+ former Brooke Bond retired staff and 30 members of the Brooke family. Proceeds from sales will go to the David Brooke Charity which makes grants to institutions concerned with the relief of children and young persons in need. Sixteen members of the Brooke family were students at Bedales (of which eight attended Dunhurst) with **Aline (1903-05)**, daughter of Arthur Brooke being the first to join in 1903.



**Judith Herrin (1957-61)** has excavated in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey, and is the Constantine Leventis Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Department of

Classics at King's College London. After nine years of research, her new book, *Ravenna – Capital of Empire, Crucible of Europe*, has been published to enthusiastic reviews. Ravenna was first the capital of the Western Roman Empire, then that of

the immense kingdom of Theoderic the Goth and finally the centre of Byzantine power in Italy.



Millions of people were fascinated by Jenny Lee's adventures as a young midwife in the East End of London in the 1950s, as told in

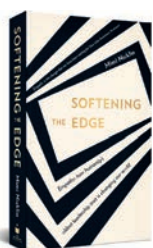
*Call the Midwife*. At exactly the same time and in the same place, **Jenny Hilton (1948-54)** was starting as a young police constable. Patrolling the streets with only a whistle for backup, and at a time when the police were also de facto social workers, huge responsibility rested on her young shoulders. At the start of her career, women made up less than one percent of the Metropolitan Police, and were considered specialists at dealing with women, children and family problems. Her new autobiography, *Copper Lady*, tells the story of how she smashed through one glass ceiling after another, and helped open all ranks and specialisms to women officers. She has also dedicated a chapter to her time at Bedales. Since retiring from the police with the rank of Commander, she has continued her work for justice and equality, as a member of the House of Lords, and as an international election monitor.

**Jo Horsley (1994-99)** has written a children's picture book about a humpback whale who cannot sing. She has written, illustrated and recorded the audio song book with original songs recorded and written by her too.





As her usual job in producing events and festivals in Sydney, Australia has been put on pause due to COVID, she used the time wisely and rekindled the talents and skills that she learnt during her time at Bedales... She says "I have really loved every minute of it!" All the profits from her Kickstarter will be split between Alzheimer's Research, whale conservation and to the Tongan School where the lovely humpback whale lives! [kickstarter.com/projects/whalewhocantsing/the-whale-who-could-not-sing](https://kickstarter.com/projects/whalewhocantsing/the-whale-who-could-not-sing)



Written by **Mimi Nicklin (1996-99)**, *Softening the Edge* is a book on empathetic leadership, taking inspiration from some of the world's most powerful opinion leaders – Barack

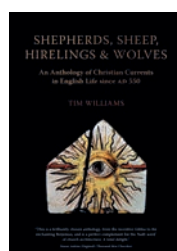
Obama, Jacinda Ardern, Oprah Winfrey – and creates a compelling case for an empathy intervention, amid the tumultuous true story of businesses turned around by doing exactly this. By 2021, estimates suggest 46% of the workforce will be comprised and be led by millennials. By failing to nurture empathy in our future leaders, Mimi claims we are failing to protect our future. "Today, most of us do not enjoy our work, burnout is at all-time high, depression is impacting over 33,000,000 people and the younger generation is leaving the corporate workplace in droves. We need an intervention."

In his new book, *Loot – Britain and the Benin Bronzes*, former BBC Africa correspondent, **Barnaby Phillips (1982-86)** tells the story of the Benin Bronzes – glorious bronze, brass and ivory carvings from a West African kingdom, how the British looted them in 1897, their subsequent dispersal across museums and private collections in the western world, and the now highly



charged and topical debate about whether they, and other pieces of art looted in the colonial period, should be returned. Celebrated Scottish novelist William Boyd said of his book: "a brilliant model of expertly marshalled historical research and compelling narrative."

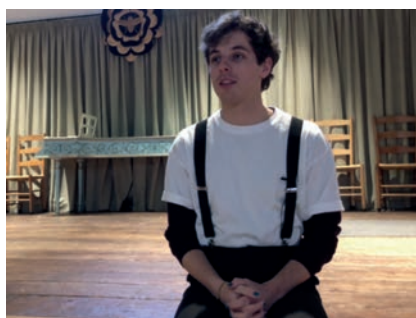
Unicorn has published *Shepherds, Sheep, Hirelings and Wolves: An Anthology of Christian Currents in English Life since AD 550* by **Tim Williams (staff, 1966-93)**. This anthology has assembled



a crowd of witnesses, starting from christianity's rugged, pioneering times when its role in the shaping of England was so influential, continuing through the great flowerings of enlightenment and times of turbulence, right up to this present, less certain age. These are the voices of saints and sinners, dignitaries and dissidents, shrewd observers and ordinary parishioners. [unicornpublishing.org](https://unicornpublishing.org)

## HAVE YOU SEEN?

*Warheads* is a play about a soldier returning home from war, directed by Toby Clarke and written by Taz Skylar which ran at the Park Theatre in London. **Roly Botha (2010-15)** was the composer and sound designer.



The production was nominated for the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in An Affiliate Theatre.

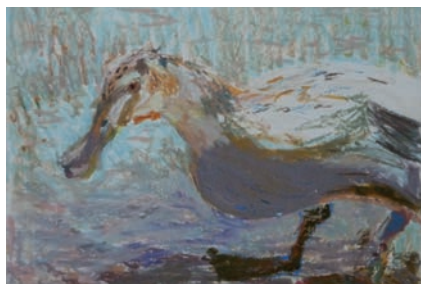
**Carmela Corbett (2002-07)** has

co-created and co-written a short film, *Daughterhood*, alongside the director Cecilia Albertini, which premièred at the HollyShorts Festival in November 2020. It's a dark comedy that chronicles the dysfunctional relationship between a narcissistic mother (Carolyn Hennesy) and her 30 year-old daughter, an aspiring actress (Carmela). The pilot features a hilarious performance from Evan Handler, which will be hard to forget! [linktree.com/DAUGHTERHOOD](https://linktree.com/DAUGHTERHOOD)



Every school day at 12pm during the first lockdown, **Jack Deane (2004-09)**, a chef from the Jamie Oliver Cookery School, volunteered his time to show children how to prepare quick, tasty and affordable lunches through the BiteBack2030 charity, which has been turned into a cookbook. [biteback2030.com/our-campaigns](https://biteback2030.com/our-campaigns)

**Anna Dickerson (1985-91)** has joined the #artistsupportpledge initiative set up by artist Matthew Burrows, which is an opportunity to involve OBs both as artists and purchasers. It is providing thousands of artists worldwide –



including painter Anna and tapestry weaver and printmaker **Jacy Wall (née Davies, 1960-68)** – a means to earn a living during the pandemic and is based entirely on trust, which Anna says “is very much part of the Bedalian ethos”. The movement is one operated in the main through Instagram. Every time an artist has made £1,000 of sales, with each artwork retailing for £200 or less, the artist in turn pledges to spend £200 on art. So a great way to build and add to your collection and support artists! [artistsupportpledge.com](http://artistsupportpledge.com)

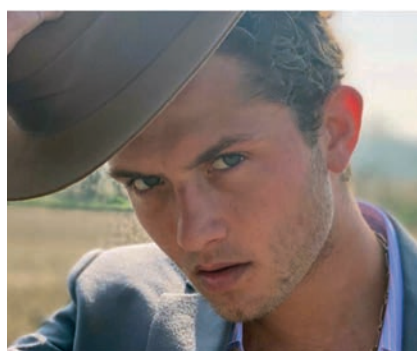


**Johnny Flynn (1996-2001)** has had a busy year of film-making. He stars as David Bowie in *Stardust*, a new British-Canadian biographical film about the English singer-songwriter and his alter-ego Ziggy Stardust. The film centres on Bowie's first tour in the US in 1971 and his creation of the Ziggy Stardust persona following this visit, whilst also showing Bowie's origins. *Stardust* premiered at the San Diego International Film Festival and was released in November 2020 by IFC Films. Congratulations to Johnny for his Best Performance Award at the Raindance Film Festival. Johnny has also starred in period drama *The Dig*, comedy drama *Emma* and in noir thriller *Cordelia*.

Congratulations to **Georgia Green (2010-13)** for her nomination for a debut 'best director' award by The Stage for *The Mikvah Project* at the Orange Tree Theatre.

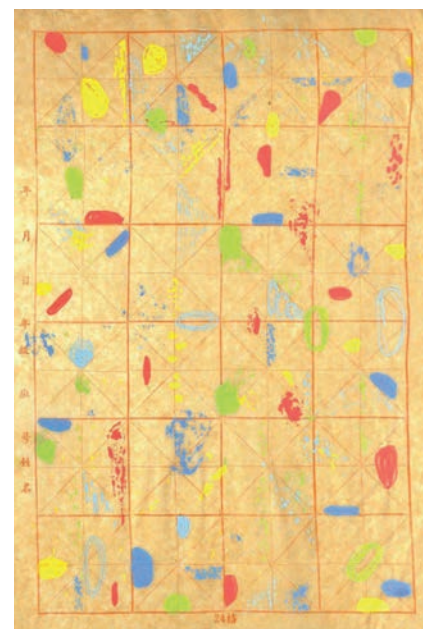


**Evie Jacobs (2010-15)** is opening an art gallery in West Meon and is interested to hear from potential artists and exhibitors. Having exhibited her own work in 'The Stable Gallery' last summer, she has decided to open it as a public gallery from end of April – September. The summer exhibition will take place from 6-11 July. Instagram: [@thestable\\_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/thestable_gallery)



Congratulations also to **Raff Law (2007-13)** who starred in the film *The Hat* which won Spirit of the Festival Award at Raindance. His first feature film alongside Michael Caine and Rita Ora was released in January 2021: Sky Cinema's *Twist* is billed as a modern take on Dickens' classic.

**Clare Smith (1970-77)** showed 18 chemo day drawings at Sheffield Northern General Hospital at the turn of the year. You can read more about the background and Clare's artistic response to her own chemotherapy treatment on her website. She is the first artist in the hospital's new gallery space and the exhibition was initially scheduled for May. Sadly, due to the changed circumstances brought about by the pandemic, the exhibition will not be open to the public. She hopes staff, patients and visitors will enjoy the work. [claresmith.uk](http://claresmith.uk)



Last year's newsletter featured an image of a mural of racing cars by **Mark Wickham (1949-56)**. We are delighted to update that Mark has completed a renovation of the painting and has kindly donated it back to school for the enjoyment of students, staff and visitors. The school's Director of External Relations, Rob Reynolds, and wife Catherine enjoyed a visit to Mark's home/studio in Devizes to collect the mural. Mark explains: "Painted during my last term at Bedales in 1956, the mural recorded the intense interest that a small group of my male peers and

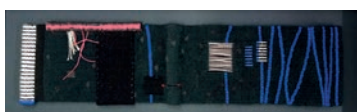


Photo by Christopher Jelf Photography



I took in cars, and the stars of that time who raced them... In the early 1980s I took it back to my studio for restoration; other work took over and it is only in the last two years that I have made a partial restoration which leaves it looking a bit less old and battered; the blue number 28 Maserati was completely missing and had to be repainted from the colour photographs which I amazingly still have, taken at the time of completion. I am so delighted that it has come back home to the school to which I owe so much for its tolerance of 'difficult eccentrics' and the encouragement of the arts through our much-loved Art Master **Christopher Cash (1950-78)**, who must have despaired at our obsession with the car.' Many thanks Mark.

**Jacy Wall (née Davies, 1960-68)** tapestry weaver and printmaker, is represented in an extensive new craft show at Soshiro gallery in Welbeck Street, London, along with nearly 100 international makers. 'Crafting a Difference' runs from 21 January – 2 April, currently online due to COVID restrictions, and will also be streaming a selection of work to the Crafts Council annual big show 'Collect' (also this year online) in February. [craftingadifference.com](http://craftingadifference.com)



Congratulations to **Xavier White (2008-12)** whose piece of work titled *Transitions: Female to Mattel* was displayed at the Royal Academy as part of last year's Summer Exhibition. The work is a lenticular print of two photographs, and it transitions from one to the other as you walk past it. 🌀



## Nicholas Mark Yinka Bevan (1974-79)

Nick died peacefully during a midday rest, a month after his 60th birthday. He had had some problems with arrhythmia in recent years, but these were under observation and control according to his doctor.

Nick spent his early years in Nigeria and was proud that he had a Nigerian name. Throughout his life he kept in touch with Nigerian friends and hoped that his ashes would be sprinkled in

the river at Olokomeji, where his love of fish and fishing began.

After primary schooling in Cardiff he went to Bedales, following in the footsteps of his three elder brothers. He much enjoyed his time at Bedales where he made many life-long friends and developed a rare talent in jewellery design and making. This was followed by a degree in Biological Sciences at Cardiff University, building on his deep love of nature and wildlife. He had a series

of jobs to do with natural resources in England and in various African countries before landing a fascinating position starting a trout fish hatchery on the shores of Loch Awe in Argyll & Bute in 2000. He and his partner Sandie bought a small bungalow with a small shore-line frontage on the loch, from where he spent many happy hours fishing for trout. His cheeky grin and sense of humour will be much missed by many. 🍷

**Charles Bevan (1961-66), brother**

## Simon Brooke (1965-71)

Bedales was a 10-minute walk from Simon's childhood home in Petersfield so he and his sisters Catherine and Liz were day pupils, as they had been at Dunhurst and Dunannie. Their days at school stretched to evenings and weekends, and Simon immersed himself happily in drama, music and socialising as

well as in his formal schoolwork. He acted in *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, for which he had to remove the glasses he had worn since he was a small boy. In one performance he went on stage and realised, 'Oh no, I can see!' With characteristic aplomb, he turned away from the audience, slipped the offending glasses into his pocket and carried on.



Simon's parents moved from Petersfield in the late 1970s. We had a family gathering in East Hampshire in 2002 and visited Bedales, admiring the beautiful Memorial Library and other buildings. More recently, Simon and I spent two delightful holidays walking The Hangers and talking about his Bedales years as we supped at The Harrow Inn in Steep. Following his untimely death in November 2019, our son Conall and I decided to scatter some of his ashes near Petersfield as well as in Dublin, the city in which he shared his life with me for the last 30 years.

Simon is remembered with great love and sadness by our families, friends and former colleagues in Britain and Ireland; he is also to be honoured in spring 2021 by a public lecture in Dublin organised by Clúid, Ireland's largest housing association, at which the first recipient of the Simon Brooke Award will be announced. The award notice pays tribute to his lifetime's work in both countries as a tireless champion of social housing and those who live in it, saying that his work had a tangible and lasting influence on the development of Irish housing policy.

Leaving Bedales, Simon was set for a career in engineering, not



housing, doing a sandwich course divided between GEC in Rugby and his degree studies at St John's College, Cambridge. But after his finals, three months as a volunteer at a night shelter for homeless people in Cambridge ignited the spark of social justice and a deep commitment to secure and safe housing rather than shelters; and having completed his time with GEC, he returned to a newly opened house run by Cambridge Cyrenians. I worked in the same house four years later and heard stories of his quick wit, sense of fun and calm decisiveness. By then, Simon had a Diploma in Social Administration from the LSE and was a community development worker at Tower Hamlets Law Centre in East London. He was also on the board of National Cyrenians, and when I got a paid job with them as a regional organiser we found we had more in common than our volunteering experience.

This led in due course to Simon's move to Dublin in 1989, where his first housing job was to renovate

our Victorian home and to make a kitchen, fireplace and furniture with the benefit of wonderful woodwork skills learned at Bedales. He also wrote radio plays, two of which were aired by Ireland's national broadcaster. In the following years he managed a day centre for homeless young people and was editor of a national housing magazine. After a research fellowship in 2000, he became a freelance consultant evaluating many projects and services, and became known as a lively media commentator on housing issues. He taught an undergraduate course on social policy at Trinity College Dublin; and as voluntary chair of Clúid over many years of expansion, he helped improve the lives of thousands of people. Later still as Head of Policy with Clúid, he used his considerable persuasive abilities with senior civil servants, local authority officials, parliamentarians and housing ministers.

He enjoyed life to the brim all the while: his cooking was renowned, he loved a pint or three in good company, read voraciously, delighted in theatre and classical concerts, and learned

my first language, Irish. We walked in many scenic parts of Ireland and Britain as well as holidaying in memorable places in Greece, Italy and France. Our son Conall joined in our frequent dinner table debates on politics; he and Simon shared a love of maths and physics; and I was the active parent on the sports front, Simon caring as little as he had in childhood for a ball being kicked around a field.

He was looking forward to retirement when he learned he had cancer in spring 2019; and less than nine months later we said our heartbreaking goodbyes to him at his hospice bedside. He was quite modest about his own achievements and would have been amazed that tributes were paid to him in Ireland's parliament, the Dáil. We hope very much to have a memorial gathering for him in London as soon as COVID allows. 🕊

***Anna Heussaff, wife, with many thanks to sisters, Catherine Brooke (1961-66) and Liz Doorbar (née Brooke, 1967-73)***



## Thea Clark (1959-64)

Thea was brought up in Hampstead, and lived in London all her life. She attended Bedales where we all met in the late 1950s. On leaving school she did an art foundation course, then went to the University of Sussex. She was original and multitalented, always interested in art and performance. She performed dance, mime and puppetry at many festivals, including Knebworth in 1976 where the Rolling Stones were playing, and a European tour. She was also a keen gardener. Later in life, Thea developed schizophrenia. This thwarted many of her ambitions but she tried to continue with various art and dance

projects. However her illness made her life very difficult. She distanced our friendship and sadly died alone without our knowledge in a care home.

From Viv: There are many memories. Our strong friendship which developed at school. Our wild teenage holiday in Holland when we had so few cares to worry us. You made many visits to Oxford, with lots of vigorous discussions, and your great enthusiasm for our local pantomime. Or the much more sedate visits to the London art galleries. I forget which exhibitions, but your extensive knowledge of art always made them more interesting. They

were lovely occasions and you made a huge impression on my son Jack, who also sends you his love. I know your illness sometimes kept you apart from me, but I hope you always knew I was thinking of you.

From Wendy: My strongest memories of our friendship come from our time at school together. We used to hitch-hike out on afternoons to walk on The Downs, where we had extensive heated discussions about art and nature; it being very clear that my background was rural and yours was in

London. Through your wide knowledge of art, these talks opened my eyes to whole areas of culture I had not had access to before. Later we crossed paths occasionally and there was much concern about your illness, but meeting you at an interesting happening at the Tate Modern reminded me of all your strengths and abilities.

From Miranda: 1968 somewhere in wild Wales you and I and a steeplejack who'd given us a lift from Snowdon watched a flight of geese against a sunset sky. At the Millennium

we walked through traffic-free streets from Kings Cross to the floodlit St Paul's and the fireworks on the Thames. Two beautiful memories and so many others, often funny or unrepeatable. Sorry I didn't manage better as all your many talents and creativity got so muddled up into such painful knots so impossible to disentangle. Rest in peace Thea.

So Dear Thea, all we can do now is say goodbye to you, and you will not be forgotten. Love from Viv, Wendy and Miranda. 🌸

*This was written for Thea's funeral by Viv Peto (née Soper, 1959-63), Wendy Nicholls (née Hough, 1959-64), and Miranda Martin (née Robinson, 1959-64)*

## Erlend Amond Copeley-Williams (1944-50)



I know that my father loved his years at Bedales, he would light up at any mention of it or link to it, such as the beautiful Barnsley furniture. After reunions he seemed to have an extra glow, buzzing with stories from his peers and friends, reminiscing on the happy years. He attended Bedales at a time when enrolment was somewhere around 150 students between the ages of 7 and 18. Consequently sports were limited by the small numbers, however he enjoyed playing soccer

and cricket, and became a particularly strong swimmer, holding the school record for the butterfly for decades! He was a lifelong supporter of Chelsea FC and a member of the MCC from the age of 18, never missing a Test Match.

After Bedales he did his National Service, conscripted to the Royal Sussex Regiment, and found himself in Egypt guarding the Suez Canal. He was awarded a medal for his service which he wore with pride on Remembrance Sundays marching with The Royal British Legion. During his service he met Patrick Godfrey (actor), who became his best friend. Upon leaving the Army they shared a flat in London, with **Richard Newnham (1943-50)**, writer; and **Roger Birnstingl (1943-50)** who was studying the bassoon at The Royal College of Music. Paddy attended the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama, and it was at this time they became firm friends with Jeremy Kemp and Judi Dench, who went on to become our godparents. When I called Judi with the sad news she said, "Oh darling I'm so sorry. He was a beautiful man to know".

Erlend joined the family firm, Copeley-Williams Walpole & Co in the City, thus beginning a long career in life assurance and later as an underwriter at Lloyds. He built up a client base all over the UK, many of whom became lifelong friends, grateful for his wise advice.

He met Clare Rayner, a student at the Central School of Art & Design in 1958, and they married on 5 December 1959, with Paddy as best man. Their life was full of wonderful friendships, many of which were made in the early years while in London, but also after moving to Thaxted, Essex in 1962 and then Shaftesbury, Dorset in 2001.

His passion for the arts enriched our lives with many a trip to the West End, The Royal Opera, Glyndebourne and numerous local concerts. He had a wonderful baritone voice and sang with local choral societies when he was able.

Another important part of his life was his faith, which before meeting my mother was something that he had little connection to. In quick



succession he was baptised and confirmed at Grosvenor Chapel, Westminster. He turned to Christ in such a way that it infused his life with a commitment to contribute what he could to make the world a better place. He regularly served them as Treasurer, Church Warden and on The Vestry.

Helping people was very much at the core of his life. He was involved with many charities over the years, most often as treasurer; including the RNLI, Save The Children Fund and The Royal British Legion. He was especially good at fundraising,

people could not resist his charm and the vessels he held filled up quickly.

One day he met a man not long out of jail, in his hometown of Shaftesbury. The first thing he did was listen. Then he offered funds, support and a place to rest his head. The man camped in my parents' garden whilst more permanent accommodations could be found. More than anything my father gave him a chance to be heard and to reconnect to life outside.

He was a wonderfully generous man and loved to entertain at home. Through the Victoria League (another charity he supported), he hosted many

foreign students who had no place to stay during the Christmas and Easter holidays. I can see him now, wine bottle in hand and corkscrew at the ready with his warm smile.

I saw with clarity, how his faith, loyalty and friendships had touched so many, as I read letter after letter of condolence, and how in turn, they had shaped the man.

He died peacefully at home, leaving a legacy for his wife Clare, children, Oliver, Briony and Loveday, and his grandson Asher. ☹

**Loveday Copeley-Williams, daughter**

## Malcolm Evans (1941-48)



At Bedales, he was never called anything but Chimp, and I never heard him complain. My family and I still use that unflattering name. Nearly four months older than I, he first came to Bedales in a summer term, I came a term later, putting us into different years. From the lists in the back of my Bedales psalm book, I know that our friendship would have started when we were in dorms together for four consecutive terms from spring 1943, and again in summer 1945, often after requesting this.

From the age of 15, we were allowed bicycles at Bedales, we often went cycling together for our prescribed

Sunday walk, once going nearly to Midhurst. I remember Chimp would set a cracking pace at first which I could not match, but coming home he would be the one lagging behind.

One season, as we both hated the regulation cold plunge, we took to getting up before we were called to escape it. One morning he found the dorm full of light, dressed hastily and shot downstairs to be greeted by a brilliant full moon and the clock showing 1:30! Not to be beaten, he carried on with his usual activities, but was good for nothing by evening.

With the weapons testing and training area at Butser Hill temptingly within cycling distance from Bedales, Chimp with various friends (but rarely me), took to collecting souvenirs, in the shape of unexploded grenades and anti-tank bombs and their fragments. He showed me diagrams of their mechanism, some of which I copied. I don't know the source of this wide knowledge, but that hobby ended when the boys' matron (Miss Ball) found, while distributing clean clothes back from the laundry, part of his collection in his chest of drawers.

Many years later, when we were farming in Wales, Chimp brought his dinghy 'Lively' at least once to join us sailing at Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire, where I took a photo of her, later wrongly attributed to some other place and photographer.

On another occasion I joined him sailing her from Southampton Water to the Isle of Wight. He did get struck by a migraine just before we arrived, leaving me to sail up the river to find a camping spot for the night. I hope it was not caused by my presence. He was fine next day for the sail back.

Not long after we emigrated to Australia in 1969, he and Gretta did so too, but to a different state. Then around 1980 we bought a yacht and took to living aboard for two months each year, sailing in and around the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, south of Hobart, Tasmania. Chimp and Gretta visited us there, and soon bought a plot of land where they built their holiday house. They often came aboard my yacht, sailing around the Channel for a few days, all recorded in my vessel's log-book. ☹

**John Bush (1941-46)**

## David Robin Fisher (1940-45)



David died peacefully on 1 July 2020 at his home in North Vancouver, BC, predeceased by Marnie Fisher (1928-2005), with whom he enjoyed 48 years of wonderful marriage. Eldest son of Bar and Robin Fisher of London, England. Loving father of Lynne, Richard (Shelley Fisher), and Andy (Jill Dunkley), and devoted grandfather of Gwyneth Fisher. Loyal partner of Jane Mason (Sidney, BC) in the final decade of his life. Leaving his brother, Tim (Leigh-on-Sea, England) and other dear family and friends on both sides of the Atlantic.

David had a remarkably full life. He was an energetic and adventurous child who thrived at the progressive school Bedales, which he attended during WW II along with Tim and three close cousins. Following his military service after the war and studies at University of Cambridge, he immigrated to Canada, where he began his 34 years of dedicated employment in Toronto with Procter & Redfern Consulting Engineers. A caring and generous father, he and Marnie introduced the children to their love of travel, mountains, and the outdoors. This included treasured holidays to every corner of Canada (listening to 8-track tapes in the station wagon) and to the beloved family cottage in North Wales; hiking

and climbing excursions, such as an elaborate expedition by float plane into a Northwest Territories mountain range; and joyful weekends boating in the timeless landscape of Georgian Bay.

Following retirement, David and Marnie moved to Vancouver Island, from where they continued their life of adventure and enjoyed the company of good lifelong friends. Memorable trips included paddling down the Yukon River; a lengthy visit to New Zealand, canal barging journeys in the UK, and annual hiking excursions to Lake O'Hara, a place that holds a special affection for the Fisher family.

In his later years, David and Jane shared a love of classical music, regularly attending Victoria Symphony concerts. Continuously involved in professional and community service, David was awarded for his distinguished contributions in the water supply field by the American Water Works Association, and otherwise recognized for the many ways he made the world a better place with his thoughtfulness and exceptional attention to detail.

Without a doubt, David's personal passion was mountaineering. His record

as a climber is long, but includes a dashing Cambridge University Mountaineering Club expedition to Mount Rakaposhi in Pakistan, the drive from London to Rawalpindi being an expedition in itself; his leading of the first climbs at Mazinaw Rock in Bon Echo Provincial Park, Ontario, now considered one of the most beautiful climbers' cliffs in North America; and his influential membership in the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), serving on the board for eight years and as president from 1970-72, during which time he developed policy that notably modernized the club. David led the ACC's Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition in 1967, a massive (over 250 climbers) expedition in the remote St Elias Mountains that put his extraordinary organizational skills on full display and remains a legendary chapter in the annals of Canadian mountaineering.

David is remembered as a kind and sensitive soul, attentive family man, ardent mountaineer, and upright person all round. Cremation has taken place and a family memorial will be held at a later date. 🌹

**Dr Andy Fisher, son**

## Nick Green (1973-77)

Two weeks before he died, Nick phoned me from his home in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland to say that he had just had a wonderful game of golf and reminded me that a visit was long overdue. As usual, he would be prepared to give me one shot per hole. I promised to come to visit him as soon as the travel restrictions were lifted. Sadly I was never able to make good that promise.

Those who were at Bedales in the mid 70s will remember Nick Green's

infectious smile, and the sense of fun that he brought to any conversation. He was enthusiastic, curious, generous and supremely kind.

Nick was tall, good looking and had eclectic passions – top amongst them, the songs of Bob Dylan: 'My fantasy' he told me 'is that the headmaster asks me to show around a parent – Robert Zimmerman' (that's Bob Dylan's real name, he had to explain). 'Dylan is God' he added passionately. Sadly that never came to pass.





Nick was an enthusiastic and talented sportsman – and his gentle demeanour changed completely once he stepped onto a cricket field or football pitch.

**Harry Pearson (staff, 1977-2006)**, who taught Chemistry, remembers first seeing Nick play football for the Bedales 1st XI on a wet afternoon in October 1977. "His strength, skill and commitment were phenomenal: and his enjoyment clear. His defensive understanding with **Matt Evans (1971-78)** was awesome and I think theirs was the best defensive pairing I saw in school football."

Nick was also an excellent and fearless cricketer. I don't ever remember him without a missing front tooth – with a grin, he would recount how he faced up to a batsman at sillymid on (fielding crazily close in a time before anyone wore helmets) and had had a ball smashed at his face.

Nick stayed on for 6iii (an extra term for those studying for Oxbridge). One of the privileges was being allowed to go to the pub twice a week. Harry fondly remembers walking down the dark, tree-canopied road with Nick

from Bedales to The Harrow, and the joy of his enthusiasm, conviviality and infectious bonhomie.

Nick lived most of his life in Northern Ireland. Whilst still at the height of the 'troubles', he took me for a pint of Guinness in Belfast. After emerging from The Crown, opposite the notorious Europa Hotel, the world's most bombed hotel, Nick kindly reassured me that whilst, of course, bombs did sometimes go off, he had never experienced one. At which point, on perfect cue, a Royal Ulster Constabulary Landrover screeched around the corner and a burly officer shouted "You better run for cover, lads – there's a bomb". We ran, thrilled, exhilarated, afraid, away from the bomb site – until we felt that we were safe enough to seek sanctuary in a backstreet pub.

I was honoured to have Nick as the best man at my wedding in 1991. I was mildly nervous when he didn't arrive at the church at the agreed time. The delay, it turned out, was that after worrying about all the important things, he'd forgotten to bring a white shirt for himself. In a panic he had scoured the shops of Notting Hill – eventually pleading with a dry cleaner who offered him a lady's shirt that was much, much too small. Afterwards we all roared with laughter as – one by one – the buttons popped off the front of the poor lady's shirt.

Nick latterly lived in Downpatrick with his beloved cat Boris. I visited him regularly, the last time with Harry Pearson. He loved playing golf, watching cricket at the Downpatrick ground where he was very popular; and remained an ardent West Ham fan all his life. Towards the end of his life, he renewed friendships with people from UC Santa Barbara, where he had spent a year reading American Studies, and was very pleased when **Polly Whyte (1970-77)**, his girlfriend at Bedales whom he had adored and never forgot, was able to meet him when he made a trip to watch cricket at Lords. She remembers "Nick was a beautiful boy and a lovely man, and he never lost that slow walk; his body slightly tipped forward and down as he moved. I first knew him at 16 and when we met again at 60 the wit, enthusiasm and gentleness of the 16-year-old was still there."

After contracting cancer, he died in his sleep of heart failure in June 2020. For those who have had the honour of counting Nick as a dear friend, we shall remember his wicked sense of humour; his loyalty, intelligence, generosity, and the kindness that gave confidence to those around him. He will be greatly missed. ☹

**Charles Cecil (1975-80)**

## Richard Hartree (1944-50)

**R**ichard Hartree had an international career in the metals industry, working for Alcan, which translated into a long interest in the history of engineering, including as a member of the Association of Industrial Archaeologists (AIA) and a member of its Council. Late in life – and originally for family reasons – this resulted in

his thorough study of John Penn and Sons of Greenwich (2011), the great 19th century marine engineers for whom his great-great grandfather, William Hartree, first worked and then became a partner in the firm after marrying John Penn senior's daughter, Charlotte. Despite contact with other Penn descendants, the research

was a considerable achievement given that no Penn business papers survive. The outcome – a handsome paperback with over 900 illustrations – was a well-referenced model of self-publication, as the only way he could produce it. He deservedly recouped the costs, mainly from sales at or through the many talks on the subject that he later gave, and it is likely to remain a standard and increasingly collectable work.

Hartree was born on 13 February 1931 in Didsbury, Manchester; younger son of Professor Douglas Hartree FRS (1897–1958) and his wife Elaine (née Charlton). She came from Keswick and family holidays there gave Richard a lifelong love of the Lake District. His father – a distinguished mathematician latterly involved in the early development of computers – held the Beyer Chair of Applied Mathematics at The University of Manchester from 1929 and from 1946 to his death was Plummer Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge. On evacuation in 1940 to Canada, which began a long relationship with that country, Richard and other children became guests of staff at the University of Toronto, until his return in a vast convoy three years later.

In 1944 he went to Bedales where he enjoyed drama and began lasting proficiency as a French-horn player. Leaving as head boy he went on to Christ's College, Cambridge, where his father was by then a fellow, to read natural sciences with physics and geology as main subjects. At university he continued to play the horn and met John Gilham, a fellow science student and lifelong friend (including later in the AIA) with whom he made a motorbike sidecar trip to Europe in 1952. It was through John's brother – a Royal Academy of Music student who brought a string quartet up to Cambridge – that Richard met its viola player, Ann Eddy, who subsequently taught music briefly at Gresham's School in Norfolk.

In 1954, attracted by the possibility of returning to Canada, Hartree joined Northern Aluminium (part of Alcan) as a metallurgist and management trainee. His first full job was as an engineer in a depot at Rogerstone near Newport, Monmouthshire. On the strength of that, he and Ann married in Christ's College chapel on 1 September 1956, and their elder daughter Rachel was born at Newport in 1958. The following year saw a move to Banbury where a son (Justin) was born in 1960 and the family accompanied Hartree when he was sent to the International Business School in Geneva in 1961–62. A second daughter (Alexandra) followed after their return in 1965 and the family again went abroad when he was posted to Montreal in 1968–72, returning when he became Alcan's Banbury works manager.

From 1959 the Hartrees had a cottage at Cropredy near Banbury and made early friends there. They included the politician Richard Crossman and his wife Anne, who owned historic Prescote Manor; and the painter Terry Frost and his family. Both of them also became players in the Banbury Symphony Orchestra and Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and, after return from Canada, moved to a larger and historic Elizabethan house at Hornton in 1973. Three years after Richard Crossman's death in 1974, Ann Hartree set up the Prescote Gallery at the Manor, renting the space from Anne Crossman, who ran the related buttery. Both aspects were a success and, with Ann Hartree's drive and inspiration, the gallery became a flagship enterprise (until 1994) in the developing field of British crafts, including glass, ceramics, fabrics, silver, bookbinding, toymaking and furniture. Owing to its launch, however, and with children at school, Richard's next postings abroad were on his own, the first back to Montreal in 1979. He and Ann also separated in 1980 on his subsequent move to be Area Technical Officer for Alcan Allatina in Rio de



Janeiro, where his role was to ensure that South American company interests were making the best use of technology.

After Richard met a new partner, Maria Clara Costa Dias de Figureido, in Rio in 1983, the Hartrees divorced in 1985 and Richard remarried (thereby acquiring a stepdaughter, Sofia). He and Clara then moved to Vancouver when he became Alcan's Vice-President Technology for the Pacific Region. This involved further travel, including to China where, in 1989, Alcan was finalising agreement to open a sheet-rolling plant on the coast at Bohai. In Beijing that June, Hartree walked through the democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square and recalled a large number of troops looking 'sheepish' when faced by chants of 'the People's Army against the People'. The next morning tanks rolled in, the Alcan project was cancelled and he took early retirement when the Pacific office closed later in the year.

In 1992 his second marriage also came to an amicable end and he returned to England, settled at Sibford Ferris near Banbury, re-established contact with his children and enjoyed the company of eight grandchildren as they appeared. He rejoined the Banbury orchestra, became a business counsellor in a local support office and also made a number of treks to the Himalayas, with further visits to



Kathmandu as treasurer of a small charity working there. Golfing trips took him to France and family ones back to Canada to see Clara, Sofia and the latter's son (they too often visited him). He also joined the AIA, relishing its excursions in company with John Gilham, and served as its treasurer for four years in the 1990s. Apart from his later Penn researches, he helped Fischer Charlotte Froese with her scientific biography of his father (2003) and in 2012, was at the opening of the Hartree Centre named after him at Daresbury, Cheshire, with his

brother and sister. Founded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council with a £37.5-million government grant, and others following, the Centre focuses on the development of super-computing in support of academia and British industry.

In 2014, when early signs of dementia appeared, Richard moved to a flat closer to family in Cheltenham where he continued to enjoy walks, concerts and family visits until an incapacitating stroke in June 2019 necessitated sheltered care. He died peacefully there on 16 March 2020, aged 89.

Richard Hartree was intelligent, musical, practically able, kind and very good company. He and Ann (who moved to Edinburgh in 1983 and died in 2017) were both talented individualists who, despite their divorce, rebuilt an affectionate late-life friendship, aided by mutual devotion to and from their family. All recall him as an ever-encouraging father and grandfather, and greatly missed: others who knew him will no doubt feel the same. ☾

**Pieter van der Merwe, based on family notes**

## Guy Johnston (1957-62)

My brother Guy was born on 8 July 1944, some three years after me. He followed me to Bedales in 1957. Basically a disorganised, dreamy boy, easily led, he got in with a group united by their sense of fun and irreverence for authority. They included **David 'Sporus' Osler (1956-61)**, **Alastair 'Fred' Britten (1957-62)** and **Richard Moseley-Williams (1956-62)**. Nicknamed 'Bonzo', he drew distinctive cartoons, which became known as Bomoids. A particularly close friend was actor **Roger Lloyd Pack (1957-62)**, whom Guy continued to visit and stay on close terms with until Roger's premature death in 2014.

It was ex-orchestral player and brass bandsman **George Holley (staff)** who set Guy on the first steps to a musical career. Guy's chosen instrument was a demanding one – the French horn. Under George's tuition, Guy practised endlessly: he had finally found an all-consuming interest. High-point of his musical career at Bedales was as soloist in Richard Strauss' Horn Concerto No 1.

As so often at Bedales, success in one field was repeated in another. He joined in the craze for 'keen' racing bikes, played for the school hockey team, and was one of the handful of pupils selected for the Hampshire Schools Athletics championships. From being a shy, rather diffident boy, with a self-deprecating sense of humour, Guy blossomed into something of a favourite with a whole group of pretty girls. He had a basic 'niceness' about him, an absence of malice, which women seemed particularly to appreciate.

He went up to Trinity, Cambridge, in 1964 to read music, with Raymond Leppard as his Director of Studies. He found the course excessively academic, but managed to do a lot of playing, both with the Trinity College Orchestra and with the prestigious CUMS (Cambridge University Musical Society). Playing in the second desk of cellos of the TCO was HRH Prince Charles. Guy's roommate and best friend at Trinity was the composer and musicologist, Giles Swaine.

In 1968, Guy suffered a nervous breakdown. My parents sent him to Vienna, our mother's home city, to recuperate. There he worked as



a copyist for music publishers Universal Edition. While deciphering and hand-copying the hieroglyphic scribbles of avant-garde composers, he applied unsuccessfully for a series of orchestral jobs. He was on the point of giving up when Jill came on the scene.

Jill Fuller, cellist – energetic, ambitious, American. She took Guy in hand, talked him into applying for a job with the Siegerland-Orchester (now the Philharmonie Sudwestfalen), a band based in central Germany with a young, international membership, and gave up her own job with a Swiss orchestra in Lucerne in order to move to Germany with him. ☾

**Tim Johnston (1954-59), brother**



## Roger Laughlin (1939-45)

Roger was at Bedales from 1939 to 1945 when he then went to Cambridge until 1948. He moved to Newcastle upon Tyne to the Agricultural Research Council until 1965. His PhD (Dunelm) was from Durham University. We married in 1957 and moved to Adelaide, South Australia, with three children (one daughter, two sons) in 1965 where he was a senior lecturer at the Waite Research Institute, the Agriculture Dept of the University of Adelaide. We had another daughter in 1967 and our elder son, Michael, died in 2018. The family now has been added to by seven grandchildren with six partners and six great grandchildren.

At Bedales he kept bantams, I believe, and started up a newsletter with two friends, **Michael Caine (1939-45)** and **Peter H Davies (1938-43)** after they discovered a printing press somewhere. He also started to play the cello at Bedales which he continued with in Newcastle upon Tyne and Adelaide for many years, going to a rehearsal with a small group three weeks before he died on 24 December 2019 in Flinders Medical Centre. 🍷

**Catherine Laughlin, wife**

## David Lovell (1946-54)

David was born in Leicester in 1935 and went first to Dunhurst and on to Bedales where he and his middle brother, Graham, formed lasting friendships. After taking his A levels at Leicester Technical College, David entered Cardiff Medical School at the tender age of 17 following in his father's footsteps. He qualified as a doctor aged 21, having won a prize for pathology and bacteriology and a gold medal for surgery. His medical career included working in his father's general practice and house jobs in Cardiff and Leicester. When his mother was admitted as an emergency with a fish bone stuck in her throat, David was the casualty officer on duty to the slight consternation of both of them.

I met David aboard the *Artsa*, a boat bound for Israel in the summer of 1959 when we were both on working holidays. We hitch hiked together and were married in January 1960 with his brother, Graham, as best man.

His medical career included a PhD researching white cell metabolism in leukaemic and non-leukaemic patients at UCH. He worked at St Thomas' Hospital, spent four years in Canada (Windsor, Ont and Toronto) and was appointed Consultant Pathologist at Central Middlesex Hospital in 1973 back in London. Jonathan Miller invited him to appear on the final episode of *The Body in Question* where he performed the first-ever postmortem on television creating quite a stir in 1977 (available on YouTube).

In spite of having MS, he was able to carry on working until he opted for early retirement. He relished his new career as a hands-on grandfather travelling to Kent for babysitting duties.

It gave him more time to enjoy being with his family. He delighted in the lives of our daughter, Shauna, and son, Jonathan, which included concerts at the Wigmore Hall and theatre outings. He was never bored and enjoyed tackling *The Times* crossword, studying the horse racing odds and playing competitive bridge at the Acol Club. He was also a skilled poker player.

David loved musicals particularly anything with tap dancing and he once ditched a girlfriend because she made disparaging remarks about Charles Trenet's *La Mer* – his favourite song – which was played at his funeral. Theatre trips with Shauna and Jonathan and later

with grandchildren, James, Holly and Jenny created memories to be cherished. Family lunch gatherings got better and better when Holly's fiancé, Nic, and James' fiancée, Kate, joined the gang. Sadly, he did not live to see their weddings but was remembered in the speeches and toasts.

David was his own man and was the most loyal friend always interested in other people's lives – a good listener. The greatest sorrow was the death of our youngest child, Tamsin Jane. He was a loving brother to Graham, who pre-deceased him, and to Robin. Robin flew over from New York many times to spend precious time with him before he died.

He died with courage and aplomb. During the last months of his life facing a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, which he understood only too well, he looked at his much-loved family and said 'I am blessed'. We were the lucky ones, blessed to love and be loved by such a fine man. 🍷

**Alice Lovell, wife**





## Richard Meade (1958-64)

**M**y twin brother John and I were in the same class as Richard at both Dunhurst and Bedales from the early 50s to the mid-60s. We shared many interests with him including astronomy which involved carrying an old mahogany and brass telescope out onto the cricket pitch to observe the moon on clear nights.

We often saw Richard, and his younger brother James, during the school holidays as they lived less than five miles away from us in a large Edwardian house with a croquet lawn and a summer house. Richard's mother and her two sisters who also lived in the house, would invariably spend several hours talking about what Richard's absent father was doing in the remote Middle East.

However, in spite of Richard's father being absent during all of Richard's school years, he was somehow ever-present in the family home. Several of his motorbikes cluttered the inside and the outside of the house, including a Vincent Black Shadow, the first motorbike capable of doing more than 150 mph.

There were many photographs around the house, prompting Richard to explain that both he and his brother James were born in Baghdad when their father was carrying out a Hydrological Survey of Iraq before becoming a senior consulting civil engineer on many large-scale dam and canal projects in Iraq and subsequently Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

From what I remember, during Richard's pre-school years his father had taken the whole family along with him, often sleeping in tents alongside the Euphrates and Tigris. Much of their travelling was undertaken in a 1922 Silver Ghost Rolls Royce, converted for desert use with space in the back for surveying equipment, tents and all the family. These early childhood experiences were to have a lasting influence on

the young Richard – possibly more of an influence than anything else while attending Dunhurst and Bedales.

In truth, I was fascinated by Richard's exotic memories of growing up in Iraq but the thing that interested me most was his father's photographic dark room where I learnt to develop 35 mm black and white negatives and to make prints using a huge old-fashioned enlarger and trays of the necessary chemicals. This was very exciting for me and led directly to my own interest in photography and eventually a career in documentary film making.

I have vivid memories of doing many enjoyable things with Richard while at school, including a week-long holiday on the Norfolk Broads in the spring of 1962, just before taking our "O" levels. Richard and I shared one of three 2-berth sailing boats which we used for racing during the day. Several of our classmates were part of this supervised adventure. Two very pretty faces stand out in my memory – Felicity Sherwood and Vivian Kemp.

Richard left Bedales in 1964 having secured a place to study engineering at the University of Manchester from 1965. Before going up to Manchester, he took a gap year, and travelled overland in a Ford Cortina estate car for several months through Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Persia, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Fellow Bedalians included **Tim Rink (1958-64)**, **Nick Jelly (1959-64)**, and **Adrian Langinger (1958-64)**. Apparently, Richard played a crucially important role during the trip – mending 17 punctures and resolving numerous mechanical mishaps, no doubt drawing on his childhood experiences in Iraq.

Perhaps one of the most colourful events in Richard's life occurred while he was still a student in Manchester. He worked alongside my brother John, who was responsible for the designing and building of the stage and the lighting towers at the Isle of Wight Pop



Festival in 1970 – see photograph of Richard taken by John high up on one of the two lighting towers.

Both the stage and lighting towers were well-constructed but the event was both chaotic and spectacular, with a crowd of approaching 700,000. The musical line-up included Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and The Doors, The Who, Sly and the Family Stone, Miles Davis, Joan Baez, Tiny Tim, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, Jethro Tull, Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Richie Havens to mention but a few.

As a film student at the Royal College of Art, I was lucky to get a ringside view as a cameraman hired to film much of the festival.

Soon after Richard joined Kent County Council as a highways engineer. Initially his job was to update the Ordnance Survey maps of the county before becoming a member of the team that designed the ring-roads around the Medway towns. In later years he oversaw the design and installation of a computer system for all of the Kent County Council offices.

In 1974 Richard met and married his wife Rose (née Brunning). Together they had three daughters – Charlotte, Josephine and Alice.

Clearly, Richard was not a typical Bedalian of the 50s and 60s, when the emphasis for most of us was more on the arts than on civil engineering. Having been born in Baghdad and raised in a series of tents along the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates he had a much more down-to-earth and practical approach to life than many of his

contemporaries, prioritising the building of roads and bridges and dams over the making music in one of the school orchestras, the performing in plays in the Lupton Hall, painting in the studio, or making furniture in the workshop.

In 2015, Richard and Rose's eldest daughter Charlotte had a son who was christened James Richard – something

that gave immense pleasure to Richard, especially during his final years of failing health. Richard developed prostate cancer in his early 70s and sadly contracted COVID-19 during a visit to hospital. He died on 9 May 2020 and was buried in Faversham, Kent. ☘

**Mick Csáky (1951-63)**



## Joseph Mercier (1975-80)

At four years sitting on the driveway which was fairly covered with oil, was little Joe, silently sorting out which piece of Lego went where and why. Another memory, his Christmas present from Grandma which was, in the beginning anyway, a very large aeroplane, now in many pieces which had to be reassembled. These are clues to Joseph's

mind. Just how did things work? Joseph was a very thoughtful thinking person. I have cherished memories of him always questioning me. Favourite topics: 1st World War and young men who fought – why and how did people manage? He was interested in history and loved his lessons and the beautiful library at Bedales. A final treasured memory, sitting beside Joseph on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea in Athens looking at the huge red sun on the water opposite. His reflective personality, for me, is an incomparable loss.

**Valerie Sarah Mercier, mother**

Memories of kite flying on The Downs overlooking Winchester; and visits to London. His taste for computation began early, and grew when I gave him a copy of *Learn C Now*. At Imperial College, London, he undertook research on solid state lasers. He worked, to begin with, for his master's degree, with the thesis 'Geometrical Optics Expressed in the Language of Differential Geometry' obtained in 1992, and then for his PhD, graduating in 2000. His thesis was entitled 'Static and Dynamic Properties of Semiconductor Laser Arrays'. He worked under the direction of Dr Martin McCall. The work was on the theoretical analysis of the radiation from such an array, requiring of course heavy calculation.

**Dr Raymond Mercier, father**

My favourite memories of Joe centre on the wonderful time we had when all four of us played together as young children. Our family home had access to a river and some fields. Joe used to build dens for us in the trees, splash around in the mill pond, engage with the local wildlife to the extent that the ducks from the river came into our house regularly, and generally be the naughty little brother always looking to play tricks on his sisters (I can recall a plant-growing competition where he snipped the flowers off my sunflower because it was doing better than his!) I believe his love of cats later on in his life stemmed from this early period where our home had a constant flow of pets ranging from guinea pigs, goats, dogs and of course, cats. Joe, we lost you way too early and you are missed every day.

**Catherine Mercier (1973-80), sister**

Difficult to sum up 31 years of our journey through calm and rough seas together. It started with long walks, music, academic pursuits, a lot of travelling, filled with laughter and friends, followed by professional pursuits and later a quieter life in Greece. Joe was at his happiest with his friends from university, walking on the mountain and by the beach, being a tender and proud father to Ari. Joe loved to help people and animals in need, even if he was not always very good at looking after himself. A passenger with lust for life ... and a dreamer. There were so many things still on his to do list ...

**Katerina Stefanou**

Playing with Joe in rivers & woods, building dens. Sitting with him making radio sets and it's thanks to him I can wire a plug. Fun together in Camden when he was at Birkbeck. Visiting in Athens where he'd made a new life for himself and his family. Our family jigsaw is now altered.

**Harriet Titcomb**

To sum up Joe: infinite numbers, (especially prime) discussions and questions. Curiosity, perseverance, faith, integrity, humour, courage, concentration, music. Letting the sea carry him, dissolving into a sunset, climbing his mountain. Seeking truths, unravelling himself, striving to be there for himself and his family. Optimism, up until the end, he fought and was winning. ☘

**Jenny Mercier (1977-82), sister**



## Mary Elspeth Milford (M E) (1959-67)



**M**E was a very lively, inspirational member of the Bedales music teaching staff.

After attending Downe House school she went to Newnham College, Cambridge where she read music and English. She then studied the violin in Paris.

When she came to Bedales M E fitted ideally into the musical scene. She was not a typical fiddle pedagogue. In

the boarding school environment she nurtured her pupils and took an interest in the whole music department.

As her pupil for five years, I remember lessons that were full of copious chat about anything and everything. She had a little statue of Voltaire on the piano to keep us inspired. Her enthusiasm about all genres of music was infectious and she would scream with delight when amused or entertained. I found that I was not the only pupil who went for walks with her during fiddle lessons on sunny days; it was most fortunate that the music school had large ground floor windows.

Violin pupils of hers who went into the music profession include **Roddy Skeaping (1960-63)**, **David Millman (1959-65)**, **Amanda Lipman (1961-64)**, **Nicola Cleminson (1961-66)**, **Jinny Fisher (1961-66)** and **Ali Hunka (née Hyland 1962-67)**. Other OB professional musicians who benefitted

from her coaching include **Julian Farrell (1957-62)**, **Ann Wordsworth (née Barber 1958-64)**, **Jane Hyland (1960-64)** and **Diana Ambache (1960-66)**.

M E tired eventually of violin teaching and went to work in Watkins book shop in Covent Garden. It was there that she met Dick whom she married in 1978. They moved to Malmesbury where they had their own secondhand book shop. Dick had been very involved in Auroville, a 'universal' town in Southern India before they met, and they remained involved with it together after they married.

After losing her husband in 2016 M E turned to painting. Her niece has collated a collection of her artworks (see weblink below).

She was a gifted lady with a wonderful personality and I was privileged to know her for nearly 60 years. ☀

[youtube.com/watch?v=JfclH5frTag](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfclH5frTag)

**Alison Hunka (née Hyland, 1962-67)**

## Philip Parsons (staff, 1979-2016)



**P**hilip was born in the winter of 1947 and spent the first 13 years of his life in Brockworth, Gloucestershire, attending first the village school before going to The Crypt Grammar School in

Gloucester. In 1960 the family moved to Montacute in Somerset and he completed his secondary education at Yeovil Grammar School. After graduating from University of London with a degree in history, he spent a year doing VSO in Malawi teaching English; this was to shape his future career. On his return home he completed a PGCE and spent the next seven years teaching history at King's College School in Wimbledon.

Philip came to Bedales in 1979 to work in the History department with Ruth Whiting. Philip taught the European history part of the A level syllabus and had a particular interest in the Reformation and Martin Luther. His aim was to become a housemaster and after assisting in the boarding house,

he was appointed housemaster joining **Harry Pearson (1977-2006)** and **Graham Banks (1980-2013)** on Boys' Flat. This was a particularly happy time for Philip when he established himself as a dedicated housemaster and was part of a team which worked especially well. In 1994 he moved to New Boys' Flat where he worked with Keir Rowe until 2004 and then joined me on 6.2 Flat where we worked together for the next five years – a very enjoyable and rewarding time for us both. Philip remained as 6.2 housemaster working with Jo Alldridge until 2016. He worked tirelessly for the good of boarding at Bedales, breaking all records for longevity. Towards the end of his time at Bedales Philip took on the role of voluntary Alumni Officer



using his wealth of knowledge about past students to help organise internal and external events for OBs.

Philip was a very private man, quiet and unassuming to many of his colleagues. However, those who had the privilege of working closely with him know that he had many outstanding qualities. He had a towering reputation as a housemaster as generations of Bedalians will attest. He took his pastoral role most seriously giving the welfare of those in his care his full attention at all times. In addition he had a profound grasp of what was going on in school and Philip's wisdom and intelligent comment informed decisions made by Heads and house staff alike. His loyalty, good sense and sound advice were the bedrock of our working relationship on 6.2 Flat alongside his friendship and support. Both students and parents were the beneficiaries of Philip's considerable care and understanding over the years.

I worked closely with Philip for the last five years of my time at Bedales, though we met soon after he arrived – he living in the front of Dunhill Dene and we living at the back – and our friendship evolved over 40 years. He was not comfortable at parties and large

gatherings but enjoyed coming to supper and was good company. He appeared to need very little sleep and could always be found working at midnight. Philip was a wonderful teacher, endlessly patient with the most difficult students. I experienced his classroom firsthand when we were required to 'observe' each other for our annual staff review. I'm not sure what Philip made of his time in my Design lesson but I enjoyed every minute of his lesson on Elizabeth I. Perhaps the occasion when Philip revealed himself more than any other was when a staff member had the great honour of having Philip do their valedictory address. I was one such lucky recipient.

Philip's speeches were legendary, brilliantly witty and so carefully constructed and delivered, that the jokes came as a subtle sequence of surprises leaving those present laughing out loud.

In 2016 Philip retired due in part to deteriorating health but also because, nearing 70, he wanted to pursue his interests in travel and music. He found a perfect house in Woodstock, near his sister Angela and family and much to my delight this enabled us to meet regularly for lunch in Oxford. We met at talks at the Oxford Literary Festival and often for Sunday concerts at the Holywell Room. Philip engaged his academic interest in Latin and Ancient Greek attending classes at the University until December 2019. He indulged his love of train travel and found joy in proximity to family and the new friends he made in Woodstock. He died peacefully in March this year, thankfully before the worst of COVID, and is much missed by his family – his sister Angela and her husband Dennis, his niece and nephew, four great nieces and two great nephews – and Me. 🌹

**Suzie Oliver (staff, 1977-2009)**





## Jennifer Willow Prizeman (née Bentley, 1942-49)



Willow, twin sister of Valerie, frequently referred to their wartime childhood at Bedales, praising staff who cared for them as if they were their own, prompting her to send her son Mark there. Practising crawling downstairs wearing gas masks and shaking boxes to make butter as well as witnessing Portsmouth burn on the horizon were amongst many vivid recollections. In 1943 their parents, both in active service, arranged simultaneous leave at Sidmouth. The unaccompanied girls aged 11 were booked on the train to Axminster and to stay at a farm before cycling 20 miles to join them the next day.

Partly as a consequence of being a Bedalian, she cherished craftsmanship and traditional skills of making all her

life. She studied design at The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London and then worked briefly in interior decoration at Greene and Abbott in Conduit Street, before marrying John Prizeman and setting up home above his architectural practice in Marylebone. There they raised all three children to also become architects.

She had a great fondness for London, though often critical of the degree to which it had changed during her lifetime recounting details such as “Mary the Milk Horse”, who served the streets of Kensington and watching the incendiary bomb wedged under their conservatory be removed. Whilst incorporating great admiration and flair in terms of modern design and fashion, she took a keen interest in Georgian architecture. She began to actively campaign against the commercial development of Westminster that she saw to be threatening to destroy its 18th century character in the 1980s. She was before her time in valuing what many deemed irretrievable. She would identify Coade stone heads and fireplaces in skips as they were stripped out of houses in neighbouring streets. As chairman of the Marylebone Village Residents’ Association, she led a group who often won successful campaigns to amend or reject predatory local planning applications. Her greatest achievement was perhaps orchestrating the pedestrianisation and paving of the precinct around St Mary’s Church in York stone which remains a rare piece of accessible public space in the area.

Her eye for detail and colour was as sharp as her criticism and quiet wit. Her verbal guillotine of, for example, more or less all that was Victorian or Gothic, fell at such speed many failed to notice. As twins, Valerie and Willow were consistently critical of one another’s appearance, even into their 80s. Having emerged as an elegant

young woman under the influence of Dior’s New Look in the 1950s, she was always perfectly presented. She would continue to apply her lipstick at the same steady pace before leaving the house whether or not it was ablaze. She always took an afternoon nap and did Canadian airforce XBX exercises every morning from 1964 until she died. This unflappable steadiness often drove her lively twin to distraction but also proved a fantastic antidote to the irrepressible gregariousness of her husband. She admired his drive as much as he cherished her elegance. However he was challenged by repeated serious illness throughout his 50s and she was widowed age 60.

Having moved to Albourne, Sussex in 1989, she provided a wonderful second home to each of her seven grandchildren. In leading the Parochial Church Council, she continued to champion building conservation and to derail unscrupulous building developments there. As she became progressively deaf, by focusing on gardening, reading *The Guardian* from cover to cover every day and becoming extremely adept on the computer, she maintained calm and purpose. She moved to live with her younger daughter in Wales in 2014 and continued a lengthy project tracing family histories.

Her definite critical perspective, independence of thought, wry humour and personal possession never left her. One would never challenge patently untrue maxims such as “Bedalians don’t dye their hair” because the inference was not that it was a statement of fact, rather an indication of important critical values. She died suddenly but peacefully one afternoon. Her characteristically quiet and swift exit leaves us at a great loss but grateful for its lack of suffering on her part. 🌹

**Oriel Rhode (née Prizeman), daughter**

## Juliet Christina Quicke (née Ricketts, 1953-54)

Juliet died peacefully at the Sentara Virginia Beach Hospice on 25 July 2019 after an 11-year struggle with breast cancer. She and her twin sister Francesca were born in England at Paignton in Devon, then moved to Jerusalem where her father was Minister of Agriculture under the British Mandate. Returning to England when Israel became an independent state, she was educated at Bedales and the University of Oxford. Juliet was awarded an Honours BA and MA in English Literature. During her 40-year English Language and Literature teaching career

she taught in London at the Pimlico School, in Bangkok at the English Prep School, in Jerusalem at the Anglican School and in Virginia, first at Cape Henry Collegiate School and then for 14 years at Hampton University as Assistant Professor of English. She co-authored five books with her husband Andrew, who is Professor of Film at Regent University. Her son Matthew, graduate of Cornell and Columbia, is a telecom management system consultant in London where he lives with daughter-in-law Rosy and grandson Rufus.

In her retirement Juliet travelled worldwide as a medical records

assistant with Operation Smile in China, India, Kenya and Brazil. She spoke fluent Italian and French, and spent many months in Italy where she loved buying and restoring 12th century buildings in Anghiari, Tuscany. In Portsmouth she was an active member of the American Association of University Women, the Students Club, Trinity Episcopal Church, the Torch Club and the Olde Towne Good Friends Coffee Club. Her hobbies included Shakespearian theatre, Jane Austen novels and independent cinema. 🌟

**Andrew Quicke, husband**

## Andrew Routh (staff, 1955-84)



Andrew worked at Bedales for 29 years and for much of it was known as 'Daddy' Routh, a response to his gentle demeanour, his nurturing teaching and his care for everyone. This care extended from those who would go out into the world, literally in several cases, to become doctors, conservationists, vets, ever grateful for

his encyclopedic biological knowledge, to those who moved on after O levels but were imbued with the love of the natural world which he passed on to them. His teaching covered a time when Biologists were trying to establish Biology as a 'proper science' at the expense of 'nature study', but he saw the nonsense of this and was able to blend the two seamlessly. I came to Bedales in the middle of this, brand new to teaching and disappointed by the dry lecturing I experienced during my degree. His example renewed my love for our subject and showed me how to teach it to get the best out of my pupils. Andrew, by his example, got the best out of me too, yet another of his grateful 'pupils'.

His lessons were fun. I will always remember his rich bass-baritone wafting up to the office as he sang 'On Ilkley Moor Baht'at' to illustrate food chains. He had a quietly wicked sense of humour. There was a twinkle and that lovely rich chuckle as he told me about the Head's warning soon after

he arrived, given to all new male staff, about being surrounded by attractive young girls: "I say to myself, 'Steady on, Hector'." There was also a twinkle in his eye as he explained that he had abandoned gentlemanly etiquette and went ahead of me upstairs because my miniskirts were so short. He was able to revert to his usual punctilious politeness when the Head allowed the female staff to wear trousers.

Since I worked with Andrew for a relatively short time in his Bedales existence I have necessarily asked his children Hugh and Emma to fill in the gaps in my knowledge of Andrew's long and busy life. He went up to Magdalen College, Oxford in 1943 after a childhood as the youngest of four in a Rectory near Cambridge, surrounded by a religious faith that would sustain him throughout his life. At first he read classics. After three years in the RAF he returned to finish his degree, but switched to botany, which was lucky for us. We are also lucky that his training finished in June 1945 and no earlier, even luckier that he survived an 'interesting' afternoon over Birmingham.



He had met Marianne at a 'hop' for nurses and the local RAF boys, when she pulled his name out of a flower vase. Very botanical. When he was posted away he decided to borrow a Tiger Moth (plane, not arthropod) and do a few aerobatics over her hospital. The engine stalled... I have asked Hugh and Emma to supply a photo in RAF uniform to prove that I am writing about the right person. As I read about it in astonishment an old pop song came into my head: *That's What Love Will Do*.

It also perfectly describes his retirement. His love for people furthered his involvement with care homes, which had started at Bedales when he ran Voluntary Service. He ran Petersfield Voluntary Care. He was a carer for his mother; his sisters and Marianne, both before and after she moved into sheltered accommodation because of Alzheimer's, and trained so that he could give the bulk of her care, using that training afterwards to go on working voluntarily at the home. He

remained involved with Steep Church, both bellringing and as church warden. He continued to live down a quiet lane in Steep at Oakley Cottage, which they moved to in 1974 and which surrounded him with nature as he planted trees and tended the vegetable patch. There was always a riot of birds at the feeders outside the French windows and visits from badgers at dusk. There were four haughty Siamese who were completely soppy with him. [Robert A Heinlein comes to mind: *'How you behave toward cats here below determines your status in Heaven.'*] When the large house and garden became too much, he moved in 2014 to a flat in Farnham, near Emma, continuing his lifelong involvement with bellringing, taking walks by the River Wey. He kept his mind sharp, not with crosswords but by reading the Bible in Greek. After a stroke he chose a home where he was happy – his carer called him 'Baba', wise father – with much visiting by Emma and Hugh

and their families, proud to have lived to see great-grandchildren. More strokes and Alzheimer's during COVID were not the end he deserved, but he returned to Steep Church to be buried alongside Marianne, his coffin heaped with the autumn colours of his beloved nature.

I conclude with granddaughter Flo's remark, aged three, "Grandpa Bear knows everything" and Emma's summary at the funeral. "He had an amazing, holistic, all encompassing take on the world. Science and religion were not polar opposites to him. Rather he saw Teilhard de Chardin's philosophy of theistic evolution as quite obvious. His faith in a God of love and creation, and his profound love of nature and her sciences were his life." How lucky we have been to know him. ☺

**Anne Archer (staff, 1971-77 and 1986-2008), with grateful thanks to Hugh Routh (1963-69) and Emma Smith (née Routh, 1972-79)**

## Priscilla Ann Siebert (née Thornycroft, 1930-34)

**P**risilla Ann Thornycroft was born on 21 April 1917 in Golders Green, London. She was the middle one of five siblings. Kate and Chris were born before her; Olli and Bill were the younger two.

They spent their childhood on the south coast of England in Lancing and Worthing. She stayed connected to the sea all her life. We all know the story of the circus standing in front of the sea, which, on the morning they went to visit it, was blown away by the storm. Her painting, *The Last Performance*, painted in old age, recalls it. It was a carefree life, full of adventure and challenges.

From 1930-34 she attended Bedales boarding school, like all her

siblings before and after her. She kept in touch with the school until last year. Her English teacher, **Geoffrey Crump (staff, 1919-45)**, and **Gigi Meo (staff, 1923-40)**, her drawing teacher, were the people who would influence her life significantly. One brought her close to Shakespeare; the other promoted her talent for drawing and supported her admission to the Slade School of Fine Art, London that is to this day highly regarded internationally.

She was a creative student who, in accordance with her intentions, pursued her studies very intensively, won competitions and did not care about awards. She was very active in the international left-wing student movement and found herself in demonstrations in the streets, where

she faced police officers on horses. Her drawings recount this.

At the age of 19 she was already a member of the Communist Party. In 1936 she received an order to meet a communist who had just fled Germany and was seeking contact with the Communist Party of England. In front of her was a man no taller than she was, of slim build, dark-haired and marked by spells in prison. Hans Siebert fled to England with the help of Adam von Trott. Previously he was imprisoned as a communist in Kassel prison and in Lichtenburg concentration camp.

Six years later, in October 1942, she married Hans, a German bombed in England by the Germans! For a short time, she lost her English

citizenship because she married a foreigner whose country was at war with the kingdom. In December 1942 she signed a declaration of loyalty to the UK and was naturalised again.

She supported her husband in his work with Spanish refugee children in London. She designed posters which called for help for starving people in Spain and she painted with the children, whom she liked very much. Until her old age, she kept in contact with the International Brigade Memorial Trust – keeping those memories alive.

My sister Helga was born in Petersfield in 1943, and you may perhaps ask, why not in London, as I was in 1946?

The young family lived in London, my mother working as a freelance artist. But during the constant air raids by German bombers, all the windowpanes had broken. So Hans and Priscilla moved to live with her parents Oliver and Dorothy Thornycroft, who had found refuge in the grounds of Bedales.

Some of her paintings and illustrations originate in the memory of this time during the war in England. The picture *Evening in the Subway* from 1940, has now found a permanent place in the New Masters Gallery of the Dresden State Art Collection. She would be very proud of that. It is sad that this news can no longer reach her.

In 1945 the war was over and there was only one duty for my father and mother: go to Germany and help to rebuild this country. In 1947 he returned to Berlin – of course to the Soviet zone of occupation – and took on important positions in national education.

Priscilla worked on the children's book *Whiskers the Cat* in England in order to earn the money for



our crossing. In 1948 we departed for Berlin – I was two years old. I never saw my grandfather again. My grandmother, Dorothy Thornycroft, visited us every two years in the GDR.

Kleinmachnow – No one can still say today why this place has become the meeting place for so many emigrants who have returned from all over the world. We lived here from 1950 to 1952. And it was such an enriching life, for the philosophers, painters, sculptors, musicians and musicologists, who connected and inspired everyone in a spirit of optimism. We children were right in the middle of it, and made friendships that remain to this day as strong as those of siblings. My mother is the last of those, who were as mothers to us all, that we have lost.

In Berlin-Pankow and Kleinmachnow she worked as an author and illustrator of children's books. The books *The Frog*, *Our Chicks*, *Butterflies* and *The Bunny Rabbit* and *The Fountain* were printed

in large numbers and were sold in part as schoolbooks. Some of my school friends treasure them to this day. With these books she became known as Ann Siebert in the GDR.

In 1952 we had to leave our beloved Kleinmachnow near Berlin.

We gained Dresden. My father became director of the pedagogical institute, Karl-Friedrich-Wilhelm-Wander, later a university, where I also studied. It no longer exists.

Our home was a fantastic villa with grounds in Bühlau. My mother worked as a proof-reader for the magazine GDR-Revue. A magazine that was sold in England.

In 1970 we all left Bühlau. Mother was able to help shape the new house at 7 Ewald-Schönberg-Straße according to her vision and lived there for 50 years.

She was happy in Dresden. She was warmly included in the large circle of painters, in recognition



of her wholly individual style of painting. In the 1980s she received a commission to capture the life of the Sorbs (a Slavic ethnic group) in a series of pictures. Her encounter with these people in Sorbia, and their tradition of Easter riding, captivated her repeatedly and found expression in many pictures and lithographs.

For decades she was a member of the board of Kunst der Zeit, a cooperative of artists living in solidarity. With her contacts in all levels of politics and in the world, she helped to clear away some of the difficulties that such an artists' cooperative could also have in

the GDR. She never spoke about how much it pained her when this cooperative was destroyed after the unification of Germany.

Her pictures and illustrations are held in many public and private collections, including the Imperial War Museum in London. In 2010, there was a major retrospective of her work at Dresden's Neuen Sächsischen Kunstverein.

If, during the last few years, she always had a pencil to hand, drawing the people, the birds, the squirrels, that was an expression of her endless love for nature, her attentiveness towards the people who moved around her, and also her endeavour not to spare

body and mind, but always to keep a watchful eye on life.

She was the dependable centre for the family. She always helped in a very practical manner: tackling, solving. It was important to her to know exactly which grandson, which great grandson was doing what. Holiday destinations had to be named precisely, the departure and arrival times recorded in her small notebook.

In conversation with her one felt encouraged to think about nature, art or politics. Let us remember her like this. Perhaps we will also succeed in doing something good on her behalf today. 🌸

*Eulogy by Jennifer Horeni, daughter. Adapted by Dennis Archer (staff, 1974-2008) from translation by Louise Brimicombe (née Archer, 1992-97)*

## Ian Simpson (1938-43)

Ian Simpson died in November 2020. He was born in May 1926 during the General Strike in Dulwich, London. In 1932 he moved to Havant when his father became a head teacher. **Frederic Meier (staff, 1935-46)**, the headmaster of Bedales, was a childhood friend of Ian's father.

Most of Ian's time at Bedales was during the Second World War. He recalled being involved in building trenches for air raid shelters. However, after a time, it was decided it would be simpler if everybody slept in the school cellars rather than going out to the shelters during raids. As the cellars were very warm, eventually pupils were allowed to remain in dormitories subject to parental permission. After the war he went to an Old Bedalian camping trip to Pembrokeshire, where he remembered that the headteacher read a story each night to the camp. In summer 1943 he went on a punting trip down the Thames from Oxford to Reading with

three friends from Bedales, despite the war. After Bedales, he studied agriculture at the University of Reading. He first became interested in agriculture at Bedales through the school farm and war time food cultivation.

In 1948 he joined the University of Leeds as Agricultural Economist. The work involved visiting Yorkshire farms to collect data, which was then used by the Ministry of Agriculture to set food prices. He produced reports on topics, such as the costs and returns of keeping pigs. In 1952 he married Morag Mathieson, a work colleague. Frederic Meier as a family friend came to the wedding. They had three children. In the late 1950s he became an early pioneer in linear programming and a user of the university's first computer. Linear programming was used to predict how farms could increase their profits. For example, by cutting back on livestock and switching to wheat, one farm was predicted to increase profits by 20%.



From 1963 to 1966, Ian was seconded to the Sudan on a project looking at the future of the Gezira, a 2 million acre (40% the size of Wales) irrigated area south of Khartoum between the Blue and White Niles, set up in 1920s by British to grow cotton. Partly as result of the study, groundnuts and wheat were added to the crop rotation. The Sudan at the time was newly independent.

Returning to Leeds, he was involved in setting up a MSc in Agricultural Economics aimed at overseas students.

Building on his experience in the Sudan, Ian did a lot of consultancy work abroad. In 1969 and 1970, he visited Botswana to look at land and water planning. In 1972 he helped organise a conference in Cairo on rural development in the Middle East, visiting Pakistan, Iran and Lebanon. In 1979 he was briefly a visiting professor at a university in Baghdad giving two lectures there. A lecture in Mosul in the north of Iraq had to be cancelled due to snow. Links with the Sudan were maintained. He did a further eight projects in the country. He contributed several chapters to a book on the agriculture of Sudan.

Taking early retirement in 1983 he continued to work for the university supervising MBA students doing project work in their home countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Tanzania.

Following the death of his first wife in 1998, he married Dorothea Leser, the widow of a work colleague. After Dorothea died in 2005, he had two further companions. Sonja Bermudez and Joyce Burton.

When he was in his 80s Ian attended a Bedales reunion, meeting up with a surprising number of his contemporaries.

In good health into his 90s Ian lived independently until summer 2020, when he moved into a care home due to deteriorating eyesight and mobility. With increasing blindness, he found isolation imposed by COVID restrictions difficult to cope with. He died on 11 November. At his funeral a piece by **Gervase de Peyer (1939-43)**, principal clarinet player of the London Symphony Orchestra, who was at Bedales at the same time as Ian, was played. 🌹

**Alasdair Simpson, son**

## Jessica Smart (née Birnstingl, 1951-55)

Jessica was the last of four siblings all educated at Bedales. She came from a very musical family and like her three brothers took music seriously at school, learning the cello.

Another family trait was love of travel. This took her in 1956 to Paris for a year; repeatedly over decades to her aunt's home and summer school on the Italian Ligurian coast and in 2000 she completed a section of the Camino with OBs **Richard Newnham (1943-50)**, **Rodric Braithwaite (1942-50)** and myself.

In the last ten years of her life it was to India (four times), US, Turkey, France, Switzerland and Italy. The last was probably her favourite with the sun, the food the language and the beautiful cities. However, Scotland was very special to her too and she must have visited it almost every year of her adult life.

In 1959 she married Basil Smart, who was a violinist in the London Symphony Orchestra and to whom she was very happily married for 47 years until his death in 2006. They had two children, Tanya and Dominic, who survive them.

Although never a professional musician, she loved to work with them. She became manager of the Versuvius Ensemble and personal assistant to the clarinetist, Thea King. Players valued her efficiency and musical knowledge. In her mid 40s she was called as member of a jury at the Old Bailey and became very interested in the legal profession. Too late to get qualifications, she became a legal secretary to a firm in Tunbridge Wells specialising in personal injury cases and almost certainly was consulted by the solicitors before any important decision was taken. One thing she loved was crosswords,



so at breakfast on opening the morning paper and after glancing at the headlines, would start on it, continuing on her car journey to work and if some clues were still not solved, would phone very special friends and complete it before starting the day in the office.

Jessica was diagnosed with cancer in January 2020 and suffered a brief illness supported by her family and friends before dying peacefully in the care of a local hospice. She died only days before the COVID pandemic and the country's shut-down so that only her children were able to be at the funeral. I would say that this inability to experience a normal bereavement has been felt by the entire family.

Jessica loved her family, loved reading, giving dinner parties, talking and laughing. Recently someone said to me, "Jessica did friends". This was indeed true and her good humour, her frequent smile and jolly laugh assured that she had so many in Lewes, where she lived and much further afield. She is very much missed by all of us. 🌹

**Roger Birnstingl (1943-50), brother**



## Paul John Rackham Soper (1955-61)

Paul was highly qualified. After leaving Bedales, Paul did an undergraduate physics degree at New College, Oxford, followed by a PhD from the University of Surrey entitled 'A 3-body model of deuteron-nucleus elastic scattering'. Later while he was teaching at the Open University, he obtained a further degree in computer intelligence.

Paul started his academic career as a physics professor at the University of Surrey in Guilford, and later switched to logic programming linguistics first as a lecturer at Imperial College, London and then as a professor at the University of Southampton. He had several teaching sabbaticals including at Trieste, Italy; Harare, Zimbabwe; and Los Angeles, US.

He retired early from academia to join his wife, Nyasha in various social enterprises including a foster care company and many charitable activities including a therapeutic farm

in the UK and supporting children's education in Zimbabwe.

Paul thrived on new experiences. He was widely travelled, loved anything tech especially artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics. He also enjoyed chess, sailing, skiing, and tennis, and he loved dogs.

Paul was also a family man. He married Kate Soper in 1968 and had a daughter Leonie (1969). Paul and Kate divorced in 1974 and he later married Nyasha Gwatidzo, and they had three children; Chido (1986 from Nyasha's previous marriage), Yemurai (1994) and Edzai (1995). Paul had two grandsons; Justin (2009) and Ezra (2019).

In 2017, Paul had an accident which left him quadriplegic. However he found a way to adapt, and continued to travel with his family to Guernsey, Finland, and Zimbabwe, as well as continuing to grow his mind, go on sailing trips, and be there for others as best he could.



Paul was a very much loved husband, father, brother and uncle. He had a huge intellect and was a loyal friend to many people.

We will all miss him. 🌹

**Viv Peto (née Soper, 1959-63),  
sister and Leonie Fedel (née Soper),  
daughter**

## Richard Trevor Turner Warwick (1938-42)

Richard was the oldest surviving son of Dr Joan Warwick (née Harris, 1907-13) and **William Warwick (staff, 1909-1911)** who went to become senior surgeon at the Middlesex hospital (d 1949). They had met at Bedales while William, just out of Cambridge (High Jump Blue) was teacher of maths, Joan was captain of cricket and ¼ miler, and heading for The London School of Medicine for Women to study medicine. (The only medical school available to girls in England in 1912.) Joan later lost her younger brother Trevor Harris (b 1896 remembered upstairs in the library on the boards over a south facing bay). He had

been a motorcycle dispatch rider and died of wounds in France 1916.

Joan was also a keen motorcyclist and taught Richard how to build and repair machines. Equally her father

Theodore (friend of J H Badley), dentist, silversmith and clockmaker had a profound influence upon Richard encouraging him to make and understand.



He joined the home guard outside the school, whereby he could obtain both fuel and a gun. He kept his motorcycle at the garage opposite The Cricketers. There is a story that he encountered a member of staff 'nose to nose' in a lane near school, when he was recognised without his goggles on. He was summoned to the HM study where, after some discussion, he was handed a cider bottle in which to store his petrol!

This obsessive and determined boy thrived at Bedales (despite being very homesick), under the benign headship of **Freddie Meier (1935-46)**. At the age of 14 he was progressing so poorly in class that they presented him with the challenge of having to stay down a year unless he 'bucked up' his effort.

Suddenly he discovered that he had the capacity to learn and produce the results. From then on his science studies, at least, flourished. He later gained a place to study medicine at Oxford. The limited success of his education at school was reflected in his Oxford interview. He was asked to tell them about various poets and was unable to answer any of the open-ended questions nor did he know significant history. With his poor eyesight he didn't play team games. "Well what can you tell us about?" they asked somewhat despairingly, so he explained how to accurately fell a tree and to plough a field on a slope. Clearly he would

have been highly unlikely to have been successful at the interview today; this he frequently, and ruefully, admitted.

Still more impressive for Bedales was his being selected to represent Oxford row in the boat race (1944-46). This among the majority of candidates from 'rowing' schools.

In those years the boat race was a national event akin to the Grand National.

The fact that he went on to captain the winning crew and to engineer the race's return to the Thames tideway (which had been abandoned during the war and necessitated the annual cessation of shipping). It became an early indication of his leadership and strategic qualities.

He proudly recalled revisiting school (when he was accustomed to being recognised as the rower) and being introduced as 'The Twins' brother Richard'.

They were both SEN but Bedales offered individual niches where they blossomed in engineering and horticulture. They were apparently highly efficient school black-out wardens. He was reassured to find how appreciated and admired the little brothers were.

He later became a governor at Bedales for the allowed three terms of office followed by Margaret his wife. During her first years, with **Tim Slack (1962-74)** as Headmaster and **Jack Walesby (1947-72)** as Bursar, they were able to appoint **David Butcher (1963-92)** to be **Bif Barker's (1930-64)**



successor in the workshop. (David later recalled their offering enormous support and encouragement backed up with finance set aside for the development. So many generations went on to benefit from his inspirational teaching of design and genuine craftsmanship in the Barnsley tradition.) During their time the Simon Lecture Theatre and the science labs were built. Margaret went on to become Chairman of the Bedales governors (1966-72) when it became financially necessary to increase the pupil numbers from 250 to 350. The temporary "terrarin classrooms were only expected to last 10 years", she remarked when visiting her grandchildren, **Michael (1989-96)** and **Helen Sanders (1991-97)** at Bedales for a concert and discovered that the buildings were still in use! ☺

**Gillian Bathe (1965-71), daughter**

## Robert Winnicott (1948-56)

**R**obert was born in Portsmouth but lived all his life in Rowlands Castle. From 1971 he ran RJ Winnicott Ltd, a construction business founded by his grandfather in 1904. This is now run successfully by his younger son Paul. Around that time,

he also set up a hardware shop in Rowlands, now run by his elder son Adrian and his nephew David, with seven stores in and around Hampshire and West Sussex. His unflinching charm and wide-reaching knowledge of all things domestic and

gardening meant that the business thrived from the start. His many hobbies included membership of the Havant Rotary Club and also a lifelong interest in music and the fine arts, a legacy from his education at Dunhurst and Bedales. ☺

**Matthew Rice (1975-80)**



## Nina Wedderburn (née Salaman, 1942-44)

My mother Nina Wedderburn, who died on 4th August 2020 aged 91, attended Bedales from 1942 to 1944, a time she remembered with huge fondness. Nina was born in London in 1928, first of four children of Dr Myer Head Salaman, pathologist and cancer scientist, and Esther Salaman (née Polianowsky), a physicist and writer who had studied with Einstein before coming to England. Nina was the first grandchild to Redcliffe Nathan Salaman FRS, physician and scientist and Hebrew Scholar Nina Salaman (née Davis). Her childhood provided powerful influences from this large Anglo-Jewish family, with early holidays spent with cousins at their grandparents' country house.

Nina was always very close to her sister Thalia: they attended school together, first Channing in Highgate, and then the Perse, Cambridge, where the family moved during the war. But she said that her fondest school memories were of her time at Bedales: she loved its philosophy and freedoms, as well as the science lessons. Her own father Myer, as well as her uncles, aunts, and later cousin Jane Collett and sister Thalia were all Bedalians. She remembered that as she was growing so rapidly, she was often hungry: luckily there was always bread and jam to eat, late in the evening! After Bedales she returned to Cambridge, spending a happy final school year living with the artist Gwen Raverat when her parents moved back to London after the war.

Gaining a place to study natural sciences at Newnham College, Cambridge, she started as an undergraduate in 1947, the last year before the university granted women full admission. In 1998, going back to Newnham with a friend she had met in their first term, she was one of over 800 women who returned to collect their full degree. The friends she made in Cambridge remained close for life.

There she met Bill Wedderburn; returning to Cambridge to marry him in 1951 meant giving up the PhD that she had started in London. Nina and Bill had three children: Sarah, David and myself. They divorced in 1961, and Nina set up a new life in London with us, supported by her parents, sister Thalia and brother-in-law Dolf. Once we were all at school, she restarted her scientific career, initially working part-time to obtain her PhD. That period cannot have been easy: women starting their PhD at 38, with three small children at home, were very unusual at the time, and she faced significant barriers. Her work was truly interdisciplinary, asking key questions about how malaria and viruses interact with our immune system: she developed a model to understand the influence of malaria on the link between Epstein Barr virus and Burkitt's lymphoma. Many of her PhD students and fellows went on to successful careers all over the world, and remained friends for life. They all commented on her scientific integrity and fairness in leading her group. She rose to become Dean of the Hunterian Institute at the Royal College of Surgeons and was awarded the Sir Arthur Keith Medal in 1994 for her services there. Many years later, when health troubles took her into hospital, she was frequently recognised by the surgeons she met, who vividly remembered her pathology teaching sessions.

Nina was a lifelong member of the Labour party and our house in Highgate was often full of people, including on polling day when we acted as canvassing headquarters. She was however never afraid to comment when she felt the Labour party went astray. She was a source of support and mentor to many, including children, grandchildren, her siblings, nieces, nephews, and numerous good friends throughout her life. Nina had



immense integrity: she was determined, courageous, kind, deeply loyal, well informed, and rather direct.

In later life she cared for both her parents until their death, and was a regular visitor to her aunt Miriam. In retirement she joined both the University of the 3rd Age and London's Liberal Jewish Synagogue, where she loved to study and discuss Hebrew texts. She lived with severe asthma for most of her life but never let this stop her enjoying regular outings: to hear classical music, or see an exhibition at one of her favourite galleries, the Royal Academy. In her final months, failing health and then the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic brought huge frustration, but she loved every family visit and good conversation, to the end. She is survived by her three children, 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, siblings, wider family and many friends. 🌹

**Lucy Wedderburn, daughter**

# BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

## Births

Clare Jarmy (staff) and Ian Douglas (staff), a daughter, Flora, on 10 January 2021

Berni Johnen-Baxter (1991-96) and Karl Baxter, a son, Maximilian Lukas, on 21 October 2020

Minty Nicholson (2003-08) and Will Nott (2007-10), a daughter, Juno, on 3 February 2021

Alexa Reid Matthews (née Reid) (1995-2000) and David Matthews, a son, Ivan Robert, on 23 September 2020

Clea Whitley (2000-03) and Martyn Williams, a son, Bryn, on 4 February 2020

## Engagements

Richard Howson (1996-2001) and Eimear Fee

Josephine Jonathan (2006-08) and Cornelius Halladay-Garrett

Emily Whitley (2000-06) and Luke Hallett

## Marriages

Coco Conran (2006-14) and Alex Vardaxoglou on 20 December 2020

Louise Collison (staff, 1998-01) and Martin Dixon on 20 February 2020

Sofia Larsson (2001-06) and Robin Ticcianti on 24 October 2020

## Deaths

Norman Bellis (staff, 1956-63) on 11 August 2020

Nicholas Mark Yinka Bevan (1974-79) on 4 November 2020

Simon Brooke (1965-71) on 26 November 2019

Janice Butcher (visiting music staff, 1983-2018) on 6 December 2020

Thea Clark (1959-64) on 30 March 2020

Erlend Amond Copeley-Williams (1944-50) on 11 January 2020

## Deaths

Henry Crallan (1962-67) on 22 March 2015

Malcolm Evans (1941-48) on 1 December 2019

David Fisher (1940-45) on 1 July 2020

Jon Goddard Watts (1941-47) on 23 February 2020

Nick Green (1973-77) on 23 June 2020

Richard Hartree (1944-50) on 16 March 2020

Guy Anthony Johnston (1957-62) on 12 December 2020

David Lovell (1946-54) on 23 December 2018

Richard Meade (1958-64) on 9 May 2020

Joseph Mercier (1975-80) on 6 December 2020

Mary Elspeth Milford (M E) (staff, 1959-67) on 27 March 2020

Gordon Murphy (1933-40) on 26 May 2020

Sophie Nelson (née Burn) (1968-74) 19 July 2020

Philip Parsons (staff, 1979-2016) on 25 March 2020

Jennifer Willow Prizeman (née Bentley) (1942-49) on 27 May 2019

Juliet Christina Quicke (née Ricketts) (1953-54) on 25 July 2019

Andrew Routh (staff, 1955-84) on 21 October 2020

Priscilla Ann Siebert (née Thornycroft) (1930-34) on 13 April 2020

Ian Simpson (1938-43) on 11 November 2020

Jessica Smart (née Birnstingl) (1951-55) on 16 March 2020

Paul John Rackham Soper (1955-61) on 12 April 2020

David N Stephenson (1942-53) on 10 July 2020

Richard Trevor Turner Warwick (1938-42) on 19 September 2020

Nina Wedderburn (née Salaman) (1942-44) on 4 August 2020

Robert Winnicott (1948-56) on 4 November 2020



# UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2020

## Class of 2020

Name	Destination	Course
Helena Alexander	University of York	Politics with International Relations
Kitty Atherton	Camberwell	Art Foundation
Louis Beecham	Loughborough University	Automotive Engineering (with placement year)
Milo Best	AUB Bournemouth	Art Foundation
Jamie Bland	University of Birmingham	Materials Science & Engineering (following an enrichment year at Principia College, Illinois, USA)
Lev Borisovets	King's College London	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
Marcus Bugge	University of Oxford	French & Beginners' Russian
Jacqueline Cavagnari	King's College London	Religion, Politics & Society
Daisy Chadwick	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Oscar Clark	University of Edinburgh	English Literature
Clara Coencas	University of Westminster	Television Production
Mack Cowling	Oxford Brookes	Business & Management
Louis Davies-Kidel	Coventry University	Automotive & Transport Design
Sofia Draper	UCL	History
Saskia Duke	University of Leeds	Religion, Politics & Society
Hanna Dunleavy	University of Bristol	Social Policy with Criminology
Anton Ellis	SOAS	Japanese
Toby Fairs	University of St Andrews	Chemistry
Charlotte Ford	Newcastle University	Biology
Douglas Fox	University of Manchester	Management (International Business Economics)
Sophia Fuchs	King's College London	Classics (Greek & Latin)
Leanne Ghesquiere	Erasmus University College Rotterdam	International Arts & Culture Studies
Connie Gillies	UCL	Politics & International Relations
Benedict Gooderham	Oxford Brookes	Social Anthropology
Jonathan Greenfield	Durham University	Music
Annia Grey	University of Bristol	Music
Dan Hall	Central St Martins	Art Foundation
Max Harris	Bournemouth University	Film
Dylan Hayes	University of Groningen Netherlands	Liberal Arts & Sciences

## Class of 2020

Name	Destination	Course
Madison Jeffreys	Newcastle University	Sociology
Safia Kazim	BIMM Institute	Popular Music Performance & Songwriting
Ho Keung	CU Hong Kong	Music
Cannden Lawer-Barnes	BIMM Institute	Music & Sound Production
Joshua Lawson	University of Manchester	Management, Leadership & Leisure
Thea Levine	Central St Martins	Art Foundation
Max Lobbenberg	Oxford Brookes	Architecture
Mimi Lomax	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Alexander Lunn	University of York	English
Zedeng Luo	China	Post A level course in Fine Arts
Eleanor Mardlin	University of York	Politics with International Relations
Hannah Mazas	University of Exeter	Economics with Year Abroad
Flora McFarlane	Glasgow School of Art	Fashion Design
Lily McGregor	University of Cambridge	Modern & Medieval Languages
Lydia Morris	UCA Farnham	Art Foundation
Amber Pearson	Camberwell	Art Foundation
Rosie Phillips	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Ella Piddu	University of Nottingham	Classical Civilisation & Philosophy
Imogen Pike	University of the Arts London	Costume for Theatre & Screen
Lola Pilkington	Royal Drawing School	Art Foundation
Lok Radcliffe	University of Manchester	Economics
Meadow Ridley	Camberwell	Art Foundation
Serge Samarine	Trinity College Dublin	Russian & French
Theo Sheridan	University of Manchester	Philosophy & Politics
Joseph Sieghart	Queen Mary University of London	Politics & International Relations
Morgan Tasker	University of Edinburgh	History
Sofia Testino	Central St Martins	Art Foundation
Ziqing Wang	Durham University	Music
Anthony White	University of Bath	Physics
George Wright	University of Nottingham	Mathematics & Economics
Tomer Ziv	University of Bath	Computer Science with Placement



## Class of 2019

Name	Destination	Course
Maximillian Berger	University of Brighton	Film
Jack Cecil	Loughborough University	Bioengineering
Liberty Chant	City & Guilds	Art Foundation
Charlotte Cohu	King's College London	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
Josephine-Lea Edery	University of Bristol	Biology
Bella Evershed	SOAS University of London	Social Anthropology
Fleur Fincham	University of Leeds	History
Noah Golding	Trinity Laban	Voice
Joseph Goldring	University of Sussex	American Studies (with a study abroad year)
Tess-Alexandra Goulandris	Newcastle University	Computer Science
Skye Hurwitz	University of Sussex	Psychology
Cassius Kay	Welsh College of Music & Drama	Music with Classical Singing
Agnes Levingston	SOAS	Global Liberal Arts
Taran Llewelyn Bradford	University of Exeter	Liberal Arts
Angus Milton	Durham University	General Engineering
Oliver Nicpon	University of Buckingham	Certificate Medical Foundation Studies
Trumble Outhwaite	University of Manchester	History & Russian
Samuel Pemberton	University of Bath	Biomedical Sciences
Maisy Redmayne	University of Cambridge	Veterinary Medicine
Kate Sampson	University of Buckingham	Certificate Medical Foundation Studies
Max Simmons	University of Manchester	Modern Language & Business & Management (French)
Charlie Sutton	Manchester Metropolitan University	International Relations
Sophie Turner	University of St Andrews/TCD	English
Allietta Verdon-Roe	University of Manchester	International Disaster Management & Humanitarian Response
Samuel Vernor-Miles	University of Essex	Acting
Lola Vogel	BIMM Institute	Music Business
Charlotte Whiteside	Falmouth University	Marine & Natural History Photography

## Class of 2018

Jasper Oltmanns	Bard College USA	Liberal Arts
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## Class of 2017

Bernard Allez	Nottingham Trent University	Psychology (Mental Health)
Louis Jacobs	ACM	Electronic Music Production

## Class of 2016

Flora Shaw	University of Birmingham	Liberal Arts & Sciences
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