

OLD BEDALLIAN NEWSLETTER 2024





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Thank you to the many members of the Bedales community who have contributed content. Where Old Bedalians and former staff are mentioned, we have included dates for their Bedales service if known. Please help us update our records if you spot any missing or inaccurate dates! And please submit comments, future articles and letters to the editor via email at alumni@bedales.org.uk ✉

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Front cover: *Tapestry design* by OB John Hitchens, 1996. John's original drawing of the front cover image will be included in his forthcoming exhibition *Migrating Thoughts* at Chippenham Museum & Art Gallery from 7 September to 26 October.

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



The annual cycle of OB activities is back, having taken a year or two to catch up after the Covid years. The summer of 2023 saw a successful programme of reunions on Parents' Day and Badley Day. There were also reunions in other places at

other times, from rural Oxfordshire to New York, all reported in the OB events section. There have been plenty of occasions which demonstrated the willingness of OBs to return in the Beyond Bedales events programme to offer the benefit of their work and life experiences to current students in talks and workshops. These events, from the fashion industry to life as CEO of the *Financial Times*, illustrate the astonishing breadth of interests nurtured during and after life at Bedales.

There is, however, a theme which recurs frequently in many of the reports in this newsletter; 'work of each for weal of all' crops up again and again, whether in a report of a current work enterprise or an obituary. Perhaps it is this which underlies the ease with which current students and Old Bedalians can communicate and how

easily we reconnect with fellow OBs we haven't seen for years.

As ever we have the External Relations department – Mary, Emma, Tanya and Rob – to thank for mining this rich seam of potential and making it all happen.

This edition is not only a report on the past year, but also looks to the future. Work is planned to improve the sustainability and resilience of the Bedales infrastructure, helping to achieve a reduced carbon footprint. Much imaginative work is being done to extend the highly successful Bedales Assessed Courses and to put into place the 10 year learning programme reflecting the 'Learning, Living, Community and Environment' aims, thus putting the essential Bedales ethos 'head, hand, heart' into a 21st century context. ✨



Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales

The arrival of the OB Newsletter is one of the first green shoots poking through the winter gloom, landing on my desk in draft form at the start of the Spring term. In my role, being informed by the school experiences of Old Bedalians, as well as their endeavours after they move on, is central to helping me understand the importance of our work here. This year's edition feels particularly rich in wisdom and experience that is so inspiring. We are always keen to learn more about OBs so do continue to keep those lines of communication open!

This year marks an important milestone as we look forward to the next decade. You may well have heard or read about our 10 year strategic plan but, if not, do check out the article on pages 30-31 to find out more.

Even in these current times of both domestic and international uncertainty,

we are committed to continue evolving the school in order to do justice to its founding principles and to keep the Bedales spirit alive. One area we have already started working on in earnest is the development of our new Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs) in Sciences and Modern Languages, with a BAC in Japanese set to be the first subject out of the blocks in two years' time.

It is increasingly clear that GCSEs have had their day in the current form and we have found the response, both from our immediate community and the wider world to be overwhelmingly positive (bar a few, rather noisy, outliers). Our work has garnered political attention leading to us giving evidence to two separate House of Lords committees



and one from the Commons. Watch this space as we continue in this endeavour over the next few years.

Other themes we are focusing on, such as increasing the number of 110% means-tested bursary students at Bedales and the environment can be seen to resonate through the pages of this publication. Stories of OBs who campaign for social justice and sustainability are testament to the character of a school that has always aimed to develop a strong sense of community in all its senses as well as being profoundly rooted in the soil.

As we move forward over the next few years, it is our alumni who we may well need to call on to keep us focused on our mission as well as supporting our endeavours, knowing that we face some considerable challenges ahead. Luckily, it is hard to imagine a school with a more committed set of former students than Bedales.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of the OB Newsletter and do keep sharing your stories, successes and experiences with us. Best wishes to you all. 🌱



OB EVENTS – REVIEW OF 2023



Product Design mentoring – January

We were delighted to welcome back architect **Patrick Lewis (1989-97)** to mentor Product Design students at the school in January. The students were fortunate to receive critical feedback and input from Patrick via one-to-one mentoring sessions, who later returned to review their project progress. Running his own successful London-based practice, and lecturing on three university architecture courses, Patrick's insights into materials, design and architecture were highly valued and we were hugely grateful to him for offering up his time and expertise to Bedales.



Reunion of key staff to discuss Bedales Assessed Courses – March

We held a 'reunion' (based on the BBC Radio 4 programme) of former staff who were involved in the creation of the GCSE alternative Bedales Assessed Courses to discuss their founding and to help inform the next stage of their development. We are grateful to **Keith Budge (Head, 2001-18)**, **Graham Banks (staff, 1980-2013)**, **Al McConville (staff, 2007-21)**, **Philip Young (staff, 1971-74, 1977-2007)**, and **Jo Alldridge (staff, 1992-2021)** for their valuable insights.

Sustainability talk – March

On a sustainability-themed day, **Emma Cusworth (1989-97)** returned to talk to students about her environmental work, and in particular green finance and the voluntary carbon market. Read more about Emma on pages 48-49.

Bedales Association drinks at the Tin Shed – March

We are hugely grateful to **Patrick Cadell (1962-71)** for opening up his Tin Shed café restaurant for an OB gathering in London on 14 March. There was much conviviality and a lovely cross-section of OBs from across the decades.

Beyond Bedales: Creative – March

Students from all year groups attended a Question & Answer session led by Sixth Form Fashion students with professionals experienced in the creative industries. We welcomed husband and wife team Mark Davis and Camilla Ridley from Ridley London and also heard from **Nathalie Riddle (1988-95)**, who has an inspiring career as a fashion magazine journalist.



OB drinks in New York – April

Will Goldsmith (Head of Bedales), Janie Jarman (Head of Admissions) and Tanya Darlow (Head of Development) embarked on a trip to Manhattan and the northeast of the USA in April, visiting other progressive schools and connecting with current and prospective parents.

During the visit, the spirit of Bedales rose, despite being more than 3,000 miles away, with a social drinks event for 25 OBs kindly hosted by Christopher and Christina Campbell (parents of **Alexander 2019-22**). Columbia undergraduate **Anne Novak (2017-21)** was full of the excitement of studying in a world-class university while **Nick Adams (1961-66)** brought the wisdom of his tenures at McGill, Lehigh, UCLA, Harvard and Vassar. Will and Janie were then able to visit Nick and his wife in their beautiful 18th century home in upstate New York on their way to visit a couple of country schools on their itinerary.



Parents' Day OB reunions – June

We were pleased to host 10, 25 and 40 year reunion events for OBs on Parents' Day in June. The Class of 1983 were invited to a sit down reunion lunch and the Classes of 1998 and 2013 attended their respective reunions in the evening. OBs from the Classes of 1995 and 1996 also gathered to celebrate their 25 year reunions that had been postponed during the pandemic. Particular thanks go to **Cressida Langlands (1981-95)**, **Katy Rickards (1989-96)**, **Mella Shaw (1991-96)**, **Guy Wilmot (1988-98)**, **Cecily King (2011-13)**, **Oscar Cooper (2005-13)** and **Elize Layton (2008-13)** for their help in coordinating these events.



Stoner Cricket Week – July

Cricketing OBs gathered once again on the Mem Pitch in the first week after the end of the Summer term for their week of fixtures against touring teams. This followed the traditional cricket match on Parents' Day versus the school 1st XI which is always an enjoyable spectacle for visitors.

Stoner Week saw victories for the OBs against The Forty Club and Stansted Park CC and a draw against East Meon. Congratulations to **Ben Seddon (1993-98)** and **Justin Jones (1979-92)** for hitting centuries.

The team is always on the lookout for new talent; interested OBs are invited to contact Club Secretary, **Albie Waterton (2012-14)** via the club website at stonerplay-cricket.com/home



OB reunion in Oxford – July

Hilary Hart (1953-61)

Nineteen of us, with a few additional spouses or partners, gathered for a memorable afternoon in late July. It was hosted by **Jane Darke (née Gillingham, 1953-61)** and Roy at their remarkable Arts and Crafts Oak Barn in rural Oxford. **Carol Summers (née Nassau, 1952-61)** and Jane, with their inclusive organisational skills, managed to fix a date, assemble us, provide welcome drinks, nibbles and cake, and lay out enough relaxed seating for us all to enjoy our picnics. The sun even shone.

A gathering of such a number of OBs aged around 80 does carry a certain gravitas but there was no evidence of this as we shared memories, news and friendship in the dappled sun of the magical and natural garden. The company was much enhanced by the presence of **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** whom some of us had not met since circa 1961. His acute memory recall proved he remembered everyone and was keen to find out the career paths of some of our children who are also OBs.

Old photos were circulated and **Peter Draper (1948-60)** even had all his reports, dating from Dunhurst days from 1948 onwards. Some of the comments seemed still apposite!

New group photos were taken, though it was reminiscent of herding cats to get everyone to group together, to remain still, to stop talking and to face the cameras. At least not one of us was able to run behind from one side to the other so as to appear twice, as was the challenge in the whole school photos in the 1950s.

Despite hearing of various serious health issues and sadnesses, we all seemed to retain upbeat and positive attitudes. Many of us are still working, albeit part time, in interesting and eclectic fields. Indeed, two of our distinguished musicians, **Martino Tirimo (1956-59)** and **John Gale (1957-61)** are still performing professionally.

Memories abounded, not only personal reminiscences of life's happenings but also wide-ranging global conversations and a marked interest in the contemporary state of the arts.

I was struck (I'm sure with others) by the undiminished emotional energy – indeed, an untarnished sort of innocence and trust that we all still seemed to have. A definite legacy from our years at Bedales. The camaraderie of the 'work of each for weal of all' was still with us.

One Way Pendulum “A Farce in a New Dimension” – August

The Stansted Players returned to the Bedales Theatre this summer for their 32nd annual stage production, performing One Way Pendulum by N F Simpson. Here's a review by Andrew Plaistowe.

“It sounds a bit far-fetched” admits a police inspector towards the end of *One Way Pendulum*, The Stansted Players' 32nd production. We had been primed for a feast of the absurd by **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** before the play began, and by this stage in proceedings were fully accustomed to and relishing the far-fetched, possibly wondering how much further fetched things could get before the end.

Written and set in 1959, the play tells the story of Kirby Groomkirby, a young man with an obsessional desire to teach 100s of speak your weight machines to sing the *Hallelujah Chorus*. **Lucy Coates (1997-2002)** played Kirby and although her character spoke few lines and spent much of his time offstage, banging or unconscious, she conveyed all the young man's mania with her virtuosic trumpeting.

Onstage, his doting mother, Mabel was left to deal with a cast of equally absurd friends and relations, not least great Aunt Mildred (**Flo Robson, 2003-10**), a travel-obsessed, wheelchair-bound old lady straight out of a Monty Python sketch. **Natasha Ruiz Barrero (1993-2001)** played Mabel with expert comic timing, ever-tidying, ever-cleaning, and ever-bristling with indignation.





Mabel's greatest ally was her neighbour, Myra (**Jessica Price, 1999-2004**), whom she pays to eat the family's leftovers; while Myra munched, the two women gossiped and set the world to rights in scenes with a distinct nod towards Victoria Wood and Julie Walters.

Mabel's stropy teenaged daughter, Sylvia (**Cecily King, 2011-13**) huffed and puffed and flounced about and had an absurdly wonderful existential crisis about the length of her arms; she revelled gloriously in a serenade by the rest of the cast who sang to her Schubert's song from Shakespeare's *Who is Sylvia?*. Her implausible lover, Stan was camped up by **Billy Rigg (1998-2000)** to fantastic levels of narcissism.

Alastair in his prologue had prepared us to embrace simultaneity in the play, and while the kitchen sink drama played out, a courtroom drama began.

George Sinclair (1998-2008) played Mabel's eccentric husband Arthur, who kept appearing with bits of wood until it became (almost) clear that he had been fitting out the Groomkirby's front room as The Old Bailey. Placed in the dock himself, he faced **Nick Tier (1982-86)**'s bombastic judge and **Jessica Boyd (1991-96)**'s terrifyingly persuasive Prosecuting Counsel charged with a shifting list of crimes, most heinously not being in Chester-le-Street at 3.15 on Tuesday 23 August. **Simon Fothergill (1986-2000)** played the Clerk of the Court and relished the opportunity to announce that the defendant would not be sworn in on the bible but rather *Moby-Dick*.

In a grimly jocular turn of events, Kirby was then tried in absentia for murdering someone by telling them a joke before beating them with an iron

bar. **Jack Finch (2003-08)** playing the illogically fastidious police inspector revealed that Kirby had in fact already been cautioned 43 times for murdering people in this way. It only remained therefore for Harriet Thompson and **Rebecca Langlands (1979-90)**, the Defence Counsellors, to get Kirby off by pleading that he only wanted his victims to die laughing.

An integral part of Stansted Players' performances is the music, arranged by **Nick Gleed (staff, 1990-2017)** and **Jordan Theis (2003-10)**, performed at the piano by Nick Gleed and sung beautifully by the whole cast. *One Way Pendulum* brimmed with choral treats: folk songs, madrigals and a spectacularly choreographed Elvis number.

Costumes came from the Bedales wardrobe courtesy of Joanne Greenwood; the lighting was planned by **Janet Auty (staff, 1990-2015)** and Simon Auty and the animation of the singing speak your weight machines was made by Tony Lee, Simon Fothergill and Lucy Coates. Looking after the company domestically while they spent 10 days living communally were Jordan Theis, **Olivia Lacey (1981-88)**, **Dan Wheeler (1986-2000)** and **Alice Wheeler (née Clarke, 1998-2006)**.

The cast and crew produced a genuinely funny, if inscrutable show, mashing together absurdly wonderful scenes into a farcical whole with consummate comedic and musical skill.



50 year OB reunion and Badley Day – September

We were pleased to welcome back OBs from the Class of 1973 for a 50 year reunion which took place on Badley Day. They were joined in the Bedales dining hall by Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales and enjoyed a reminiscent lunch, with several overseas OBs also joining the reunion virtually, via Microsoft Teams. Special thanks to **Nick Knowles (1961-73)** for helping coordinate the event.

We were also delighted to welcome back **Roly Botha (2010-15)**, **Esme Allman (2013-15)** and **Albie Waterton (2012-14)** on Badley Day to speak to current students about their experiences at Bedales as former bursary holders. Roly, an actor, composer and sound designer; Esme, a poet, theatre maker and facilitator; and Albie, an applications engineer in CAD design offered their time to the whole school by delivering Q&A sessions to the Prep students, reading stories about community and friendship to Pre-prep children and speaking at the Senior School's evening Jav.

The trio spoke fondly of their time at Bedales and how the opportunities they had to pursue their interests have positively shaped their lives, as well as their desire to give back to the school community.

On the evening of Badley Day, JBF donors gathered at the Senior School for a drinks reception and the unveiling of the JBF Giving Tree.



JHB Society John Hitchens Private View – September

Members of the John Haden Badley Legacy Society gathered at the Weald and Downland Living Museum for a private view of **John Hitchens (1947-57)**'s exhibition *Wood – Sand – Stone*. John discussed the interactions between space, form and nature inspired by the South Downs landscape and the impact Bedales had on his education. A lively lunch followed at Goodwood Kennels Club where many colourful Bedales anecdotes were shared.

Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales, commented "It is humbling for us all to know how much our alumni and other members of our school community are willing to support the work of the school".

For further information about the JHB Legacy Society please contact Tanya Darlow at development@bedales.org.uk

OB gathering Chelsea Arts Club – October

Following on from their 40 year reunion held at Bedales in June, **Julia Catton (1972-83)** organised a further gathering for the Class of 1983 in October at The Chelsea Arts Club in London, attended by around 20 OBs including **George Tivy (1976-83)** who flew over from America.



OB Reception at 50 Church Road – October

OBs and former parents gathered at 50 Church Road (the Head’s house) for evening drinks and canapés. Will Goldsmith gave an update on future plans, including headlines from the recently published strategy. Members of the Bedales community embraced the opportunity to discuss school developments, whilst catching up with old friends and new.

Beyond Bedales events programme reignited – October/ November

In the 2023 Autumn term, the ‘Beyond Bedales’ events programme was reignited with a series of events. The sessions are an opportunity for OBs to discuss their career experiences with students interested in the industry over afternoon tea or evening snacks. The programme launched in October with **Jack Martin (1983-96)** returning to talk about his career and entrepreneurial ventures, such as re-establishing his great grandfather’s fresh and flavoured milk company, Tom Parker Creamery. Two subsequent events took place in November, with **Lucy Holmes (1978-87)** and **Christian Fleming (1990-95, and current parent)** giving talks on their respective industries.

Lucy spent an evening with Art and Design students in the Sixth Form Social Space discussing her experience as a graphic designer and running an award-winning studio. Lucy’s insights on fonts, colour palettes and what makes a piece timeless generated an abundance of questions from students, with many staying behind to ask more about the design world and the possibility of interning for her. Christian, architect at Fleming Architects & Co, talked to students about his successful architecture company, discussing project management, different training routes and the management of client relationships.



Boys' First XI football v Old Bedalians – October/November

Ally Prior, Teacher of PE & Sport

Bedales' first XI welcomed an Old Bedalian football team back to the Mem Pitch for an eagerly anticipated match on a sunny October afternoon. Despite the OBs holding a slight physical advantage over Bedales, the game was evenly matched in the opening periods, with **Rupert Duthie (2007-12)** and **Tom Reynolds (2010-17)** pulling the strings for the visiting side and Bedales captain Freddie Bell doing well to disrupt the opposition.

The OBs started to grow into the game and opened the scoring through **Jamie Britton (2002-12)**, who headed in from six yards. Bedales were unlucky to concede again as Jamie quickly added a second, scoring from a tight angle. The second half ebbed and flowed, with Bedales' Harry Robinson going close and Iggy Cake doing his best to create chances. As Bedales pushed to get back in the game, it left spaces further up the field and **Finn Mason (2008-19)** added a third goal for the visitors.

Bedales continued to battle hard and created multiple chances but as they pushed, OBs hit them on the break and added a fine fourth through **Toby Andruskevicius (2011-17)**. Bedales were able to keep fighting to the end and got a deserved goal through Sam Gibbon, one of three brothers playing on the day along with Bo and **Archie Gibbon (2004-19)**. The game finished 4-1 in what was a fine day all round and a welcome return for the Old Bedalian team.

The second of our OB games this term saw the majority of last year's alumni return for a much-anticipated game in the autumnal sunshine. The game started at a frantic pace,



with both Freddie Bell and **Sam Wheeler (2011-21)** going close. It was, however, Bedales that went ahead, with Harvey James finishing a one-on-one with the OB keeper. 1-0 quickly became 2-0 with Ed Lee adding a close-range finish from a Bedales corner.

The OB team rallied well, **Jac Wheeler (2011-23)** showing great composure in the middle of the park. This pressure told when the OB team forced an own goal to make it 2-1. Bedales started the second half very well, adding two quickfire goals to take control of the match. This seemed to galvanise the OBs, who added a second and third through another own goal and a well finished Sam Wheeler goal.

With minutes to spare, **Tom Montagu (2018-23)** finished from close range to take the game to penalties. A nail-biting penalty shootout saw the OBs prevail and take the win.

Our girls' first XI football team are keen to take part in a match against OB female footballers. If you would like to join a female OB team, please do get in touch.



Minnie Driver In Conversation with Alastair Langlands – November

Minnie Driver (1976-86) returned to Bedales in November for her evening John Badley Foundation fundraiser in conversation with **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** in a packed Quad. Discussion covered many aspects of Minnie's memoir, *Managing Expectations* which was published in March 2022. Drawing on essays from her book, Minnie expertly covered childhood, love, grief, motherhood and acting, all with the perfect dose of humour. The evening raised over £5,000 for the JBF and was a truly wonderful way to give back.



Professional Services social at the FT – November

OBs connected with the Professional Services sector gathered in the Museum Room at the *Financial Times* for drinks and canapés, kindly hosted by the *FT*'s CEO **John Ridging (1976-83)**.

It was wonderful to see OBs, from recent graduates to OBs at the top of their fields, mingling and sharing anecdotes of their time at Bedales. Both John and Will commented that if a group of Old Bedalians of any generation gather in a room you can be confident they will get on and they certainly did just that!

John's speech was both relevant and inspirational and it was clear the influence Bedales had on his journey through university and subsequent career at the *FT*. John made a striking comparison between his alma mater and the *FT*: "A news organisation is sometimes viewed from the outside as an institution for lone wolves but here there still exists that wonderful combination of the essential individual spirit and the collective 'work of each, weal of all' culture that was at the heart of Bedales life and is still incredibly important to the *FT*."

See pages 49-51 for more on John Ridging.

LGBTQ+ Festive Drinks Party – December

Rupert Muldoon (1996-2001)

Triffids is the whimsical name chosen for the LGBTQ+ alumni group, named after the book *The Day of the Triffids* by **John Wyndham (1918-21)**. Started a couple of years ago with the curiosity to meet other OBs who happen to be LGBTQ+, including anyone around this amazing collection of letters, and also our friends, Triffids is a celebration of everyone, whoever we are, and in turn a celebration of Bedales. The one thing we have in common is our beginnings and experiences at school, and OBs are the most incredible and wide-ranging group of individuals.

Currently our numbers are small so on occasion we join with other school LGBTQ+ groups. The photo below is of our joint Christmas gathering. Hosting this event under the Triffids flag was a very happy moment. I stepped back and watched as almost 100 people filled the room. The party had started! The buzz grew and it was wonderful watching the surprise when new people saw a packed room. It was important this felt like an invitation to a private house, to encourage everyone to be relaxed and themselves... to wear that sequined jacket or rock the new daring dress. One of the most wonderful aspects of the party was the wide age range. Most of us have lived through the recent history of gay marriage, recognised in 2014. There are people to meet who can add huge perspective to this. More reason to celebrate the now!

This year we are planning more casual OB gatherings as well as joint events. And we very much welcome ideas for future events, venues or interesting happenings we could join in with. Drop an email if you would like to keep in touch at triffids.ob@gmail.com



A YEAR AT BEDALES

A selection of stories from the school's weekly bulletin to give a flavour of life at Bedales in 2023.



JANUARY – Physics trip to CERN, Geneva

Nate Schuster, 6.2

During long leave weekend in January, the 6.2 Physics students were delighted to go on a trip to Geneva, Switzerland. After only a few hours of sleep due to a 5am departure for an early flight, we pushed through on Friday afternoon and visited the Red Cross Museum. It detailed all the incredible and positive things the Red Cross has done worldwide including helping out during wars and natural disasters and enabling ways for people to help each other. In the evening we took in the exhibits at the Festival of Light along the lakeside.

On Saturday, we visited CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research and home of the famous particle accelerators, including the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). We were fortunate enough to get a tour around the fascinating and technical antimatter factory, which recently made anti-hydrogen and is testing it for negative gravity. Furthermore, we got to witness the way all that incredible data is stored, like a trip through technological time. We were given a brief history of all the hardware used to store the data from when CERN first originated, around the 1940s.

Finally on Sunday, we visited the old town of Geneva and had a civilised Sunday walkaround before flying back safely. Thank you to the Physics department for organising such a brilliant trip.

FEBRUARY – Inspiring Primary & Prep Music Day

Doug McIlwraith, Director of Music

We welcomed over 70 pupils from St Thomas's Battersea, Prebendal, Windlesham, Dorset House and Steep Primary for a day of music making with our Senior students.

The day began with a few songs to warm things up, including an arrangement of *Make Your Own Kind of Music* by Mama Cass Elliot, which conveyed the musical message we send out and live by at Bedales. The students then joined Bedalians to rehearse Edvard Grieg's famous orchestral tone poem *In the Hall of the Mountain King* and an energetic arrangement of *Viva La Vida* by Coldplay.

After a tasty lunch (clearly enjoyed as many asked for second helpings!) courtesy of Matt Potts and the excellent catering team, the pupils were then treated to a 30-minute taster of the Bedales Rock Show. Our visitors found this absolutely thrilling – and no wonder, as our rock musicians gave them a highly polished and eclectic set which demonstrated their hard work and fine musicianship.

After another quick rehearsal, the pupils then gave a performance of all the pieces they had learned during the day. This included the choral and orchestral works, but also an improvised blues piece by a group of 10 guitarists who worked with our guitar teacher Kevin Walker and Block 4 student Wulfie Smith Pink. We treated our visitors to further solo performances by Lois Lezdkan (marimba), Imogen Tillotson (harp) and Lolo Gaio (piano) before sending them home, happy and inspired, to dedicate themselves to their own interests and musical passions.

Sincere thanks to Deputy Head of Admissions Rachel Hinett who organised the day, our music staff who helped out and Neil Hornsby for organising the Rock Show taster. However, what really made the day special was the contribution of our own musicians, their performances and helping our young visitors learn so much music so quickly.





MARCH – Bedales wears red for ‘I See Red’ Day

On 16 March, students and staff wore red in support of ‘I See Red’ Day. The ‘I See Red’ campaign was started by Bedales head student Bella Cutts shortly after the death of Sarah Everard in March 2021 to raise awareness and encourage people to speak up against sexual harassment, assault and violence. The campaign grew on social media and many schools, including Wellington, Emmanuel, Teddies and Marlborough, participated last year.

Here, Bella Cutts, 6.2 student reflects on the third year of the ‘I See Red’ campaign.

I was inspired to start our campaign because of Sarah Everard’s death, but I am determined to keep it going for all the other victims whose names we don’t know, who won’t appear in the headlines and who didn’t receive the same attention that Sarah did.

This is an issue that affects us all, no matter how privileged. Wearing red doesn’t stop sexual assault. What it does do, however, is unite schools from across the world, sending a clear message that we recognise that this is an ongoing issue and will not stop raising awareness until we see the change we so desperately need to see.

A year after Sarah Everard’s death many newspapers ran a story saying in the subsequent year at least 125 other women in the UK had been killed at the hands of a violent man, but made the point, we did not know any of their names. It is often easy to become dependent on the news to inform us on these issues, but the truth is this means we often forget that this is an ongoing issue regardless of whether it’s being reported.

A lot of people have asked how it feels to be leaving Bedales this year and if I believe ‘I See Red’ Day will continue after I’ve gone. After the response I got today, I can full heartedly say that I am not in the slightest bit concerned. Bedales is filled with passionate leaders, people who truly recognise the importance in consistency with campaigns such as ours.

Thursday marked three years of Bedales and many other schools supporting this cause by wearing red. Thank you so much to everyone who participated, students and staff.



APRIL – ‘Exceptionally informative’ first ever 3D Eckersley Lecture

Dylan Hui and Meiya Feng, 6.1

Just before the end of the Spring term, on Thursday 30 March, we welcomed Professor Saiful Islam to Bedales for the 50th annual Eckersley Lecture – which was also the first ever 3D Eckersley Lecture! Professor Islam, a chemist and professor of Material Science at the University of Oxford, delivered a wonderfully witty and humorous lecture about his area of expertise: materials and clean energy storage.

Professor Islam introduced himself as a ‘model’ and showed us how far computer modelling has progressed since the days of Rosalind Franklin and DNA’s double helix. He then showed us some of his modern computer modelling used in chemistry research.

He described the mechanism of the lithium battery that has revolutionised handheld devices, touching on why lithium was the perfect material for those batteries, as opposed to sodium or other elements or materials. He explained the defects and imperfections of all solid materials in lattices and posed his theory that William Shakespeare was a chemist in his time, due to this quote from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*: “To what, my love, shall I compare thine eye? Crystal is muddy.” No crystalline structure is perfect due to imperfections in the lattice structure, which allows some gemstones to form vibrant colours, but all crystals are ‘muddy’.

Professor Islam then described the newest cutting-edge technology in the world of clean energy and solar panels. The newest improvement was the discovery of perovskite, a new material that can more efficiently absorb and store solar energy. However, perovskite is less stable than silicon, and it may not endure the harsh climates that solar panels experience. It may be the material of the future, allowing us to more efficiently harness the energy pouring onto the Earth’s surface from the Sun. To receive the best of both worlds, solar panels could be developed with layers of both silicon and perovskite.

On a less scientific, but equally as interesting note, Professor Islam then showed us his famous lemon battery, for which he holds a Guinness World Record. He used just under 3,000 lemons and produced over 2,300 volts of electricity! Another interesting achievement in his incredible career was the opportunity to deliver the Christmas lectures in 2016, titled 'Supercharged: Fuelling the Future'. He also retold his first encounters with our Chemistry teacher and Head of Science Faculty, Liz Stacy, as her lecturer at the University of Surrey, and treated all of us to a hilarious picture of a young Liz at university.

We found the lecture thoroughly enjoyable and extremely entertaining. It was also exceptionally informative, and it allowed us a glimpse into the cutting-edge research at some universities.



MAY – Students exercise their voice in Twitter debate and poll

Rob Reynolds, Director of External Relations

With the controversy surrounding the Twitter social media channel since Elon Musk took control, this week's Jaw debate, 'This house would close Bedales' Twitter accounts', saw a high quality well-informed debate from two student/teacher teams. The audience was introduced to the discussion with the commitment that a poll that would follow the discussion would be binding, and that the school would enact the results, so the stakes were high.

Jen Moore (Teacher of English) kicked off speaking against Twitter and was followed by Nick Meigh (Head of History) who countered; the two student speakers then continued the arguments: Arthur Dove (Block 4) speaking for the motion and Herbie Holness (6.1) against. All four spoke eloquently and persuasively raising the pertinent issues

and good order was kept by the debate Chair, Clare Jarmy (Assistant Head, Learning & Development). Arguments against Twitter included its addictive nature driven by its algorithms, its tendency to be divisive, polarise and misinform, the relaxation of its security, re-instatement of the accounts of far-right activists and increased hate speech and impact on minority groups; arguments for the channel included giving people a choice, freedom of speech, its positive role in activism, and to inform, educate and offer alternative views, that a new CEO has been announced to make improvements, and that people should be educated in its use rather than banning all social media channels.

Thank you to all the contributors and to those who voted. Of the 206 students and staff who participated in the poll, 59.7% voted for the school to retain its Twitter accounts; 32.5% voted for the school to close its accounts and 7.8% were undecided.

So, the tweeting will continue...

JUNE – Facilities update – a summer of improvements

Richard Lushington, Bursar & Clerk to the Governors

As students and most staff look forward to a well-earned break after the end of term, the support staff team face one of our busiest in terms of improving our buildings and infrastructure. We hope to see many of you here on Parents' Day, and as you walk around, I thought it might be useful to have had this note to set out what we plan to do.

We will be starting the main project for the new Bedales assembly hall, and this is why there is currently scaffolding up on the old gym. It is this building that will be changed to form the assembly hall, but we are going to keep the front façade, improve it and extend backwards towards the Music School. The aim is to be able to have it in use for September 2024 with a capacity of 515+ and two-tiered bench seating. By the end of the summer and all being well, we will have demolished as necessary, completed groundworks, built the superstructure of the new building and installed the roof, so work can continue inside during term time, with less disturbance to the school.

In line with our sustainability goals, we are also on a mission to improve the thermal properties of our buildings as we seek to reduce heat loss and therefore consumption. Some of you will have seen that the windows in the Music School were replaced at Easter, and this summer the roof will be replaced before being covered in our next set of solar panels. Windows in parts of Steephurst and Boys' Flat will also be replaced with double-glazing, both to address leaks and to reduce heat loss, but also to improve the environments within.

At Dunhurst, we are embarking on a major project to turn the current boys' boarding area into a co-ed boarding house. We are replacing the roof on the hall between Dunhurst and Dunannie and embarking on the first phase of work to improve this space internally and make it more useable as a hall. Once the roof has been replaced, we will be adding more solar panels.

At Dunannie, we will be extending the Nursery Barn and improving toilet facilities. Within the Dunannie main building we will be upgrading the current toilets, and we will have ready for the start of next term the toilets in the Orchard, so outdoor learning can be fully enabled. This, with other projects with support from the Friends of Dunannie, will make a huge difference to how the Orchard can be used.

Our LED re-lamping programme will continue throughout the schools, the most significant being to change the floodlights on the Astro turf pitch. The overall aim is to reduce our consumption and reduce costs which will enable further reinvestment.

In making our buildings watertight and more efficient, we can look after them inside and there will be further works to improve showers, decorate rooms and keep up with the natural wear and tear that happens during term time.

All this work is happening alongside five weeks of residential lettings, with up to 350 students in at a time. The first four weeks are with our new partner Dusemond which operates centres at Oundle, Rugby and Cheltenham Ladies' College. The income from these lettings furthers our reinvestment programme.

So Bedales will most definitely not be at rest during the summer. The programme is ambitious and with brilliant contractor partners we hope to make a big difference ahead of next term.

I very much look forward to seeing everything in use by our students – after all, it is they who make the school a school, rather than just some nice buildings in a lovely setting.



JULY – Parents' Day round-up

Alex Kerr, Deputy Head (Co-curricular & Operations)

It was delightful to welcome so many parents, Old Bedalians and former staff to Bedales on Saturday for Parents' Day. The day was packed with events showcasing students' work and celebrating their achievements, including the tennis finals, Art & Design exhibition, Parents' Day Concert and the third and final performance of the summer production, *The Arsonists*.

It was fantastic to see so many departments involved, with houseparents hosting parents on the boarding houses and Day Common Room; dance performances and a LAMDA, RADA and Trinity drop-in in the Dance and Drama Studios; experiments in the Science departments; and Bedales sausages sizzling on the BBQ in Outdoor Work.

As one of the warmest days of the year, the weather didn't disappoint and it was wonderful to see the school community come together for picnics in the Orchard while contemporary music students performed on the veranda of the Sixth Form Common Room. Pop in the Orchard concluded with a special surprise as Will Goldsmith joined the Old Blokes of Bedales (aka Head of Languages Tristan Wilson, Head of Digital Game Design **Paul Beauchamp (staff, 2020-23)**, carpenter Garath Tullett and former Facilities staff member **Mike Broadbent (staff, 2014-21)** for a memorable performance of the Joy Division classic, *Love Will Tear Us Apart*.

As Bedales took on Stoner in the traditional Parents' Day cricket match on the Mem Pitch, the community gathered for afternoon tea in the marquee – a perfect way to end the day. Thank you to our catering team for laying on a delicious spread of sandwiches, cream cakes and strawberries, which were happily devoured as students played an array of jazz favourites.

An incredible amount of work goes into Parents' Day so I would like to thank all the students, teachers and support staff who made the day such a success. Thank you also to all the parents who joined us on the day – after all, it would not be Parents' Day without you!

AUGUST – Bedales students secure places at prestigious universities

Bedales students are celebrating after securing places at some of the most prestigious educational and artistic institutions following the publication of A Level results. An impressive 84% of Bedales students, 26% of whom progressed from Bedales Prep, secured places at their first-choice university.

Many of this year's cohort will take up places at UK universities featured in the 2023 QS Top 100 World University Rankings, including courses in Philosophy and Italian at Christ Church, University of Oxford; English Literature at University College London (UCL); English Literature at the University of Edinburgh; and English Literature and French Studies at the University of Manchester. Other courses to be pursued by Bedalians at QS Top 100 universities include Business and Management, Chemistry, Economics and Accounting, International Social and Public Policy, Philosophy and Spanish and Psychology at the University of Bristol; Film and Television Studies and Geography at the University of Glasgow; Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Durham University; and Biology at the University of Sheffield.

Bedales' strong reputation in the performing arts continues this year. In music, students have received places for the prestigious Bachelor of Music with Honours in Popular Music course at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM); Music Production and Sound Engineering at Falmouth University; Popular Music at Goldsmiths, University of London; and Popular Music Performance at the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance. In drama, students will take up places in Acting and Performance at London South Bank University and Professional Theatre at the École

Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq, Avignon.

A number of students have opted to continue their Art and Design education. Many will pursue Art Foundation courses at Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins and Kingston University, whilst others are set to study courses including Fine Art at the University of Leeds; History of Art at the University of York; Fashion Design and Development at the University of the Arts London; Jewellery and Silversmithing at the University for the Creative Arts; and Product Design Engineering at Loughborough University.

International institutions are also a popular choice for Bedalians, with students taking up places to study Liberal Arts at John Cabot University, Rome; Social and Behavioural Science at IE University, Madrid; and International Relations at Leiden University, Netherlands.

QS Top 100 universities also feature for Bedales applicants from previous cohorts who will be heading off to university this year. Courses include German and History at UCL; Biological Sciences (Zoology) and History at the University of Edinburgh; Music at King's College London; Chemistry with Computing and Physics at the University of Bristol; Management at the University of Warwick; and Computer Science with a Digital Technology Partnership with PwC at the University of Birmingham.

Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales, commented: "Congratulations to all our students. They have worked very hard and shown great resilience in overcoming the many pandemic-related disruptions to their education. The independent learning skills and inquisitiveness they have honed in the Bedales Sixth Form will serve them well as they progress to an impressive array of courses. We are so proud of what they have achieved and who they have become."





SEPTEMBER – Badley Day raises over £11k for the John Badley Foundation

Tanya Darlow, Head of Development

Thank you to everyone who generously sponsored Bedales Senior students to complete the Badley Day walk yesterday. You have helped us raise over £11,000 plus Gift Aid for the John Badley Foundation (JBF).

The day involved students and staff from Bedales Senior, Prep and Pre-prep schools, who participated in fundraising walks tailored to their age group. Students at Bedales Senior had a jam-packed day with a bracing walk exploring the Ashford Hangers, a talk about social mobility from Deputy Head (Co-curricular & Operations) Alex Kerr, and a fascinating Jaw, where former bursary holders, **Esme Allman (2013-15)** and **Albie Waterton (2012-14)** spoke about their time at Bedales, the impact it has had on their life and the desire to give back to the school community.

Students then enjoyed an evening of entertainment with Bedales' Got Talent in the Quad – a great end to the day.

Badley Day also saw the unveiling of the JBF Giving Tree at the annual drinks reception for donors and volunteers. The Giving Tree is a brand-new tree sculpture, commissioned and funded by the trustees of the JBF to inspire and recognise significant gifts. With the generosity of the school community, we hope that over time we can fill the Giving Tree with 500 leaves, simultaneously growing the full bursary programme.

OCTOBER – Successful second Bedales Agricultural Show

Will de Angeli and Alexandra Edwards, Block 5

Last Wednesday afternoon, the Outdoor Work (ODW) department held the second Bedales Agricultural Show, which gave Block 5 ODW students a chance to perform in various events, from cow and sheep walking, to cooking curry and naan in the Pizza Shack.

Our roles in the show were to present our lovely Dexter cows, Flora and Giraffe to the judge, ODW's sheep

shearer Lou Plant. The judging was divided into three categories: handling, presenting and subject knowledge about the animals. Flora and Giraffe excelled, as did we!

There was also a sheep class, where students halter trained our three new Southdown lambs and demonstrated their handling, presenting and subject knowledge skills to Lou. It takes a huge amount of time and effort to halter train animals, but during this experience we learned that patience and consistency are the key ingredients for success.

Over the last few weeks, Block 5 ODW students who chose to study food have been honing their knife skills and trying their hand at butchery. We began the term by learning how to butcher a chicken; starting with a whole chicken, and with Teresa's guidance, jointing it into breasts, thighs, drumsticks and wings, leaving a carcass for stock. Although jointing chickens was not my forte, learning about where each fillet comes from and the economic benefits of carving a chicken yourself was interesting.

The next step was learning how to create curry pastes from scratch. We learnt that these are the base of all curries and developed an understanding of the importance of balancing flavours to create aromatic and flavourful curry dishes. We started by learning how to make Katsu curry and swiftly picked up how to prepare all the components for the other curry pastes which included Thai green curry, Sri Lankan vegetable curry and Mulligatawny soup base.

After learning all these skills, each ODW food group started to prepare dishes to be served at the agricultural show. As the show took place on Wednesday afternoon, everyone arrived to start preparing and working together to ensure the smooth running of the catering side of the show. We served Mulligatawny soup, Sri Lankan vegetable curry, and spiced chicken drumsticks from the Pizza Shack, and we had the pizza oven lit so we could serve freshly baked coriander naan breads.

A huge thank you to all the Outdoor Work teachers for preparing the show, the students who took part in it, and all those who came along to watch it.





NOVEMBER – Thanksgiving celebration
Margaux Welker, 6.2

Traditionally, Thanksgiving is when friends and family come together for a delicious meal and give thanks for the blessings over the year. Since I joined Bedales, every year Head of Catering Matt Potts has helped me cook a huge turkey and given us a bag of potatoes, but this year Will Goldsmith hosted a Thanksgiving celebration at his house.

It was a very homely experience with Will lighting the fire while we made sweet potato mash with roasted marshmallows on top. Matt Potts has certainly mastered his turkey cooking technique over the years which, along with Charlie's turkey carving skills, made it the best yet.

There was a mix of people helping out, cooking corn, making gravy, setting the table, and Will made sure we ate some veggies. It was lovely to see the American community at Bedales gathered around the table sharing what we were thankful for and an appreciation of 16 Handles frozen yoghurt.

Thank you to all who came, cooked, hosted and made this one of the most memorable Thanksgiving celebrations.

DECEMBER – One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Bedales Drama department

A huge congratulations to the cast and crew of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, which comes to a close tonight (Friday 8 December). The show was on a big scale with a pre-show that took the audience from room to room, watching the patients going about their daily lives, culminating in the main show in the Olivier Theatre. The production involved more than 60 students who have been working hard since the beginning of term. It was a fantastic, immersive experience that will live in the audience's memory for a long time.



UPCOMING REUNIONS

New York evening drinks party – 11 April 2024

Kindly hosted by Christopher Campbell and Christina Paumgarten, former parents. Please get in touch if you would like to attend development@bedales.org.uk

75+ OB lunch – Thursday 23 May 2024

Invitations have been sent out to OBs aged 75+ for a reunion lunch to be held at 50 Church Road, Steep (the Head's house).

This year, summer OB reunions will be taking place on Parents' Day, Saturday 29 June. We are planning all the usual events and entertainment.

Class of 2014 Reunion

The 10 year reunion for the Class of 2014 will start at 7pm outside the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch and includes a barbeque.

Class of 1999 Reunion

The 25 year reunion for the Class of 1999 will start at 7pm and includes a barbeque outside the Sotherington Barn

Class of 1984 Reunion

The 40 year reunion for the Class of 1984 will start at noon and includes lunch in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch

Class of 1974 Reunion

The 50 year reunion for the Class of 1974 will start at noon and includes lunch in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch.

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

PARENTS' DAY 2024

Parents' Day will be held on Saturday 29 June. All current and former members of the Bedales community are welcome.

Exhibitions • Afternoon Tea • Music • Drama

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

OB GATHERING FOR THE CLASS OF 1965 IN SUFFOLK – JULY 2024

Martin Smith (1960-65) and his wife Sue have kindly invited the Class of 1965 for lunch and the afternoon at their house in Suffolk on 13 July 2024. Please contact Jem Ambache ambachej@aol.com to confirm whether or not you would like to attend.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Bill Dunster OBE (1973-78)

Twenty five years ago, I hoped that 'enlightened self interest' would motivate the citizens of UK PLC to demand a net zero civilisation with a step change reduction in energy demand so that the limited reserves of renewable energy could be equitably shared in the face of advancing climatic change.

We set up the ZEDteam, planned and built projects like BedZED over the 1990s, pioneering a combination of behaviour change and future proofed infrastructure. They were prototypes and far from perfect but they did show what could be achieved with the materials and technologies of the time. We even hoped that a different architectural vernacular could emerge from this new understanding of building physics to create a fresh contemporary aesthetic celebrating the new 'Zeitgeist'.

BedZED took the European research and development work started during my time at Michael Hopkins and tried to show how these principles could create a fresh architectural language celebrating sun, wind, heat retention, passive cooling and low environmental impact materials.

There was also plenty of evidence that the UK government could demand a 75% reduction in the operational energy required to make new homes habitable, and much of the same understanding of building physics and renewable energy plus the associated low carbon industrial supply chain could be used to futureproof our existing urban infrastructure. In 2007, the UK government set a plan to modernise housing and make net zero operational energy standards mandatory by 2016. We took this challenge seriously, and realising that if we met the highest standard proposed of Code 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes – using building integrated photovoltaics and lithium battery storage together with an energy efficient, climate-optimised super-efficient building fabric – we could offer residents net zero annual energy bills.

The resulting 'Zero Bills Home' concept was built at the government BRE Innovation Park at Watford and its construction and performance carefully monitored. We thought there would be a queue of politicians wanting to visit and housebuilders ready to roll out these ideas across

the country. Meanwhile however, the well-funded volume housebuilding industry built their version of Code 6 a few yards away, and with considerable publicity proved that they could not meet the proposed standards easily, that they were too expensive, that they didn't work anyway and that the current Conservative government would be irresponsible unless it postponed enforcement of similar standards for another 10 years. Of course, the ZED team have continued building Zero Bills Homes since 2016 for the occasional enlightened client – but the numbers of completed homes have been small, and no economies of scale have been achieved in the UK.

However, if your team tries to meet the same challenges repeatedly over a fairly long working life, the problems become clear and the solutions become evermore refined. We decided to rationalise a consistent kit of parts supply chain that facilitated the construction of our buildings – and similarly refine each component over decades, using small projects to create a succession of prototypes. We found that other countries with more onerous environmental legislation such as Germany made great advances in renewable energy and storage. We found Passivhaus standards of energy efficiency created demand for reduced size heat pumps integrating domestic hot water storage and heat recovery. We tried to encourage the adoption of woodfibre insulation and endorsed the early deployment of self-adhesive breathable airtight barriers that could be applied to traditional 150 mm stud timber frame. We won an international competition to design the London Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo in 2010 – which was built despite no contribution from the city politicians. This led us to China – and we have worked there ever since refining our glass/glass laminate ZEDroof building



integrated photovoltaics system, and long life LTO battery storage solutions. We see this international supply chain collaboration as the only way of progressing an economically viable, state of the art, international kit of parts that will eventually replace the vested interests of the 'business as usual' brigade – epitomised by the UK volume housebuilder and those supporting isolationist politics. Given the number of homes in the UK that have been completed to the legal minimum thermal specification with only token attempts at renewable energy, I believe a massive opportunity has been lost to minimise the carbon footprint of housing in the UK and a valuable decade lost.

Today, we see the mainstream approach under severe stress. Covid and the war in Ukraine have massively increased material and grid energy costs. Almost no government investment has been made in futureproofing the existing housing stock, whilst energy costs have tripled and the UK has some of the lowest mandatory environmental performance standards in Europe. Decarbonisation of the electric grid is painfully slow and most energy efficient or renewable energy products must be imported due to almost zero demand within our national borders.

We see the only way forward now is to set up a grass roots movement disconnecting from the need to plug into grid services wherever and whenever possible. The off grid 'islanding concept' is the only strategy with integrity left when the state and planning system has failed to understand the long-term challenges to its population and the urgent need to withdraw its reliance on fossil fuel without resorting to super toxic nuclear power. We currently advise clients to try to generate and store all their energy requirements from renewable energy generated within their site boundaries – as their limited



share of the national renewable energy reserve is small and required by the large numbers of heritage infrastructure that cannot adopt this new vernacular without losing their *raison d'être*.

This approach builds on the ideas started by the Zero Bills Home concept. On a medium density solar urban project designed with community group C4GS in San Diego, California, we are able to support 100 households meeting their operational energy requirements and 20,000 miles of personal electric transportation/year whilst staying off grid for 95% of the year. Granted our weather is not Californian, but the Tompkins St project shows where this new urban design methodology can take us with considerable gains in the quality of life for many residents.

Meanwhile we are designing and building off grid affordable microhomes in rural Sussex – updating the spirit of the Bedales workshop and **David Butcher (staff, 1963-92)**, by showing how flameproofed CNC cut ply and digital 3D models can create a superstrong, lightweight 3D jigsaw capable of democratising housing construction.



We have recently completed a two bed energy positive microhome with composting WC, heat pump, building integrated solar roof and wall, battery storage, heat recovery ventilation and high levels of insulation, all achieved without using toxic insulation materials (urethane foams) and with a low overall embodied carbon footprint. The sheltered balconies and indoor/outdoor spaces are needed in our temperate but wet microclimate creating indoor and outdoor living spaces. We can use sloping sites and micropile foundations are dug with a post hole borer mounted on a tractor. All timber is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and cladding is chestnut from South Downs coppice.

When terraces of these units create larger scale communities, it is possible to create an inhabited solar



farm at the same time as meeting our affordable housing need. Each home has enough power for a household's personal electric transportation: cargo bikes, e-motorcycles and quadricycles are promoted rather than very high-powered electric cars.

We are currently planning a pop-up assembly line programmed to employ around 24 local people to produce one home/week from a seven-day unit. With a very detailed assembly manual and a carefully prefabricated kit of parts, locally produced flat pack housing is now one of the best ways of producing very high quality affordable, net zero homes. Avoiding the very high fixed overhead costs inherent in most offsite prefabrication factories means we can keep overheads low and reinvest in the quality and durability of our construction components – avoiding Grenfell insulation and the short life electroplated light gauge steel framing or SIPS panels heavily promoted by others.

We have now developed a unique and robust construction system that can deliver a prefabricated net zero off grid capable two storey, two bed home in one HGV delivery without using a crane at each end. Craneage plus two HGV loads can add approximately £12,000 to the cost of offsite volumetric prefabricated buildings. This key advantage means we can place much needed homes on available sites because infrastructure and delivery are so much lower and they can be moved if required for permanent development.



Five-year minimum deployments on temporary planning permits can now work well, particularly if the land is owned by a local authority or a developer who is prepared to offer it for low or no rent.

The pop-up assembly lines using modified shipping containers and large span tunnel tents can also allow local people to build their own homes under cover after attending a training course at the barn. All specialist equipment is housed within the containers and when the local project is finished – the entire line can be moved with zero waste and set up on a car park or hardstanding in another location to serve another demand for low-cost housing.

The plan now is to train the next generation of trainers at our residential prototype workshop on the Barlavington Estate (in the South Downs) and set up pop up assembly lines supplied with our kit of parts throughout the UK – allowing local teams to solve their own housing problems supplementing existing conventional affordable home delivery. We are fundraising now to set this process up, and would like to work with local authorities, and landowners to set up this new housing delivery



model that will create future proofed new and existing communities.

Sixty of these net zero homes will shortly be built as lodge accommodation for an off-grid hotel complex and farm shop designed by ZEDpower near Bedales at Buriton that also charges visiting electric vehicles from biomethane harvested from crop and animal waste. The plan is to work with local farmers to reduce their methane emissions to atmosphere at the same time as powering electric vehicles from the farmland on either side of the road. Another village of 30 is planned at East Cowes where we are building a net zero holiday destination for those less inclined to fly to the Costa del Sol. Our multi-disciplinary team has expertise in farming, gas production, renewable energy and future proofed building. Let's build a future that works. ♻️

IS CHAT-GPT A THREAT TO OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM?

Clare Jarmy, Assistant Head (Learning & Development)

Clare Jarmy explores the role of technology in education, what the real outcomes of education are, and what dispositions and skills really matter in a blog originally published on the Rethinking Assessment website.

It's not rare that a member of staff bumps into me to talk about a great piece of work, but on that December day, my colleague seemed more distressed than delighted.

"It's a perfect essay. Written by a computer. In seconds."

Initially, I went through similar trains of thought lots of people have expressed. I thought about receiving essays from students. How confident could I be that they hadn't had this new special kind of 'help' (apart from the faultless integrity of my beloved students, of course...)?

I concluded that in many ways this is an opportunity to rethink what and how we assess in schools. At Bedales, we're fortunate to have the freedom to devise quite a lot of our own courses. I truly hope that it can be a prompt for schools to be assessing in more diverse ways, assessing things that make us human, rather than things that can be replicated, quite literally, mindlessly.

But my overriding feeling was that new though this technology is, there has been a far more pervasive trend to a kind of roboticism in schools. And it's not AI or humanoid devices we need to be wary of. It's our own habits of thought.

John Searle gave a famous analogy, demonstrating the difference between machine and human thinking. Imagine, he says, a room in which a non-Chinese speaker is sitting. In front of her, lies a book with instructions. Into the room, is a slot through which messages in Chinese are posted. Now, clearly our non-Chinese speaker can

have no idea what these mean, but, with the aid of the instructions, she's able to produce plausible answers, and post them back outside the room.

A culture of accountability risks making the educational machine into a version of the Chinese Room, treating education as a series of inputs (baselines) and outputs (grades; value-added data; progression to next key stage), not sufficiently concerned with what's going on in between.

Grades, even if we euphemistically call them 'outcomes', have become the only currency that those controlling education really care about. Countable and thereby, accountable.

And if these narrow outputs are what matter, what's in it for me, or for the student for that matter, to nurture anything else? That original piece of work, that brilliant answer that defies the mark scheme. That beautiful artwork that fails to tick the boxes. The algorithm cannot compute it. As Gert Biesta asks, are we measuring what we value, or valuing what we can measure?

I find I'm not immune to a version of this. I mark work, and often find that all of my comments have been directed at the assessment objectives. I offer strategies for improvement. I attach resources to their work. All bread and butter of formative assessment, but how often to actually

engage them in what they think?

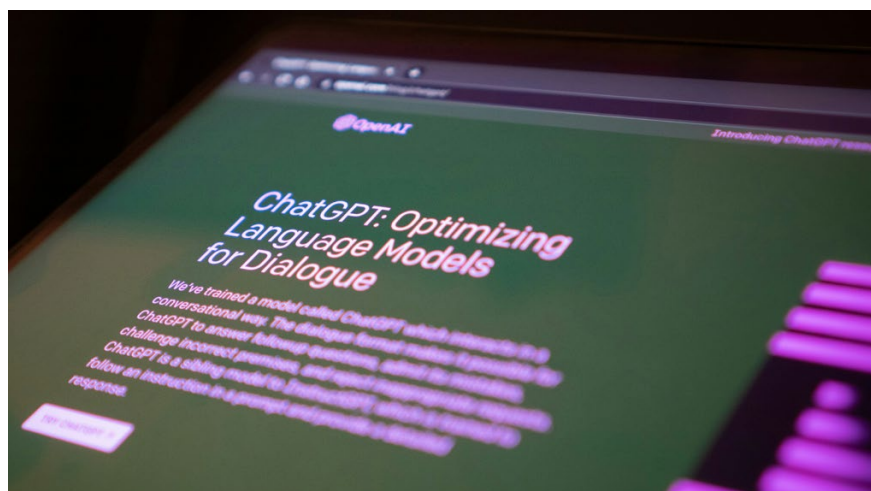
What do students know? What can they do? What do they enjoy? How do they go about their work? What sparked their interest today? Perhaps most importantly, what they think, and why? These are truly the outcomes of education. Somewhere along the line, we have become blinded to this. And worse still, we often don't realise it.

I find it is often when students are about to leave school, or even when they return a number of years after, that it becomes clearer what the real outcomes of education are, and what dispositions and skills really matter.

It is tempting to look for ways to measure these skills instead, but it is vital that we don't simply take the same journey with these as we have with academic standards. The experience of being human, growing as a human, learning as a human, is rich and complex: outcomes need to reflect this.

As a profession, we have got good at interpreting the rule book. Good at talking a language we wish we didn't have to speak. And we've forgotten we're saying nothing at all about the things we really think matter.

It's time to reclaim humanity for teaching. Time to be what AI can't be. The robots can do some jobs well, but the kids need us to be human. 🤖



PERMACULTURE

Alexis Rowell (1976-83)

Anyone who knew me at Bedales would remember that Outdoor Work really wasn't my thing; I was more interested in guitars, girls and makeup! But here I am 15 years later living with my partner on a 15-acre permaculture farm in northwest France and loving it.

What's a permaculture farm? It's a farm where everything is done according to permaculture principles: look after the planet; look after living beings; share fairly. I'm struck by how that mirrors the founding motto of Bedales: work of each for weal of all. And how, when I think about it, I spent a large part of my formative years in an institution which bore not a few resemblances to a 15-acre permaculture farm! I've lived a bit. Ten years as a BBC journalist with stints in Moscow, Kyiv and Tbilisi. Ten years as a businessman selling technology to radio and TV stations. Then, bam, an environmental epiphany. I can describe it in no other way. I suddenly realised that the human way of doing things was highly destructive and that I was part of the problem. That was in 2004. Twenty years later, I work part time and remotely as a business

developer for a British company that installs solar panels and electric vehicle charge points, but most of my time is spent living and breathing our farm.

I spend about a quarter of my farm time improving the fertility and biodiversity of the land. Another 25% goes on experimenting with food growing – what can we really grow for ourselves? Then there's the planting and nurturing of nut trees – the basis of our future commercial production. And last but not least we try to inspire people – course participants, volunteers, friends – to live differently, to have less impact on the planet, to be more in tune with nature. Improving the fertility of the land is a 10-year mission involving green manure, incorporation of organic matter and rewilding zones. We've also dug a series of ponds for biodiversity enhancement and water storage in case of drought. It's a shocking thought that we're on the border of Normandy and Brittany, where many of us spent rainy summers when we were young, but that it hardly ever rains between 1 March and 1 October these days. We've been here six years and five of those have been years of drought.

We once went seven months without rain! This year, which was more 'normal', the ground was like concrete in early October; indeed it was the driest first half of October on record. We then had 30 days of continuous rain, the wettest 30 days on record. Wild weather is now the norm! Talking of wild things, the animals here are all wild. We're vegans so we don't want to put animals to work for the pleasure of humans. We see it as a form of slavery. We try to remember that we are just animals. I like to remind myself on a regular basis that we humans share 98.8% of our DNA with chimpanzees, 98% with pigs, 70% with slugs, 60% with bananas and 50% with trees!

Humans have created a destructive and unfair economic system which meant we had to 'buy' our farm from other human beings and we now 'own' it, but we believe the water hens, the heron, the hares, the hawks, the hedgehogs, the coypu, the grass snakes, the wild boar and the deer have as much right to live here as we do. We now have a varied supply of fresh fruit and vegetables from 1 June to 30 November. We also store quite a lot of produce eg potatoes, garlic, tomatoes, walnuts, jam and stewed fruit. Every year we try to grow more varieties of edible plants and store more. But we're not aiming for self-sufficiency. Indeed, we don't like the concept because, at





its extreme, it leads to a survivalist or 'prepper' mentality, which usually involves arming yourself in case someone tries to steal your carrots! We believe there is no human future without community. We want to live in a world where neighbours work together to make sure nobody goes without. That sounds like the Bedales founding principle again!

We run permaculture, vegan cooking, meditation, fermentation and foraging courses on a donation basis and we accept volunteers (WWOOFers) from March to November. It's not an intentional community or an eco-village but there are always people here and everything we do is about minimising our impact and sharing our knowledge. We've planted around 250 sweet chestnuts, hazelnuts and walnuts. The aim, in time, is to make chestnut puree, hazelnut butter and walnut-based products and then sell them through a federation of organic shops. We can't avoid the conventional economy altogether, but we try our best to go round it. We buy as few consumer goods as possible.

We're exploring the possibility of turning our local organic shop into a community co-operative. We've



installed solar panels, a heat pump and heat recovery units; the small amount of electricity we buy comes from a renewable energy cooperative. We don't have a car and we chose our farm because we can reach the nearest town (and railway station) by bicycle. I have a dream of creating a forest school in one of our barns, and I'd like to create a permaculture park in the village – a space where people can share ideas for living more sustainably.

I have another dream of a world where nobody does more than two and a half days of paid work a week and where land is made available

for anyone who wants to grow food; it's cheap to dream! Maybe it sounds like idealism, and in a way it is – I'd be the first to say that life in the countryside can be extremely tough and sometimes very isolating. But every time I go back to Paris or London, I can't help thinking that we got something wrong, that we took a wrong turning somewhere, and after about an hour I want to return to our farm, to nature, to the roots we're putting down, to the sustainable beginnings that Bedales nurtured without me really knowing anything about it! 🌱

HISTORY OF THE BEDALES ECKERSLEY LECTURE

Dr Harry Pearson (staff, 1977-2006), former Head of Science and Houseparent

In my own personal history, 1966 is a key year that I always remember and use as a reference point: it is the year, age 18, I left school in the July and started at University College London in September. Also, all football aficionados remember 1966, as the only year England won the World Cup. I can remember the day as if it were yesterday. One hundred years before, 1866 was one of those *annus mirabilis* years in science where so much was happening that would change the world we live in. Darwin was advancing his work on natural selection while unbeknown to him, an Austrian monk, Gregor Mendel, was carefully collecting data on peas which would lay the foundation of what we now call genetics. Eleven years on, I left the university world of chemistry and arrived at Bedales in September 1977. It was then I discovered that 1966 is also an important year in the history of Bedales, as it was the year of the inaugural Eckersley Lecture.

Thomas (1897-1904) and **Peter Eckersley (1902-11)** were students at Bedales shortly after the school's foundation. They enjoyed Science tremendously and the teaching they

received engendered a sense of discovery and investigation in both of them. While here they became interested in the emerging field of radio transmission and carried out some amazing experiments. The photograph shows them at 'Wavy Lodge' (a hut near the present-day Music School) where they carried out some of their experiments on radio transmission. Their great friend in this enterprise was **Bob Best (1902-10)** whom I was pleased to meet at the lectures of the late 70s, still as enthusiastic as ever.

Both Eckersley brothers went on to have distinguished careers: Peter became Chief Engineer when the BBC started in 1922 and Thomas, who went to University College London, where he studied engineering, then went on to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied Mathematics. He then joined the Marconi Company where he stayed most of his career where carrying out important research in the field of radio waves becoming FRS. His work was concerned with how atmospheric effects affected the transmission of the waves. He went on to win the

prestigious Faraday medal in 1951. To give an idea of the importance of this award, it can be noted that the winners in 1950 and 1952 were Sir James Chadwick, discoverer of the neutron and Nobel laureate, and Berkeley physicist Ernest O Lawrence, inventor of the cyclotron and Nobel laureate, respectively, two of the better-known Nobel Prize winners. The contribution by the brothers in the field of radio transmission is extraordinarily significant, and something that Bedales can feel very proud about.

The lectures were set up by a group of Old Bedalians as a memorial and tribute to the outstanding contribution to scientific progress and thinking made by the Eckersley brothers. They are meant to have a broad appeal and stimulate interest in, and appreciation of, science, rather than just record scientific research. It was always hoped that non-scientists would find them of interest. It seems appropriate that several directors of the Royal Institution have delivered the lecture as one of the aims of the 'discourses' at the institution seems very similar to the aims of the Eckersley Lecture.

The first lecture was given in 1966 by Professor Sir Lawrence Bragg who won a Nobel Prize for his pioneering work using X-rays in the elucidation of chemical structure. Indeed, Bragg's father also demonstrated the use of X-rays in medicine. It is hard to overstate the significance of this first lecture.

In 1966 it would have been difficult to find a more senior, or more famous, scientist in this country, or indeed the world, than Lawrence Bragg: the first person to deliver the Eckersley Lecture. Not only was Bragg a Nobel laureate, but at the time he was the only person to have won the prize with his father, William Henry Bragg. What is more, since their discovery,



The Eckersley brothers, Thomas (left) and Peter



the use of X-rays, in structure determination, is one of those things that has changed all our lives. He won the prize as far back as 1923 as a member of the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, a location that was virtually rewriting science for the 20th century. Like his father, the younger Bragg went on to head the Cavendish, and become Director of the Royal Institution.

To further emphasise Bragg's pre-eminence, it is important to realise what point his use of X-rays in structure determination had reached at that time. Several people in the Cavendish were working on the elucidation of enzyme structure, most notably Max Perutz and John Kendrew. Both went on to win the Nobel Prize for their work on the structure and function of haemoglobin, the vital oxygen carrying protein in blood. At this time their work represented the cutting edge of science.

Another duo in Bragg's sphere was the pair Watson and Crick, who were working on the structure of DNA.

Their eventual publication of the structure, which marked the advent of Molecular Biology, is seen as the greatest discovery of the century. It was Bragg who proposed them for the Nobel Prize.

Watson and Crick were awarded the Nobel Prize for their work in Bragg's laboratory in 1962. Their work would throw dramatic new light on the fields set up by Darwin and Mendel in 1866. The work in Bragg's team was reaching towards the very heart of life itself.

When Bragg came to give the first lecture in 1966 it would be hard to think of a more eminent person in British intellectual life.

The subsequent list of speakers is very much a who's who of British science with names like Colin Blakemore, Herman Bondi, Ken Pounds, **Sebastian Pease (1934-40)**, Nobel laureate Max Perutz, Dame Jocelyn Bell-Burnell and Sir Roger Penrose among others.

I must say something here about Bas Pease. Bas gave the Eckersley

Lecture in 1982 entitled 'Nuclear Energy and the Future'. Bas had a glittering scientific career becoming head of the project doing research on nuclear fusion. He may be the most leading scientist that Bedales has ever produced. Bas was a powerful supporter of the Bedales Science Department, and we were all pleased when he came to the opening of the new Science buildings in 2001.

The 2006 lecture was given by one of my previous mentors Professor **Brian Johnson FRS (Governor, 2007-15)**, formerly Head of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Cambridge and Master of Fitzwilliam, and also a governor of Bedales. When I wrote to him thanking him for coming, he said that for him it was an honour to join such a distinguished list of speakers. I think the founders of the lecture can be proud of what they have set up. The Eckersley brothers would also be proud of what goes on in their name and that Science thrives at Bedales. 1966 was indeed an important year in the life of the school. ☘

PERSPECTIVE ON SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Vickie Farrow, Headteacher at Froxfield CE School

Froxfield CE Primary is a small school of just over 100 children, a few miles from the Bedales School site. When I arrived as Headteacher 10 years ago, it quickly became clear that our small village school had an important relationship with Bedales; this is something that I had not seen working in other state schools during my career. Throughout the years this partnership has continued to develop and strengthen, benefitting us in two key ways: financially and educationally.

The opportunities that Bedales has made available to us are numerous and wide-ranging. On a practical level, the use of the swimming pool has enabled us to ensure all our children are confident swimmers when they leave us at age 11, and the generous use of the minibuses has enabled us to provide frequent trips and visits whilst keeping costs to a minimum for our families.

Through the partnership, we have benefitted from access to Bedales' excellent facilities and skilled, specialist teaching. Frequent music events have provided our children with the opportunity to perform as part of an

orchestra, which is simply not possible in a small school. I have looked on in awe as the talented Music staff quickly adapt scores to match the individual abilities of children and provide precise feedback to encourage them to succeed. The performance at the end of the afternoon in the Lupton Hall is a memory that will stay with them for years to come.

Music isn't the only curriculum area where Bedales has been generous with its time and resources; children have also enjoyed Art days and lessons in the Science labs. These opportunities often include a tour of the farm – a delight for the children – and the older students at Bedales are often on hand to support; they are wonderful role models for our younger children. Our school has limited sports facilities and the PE team at the Prep School regularly make their facilities available for our fixtures, with teachers offering up their time to referee.

Froxfield is one of a group of seven small schools locally, who meet regularly with Colin Baty, Head of Bedales Prep. If we need support in any way, he will

always do what he can to facilitate this. Recently, he funded a cookery workshop for vulnerable children across our cluster of schools and provided a space for this to take place.

It is not just the children who have benefitted from this partnership, but staff and parents too. Open invitations are extended for training, workshops and events and recent e-safety training for Bedales families was opened to the cluster. When headteachers in East Hampshire were struggling for a venue for their termly meetings, conference venues unaffordable with current school budgets, Bedales stepped up again. They generously host our meetings, welcome us warmly and provide refreshments too.

As I write this, I am reminded how significant a role the partnership with Bedales plays in the life of my school. Not only are the children's experiences much richer for it, but as Headteacher, I feel cared about and supported. I know that if Bedales can make something happen, they will. This not only takes money, but a great deal of staff time and for that I am extremely grateful. 🌟



Freddy Riley (2018-23), Theo Heining-Farmiloe (2011-23) and Arlo Martin (2016-23)

In autumn 2023, three intrepid OBs embarked on a journey to the Everest Base Camp following their time at Bedales...

On 31 October, when most people we knew were dressed up for Halloween, we were on our way to Kathmandu, Nepal. We did a lot of walking when we were at Bedales, on our Silver and Gold DofE expeditions, but also our own trips to places like Hadrian's Wall and Snowdon and we had decided we wanted to take on a bigger adventure together, and you don't really get a more iconic walking destination than Everest Base Camp.

Kathmandu is a really vibrant city filled with rich culture and history. As you turn the corner you find ancient temples and bustling markets. We even managed to find an Irish bar and got to see a local football match. Sadly, it's also affected by air pollution, with levels almost four times higher than those recommended by the World Health Organisation.

To start our walking expedition, we flew in a small plane to Lukla, known to be the most dangerous airport in

the world, because its short runway is perched on little more than a ledge, surrounded by steep mountain walls and then a deep drop into the valley below. We set off into Sagarmatha National Park for our 16-day trip and six to eight hours of walking each day.

Right from the first day there were amazing different landscapes: dense forests of rhododendrons (the national flower of Nepal); precarious hanging bridges over canyons; rugged river valleys and pretty villages decorated with fluttering multi-coloured prayer flags. However, it wasn't just about the scenery, as we also discovered how gentle and warm-hearted the Sherpa communities are.

When we reached Namche Bazaar, a vibrant market town, we had our first real panoramic view of Everest, shaped like a perfect three-sided pyramid. It really does take your breath away with how majestic it looks. On 11 November, we reached Everest Base Camp, standing at a staggering 5,364 meters (almost four times higher than Ben Nevis). The sight of Everest, surrounded by the Khumbu Glacier, is an incredible sight (although we couldn't believe



how much graffiti is marked on the stones) and we felt a huge sense of accomplishment. The absolute highlight was our 4am walk up to Kala Patthar (meaning 'Black Rock'). At 5,644 metres this is the highest point many hikers reach on the trek and after watching the sunrise, it gave us this amazing view of the summit of Everest.

Our trip wasn't just about reaching Base Camp, so on the way down we took a less well-used route and had the chance to enjoy different scenery, meet more local people and even play two card poker in some of the village bars! We were lucky to have the opportunity to volunteer at a local Sagarmatha waste management organisation helping to sort rubbish and stuff bags. They run a campaign called 'Carry me back' where they get hikers to take bags of rubbish so it doesn't get left in the park. Once we finished walking, we also had to join, what we were told was, an almost national pastime: pushing stuck vehicles out of the ruts in the road, as even on main routes the roads are in a really bad condition.

As our footsteps echoed down the trails, we left the Himalayas full of really amazing memories knowing we had been so lucky to have had such a once in a lifetime experience. 🗺️



Rob Reynolds, Director of External Relations

Bedales is inspiring a new generation of critical thinkers, creators and leaders by cultivating a community of lifelong learners through its innovative, intellectually challenging curriculum. The school's founding principle 'work of each for weal of all', centred on authentic working relationships, develops excellence in the individual whilst appreciating their central role in shaping society on every level.

Informed by educationalists in the UK and abroad, and following in-depth consultation across the school community (thank you to all Old Bedalians who contributed), Bedales has restated its purpose (boxed out above) and set out its vision for the next decade. As a school that was founded to be a humane alternative to the authoritarian model typical of

late-Victorian public schools, the plans are the latest example of Bedales' pioneering approach.

The 21st century is a time that questions educational norms more than ever: climate change is one of the biggest challenges that will impact us all, especially the generations to come; technological innovation democratises knowledge and learning like never before; and Artificial Intelligence opens up opportunities within learning and future pathways, undermining so many assumptions about the world of work.

Technology allows for much more communication between people (and machines) but likewise creates increased chances for misinformation, division and mental health problems, particularly in the young. There is also a much greater understanding of the need for us to strive for more diverse, representative and balanced

communities. The challenge for the school therefore is to ensure that a Bedales education prepares the next generation to flourish within these uncertainties.

The school's strategy is designed to strengthen Bedales' central position as a community of learners who are ambitious and excited by the act of learning; a place where the co-educational and communitarian heritage of the school is being regularly reimaged for the realities of the 21st century. Bedales wants to be a collaboration of globally-minded people who are well-informed about their place in the world and their responsibilities to their communities – a collective of environmentally-inclined people with a profound awareness of their impact on the planet, and a commitment to tackle the negative impacts of climate change.

times2

Inside Bedales: it teaches only two GCSEs (but pupils do study sheep)

The private school has rejected the 16-plus exams that it says are unfit for purpose. So what are the students doing instead? Helen Rumbell finds out

As the sun glimmers through the trees of the South Downs we walk through an ancient woodland to where the trees are so thick that you can't see the sky. The air is so still that you can hear the leaves rustle. It's a beautiful scene, but it's also a little bit weird. This is the school where the boys and girls study only two GCSEs. Yes, you read that right. Two. The rest of their curriculum is made up of practical subjects like sheep husbandry and woodwork. It's a bit of a shock, but it's also a really interesting idea.

Could £42,000-a-year boarding fees for Bedales include hair-styling for the sheep?

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Win one of 100 Whistles vouchers

The Whistles autumn/winter 2023 collection includes a covetable collection of timeless wardrobe investments and mood-boosting staples to encourage modern styling. As a Times member you could win one of 100 x £50 vouchers to spend on the collection.

TIMES+ WHISTLES

It's not about gaming it, it's about giving our students a better education

At Bedales, we're not just about the books on the shelves. We're about the people who are learning from them. We're about the community that we've built, and the values that we stand for. We're about the future that we're creating, and the impact that we're making. We're about the difference that we're making, and the change that we're bringing. We're about the best of ourselves, and the best of the world. We're about the future that we're building, and the legacy that we're leaving. We're about the difference that we're making, and the change that we're bringing. We're about the best of ourselves, and the best of the world. We're about the future that we're building, and the legacy that we're leaving.

Under the four strands of Learning, Living, Community and Environment, the school has set out a 10-year programme in response to these challenges and aims. Initiatives build on learnings from the pandemic, and previous plans and curriculum enhancements such as the new Senior School Art & Design Building, the refurbished Dunhurst mixed boarding house (introduced in September 2023), and the now well-established Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs) in arts and humanities subjects.

As part of innovating the curriculum, the number of BACs to be taken by students will be increased with a corresponding reduction from five to two GCSEs, retaining Maths and English Language. BACs are designed to develop intellectual ambition, creative thinking and independent learning. This change is being made so that students will get more out of their courses, better preparing them for A Levels, giving them more learning time and developing the dispositions and capabilities to help succeed in life beyond Bedales.

The school will create BACs in the sciences, languages and a new sustainability curriculum. Already taught as alternatives to GCSE in many subjects, BACs offer more choice in content, research and project work, as well as more varied assessment methods such as coursework, presentations and vivas. This approach provides an opportunity for greater stretch for ambitious students. The school (and many other educationalists) considers the current education model for 14 to 16-year-olds to be outdated so we are exercising our independence over the curriculum to improve it; GCSEs, with their more centralised, knowledge-heavy content and over-reliance on rote-learning and narrow terminal assessments are becoming unfit for purpose. This view



Image by Matthew Rice (1975-80).

has been endorsed by a wide range of teachers, academics, and politicians, including the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Schools, Learning and Assessment (following their inquiry into assessment which reported to Parliament in October 2023), Lord Baker (the Education Secretary who introduced GCSEs in 1986) and various other education commissions.

A reduction in the number of GCSEs will have positive mental health and wellbeing benefits too, as well as freeing up the Summer term of Block 5 (Year 11) for more meaningful teaching and learning to replace the 30+ hours of examinations and study leave that most students nationally endure.

The broader initiatives in the Bedales plans for the next decade include:

- An increase in Bedales Assessed Courses and reduction to a two-GCSE model of Maths and English
- A digital portfolio for all students to record achievements throughout their school life (an 'education LinkedIn')
- Establishing a Centre for Progressive Education to inform global education thinking and practice, acting as a hub for research and innovation

- Doubling the number of fully funded John Badley Foundation bursaries
- All students to undertake weekly 'Bedales Service' to support the operational running of the school (akin to the Japanese *soji* approach)
- A move to mixed boarding houses (like in 6.2) for all years (rather than separate single sex houses). The next step with this development saw the refurbishment and opening of the co-educational Dunhurst boarding house at the start of the school year in September where demand is already proving to be very strong
- More hands-on experience for students growing their own food and building sustainable structures
- Initiatives to live more sustainably and move to carbon net zero

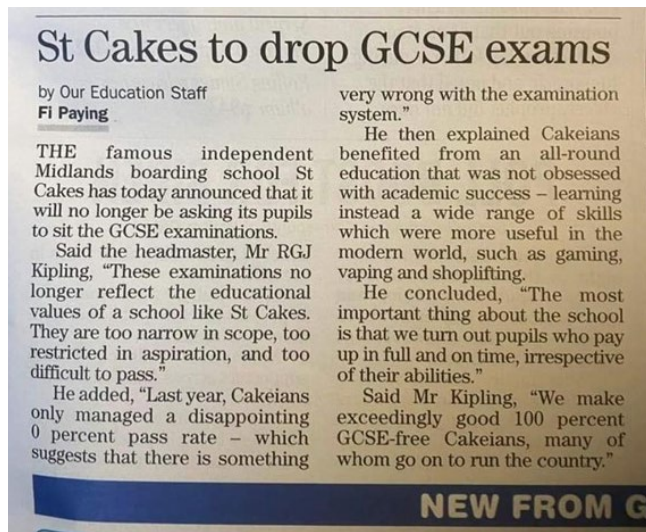
Not everything will happen straight away; it's a 10-year plan and staff are now working on turning the words into action for the benefit of Bedales students over the next decade and beyond.

To find out more about the school's plans, visit the Bedales website bedales.org.uk/about-us/bedales-future/our-strategy 🌱

LAUGHING AT OURSELVES

Ian Douglas, Bedales Librarian and Archivist

I enjoyed this recent piece in *Private Eye*. It followed extensive media coverage of our decision to expand our offering of Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs) and move away from GCSEs.



There are some good gags here, but of course it's too far from reality for the satire to really bite. Those who know us better, know that we created our bespoke courses so that students could explore subjects in greater depth. And the statistics show that the BAC examiners are no less exacting than their counterparts at the GCSE awarding boards.

This has set me ruminating on Bedales satire. Over the last 130 years, a wide range of people have offered their own leg-pulls and lampooneries – most of them affectionate, some not quite so friendly. As a convenient shorthand for progressive causes of all sorts, Bedales has popped up in the work of novelists, diarists, playwrights and poets, all the way up to the dizzy cultural heights of the 21st Century *St Trinians* reboot.

I believe that Bedalians – in accordance with good liberal principles – welcome criticism, and they also enjoy a laugh at their own expense. Allow me, then, to share a few of my personal favourites, from the Bedales Archive and from further afield. This is a very personal selection of things that amused or intrigued me. I hope readers will reply with their own favourites.

The art critic and patron **Margaret Gardiner (1918-22)**, in an unpublished memoir of her school days, recalls taking off the Chief's "laconic style" in a parody of a Gilbert Murray translation of a Greek tragedy, written for a *Merry Evening*:

The Chief's Speech

[Mr. Badley] Give ear, oh miserable one, to me;
The Chief and Mrs. Badley speak to thee.
And, briefly now to recapitulate,
What has befallen since we met, I'll state –
Three murders have been ruthlessly committed
Within these walls; innocent and unpitied
Two pretty babes have perished through thy hate,
And my new typist shares their fearful fate,
On thinking over this, it seemed to me
That so much slaughter simply must not be;
Murders we cannot have in such profusion
(And Mrs. Badley reached the same conclusion).
So, in the future, no more murders, please;
Let us have no more happenings like these.
And all concerned in this affair so bloody
Will see me after Prayers, in my study.

A similar point is made in this delightful cartoon entitled *The Moral Jaw* by **Teddy Hensenberg (1924-30)**.

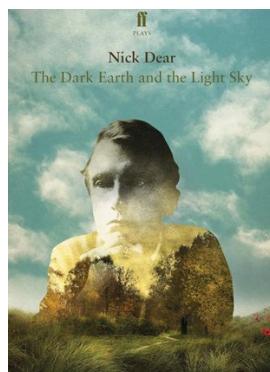
A companion cartoon shows **O B Powell (Bedales co-founder, 1893-1933)** at the moment when he retired from his 40-year leadership of the Whole School singing and moved to take up geese farming near Oxford.



Many readers will know of **Jocelyn Brooke (1922-27)**, the writer and naturalist. Few, I suspect, have read his contributions to a short-lived student magazine *The Ray*. His whimsical short story *Simple Lives No. 1: The Nice Girl* includes the following passage:

“Once upon a time there was a little girl called Mary, whose parents were very fond of her. When she was seven, they sent her to a Nice School kept by a very clever lady who knew all about Education, which was considered very advanced in those days. The school was called Gaudeamus, because Miss Pink, the clever lady who began it, wanted all the children to be happy and joyful all day long. And they were happy. They wore sandals, and lovely dresses called djibbahs, which Miss Pink said were invented by the Dervishes, and all the classrooms had latticed windows (which, being old-fashioned, were very advanced indeed) sensible furniture, and beautiful pictures by an artist called Rossetti (because Miss Pink knew that all children have a natural craving for Beauty). The little girls were taught to read and write and make rush-mats, and three times a week they did Folk Dancing on the lawn.”

Note well the sandals, so often a feature of the Bedales legend. One hundred years later they are still leaving their rustic footprints; for example, in Nick Dear’s 2012 play about Edward Thomas, *The Dark Earth and the Light Sky*. Here they are in an imagined conversation between Edward, Helen Thomas and Robert Frost:



- Helen** At Bedales we don't believe anything will be solved by embarking on another ghastly war.
- Robert** Bedales?
- Helen** It's the school in our village, it's where Bronwen and Merfyn go, I teach there sometimes – not formally, I'm not qualified, but I get invited to lots of meetings and picnics and debates.
- Edward** It's 'progressive'. They take girls.
- Helen** They take pacifism awfully seriously, and I think they're right.
- Edward** They take sandals awfully seriously, and their feet get wet.



As **Roy Wake (staff, 1949-59)** says in his introduction to the official School history:

“Sandals are significant in the earlier history of Bedales.”

John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935), it seems, did not wear sandals. But he was not so indifferent to the interests of future satirists as to wear ordinary shoes. Several sources remember sandshoes or plimsols, some of them with holes cut out to relieve pressure on his corns. His footwear appears in this passage from the Bloomsbury Group diarist **Frances Partridge (1916-18)**:

[Badley] was not an accessible man. His well-trimmed beard, and his rather eerie method of progress, walking stiffly erect through classrooms and corridors in soundless sandshoes, looking neither to right nor left, led to his being identified with Jesus Christ. I think he was painfully shy. However, he was an excellent, if alarming, teacher of the Classics. “Get it right, man! Get it right!” he would explode to girl and boy alike, tapping his rubber-soled shoe on the floor. Yet he conveyed to us his own genuine enthusiasm...

In previous editions of the *OB Newsletter*, I have spoken of Badley and Powell (Osbos) as the Yin and Yang of Bedales. These cartoons capture so well their complementary gifts. Without Badley's ferocious dedication and lofty idealism, or without Powell's practical resourcefulness, his versatility and his sense of fun, Bedales could not have become a world leader in progressive education. It is surely the combination of their qualities that has made Bedales what it is.

Osbos, I think, may have provoked fewer pastiches than his great friend and collaborator. Sometimes, however, reality makes up for it in details which are beyond parody.

For example, a newspaper profile published for Osbos' 99th birthday records that he has been wearing the same rugged, homespun tweed suit for more than 30 years, and recently had his tailor turn the material inside out because "it was starting to show signs of wear".

How well did John Betjeman know Bedales? There is evidence of his having visited the school. Were there any Bedalians among his close friends? The occasion for my questions is this intriguing poem:

Group Life: Letchworth

Tell me Pippiddledum.
Tell me how the children are.
Working each for weal of all
After what you said.
Barry's on the common far
Pedalling the Kiddie Kar.
Ann has had a laxative
And Alured is dead.
Sympathy is stencilling
Her decorative leatherwork,
Wilfred's learned a folk-tune for
The Morris Dancers' band.
I have my ex-Service man and
Mamie's done a lino-cut.
And Charlie's in the kinderbank
A-kicking up the sand.
Wittle-tittle, wittle-tittle
Toodle-oodle ducky birds,
What a lot my dicky chicky
Tiny tots have done.
Wouldn't it be jolly now,
To take our Aertex panthers off
And have a jolly tumble in
The jolly, jolly sun?

And speaking of progressive underwear... have you ever wondered where Eustace Scrubb went to school? The hero of C.S. Lewis' fifth novel in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, is introduced thus:

There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it. His parents called him Eustace Clarence and masters called him Scrubb. I can't tell you how his friends spoke to him, for he had none. He didn't call his Father and Mother 'Father' and 'Mother, but Harold and Alberta. They were very up-to-date and advanced people. They were vegetarians, non-smokers and teetotalers and wore a special kind of underclothes.

In the sixth novel, *The Silver Chair*, we learn that the school is called 'Experiment House'. We also learn that "It was 'co-educational', a school for both boys and girls, what used to be called a 'mixed' school; some said that it was not nearly so mixed as the minds of the people who ran it." Wrongdoers are "not expelled or punished. The Head said they were interesting psychological cases and sent for them and talked to them for hours."

What do you think? Does this sound like Bedales as it might appear in the eyes of the unenlightened? I note that Lewis' fictional school is peopled with "loathsome Garretts".

Please don't be too concerned for poor Eustace. After various adventures, he learns more traditional public school virtues, like pluck, and suppressing your feelings. Even the school goes through a kind of redemption in the end:

...there was an inquiry into the whole thing. And in the inquiry all sorts of things about Experiment House came out, and about ten people got expelled. After that, the Head's friends saw that the Head was no use as a Head, and they got her made an Inspector to interfere with other Heads. And when they found she wasn't much good even at that, they got her into Parliament where she lived happily ever after.



Among our readers are some who remember the songs of **Paul Townsend (staff, 1957-64)**, mainly anthems to his fellow staff members. Alas, I only have the texts to judge them by, but here is the first part to my favourite:

Cash's Lament: A folk song about a man of sensibility

When I left school (which you must know
Was housed in a mansion in Bucks, called Stowe)
I turned my back on the Stock Exchange
And jobs in the higher income range,
But the way was rough and the pace was slow ...
We found life easier at Stowe.

Despite opposition and a family fuss,
I went up to London on a twopenny bus;
I attended an art school down in Camberwell Green,
Was the perfectest art student ever to be seen,
With hair to the collar and a bow ...
We were more conservative at Stowe.

Still lifes and nudes (and a great many flowers)
Filled up my sunny student hours,
Though just to show I was not in fact
Out of date, I painted the odd abstract ...
But not too often, for you know
We were traditional at Stowe.

Here are a few lines from a delightful unpublished memoir by Margaret Gardiner, the art critic and patron:

On wet afternoons ... we were often sent for 'wet runs'. This meant running and walking a mile or so in our gym clothes, returning for a rub down and dry clothes ... I quite enjoyed those wet runs and I think they've stood me in good stead for I still never mind getting wet and, after the loss of several umbrellas and the trauma of Chamberlain's 'peace in our time' broly waving return from his visit to Hitler, I've given them up altogether.

I'm honestly not sure whether this was intended as a joke, but I thoroughly enjoyed this back-handed tribute to the formative power of one's school days. And it makes me wonder: in a crowded street, on a rainy day, do Old Bedalians recognise one another by their indifference to the drizzle. Is this the OB equivalent of a Masonic handshake?

In my final selection, I'd like to quote at length from a short story by **Julia Strachey (1913-1918)**, the Bloomsbury Group novelist, photographer and woman of letters. This was first published in the Hogarth Press *New Writing and Daylight* series, in 1943.



Names were tactfully changed, and Bedales was referred to only as 'The Pioneer City'.

As a footnote to the story, I believe that "Joan B." must be **Joan Malleson (née Billson, 1910-18, Head Girl)**. This remarkable woman did indeed "throw off the old constraints and prejudices" and "play a part in the body corporate". She became a physician, a pioneer of birth control, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Birth Control Association, and an advocate of abortion law reform. She was closely involved in the Bourn Case which, in 1938, clarified the law on abortion. Dr Malleson referred a 14-year-old rape victim to Aleck Bourn, an obstetric surgeon, for an abortion. Bourn was tried at the Old Bailey and acquitted. One wonders if Strachey's portrait of the 16-year-old Billson might be a touch unkind, but she was undoubtedly right to detect there a streak of idealism and single-minded dedication:

The business of my education fell entirely to my poor mother's lot. In between her numerous social works, her committee meetings, her refugee organisations, I saw her doing it. She busied herself preparing my ingredients with the conscientious care of a chemist's assistant, new to the job, making up a prescription for a bottle of medicine.



In the end she chose for me a co-ed school called Bedales. Its prospectus was liberally dotted with such phrases as 'Wise Freedom', 'Home Farm', 'New and more Wholesome attitude', 'Heather and Pines' and so on and so forth. And there was a photograph of one of the handicraft rooms showing the pupils working at trestle tables where were laid out leather blotting-pads, bags and ornamental bookshelves, stamped or carved all over with the grapevine pattern. The prospectus offered the chance of learning how to build a new and better world to each schoolchild.

Clash! Clangle! Clangle! It was the school waking-up bell. Of course. It rang for eternities – and what a torture. Knocking on the head all that one held precious, hacking the roots of our personal lives from under us, leaving us mutilated and abandoned. The dormitory door was open. From my pillow I saw

down the narrow passage, saw the sleepy prefect on duty in her dressing-gown. I turned my head and was greeted by the dormitory furniture: cast-iron bedsteads, flimsy stained chests of drawers, all crying aloud, 'I am cheap, unloved and unlovable, but all that you children deserve'. I started to tell the girl next to me how I had dreamt I was given a birthday present of a kitten-plant (three live tabbies growing from one stem) when Clang! Clang! – the bell for cold baths began, and the prefect at the door began screeching out our numbers.

Soon my number would be called, and I must abandon what I was saying; in any case the din of bell-ringing, number-screaming and feet thumping along the passage to plunge their owners into cold baths would have drowned my story. Until we were dressed no further communication was possible, for now all was racket and anxiety. And then, once disguised in our school uniform (a contraption that made us look like so many oblong green bolsters instead of human beings) – once disguised thus, the impulse to communicate died a natural death anyway. Because by that time we were no longer ourselves. No longer individuals. At 8.15 our personal characters were renounced, school esprit de corps took their place. At 8.20 the girls were in the bootroom putting on their outdoor shoes, forming into groups in the courtyard for the 'early morning run'. But it happened that I had a blister on my heel and was excused from the run, so that my time was my own for a quarter of an hour before breakfast.

I took some gramophone records from my locker, and ran – past tennis courts and playing fields – to the main school building, where, in my classroom, I was allowed to keep my gramophone. And there I spent the last 10 minutes before breakfast playing a Boston one-step, a Hesitation valse, and a new dance – a Tango.



Later on that day I was walking along our dormitory passage when out from a doorway popped a prefect, Joan B., who took me by the wrist.

Joan was built on singularly broad and simple lines, both in body and spirit, and with her rotundity and naive enthusiasm always brought to my mind a sponge pudding, globular, bland and gently steaming.

'Will you come into the cupboard room, please? I want to have a little talk with you ...' She smiled: and in her face I recognised with a start the 'Bedales look'; that is to say she was not looking at me but

at an abstraction on which she was about to shed light. She opened the door behind her and revealed a room given over entirely to clothes cupboards, each one with a holland curtain stencilled over with the grapevine pattern. She shut the door softly and proceeded to gaze upon me for a long while with a kind of happy sadness.

"I happened to pass B2 classroom before breakfast this morning. Someone was playing a Boston one-step on the gramophone. It was you, wasn't it?"

"Yes." I looked at my bandaged foot reflectively. "I was let off the run this morning because I have a blister on my heel!"

"That is not the point. The point is that you were playing a Boston one-step before breakfast on the gramophone."

"Oh yes," I said happily, and in the heavy silence that followed I hummed a tune, as if remembering something we should both enjoy, and a snatch of words: "Roguish smiles and Peek-a-boo blouses! La-di-dee ... Every time you kiss me it seems so nice! But you never seem to kiss me in the same way twice! O-O-O-You! YOU'VE got to do it now!" Actually the record I was playing had no words to it, and I had selected the 'Roguish smiles'



etc. to hum to her as being of the type of saucy slyness most likely to shock her.

She looked at me. "The trouble is that you don't pull your weight in the boat. Everybody is saying the same thing. Do you think that is very nice to hear? We prefects are here to look after and help you younger ones. And it's jolly rotten for us standing by and watching you make such a foul mess of your life. Because the school is in a sense a sort of lifeboat, you know. Life is a difficult sea, and the Principal and the Vice are trying their very hardest to help us row across you know, and teach us to play our part in the body corporate."

"I don't think the body corporate, whatever it is, minds my playing a Boston one-step in my free time, if I'm alone and nobody else hears it."

"Can't you understand that it's the whole tone that's rotten? In a sense it's a good deal worse that you should employ yourself in such a way when you are quite alone."

I endeavoured to look amazed.

"Don't you understand?"

"Er – not quite ..."

But THINK! A Boston one-step BEFORE BREAKFAST! Have lost all your sense of values? You see," she continued on a lower tone, "they are giving us the benefit of such a new, free way of life, preparing for a beautiful new world, where people can throw off the old constraints and prejudices and revel in light and freedom and loveliness. And they trust us so!" Her voice trembled happily. "And that, you see, is why it seems a little underhand and – well – cheap to do ugly mean things, even if no-one is looking."

Joan's hand was now on the door handle, so that probably the interview was nearing its end. But I knew that first certain formalities would be observed. Which of the two ways in which Bedales was in the habit of finishing up 'little talks' would Joan use? I considered that the first ('I don't think there is much to be got out of continuing this conversation further') would mean that I had won and the pi-jawer had drawn a blank.



The second style ('I know that it's not the true YOU speaking' and dismissal with a sweet smile) would mean I had lost and laurels went to the pi-jawer. Again there was not a doubt that before parting I should be advised to play sea-shanties instead of Boston one-steps on my gramophone – 'Yo! Ho! Blow the man down!' and probably, 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor?'

Meanwhile, Joan was speaking: "If you must play light music on the gramophone (and Heaven knows I shouldn't want you always to play heavy serious stuff), why not play fine, jolly things? Sea-shanties for instance. 'Yo! Ho! Blow the man down!' is a jolly thing and so is 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor?'"

How angry I felt! I despised those two songs from the bottom of my heart. I answered rudely: "You want to turn me into an old salt or something. But you can't. Instead, when I grow up I intend to wear Peek-a-boo blouses and give roguish smiles – to men!"

Tears came into my eyes. When Joan spoke next, after a silence, she sounded happy and gracious: "I don't think this is the real you speaking. I have more faith in you (although I'm aware many people have not)." She made for the door, thus closing the interview.

I had lost!

It was only nine-fifteen and I was already worn out! And I remember that the whole day was particularly disagreeable... ☹️



JOHN BADLEY FOUNDATION

Tanya Darlow, Head of Development

Working in the Development Team at Bedales, I have the immense pleasure of getting to know supporters and beneficiaries of the John Badley Foundation (JBF) and, once in a while, the chance to connect you with each other. We started the year off with just that; Kamaya Nelson-Clayton (2016-23) and Kervan Karatas (2021-23) joined Patrick Derham OBE and Assistant Head Clare Jarmy for the 'Power of Bursaries' Q&A at Bedales Theatre: a free event for students, parents, OBs and local residents.

The panel talked about their first-hand experience of bursaries and the desire to help young people in a similar position. Clare is a trustee of the JBF and Patrick developed the Arnold Foundation Bursary Programme as Headmaster at Rugby School, before serving as Headmaster of Westminster School and founding the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation.

Kamaya and Kervan spoke honestly and movingly about the benefits of a full bursary at Bedales. They stressed that this goes beyond education and includes many things that fee-paying students may not have considered: a bed in a warm, dry dormitory; a quiet space to study; nourishing food; undivided attention and safe spaces to roam. With these needs met, they



both agreed that bursary students can fully access the opportunities on offer. The Autumn term alone saw students attend alumni careers talks, play hockey for the school, deliver Jaws and take part in plays and concerts – a rich and rewarding experience for the whole school community.

Alongside the support provided for Kamaya and Kervan, the JBF funded full bursary places for nine additional students between September 2022 and June 2023 and helped fund eight places for Ukrainian students, who continue to amaze us with their resilience, positivity, and contribution to school life.

At the end of the academic year, we said goodbye to four students who have gone on to study a wide range of subjects, with an aspiring

actor, product designer, student of international relations, and promising scientist, all enjoying their first year in higher education.

In September, we were in the privileged position to welcome five JBF joiners: three in Block 1; one in Block 3 and one in 6.I, marking a huge milestone for the charity with 20 students aged 11 to 18 accessing a life-transforming education.

There have been a number of online and in-person fundraising events over the course of the year that have made this possible including the Hamper Ball, Badley Day walk, Minnie Driver Q&A and Christmas Auction. Your support has also come in many forms, from legacy pledges to auction lots and transformative gifts. Thank you for everything you

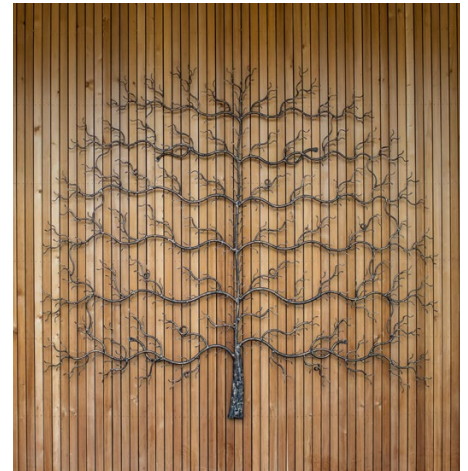


have done to help us support the young people in our care. If you would like to support the Foundation this year via a single, regular or legacy gift, please do get in touch at tdarlow@bedales.org.uk

We continue to organise events throughout the year to thank our supporters, including the annual Badley Day Drinks and the gathering for legators who, this year, enjoyed a private tour with **John Hitchens (1947-57)** of his latest exhibition, followed by lunch at Goodwood House.

Thanking is important, and so is recognition. I am delighted to share the news that we will be recognising all future gifts over £3,000 with an engraved leaf on the JBF Giving Tree: a brand new sculpture, designed and made by artist Chris Townsend and installed in the Orchard Building. If you would like to have a leaf engraved with your name, your child's name or any dates or words personal to you, please do get in touch.

Thank you for your support. 🌿



Juliet Shapiro (2014-16), John Badley Foundation beneficiary

Receiving the John Badley Foundation bursary, and so being able to attend Bedales, was the greatest gift I've ever been given, and it is both cliché and true to say that it is difficult to imagine how different my life might have looked without it. There are many tangible benefits that I carry around with me – some of my closest friends and my inevitably improved academic achievement stand out most clearly – but it also changed my confidence and perspective in such a way that continues to open doors for me many years after I finished school.

There is a sense of potential and possibility which is very difficult to hold onto without access to the resources necessary to explore your interests, and a supportive environment in which to do so. I was always an intense, creative, nerdy kid; this didn't change when I moved schools. But it did go from something I mostly kept private (or tried to) to something I shared and enjoyed. It seems strange to say that 'doing things' and 'liking things' were valued because these

are so broad and so vague. It's almost equivalent to saying that Bedales was a school that valued being alive, or just being a person. And yet this is what feels most true – being keen, being curious, learning, making things, getting involved – none of this is cool against the standard of teenage apathy. I'm sure this was, and is, partly the case at Bedales too (it's a school, after all), but much bigger than that was the excitement of what you could do, and what people actually did. All around me my friends learned to paint, wrote plays, organised environmentalist events and ran student film festivals. This couldn't have happened in quite the same way without the resources Bedales offered, and it also couldn't have happened without a culture which treated students as whole people, teachers who were not just encouraging but genuinely kind, and a community held together by shared values.

The expansive sense of opportunity and curiosity that Bedales gave me certainly helped me to not just get into University of

Oxford, but also to enjoy it once I got there. I didn't see myself as a 'science-y person', but I was interested in Biology even so, and the freedom and encouragement to explore all of my interests, including this one, ultimately led me to a degree in Human Sciences.

These days I work for the NHS as a social prescriber, working to reduce health inequalities by connecting people with community-based support, following a theme of community that I grew to care about deeply while at school. I'm also currently applying for master's programs in Psychology, and actively pursuing a wide range of hobbies and interests in my free time, as well as spending as much time as I can with my friends. The legacy of my time at Bedales is woven into all of this, and for that I am immensely grateful. 🌿



ALUMNI GIVING MATTERS

At the start of this year, a group of children hoping for a John Badley Foundation (JBF) bursary visited Bedales with parents, carers and referring charities. As part of the visit, they shared the extensive challenges they face at home including caring responsibilities for siblings and parents, cold, cramped homes, and severe mental health conditions within their families.

Meeting these children is always a deeply humbling experience and leaves us with a strong sense of responsibility to say 'yes', to offer them the life-changing opportunity of a fully funded Bedales education and the care and security that boarding provides.

However, it's not that simple. To say 'yes', we need to be confident that you will give generously and regularly. Boarding places at Bedales Senior and Prep cost £42,555 and £29,250 respectively per year. The school funds half of this so we need to know we can raise the other half for every year

a student is with us.

Regular gifts are the lifeblood of any charity, but particularly one which commits to two, five or seven years of private, boarding education for each child it supports. We currently have 45 regular givers. Collectively, with monthly donations ranging from £5 to £500, this group of individuals fund a place for two students each year. This is the power of regular giving: each person donating what they can to help make a difference to children's lives, or in this case – two lives.

Forty five regular gifts should be celebrated; our thanks go out to every one of you who has made this generous commitment to the JBF. Your support is having an impact every day on the lives of two students under our care and their experience at Bedales will have a long-term influence, through further education and careers, breaking the cycle of poverty that can hold so many children back.

But we know we can and should do more. We are passionate about

growing the JBF and welcoming more children to Bedales each year on full bursaries. Will you help us do this? Will you join OBs, parents, former parents and staff who have stepped up to make a difference? If you feel you have the means to help, please consider setting up a regular gift today. Scan the QR code below to donate any amount monthly, quarterly or annually.

Your support matters. It transforms the lives of children, welcoming them to Bedales with open arms. It allows us to plan ahead and expand the bursary programme. It tells us that you care. 🌟



To find out how to support the John Badley Foundation or for further information, please contact Tanya Darlow, Head of Development at tdarlow@bedales.org.uk



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

The Bedales Grants Trust Fund (BGTF) was founded in 1927 by **John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)** and a group of close friends, colleagues and supporters of Bedales. It was founded as a charitable trust to provide financial support through bursaries for students at Bedales, and this has remained its core purpose throughout its 96-year existence.

BGTF is funded wholly through a combination of generous lifetime giving and some magnificent legacies, plus judicious investment of the capital that the trustees have under their supervision. As of October 2023, this stood at approximately £5.8m. The fact that we have this incredible capital fund, amassed over almost a century of generosity from Old Bedalians, friends and supporters of Bedales, means that we are able to maintain our annual support for Bedales students at a steady level despite investment fluctuations. Our money does not go towards estate improvements, curriculum reform, research, salaries, fundraising or external consultancy – it is solely committed to providing bursaries, normally supporting between 20 and 25 Bedales students each year. In 2022/23 we paid out means-tested bursary awards in aggregate of around £267,000, helping 22 current students to pursue their education at Bedales.

Our bursaries are normally set at approximately 1/3 of a year's school



fees but can be substantially more, and are often combined with bursaries from other sources, such as the school's John Badley Foundation, or external grant providers. We work very closely with the School to identify where our awards will be most beneficial – we know it can sometimes be the deciding factor in a decision to attend or remain at Bedales. For example, we supported the school's initiative to give Ukrainian students the opportunity to attend Bedales by providing a BGTF bursary for one of those students. In founding BGTF, John Badley was seeking to create an enduring Bedales family by giving children, grandchildren, and relatives of OBs particular consideration, and BGTF recognises a special responsibility towards OB families in financial need when making its decisions.

The current trustees are myself as Chair, **Dennis Archer (staff, 1974-2008)**, **Stephen Davies (1989-94)**, **Josephine Jonathan (2006-08)**, **Lynn Percy (1972-77)** and **Jonnie Reed (1989-97)**. Special thanks to **Camilla Church (1989-94)** who retired in March 2023 after 12 years as a trustee. Between them, the trustees bring a range of investment management, financial, property, legal and governance skills and expertise to our proceedings. Our strategy is to keep the Trust's funds sustainable through broadly matching bursary spending with the income generated by investment, but without compromising on ethics. Our investment portfolio includes only ethical share investments (through the Rathbone Greenbank fund), with the remainder in cash or cash equivalents.

Despite a disappointing investment performance in the last year, the level of bursaries paid was not reduced, resulting in a reduction of the overall value of the fund from just over £6m in September 2022 to £5.8m (as at



the latest quarterly valuation). The fund is regularly reviewed by our Investment Committee of Trustees with current investment and financial expertise. We want to be able to continue to pay bursaries for many years to come, and to respond flexibly to individual student needs and circumstances as they arise, so balancing outgoings with income over time is important, and award policy and decisions are weighed carefully with this in mind.

Each year we thank the OBs and other families who have generously donated and/or left legacies to BGTF. As trustees, we appreciate our responsibility to ensure these precious gifts are properly used and the generous spirit of the donors is carried through to the next generation. Our deepest thanks go to those who have donated to BGTF to ensure that their gift is used to allow more students to benefit from the unique Bedales educational experience. New donations to BGTF, whether lifetime or by means of a legacy in a will, are always welcomed.

We benefit 'in kind' from the practical support of Richard Lushington, Bedales Bursar, who acts as BGTF's secretary, and members of the school's administrative team. Parents and prospective parents, particularly with OB connections, can get details of how to apply for BGTF awards from the school. We look forward to enabling many more students in financial need to experience a Bedales education in the future. 🌱

STAFF PROFILE

Clare Jarmy, Assistant Head (Learning & Development)

Clare Jarmy departs for a new challenge at Haberdashers' Elstree Schools (Habs) in April. In this wide-ranging conversation, she talks about her twin passions for music and philosophy, her views on modern education and what has made Bedales such an important part of her life for the past 15 years.

A few months before she takes up her appointment as Director of Innovation at Haberdashers' Elstree Schools, Clare Jarmy is musing on the reasons for her departure from Bedales after 15 years as a member of staff and explaining the educational philosophy she has formed along the way:

"The truth is that while I had no big plans to leave Bedales, it has been the opportunities I've had as a teacher here that have set me up to be able to do other things", she explains. "That includes a lot of writing for *TES*, speaking at conferences and general thought leadership about education policy. Politically, the recent trends in education have appeared to be narrower across the board (Bedales is an outstanding exception to the general rule), which has both dictated the spirit in which subjects regarded as core are taught and the treatment of subjects that are not held to belong in that category by politicians. Collaboration, communication and creativity are just three of what I regard as essential qualities in any good education that have been sorely lacking from policy considerations over the past few years."

Clare's own school education was largely shaped at Ardingly College in West Sussex, which she attended thanks to generous scholarships and bursary support. "At that relatively early stage in its co-educational journey, Ardingly was still, in many ways, a boys' school in its structures, that happened to have female pupils as well", she recalls. "For me, though, it was the right place. My mother, who was a nurse, and my father – a vicar – had brought me up to be

inquisitive, filled me with a love for music and instilled in me an aspiration to know and to learn new things. All these were cultivated at Ardingly. But despite this, it was in many ways totally foreign territory. Before I was awarded the scholarship, there was no thought in anyone's head that I would be privately educated. We just weren't in that world.

The favourable initial impression that Ardingly had created was reinforced for Clare by the standard of teaching that she encountered there. "Considering this was a time when Section 28 and other horrors were still around, I thought my teachers were pretty enlightened", she says. "Many teachers modelled real academic passion in a way I had not really encountered before, and for a curious child like me, the process of learning was pretty dialogic, with lots of time given over to my tangents", she recalls. "I remember very well asking my Chemistry teacher whether a proton in a carbon atom was the same as a proton in an atom of oxygen, fascinated as I was to think about whether there was a basic substance underlying everything."

"Lessons, in my opinion, should support such experiences for students and not every British school encourages a risk-taking attitude to teaching. At Bedales, it is positively encouraged, and this doesn't mean you can't have high aspirations to go with that. **Keith Budge (Head, 2001-18)**, for example, always saw that you *could* have an aspirational, innovative curriculum and great results side by side. One often leads to another and at Ardingly, I was

always most impressed by anyone who brought something of themselves to a lesson, rather than relying on a textbook. One of the brilliant teachers I remember was **Leo Winkley (staff, 2004-10)** who would later become Managing Head at Bedales. I was in his Year 9 class in 1999. In 2009, I was a newly qualified teacher in a school he was running. These oddities sometimes happen to teachers."

Ardingly led to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where Clare studied Philosophy. "The decision to study Philosophy happened as far back as an English lesson at Ardingly when we were studying *Macbeth*", she remembers. "All those conflicting themes of light and darkness led the wonderful Head of English, into a long diversion about Plato's cave. This opened up a new world to me, for which I shall be forever grateful. Philosophy and music became my twin loves at Cambridge – I took my degree in one and got a choral scholarship, which allowed me to pursue the other."

After some of the inspirational teaching that Clare had seen at Ardingly, Cambridge was at times harder going. "It could be tough at times, not least because for university researchers, teaching is so often not their primary focus or interest" she says. "One outstanding exception was Craig Bourne, who at that time was a Junior Research Fellow in my College, who really did go out of his way to help us. Graduating from Cambridge was and is something of which I'm in equal parts proud of, and surprised by, given I was from a family where no one had been to university, and bearing in mind that I had at Cambridge been diagnosed with relatively severe dyslexia and dyspraxia. This made the huge burden of reading a challenge, but has also



been a great gift as a teacher. I know what it is to struggle, and I know that without struggle there's no real progress. There is still something a bit different in the way I think and work and I'm quite comfortable with that. You have to own it and then you come to realise that these differences perhaps give you some abilities that others may not possess."

Deciding to follow a career in teaching after university was an evolutionary process for Clare. "At school, I'd always imagined that I would either be a singer or end up in academia", she reflects. "Professional singing seemed too uncertain, however, without a financial cushion to fall back on, and academia seemed out of reach, unless you were one of very few at that time to secure funding. At Cambridge, I had always enjoyed organising and running concert programmes, so I also thought about the possibility of a life in arts management. After graduation,

though, there was a fairly urgent need for me to get a job pretty quickly, so I started out at The Leys School in Cambridge, where I took on a fundraising role."

It was at her next post, as Alumni Officer at Robinson College, Cambridge that Clare truly understood where her future might ultimately lie. "So much of what I was doing there involved learning and education and I thought to myself that perhaps I was cut out to be a teacher", she says. "It wasn't surprising, when I thought about it; after all, my parents both had a strong sense of vocation in their professional lives. So, I applied for a place on the University of Cambridge's PGCE course, was accepted and never looked back."

It was always Clare's way once she began in the teaching profession to do her best to get under the skin of an educational institution. "My first posting as a trainee was to Linton Village College, where I tried to

discover as much as I could about the history, both of Linton itself and of the Village College Movement, whose crucial doctrine was of life-long learning for the whole community" she says. "This was a real treat for four months and included teaching a bit of critical thinking to an exceptionally bright class. Next it was off to The Bishop's Stortford High School and classes of up to 36 boys. I really enjoyed that, despite being told by someone in my class that I was, in their opinion, 'well posh!'"

Bedales first crossed Clare's radar a few months later. "I was still training when I saw the post advertised. I was drawn to Bedales by a combination of factors", she says. "One was that I had attended an Eton Choral Course, on which I had met **Richard Bannan (1996-2001)** who was building a career in music. I had also read about the Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs), which so clearly chimed with my own thoughts about so much of the

examinations system that existed in other schools. Then there was a more personal reason for me to be very interested in the school. I had met my husband Ian while I was up at Cambridge and one of his best friends there was an OB who, like me, happened to be dyspraxic. Any school that could do such a great job with its students, whatever wonderful neurodivergence they brought to the table, immediately appealed to me as one where I wanted to teach. So I went along to Bedales for an interview, met **Carmody Grey (1997-2002, staff, 2008-12)**, **Al McConville (2007-21)** and Keith Budge, and things just took off."

Clare joined Bedales initially as a Religious Studies and Philosophy teacher and within two years was appointed to head the department. Her youthful graduation to the school's hierarchy appeared to be almost seamless. "I suppose I would have been 25 when I was asked to be on the curriculum policy group, which was such fun. It was a privilege to work on policy with these doyennes of Bedales pedagogy and it got me thinking big picture about education very early on" Clare notes.

The leadership leitmotiv has continued across the year of Clare's involvement with Bedales. She added the roles of Head of Academic Enrichment and Oxbridge to her list of responsibilities in 2015 and five years later was appointed to the position of Assistant Head (Learning and Development). Encouraging students to stretch themselves has always been at the heart of Clare's mission: "I've always been demanding of and ambitious for our students", she acknowledges. "I want everyone to make the most of their potential."

As if all her strategic and academic roles at Bedales were not enough, Clare has also managed to find time to sing in the choir and chamber choir, run activities ranging from knitting to

patchwork quilting, 5 km running and cooking, lead the Debating Society and run the Jaw programme, on and off, for a decade. Which one of the many hats she wears has given her the greatest pleasure?

"At heart I'm still a teacher first and foremost and being in front of a class of students has always come first for me", she replies. "The nature of my work has sometimes forced me to think of the needs of the students of tomorrow just as much as I do of today's Bedalians but it is the interaction that is special. There is something irreverent about Bedales as an environment, an ability to speak truth to power which helps me guard against complacency in what I do. Respect for authority is only ever earned by what you achieve with your students and that contributes greatly to the grounded environment that we have at the school."

Across 15 years, it would be strange if a school hadn't changed in a number of ways, but Clare is adamant that the core ethos at Bedales has remained unaltered since she first set foot there.

"This is an agile institution and in such a place, change is unchanging", she says. "You wouldn't recognise some of the physical aspects of the school from 2009 but the heart of the place is very much as it was. In fact, my hope is that if anyone remembers me for anything specific at Bedales, it would be that I have worked to articulate and interpret our original ethos for students, for new staff, for parents. I don't have any worries on that score – everyone at Bedales understands what we aspire to there."

As time ticks down on her Bedales adventure, are there any regrets for Clare about her impending departure? "Oh, I'm going to miss it – how could I not?" she exclaims. "But I knew in my heart that the Assistant Headship would be my last job here. I'm ready for a different challenge, although there is one thing that does upset me in particular – our daughter Flora is now three and so she probably won't have any real memory of this place. That's such a shame because for Ian and me, Bedales holds a lifetime of the most wonderful memories." 🌟



In recent years, James Fairweather has interviewed OBs to find out about their time at Bedales and where life has taken them since. Here, we share a selection of extracts from his most recent interviews. To find out more about these OBs, their memories and achievements, you can read their full profiles on the Bedales website at bedales.org.uk/alumniprofiles

Julia Catton (1972-83)

A love of food and an entrepreneurial streak were in Julia Catton's blood from her early days. Here, she talks of how these were fostered at Bedales, along with the confidence to make the most of them. Julia goes on to recall her subsequent enormously successful career in the food manufacturing and retail industries, including her seminal role in the creation of one of the most successful confectionery concepts of recent years – Percy Pigs!



Seven years old when she began at Dunhurst, Julia adjusted reasonably smoothly to an unfamiliar environment. "I didn't have much to compare it with and I enjoyed it", she recalls. "There were some cliques, of course, as there always are at any school, but I made my friends and always looked forward to the start of each school day. Craft was my thing – I wasn't great at drawing – and there was such an enormous range of crafts to try. Weaving in the barn, with its amazingly evocative smells of wood and wool, was one and I also enjoyed enamel work and pottery. Later on at Bedales, I got involved with the Sotherington Barn and a bit of wattle and daubing. There was a very environmental streak at the school and I do remember a big campaign back in the 1970s against the plan to build a bypass through, or very close to, school grounds."

Food was a particular preoccupation of Julia's throughout her school years, a love that went hand in hand with a nascent streak of entrepreneurialism. "My foodie thing goes back to Mum being a great cook who would always give me something new to try", she says.

"... At Bedales in general, the food was pretty good – there was even a vegetarian option which was a bit

ahead of its time, as well as the odd cooking activity" Julia continues. "And then there was the café, which I think was called the Blue Print or something like that, just off the Quad. There was a great pottery teacher at Bedales called **Felicity Aylieff (1971-72, staff, 1978-81)**, whose mother used to run the café and I would help out there from time to time. It was in effect a tuck shop with a difference; Felicity's mum would bring in a bunch of delicious homemade rolls and we would turn them into really tasty sandwiches. All this commercial activity must have inspired me because my friend Serena and I would later go into town and buy ingredients for peppermint creams and fudge, which we would make and then sell to our mates. I even did an English Language project on *nouvelle cuisine*, much to the disappointment of **John Batstone (staff, 1968-93)** who clearly felt that as a topic it was a complete waste of time."

"The diversity of our education was something well out of the ordinary and has helped me enormously to this day", she says. "More than anything, we were taught to believe in ourselves to feel confident in our ability to do most things and it was mainly for that reason that I later sent my own children to the school. Bedales sets

you up brilliantly for future life and I left as a reasonably mature, only slightly naïve young adult. I wasn't bursting at the seams for the next adventure but I was definitely ready for what came next."

Julia took a year out, travelled around India and continued to work, a habit with which she had long been entirely comfortable. The habit persisted during her university life at London Metropolitan University, where she studied Economics. "I enjoyed the course and I also had a good time while I was a student working for a Culpeper three days a week, which was a sort herbalist that sold food and beauty products" she relates. "The owner was a serial entrepreneur and it was he who got me involved in the buying side of business."

It was with this invaluable experience under her belt that Julia answered a job advertisement for the role of a food selector at Marks and Spencer. "This was a brilliant opportunity, a role that took in all aspects of business", she says. "I would be starting off in confectionery but

later getting into everything from horticulture to deli food and wine and I was able to learn on the job about what really mattered to a business – market trends, consumer habits, packaging, presentation, great taste and so on.”

It was on the confectionery side of the M&S empire that Julia made a spectacular name for herself that continues to resonate across her industry. “We’d been working with a German food manufacturer to try and come up with something different that we could bring to market”, she recalls. “British sweet manufacturers at the time were very traditional, quite staid and rather boring by comparison. The Germans were different – they used better tech and had bigger ranges with more flavours – but we had got to the stage where something needed to happen and we thought we would have a final crack at it.”

“The supplier had one sweet that was basically a soft white panda with a taste that had faint liquorice notes”, Julia continues. “That looked interesting to me and I then drew a picture of a pig on a bit of paper that I thought might

work as a concept. The idea was to create a confectionery *character*, rather than a pig *per se*, and we then spent a while trying various alliterative names for this character before settling on Percy Pig. Creating some nice, bright packaging for the sweet was the next step and we were then able to launch the new product. It was obviously a great success and spawned any number of spin-offs, helped hugely by the fact that M&S really got behind it as a representative brand for the company.”

After 10 years, Julia moved on to become Innovation Director with Kinnerton Confectionery. It was far from the end of her relationship with M&S, however. “At Kinnerton, I worked on a number of projects with M&S, which suited me perfectly”, she says. “To some extent I shall always have M&S running through my veins. I learned so much there – the need to be restless and never complacent, as well as the understanding that you’re only ever as good as your last product range. You have to be so fleet of foot and nimble in this industry – it’s a place where trends change so fast.”

These days, Julia works as

a consultant (see her website, deliciouscreations.co.uk) to a variety of businesses, helping them to translate their ideas into reality. “My consultancy work encompasses so many different things, from practicalities to technically complex manufacturing and brand advice”, she explains. “I suppose that if I have one professional ambition left it would be to have my own brand at some point. There are a few ideas that I haven’t yet followed up but it would be fun to have something of my own to work on, rather than someone else’s.”

Julia’s career is also her passion and it is one with the deepest possible roots. “My father was always a businessman who wanted to create and manufacture products and in that sense, he was my role model”, she says. “I always cared about that and now I’m older I find that UK manufacturing as a whole is something that matters very much to me. I cared deeply about different things as a Bedales student too and I would hope that my 17-year-old self would have been pleased with the way life has turned out for me.” 🌟

Hal Currey (1978-83)

Hal Currey’s distinguished career as an architect is one thing for which he doesn’t have Bedales to thank, having been told by a careers adviser at school that such a possibility would be remote without the right Maths or Physics qualifications. In most other areas, though, Hal retains his affection for Bedales in a way that is especially evident in his enduringly strong friendships with many of his contemporaries. Of some of his professional achievements, Hal observes: “If something seemed like a good idea, we ran with it, which is probably quite a Bedalian habit.”

“People sometimes think of Bedales as a *laissez-faire* institution, but I reckon that St Christopher’s, Letchworth was in a different league in that respect”, Hal Currey reflects. “That was a school where the staff really did leave us to our own devices a lot of the time and the consequences were often all too predictable! Eventually my parents took the view that I was drifting too

much and began the hunt for a more suitable alternative.”

The subsequent educational tour included its share of traditional public schools. “I can’t say that they appealed much to me”, Hal observes. “I couldn’t understand Latin or rugby, nor was I especially interested in them.” There was, however, a more attractive possibility, one to which Hal’s family

had tangential connections. “It seems that both **Patrick Nobes (Head, 1974-81)** and **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** had at one stage in their careers taught in Hertfordshire and I’m fairly sure that my parents therefore knew them slightly”, he explains. “That was how Bedales came into the picture; I went down for the two-day entrance process and started

there the following autumn.”

Although he admits to being “slightly badly behaved” at various points in his Bedalian mid-teens, Hal’s indiscretions, such as they were, did not prevent him from getting involved in aspects of school life that particularly interested him. “Drama was my thing and various plays were often a part of my life”, he recalls. “*The Real Inspector Hound* was one, I remember, and later on, I produced something together with my friends **Kate Summerscale (1978-83)** and **Andrew Ide (1981-83)**.”

Among Bedales staff, **Martin Box (staff, 1970-2008)** took pride of place as an influence on the course of Hal’s life. “I’d never thought of design as an interest before Bedales, even though our family home had been the result of a big conversion project”, he says. “Martin, who was the design brain that complemented **David Butcher (staff, 1963-92)**, the master craftsman, was always energetic and aware at the same time as being a calm and supportive presence.” English and Geography, along with Design, were Hal’s chosen A Level subjects. “**John Batstone (staff, 1968-93)**, although slightly terrifying at times, was someone from whom I learned so much”, he says. “It was because of him and **Graham Banks (staff, 1980-2013)** that I went from ‘fairly hopeless’ to ‘not that bad’ at English, which was no mean feat on their part! Geography was a bit less successful. We were taught by **Bert Perry (staff, 1974-84)** and whatever his qualities as a Geography teacher, he turned out to be much less efficient as a careers adviser, which was also within his remit at school.”

“Part of my design course had involved an architectural project at Portsmouth Cathedral with a couple of other friends, **Julia Chance (1976-83)** and **Victoria Pike (1976-83)**”, Hal continues. “I was therefore now aware of architecture as a potential career



and mentioned this to Bert Perry, only to be told that I couldn’t even think about it because I wasn’t studying Maths or Physics.”

Initially, Hal secured a place at Manchester Design School to pursue a course that he did not much enjoy. “Leaving Bedales had come as a bit of a shock – I wasn’t exactly concerned about the future but I did feel a little rudderless for a while”, he acknowledges. “I spent most of my time at Manchester in the library, where I discovered that as I half suspected at the time, Bert Perry had been completely wrong about architecture. I could pursue it, with or without Maths, Physics or Art; my existing qualifications were good enough.”

Hal headed to what was then known as the Polytechnic of Central London to take his architecture degree, following up with a postgraduate diploma at UCL. “In between the degree and the diploma, I took a year out, during which I got a bit of work experience with an architectural practice run by **Matthew Priestman (1971-76)**”, he explains. “It would also have been around this period that I went out to Singapore and Hong Kong, which is where I first saw the extraordinary HSBC building.

That was a significant moment for me. Looking at this remarkable cathedral opened my eyes, maybe for the first time, to the possibilities of architecture.”

Duly inspired, Hal began his ‘career proper’ with the Richard Rogers Partnership. “We were all given a great deal of early responsibility there, made plenty of mistakes and later learned from them”, he says. “We worked hard and played hard in what was a massively productive phase of my life and I realised that it wasn’t totally necessary to have vast experience in order to do a good job.”

With friends and colleagues, Hal formed ACQ Architects in 2000, an enterprise that acquired two more partners a couple of years later and subsequently became FLACQ. “That was a slightly risky move, not least because there wasn’t a lot of business acumen between us at the time”, he reflects. “It was born out of youthful naivety but it went pretty well. If something seemed like a good idea, we ran with it, which is probably quite a Bedalian habit.”

In 2010, FLACQ was merged into the much larger Arup Associates, where Hal became a director: “Arup’s

a great engineering consultancy, one committed to making the world a better place and I knew the characters there pretty well. The problem for me turned out to be one of scale. We were so much smaller than Arup and after the merger, I found myself doing far too much management and not nearly enough project work, which is why I decided to go back to doing my own thing.”

Together with a few colleagues of long standing, Hal founded the appropriately named HAL Architects

(halarchitects.co.uk) in 2015. “Management isn’t such a necessity now”, he says reassuringly. “I’ve worked with many of the people here for 20-odd years and there is only a total of eight of us in any case. The idea is still to get stuck into an interesting mixture of small and large projects, mainly national in scope, although we have recently been working on developments in Athens and County Cork.”

Hal’s connections with his old school are kept in good repair through a

rock-solid network of OB friendships. “I made friends for life there”, he agrees. “Julia Chance, Victoria Pike and I are godparents to each other’s children and there are plenty of others to whom I remain very close – people like **John Ridding (1976-83)** and Kate Summerscale. Looking back, my Bedalian alter ego would have been pleased but amazed that I’ve made a career out of architecture when I was no good at Maths! On balance, the ‘me’ of today is quietly pleased that I’m still around as well...” 🌟

Emma Cusworth (1992-97)

At heart still a child of the African continent on which she grew up, Emma Cusworth’s professional life has been marked by hard work and passion for her subject. An expert on sustainable finance, she talks of how Bedales may have influenced her in that direction, her sometimes uneasy relationship with the School as a student and why today she often returns to Bedales to encourage the leaders of tomorrow.

“Africa always was and, in many ways, still is my baseline”, Emma Cusworth declares. “My father, who had a great sense of adventure and a romantic view of Africa, worked in large-scale infrastructure and I grew up in Tanzania, where I went to the international school. From a child’s point of view, it was a heavenly place to grow up.”

Emma’s childhood African paradise was abruptly terminated by educational necessity. “My brother and I were at the international school and it became apparent that an English boarding school would be required for the pair of us”, she explains. “Our grandparents lived in Liss in those days, which I think is how Bedales became the obvious place for us to go. For me, Africa was home and England was somewhere foreign and therefore exciting. Hampshire woodlands were (and still are) special, exotic places.”

At Bedales, however, Emma had difficulty in adjusting to her new

environment. “It was a huge culture shock, especially the business of moving from a continent where there is so much poverty to a place of such deep privilege”, she says. “I knew well enough that we sat at the apex of the system and at times I found a sense of entitlement at school that was difficult for me to handle. I wasn’t particularly popular, apart from with my like-minded international gang of friends, and didn’t really care about that.”

Another difficulty for Emma was the fact that she was neurodivergent. “So much teaching is process-driven and my mind works in a completely different direction”, she explains. “One person who seemed to understand that in me and became my great influence at Bedales was **John Scullion (staff, 1989-2015)**, my Economics teacher. He also had a wonderful, very visual sense of humour – I vividly remember him putting golf balls across the classroom to explain



something. I needed to be pushed and John was good at that. My brother was very different and had an absolute riot at Bedales.”

“Outdoor Work was a great love of mine while I was at Bedales – **David Strutt (staff, 1986-2005)** actually helped to change my life, although I didn’t necessarily know it at the time”, Emma continues. “I did a lot of tree planting and I shall always remember the smell of the turpentine that we used to keep wooden posts from rotting. Aside from that, I did a bit of art, not much in the way of acting and enjoyed my walks on the Downs. On the academic side, I did my A Levels in Economics, Maths and German

without ever having much of an idea what might lie ahead as far as a career was concerned.”

Although it had not always been smooth sailing for her, Emma did not leave Bedales without certain happy memories. “In the first place, my time at the school reinforced my feeling that I was naturally anti-authoritarian and wanted to be responsible for my own outcomes”, she says. “I missed a few different things – the sand quarry, John Scullion, the wonderful scent of the Library and the freedom to be able to walk around the grounds and into town.”

Emma’s further education took place at what was then known as UMIST (now a part of the University of Manchester), where she studied commerce. “It was a very broad course, covering elements such as marketing, communications, finance and corporate finance, and it was extremely enjoyable”, she says. “This was my choice, no one else’s, and I enjoyed it all the more because of that fact. At university I gained both a better understanding of myself and of the significance of economics and by the time I finished there I knew that I wanted to work in the Square Mile of the City of London.”

Beginning as an executive at Brunswick as the new millennium got underway, Emma subsequently

worked increasingly on the strategic communications, marketing and PR side of commerce with organisations including Fishburn Hedges, Penrose and Barings. “In many ways communications suited me temperamentally, particularly the business of telling stories as a means of persuading or influencing other people in the finance sector”, she says.

From 2008 and for most of the next decade, Emma became a freelance financial journalist, with a focus on institutional asset management and pensions and a particular interest in what are now known as Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) issues. “Sustainability as a concept made complete sense to me very early”, she says. “Getting involved in it was my long-term career trajectory. We always needed to translate sustainability into the language of economics; if we failed to do so, we risked allowing every traditional method of making money to fail – and fail catastrophically.”

Tempted back to the commercial front line by Lombard Odier Investment Managers, Emma’s work on the strategic side involved a deepening focus on sustainable investment and stewardship. Her move to the Green Finance Institute as Director of Corporate Affairs was

a natural extension of her passion for, and expertise in, sustainability, which today is deployed as Vice President for Communications and Marketing with Everland.

Everland represents the world’s largest portfolio of high-impact, forest conservation (REDD+) projects that protect wildlife and enhance the wellbeing of forest communities.

Perhaps surprisingly, the Old Bedalian who did not always see eye to eye with the school as a student is now a frequent visitor, giving talks and preaching the gospel of carbon-offsetting and sustainability in its widest sense. “Yes, I go back a lot and there is a very good reason for that”, says Emma. “Bedales has so many people with so much potential to do things that really matter. Bedales itself matters as an institution because it can turn out independent, free-minded thinkers. I recognise that, I value that and I can’t help the fact that there are elements of my own personality that are very Bedales. There is a sort of kinship between Bedalians, past and present, and when I talk to the students of today I want them to understand two things especially. They are the privileged leaders of the future is the first one and the second is that wasted privilege is a disgrace and a disaster. Do something that matters. That’s my message now.” 🌱

John Ridding (1976-83)

After 35 years with the *Financial Times*, the second half of that period as CEO, John Ridding has become almost as much an institution of British journalism as the venerable newspaper he has served since 1988. Here, John talks of the life at Bedales and the University of Oxford that preceded his career as well as some of the professional achievements that have studded that career at home and abroad.

The Class of 1983 at Bedales contained some notably high achievers – retail gurus, best-selling authors, renowned architects and leading figures from the cultural arena have all made a public

mark since leaving the school 40 years ago. John Ridding, however, another to have scaled the heights of his chosen profession as CEO of the *Financial Times*, plays down the idea of an

especially golden generation: “I always thought that most years at Bedales had their share of interesting people”, he demurs. “Ours was certainly one but I wouldn’t necessarily single it out.”

John's path to Steep began in Kettering, Northamptonshire, where his father worked in insurance. "Early childhood didn't feature anything too dramatic for me until Dad got a job out in Malaysia", he relates. "That meant boarding school and my parents were keen that my sister **Helen (1976-81)** and I should go to the same place at the same time. In the 1970s, there weren't too many viable co-ed options so Bedales was an obvious choice."

Between his initial visit to Bedales and his first term as a boarder a few months later, John had managed to ruin the immediate prospect of success at his great sporting passion – football. "I broke two of my fingers just before I got there and, almost immediately after I arrived, I promptly crushed two more fingertips in a jack in the cycle shed, which made for a bumpy beginning – especially when you throw in a bit of natural homesickness as well", he says. "Football really was my great love and I wasn't a bad player, which was fine at Bedales as long as you didn't give the impression of trying too hard to be good. There were some really talented sportsmen at the school – **Harry Langford (1977-82)** in the year above was one – and we ended up having a pretty good run. Beating Winchester – away – was a highlight and possibly

their worst sporting nightmare come true – to lose to Bedales."

Friendships that have stood the test of time were forged from John's early days at Bedales. "Just about the first person I encountered at school was the improbably named **Wycliffe Stutchbury (1976-83)** and he remains someone of whom I see a lot today", he reflects. "The same applies to **Kate Summerscale (1978-83)**, (whose brilliant books I spell-check), **Hal Currey (1979-83)** and others... they were always a wonderfully varied bunch at school with quite an original view of life."

"Bedales was a school that gave its students a lot of freedom and it was therefore their responsibility to find their own way to make the most of the many opportunities around them", John continues. "This was especially true in the classroom, where teaching tended to be focused on learning rather more than passing exams; if you wanted to coast, you could, but motivation had to come from within. In my opinion, that's a great strength and in my own case, it definitely landed well with the career in journalism that I subsequently followed, where you have to be able to sort yourself out to some degree."

History, Physics and Maths were

John's unusually broad set of A Level choices. "Bedales was pretty relaxed about our options and it felt good not to have to pigeonhole myself as either an Arts or a Science specialist", he recalls. "**Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)**, the Head of History, was one of the biggest influences on me – she went way beyond mere learning and taught with a passion that she wanted to see in her students. When I did seventh term Oxbridge, **Graham Banks (staff, 1980-2013)** was another important figure, brilliant at getting you to think in a different way."

PPE at Oxford would be John's destiny after Bedales, although at this stage he had no concrete ideas about potential future careers. On graduating, John took a job with Oxford Analytica, a decision that would largely shape his professional life. "My role was terrific training for journalism", he says. "Working on the Asia-Pacific desk, the remit was to create a series of 800-word articles from interviews with a number of leading academics that would serve as an informed conduit between these great minds and the world of business."

A colleague of John's from Oxford Analytica subsequently moved to the *Financial Times*, from where he regularly waxed lyrical on the newspaper. "I was sufficiently inspired to write a long essay to the *FT* about why they should take me on", John remembers. "The reply was a lot more concise – "Dear John, you had better come and see us". Somehow, I convinced them and I started in a lowly role on the world desk in 1988, taking wire stories to editors to check we were onto them."

It did not take long for John to make his mark. "Quite early on I was asked whether I fancied becoming the paper's South Korea correspondent and despite arriving in a brutally cold winter with a daily diet of demonstrations and tear gas I found that I absolutely loved it", he says.



"I think it suited my temperament because the job needed a self-starter's mentality and there was such a broad range to write about – politics, economics, arts and the ever-present threat of North Korea."

By 2003, John had risen to become editor and publisher of the *Financial Times* in Asia, as well as chairman of Pearson (the *FT*'s parent company) in Asia. It was now that he led the launch of the *FT*'s Asia edition in 2003 and the development of its Chinese language website, which has more than two million users and is the leading international source of business news in China.

"When I landed in Hong Kong to get the Asia edition started, the prospects for success looked dim", John reflects. "This was the time of the SARS epidemic, the streets were empty, hotel occupancy was down to 4% and the city looked as if it were dying. We all owed so much to

Marjorie Scardino, the dynamic Texan CEO of Pearson at the time, who refused to let a virus stand in our way and encouraged us to keep the show on the road."

The time eventually arrived for John to put aside his reporter's notepad and electronic paraphernalia and focus on the strategic and business aspects of running a newspaper.

"Once again, Marjorie Scardino was a great supporter in the next stage of my career at the *FT*", John relates. "I was at a point when I wanted to write features, rather than hard news, and business strategy was also becoming a particular interest of mine. The best job to have in that context was and is CEO and when that position became vacant in 2006, I put my hand up and got the job."

"The *FT* is one of those places where people just love their work, largely, I think because of the sense of teamwork that goes with it. A news

organisation is sometimes viewed from the outside as an institution for lone wolves but here there still exists that wonderful combination of the essential individual spirit and the collective 'work of each for weal of all' culture that was at the heart of Bedales life and is also incredibly important to the *FT*."

It has been a long, successful and thoroughly satisfying career, one that is nowhere near finished yet, but John is adamant that it has happened by chance, rather than design. "My life has largely been the result of accidental collisions and serendipity, going back as far as my time at Bedales", he says. "When I look back to those school days, which I do very fondly, I used to think that I wasn't that bad a student. Recently, though, I was looking through some of my old school reports and now I'm not so sure! Whatever, it was still a hugely important place for me." 🌟

Katrina Rivers (1980-85)

Writer, researcher, occasional model, and mentor by turns, Katrina Rivers has experienced a life full of variety. In this profile, she looks back on her time at Bedales as a truly formative one, helping prompt her exploration of insecurity, integrity, and what it means to belong. In turn, Katrina is intent on initiating conversations with young people that address the extraordinary demands of growing up in the modern era.

While she was still a student at Kensington High School, Katrina Rivers notes the beginnings of what she thinks of as her first loves. "There was this annual reading competition. Entrants had to read something prepared, and something blind", she says. "It was also at Ken High where, in Mrs Wall's classroom, I wrote my first story. Both experiences were terrifying, and compelling, and in their own way both transported me."

When the time came to move on from Kensington High, a new and tantalising prospect was already beckoning on the horizon. "My father

and John Charlton were old friends, and the Charlton family had a long-standing relationship with Bedales. Before I was born, Dad and John bought houses in Chelsea a door away from each other and our families were pretty woven together. I was especially close to **Anna Charlton (1978-85)**, John and Susan's eldest daughter. When she went off to Block I, it opened up the idea that I might go to Bedales as well."

Katrina took her allotted place just as the 80s were getting underway. "It felt imposing, and unique, and I so wanted to belong to the school and

for it to belong to me. There was the Orchard, and the Library, and this feeling of being in the company of people who were extraordinary, and yet I had a prevailing sense that everything I wished for was out of my league. So often there's this disparity between how people seem to be, and how they actually feel. I don't think I felt like I belonged there until it was time to leave."

In her mind, memories of Bedales are like scenes in a flip book; **John Rogers (staff, 1975-86)** teaching how to prune the apple trees; making toast with loads of butter on flat on Sunday



nights; **Daniel Day Lewis (1970-75)**'s snakeskin boots when he came back for Le Mans; **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)** forcefully striding to class, her arms stacked with files; full library immersions; the shambles of a DJ set with Anna, **Mira Mina (1976-85)**, and **Saskia Whitfield (1984-85)** at an end of term dance; long afternoons pulling gold wire in the jewellery room; last-minute scrambles to find clothes to borrow for the next day; swooning over **Graham Banks (staff, 1980-2013)**; Jessie's presence of mind when she couldn't reach her mother on the phone; **John Batstone (staff, 1968-93)**'s rage when she was late for a Sunday play rehearsal; his compassion when she had to go to London because her mother was unwell.

Recalling these moments, Katrina reflects on what strikes her about them now.

"Ruth and John Batstone both had this unparalleled presence. To me, they were thoughtful, energetic, never pat, and utterly committed, and they were both merciless and unrelenting in their expectations. What a thing to have been held to such a standard.

The time I was late for rehearsal, John was furious. And rightly so. It was upsetting, but it was a real lesson in how I chose to show up, and I am so grateful he taught me how much that mattered."

After A Levels, Katrina returned to Bedales for seventh term Oxbridge and secured a place at Newnham College, Cambridge to study English. "Leaving was bittersweet. It was exciting to know that I was going to Cambridge, but there was this huge part of me that couldn't bear to leave what I'd finally come to think of and experience as my world."

Newnham, as it turned out, would not be without its compensations for Katrina. "It was quite something being at Cambridge", she says. "The feeling of being somewhere steeped in thought and history. I'd constantly marvel at how I was walking the same streets Milton and Marlowe once walked as well. I loved having my own room, its huge bay windows directly on the gardens, and I was 'well met' by people who became close friends, including Anna Charlton who went to Pembroke at the same time. **Jean**

Gooder (1946-52, Governor, 1977-84) was my director of studies. She was, and remains, a fiercely potent inspiration and ally."

When asked if she always knew she would write, Katrina explained that back then it was acting that drove her. "Having acted so much at Bedales and having loved it, I went to my first audition at Cambridge in the first week or so. I read and was then asked what showed I wasn't yet another over-privileged product of the public school system. I spoke of my mum's near suicide, broke down amidst an awkward silence, and never auditioned again."

The emotion in Katrina's voice is palpable. "To answer your question. No. I don't couch what happened in terms of my passion being ripped from me. I didn't have to stop acting. No one held a gun to my head. I made that choice to shut down this thing I loved, though I know it wasn't a conscious one. If I can glean anything from that experience, it's the recognition that it might have been helpful to have someone I knew I could have talked to. Someone who might have suggested I get back up, note the lesson, and grow deeper roots."

Shortly after leaving Cambridge, Katrina headed to America, her mother's native land. After a stint working in a coffee house and as a cocktail waitress in New Orleans, she went to San Francisco and began her professional life in the film industry. "I got a job in the low budget division of Francis Ford Coppola's company Zoetrope, and eventually came to work on his *Bram Stoker's Dracula*. It's what initially took me to LA. I was mostly a production assistant, and also assisted Francis's researcher. This was way before the internet and I'd be writing to the British Library for information about what a shipping import stamp looked like in the late 1800s. After that I worked as a freelance researcher, and then wrote treatments for directors of commercials."

Still writing in LA when the new millennium rolled around, Katrina helped found the Garden Nursery School, and then had a three-year stint near the Shawangunk Mountains in upstate New York. Upon returning to Los Angeles, her focus was drawn to matters to do with the human spirit and heart. Witnessing her three children and their friends trying to make sense of the world in an all too familiar haze of self-doubt initiated a deep and long-term engagement

with the younger generation that has continued to the present day. She has recently finished her YA novel, *Stella Sky*, and continues to work on her non-fiction project, *All Manner of Things: perspectives for young people on Sex, Relationship, Self, & Life* (allmannerofthings.org). "While they're very different, both come from the same foundation; to invite young people to consider who they are, what they want, and how to stay true to that."

"Looking back, I can see how

influential Bedales has been in shaping the path I've been on. It allowed me to be curious, and showed me the importance of being able to speak to anyone. Not everything there was perfect, but without imperfections how would any of us grow?" Katrina gives the impression of one who is at ease in her own skin these days. What does she imagine her teenage self would make of her now? "I think", comes her careful reply. "I think we would have fun hanging out." 🌱

Emma Sueref (2002-12)

As infant, child and adult, Emma Sueref spent longer being educated at Bedales than almost any other OB. Here, Emma describes life as the daughter of an esteemed school Geography teacher, her early passion for volunteering work and sustainability and how she has translated her gifts into a leadership role in sustainability within the construction and real estate industries.

There are Old Bedalians who spent their Sixth Form years at the school. There are long-term OBs, whose years at Bedales reach back to Dunhurst or even Dunannie days, and then there is Emma Sueref, who may well have a claim to be the longest-serving Bedales student of them all. Emma was at the Hive Nursey from the age of six months and then stayed with the school until after her A Levels, never more than a short walk away from her daily routine!

Emma is the daughter of **Jackie Sueref (staff, 1988-21)**, who for over 30 years was Geography teacher at the school, taking on extra roles during her career. "I knew that I was in a privileged position and able to enjoy school life as a result. That was a feeling I tried to carry with me throughout my school days, even though I probably never quite appreciated the beauty of our surroundings as much as I should have."

In most other respects, however, Emma was an enthusiastic participant in the life of the school. "Playing the

flute as part of the orchestra was a big thing for me", she recalls. "Then there were Dance lessons and under the direction of the inspirational Simon Kingsley-Pallant, I also loved Drama in my younger years."

One of life's academic all-rounders, Emma's GCSEs covered almost everything from Art to her main interests of Geography and Science. One subject, Maths, had always been a stumbling block and it was here that Emma had particular cause to thank the unswerving dedication of one of her teachers. "Without **Jane Webster (staff, 1998-2013)**, I would never have got anywhere near a GCSE in Maths", she says. "I had never been good with numbers but Jane spent so much time working with me that amazingly enough, I managed to get a B. When I saw that grade, I practically burst into tears of happiness!"

The other great teaching influence on Emma was, naturally enough, her mother. "My A Levels were quite a mixture – Geography, History, Biology



and Philosophy", she says. "Mum taught me for some of my Sixth Form and there was never any problem with that – she was still just 'Mum' to me in the classroom and was as wonderful there as in the rest of life. We had always been close; I was really proud of her achievements and therefore delighted to be known around Bedales as 'mini-Sueref'!"

Comparatively quickly, Emma had formed the ambition to make a career in the environment and sustainability field. Much talked about but still far from widely practised in the commercial world, these disciplines would form the basis of Emma's university studies at the University of Plymouth. Leaving Bedales, her

comfort zone for so long, however, was the cause of mixed emotions, as Emma admits:

“I wanted a new challenge and I was looking forward to it but at the same time, I felt anxious, having spent so long in the ‘Bedales bubble’. Leaving school was a celebratory experience in the end – drinking in the Orchard with friends – and then it was off to Plymouth, which was definitely a culture shock at the beginning.”

Any sense of displacement did not last too long and Emma was soon throwing herself wholeheartedly into her new environment. “Getting stuck into everything is in my nature but I was particularly motivated on the academic side”, she explains. “My undergraduate degree in Environmental Science was very theoretical but I still managed to get a First Class Honours degree and secure a scholarship to stay on and complete a master’s in Environment Consultancy. That suited me perfectly; I’d met my partner, I loved living in Devon and didn’t want to leave and

years later, I still don’t!”

Emma’s contribution began within Shield Services in the construction industry before she truly hit her professional stride at Vistry Group. In just over five years, she moved through the ranks swiftly, establishing a reputation for leadership as Graduate Development Manager, Land and New Business Manager and finally Group Sustainability and New Business Manager.

“My final position at Vistry allowed me to be a real catalyst for change”, Emma reflects. “It also led to me securing my current position at Coreus Group as Director of Sustainability and Growth. Being a good leader, I have always felt, is about empathy. Mum, once again, was a key influence on my thinking here.”

In addition to her day job, Emma is contributing her efforts to the sustainability cause at Exeter Community Energy (ECO), where she serves as Director of EDI, Retrofit and Healthy Homes for Wellbeing. “It’s good to be part

of a real local initiative”, she says.

Emma is also a south west regional board member at RICS, the national organisation that promotes and enforces the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. In addition, she was recently shortlisted for the RICS Ambassador of the Year Award and is heavily involved in mentoring projects both nationally with Brightside and locally with STEM and local careers hubs, supporting the younger generation to explore careers in both construction and sustainability.

There is a very Bedalian determination in Emma’s approach to her work, which also happens to be her passion. “The skills I learned from an early age at Bedales are largely the ones that I’ve put to good use as an adult”, she says. “My character means that I strive to explore and to achieve as many different things as possible but that nature was also fostered by Bedales and I remain very grateful for that.” 🌱

Catriona Ward (1996-98)

A child with a voracious appetite for reading and a fertile imagination, Catriona Ward is today regarded as one of the leading exponents of that literary genre where Gothic meets thriller. Here, she traces her chaotic early education experiences, her discovery of the joy of learning at Bedales and how writing won out over acting as her artistic and professional choice.

“Education wasn’t a consistent concept to me when I was young”, Catriona says with remarkable understatement. The daughter of English parents, her father’s job as an economist with the World Bank meant that Catriona was born in Washington DC and subsequently spent most of her formative years being shuttled around far-flung corners of the globe. Kenya, Madagascar (“I remember a school there with about five other children”), Yemen and Morocco were among the

early ports of call in Catriona’s life.

Her early education also included an unhappy year-long sojourn at a boarding school in Kent. “I was about 12, it was all wrong for me”, Catriona says. “Here I was, essentially a feral kid out of Madagascar at a place that was way too formal and too rigid for me and I was miserable. So I bounced around from system to system, including back in DC, and managed to miss out on GCSEs more or less completely. The great joy to me

was that along the way I discovered that I was good at English, like my English teacher mother before me, and reading became the centre of my universe.”

Playing into Catriona’s facility with language was a highly developed imagination, most starkly manifested in a recurring night terror in which she was convinced that she could feel a hand in the small of her back that was pushing her out of bed. “I would have been 13 back then and it’s a feeling



that everyone has at that kind of age or at least everyone has emotional access to that kind of fear of the dark”, she observes.

Such an imaginative youngster would have seemed to be an obvious candidate for Bedales, which is where Catriona finally arrived in 1996. “My parents were in Yemen by then and boarding at Bedales seemed the best compromise to them for the next step in my education”, she recalls. “I was nervous about boarding school, remembering my antipathy towards the traditional experience, and when I arrived for the Sixth Form there were obviously already a lot of friendship groups in existence. I made a lot of really good and different friendships, as opposed to being part of a clique – Bedales had a lot of people who like me were stubborn and bloody-minded! I always think that there is a commonality of experience, almost a type of radar through which an OB can tell the presence of another Old Bedalian.”

Settling into the English countryside was relatively easily accomplished. “A lot of my time was spent outside

in the countryside or when I was indoors, the Library and the Theatre”, Catriona relates. “Becoming an actor was very much in my thoughts at the time and I enjoyed taking part in various performances at Bedales – *Cabaret* is one that springs to mind.”

On the academic side, Catriona took A Levels in English, History and Theatre Studies, particularly and unsurprisingly excelling in English. “Calling teachers by their first names was one of the many ways in which I felt relaxed enough to give of my best”, she says. “We were gently guided but at the same time I felt that I had never been so well taught anywhere. **Graham Banks (staff, 1980-2013)** was a particular influence; I remember him being so encouraging about an early short story of mine and I also recall with gratitude the kindness of people like **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)**. I didn’t do so well at History, unfortunately. **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)** was amazing but I think looking back that I didn’t have a long enough run-up to the subject.”

Such was Catriona’s ability that she won a place to read English at

St Edmund Hall, Oxford, before which she spent her gap year doing a foundation course in Drama. “I felt ready to move on from Bedales and I was excited to start the next stage and to form a life of my own”, she says. “Bedales had prepared me really well for university, the autonomy that was new to some of my peers and being surrounded by so many people from different backgrounds. Academic institutions appeal to me in many ways – to me there is at least an illusion of meritocracy in that if you work hard you will generally do well.”

It was after Oxford that Catriona realised her dreams of treading the boards or appearing on the silver screen were unlikely to be turned into reality... “I had grown hugely at Bedales as a person – it was where I learned to think and certainly where I learned to structure an essay and it was there that I first developed true love for my subject. That can be a double-edged sword for a writer. My reverence for the canon of literature made me simultaneously unsure whether I would ever be able to contribute something worthwhile to it.”

While she went to work for a human rights foundation in London (“in some ways a synthesis of most of my early experiences”), Catriona also laboured fitfully on what would become a sprawling Gothic novel and her first published work. All told, *Rawblood* was seven years in the making, part of which took place while Catriona was taking a master’s in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia (UEA). “I needed a catalyst and that course forced me to marry the critical academic side with my creative impulses”, she explains. “One thing I learned about books at UEA is that they often don’t make sense until you’re almost at the point of finishing them!”

Rawblood, the product of Catriona’s kaleidoscope of literary influences from the Gothic genre, including Henry James, Stanley Jackson and

Wilkie Collins, finally appeared in 2015 and was followed into publication by the award-winning *Little Eve*. However, it was her third novel, *The Last House on Needless Street*, published in 2021, that truly lifted Catriona into the ranks of the literary great and good. Critical interest and appreciation were immediately widespread for this anarchic thriller and the film

rights for the book have subsequently been optioned by Antiquarium, the production company brainchild of the actor Andy Serkis.

In tracing her path to her current place in the literary sun, Catriona returns frequently to her Bedales years. “Bedales provided me with an imaginative space which could cope with my patchwork education and

taught me to appreciate learning”, she says. “My life would have unfolded very differently if I hadn’t been there, that’s for sure. Above all it gave me the freedom to discover what I was good at and to get better at it. It also gave me lifelong friendships and I’m greatly looking forward to seeing some of those friends at our reunion later this year.” 🌟

Joshua White (1978-83)

Lecturer, teacher, TV presenter, writer, former gallery director and all-round advocate for the arts, Joshua White has quite the portfolio career. In this interview, he traces the influence of Bedales on his subsequent achievements, which include founding and editing the first online listings guide to the city of New York and becoming the first producer of the new BBC Online home page. An inveterate acquirer of new experiences and skills, Joshua pays particular tribute to the Bedalian ethos of “a willingness to take risks combined with an innate suspicion of peer pressure.”

At this distance, it seems somewhat counter-intuitive to discover that Joshua White, by his own estimation a resolutely non-sporty type of person, should have spent his prep school days at the junior school of that bastion of sporting excellence, Millfield. “My sister **Liberty (1979-84)** played county cricket and my brother **Sasha (1980-85)** also loved the game but it somehow passed me by”, Joshua explains. “The emphasis was always on sport at Millfield; interestingly, the headmaster of the main school, Jack Meyer, was an old boy of Rugby like **John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)**, although they went on to have very different views about education.”

None of the White children would finish their schooling at Millfield. Instead, Joshua was the first of the three to be sent on to Bedales at the age of 13. “There wasn’t much consultation about it, as I recall”, he says. “My father just indicated that he would like me to go there and so I went down for the interview, which I passed. Later it was only natural that my siblings would join me at Bedales.”

Joshua’s new school certainly

offered a more informal environment than his previous one. “I was happy enough with that more relaxed atmosphere and as a result I was soon quite at ease for the most part”, he says. “Bedales was, I found, a place to which students needed to adapt, rather than expecting it to be tailored to them as individuals. Opportunities existed for the self-sufficient but you had to go out and find them.”

Joshua filled his Bedales days with a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. “There were lots of different things to do”, he agrees. “I worked on the *Chronicle*, adored the Library, which was my refuge when I wanted to take myself away from the hurly-burly, and later became a librarian and I was also a member of the school’s Amnesty International group. Otherwise, I planted a lot of trees, cleaned out numerous chicken sheds (a memorably horrid job) and did some barn-building; there was also some vocational work with a local historian and there was a great deal of involvement in drama. In that area, I especially remember appearing in a student-directed performance of

Chekhov’s *The Bear* and a part in *The Real Inspector Hound*.”

A confirmed specialist in the humanities, Joshua took his A Levels in French, English and History. “I didn’t excel at French, although I remember **George Smith (staff, 1959-81)** as a stabilising and calming influence on his students”, Joshua reflects. “That also applied to **Tim Williams (staff, 1966-88)**, a benign, quasi-parental presence whom I admired and respected. In English, **John Batstone (staff, 1968-93)** was a great force of nature; he asked me to consider taking an S Level in the subject but I had already decided that I wanted to focus on History and he was rather disappointed when I told him of my intention.”

Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000) was therefore the primary influence on Joshua’s academic progress at Bedales: “It’s probably fair to say that I was one of her favourites – I loved History, I was quite good at it and Ruth always responded to that in her students. I thrived on her tuition, passion and knowledge but when the time came for me to do Oxbridge, I felt that I needed to

leave the school and sit those exams somewhere else, which turned out to be Westminster Tutors. I've always rather regretted the fact that I never thanked Ruth properly for the debt that I undoubtedly owed her."

Joshua's decision was rewarded with a place to study Modern History at New College, Oxford. "University was challenging, a real hothouse environment", he recalls. "It was, I think, the weight of the institution and its history that I found the toughest aspect of student life."

With his degree securely tucked away, Joshua made for London, where he began working life as a television researcher. "It was a job that could be quite stressful at times", he says. "At Channel 4, I worked on a programme called *The World This Week*, where I was the designated researcher for stories affecting North and South America."

Two years later, Joshua was on his way to New York and a very different series of adventures: "I started out there by working for the production company that was responsible for *Saturday Night Live*. After that and together with an especially prescient friend who could see the potential of the internet, I helped to found and edit Metrobeat New York (now called CitySearch), which was the first online listings guide to the city and took its inspiration from London publications such as *Time Out* and *City Limits*. They were great days – fun, exciting and mad. We had no money most of the time and I slept on the floor for the best part of a year but I wouldn't have missed it for the world. New York was such an exciting place for me to grow up and set a bit of distance from the comforts of home."

The time eventually came for Joshua to decide whether to remain in the exciting melting pot of New York or head back to his roots. London won out and he returned to join the BBC, where he became the launch



producer of the new BBC Online home page. It was not, however, to prove a natural *milieu* for Joshua. "Bureaucracy was everywhere, together with office politics and inter-departmental competition", he says. "The particular bane of our lives was something called the Department of Policy and Planning, which was very nearly as Orwellian as it sounds, and in the end I'd had enough of it."

During the next couple of years Joshua kept himself busy with freelance journalism while he considered what he truly wanted to do with the rest of his working life. "There were various guides and books that I wrote in that period, including, ironically, one on the subject of taking a mid-career break", he says.

The next phase of Joshua's career began with a year on a Christie's Education course at the University of Glasgow, where he took an MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Art. "Since then, I have never really followed a typical career trajectory",

he says. "I have been guided by my love of arts and culture and a desire to learn as much as possible. There have been a number of things to pursue, I've enjoyed most of them and not one of the experiences has been wasted."

The list of Joshua's accomplishments over the past two decades is both lengthy and impressive. A lecturer and course director of the London Art Course at Christie's Education, he has also, *inter alia*, been a gallery director at Hamiltons in Mayfair, served as a judge for the International Colour Awards for Photography, written exhibition reviews for the art press and published catalogue essays and co-presented *The Art Channel* for the past nine years.

There still courses within Joshua a desire to explore yet more avenues. "My credo has always been that life is all about acquiring experiences and I do find myself longing for the open road from time to time", he acknowledges. "That's a very Bedalian trait, I expect..." 🍷

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

More on Stanley Spencer

Bibra Allen (1961-66) emailed:

It was interesting to do a bit of research about Stanley Spencer in Steep after seeing the music lesson cover to the OB newsletter. I don't recall his association with Steep/Petersfield and the school being mentioned while I was there. Does the school own the painting?

Ian Douglas, Librarian and Archivist, responds:

It's an interesting story, but arguably one which doesn't show Bedales or Badley in an entirely flattering light! Perhaps that's why it wasn't much talked about in your day.

Has your research led you to Richard Carline's *Stanley Spencer at War* (Faber & Faber, 1978)? That seems to be the most important published source for Spencer's time spent in Steep and Petersfield, and his aborted projects for mural schemes in the hall at Bedales and the Steep Memorial Club. See pp 130-133.

The author was a close friend, later brother-in-law, of Spencer who lived with him at Hampstead and at the home of Bedales parent Muirhead Bone, in Steep.

Carline quotes from Badley, *Memories and Reflections* (George Allen and Unwin, 1955) p 217, which provides the fullest account of how Spencer and Badley failed to agree on a scheme for the hall.

One of the younger painters who received from him help and encouragement, Stanley Spencer, also came to live for a time in our neighbourhood. To give him an opportunity of showing his powers on a large scale Muirhead Bone suggested that he might paint a fresco, some 20 feet square, on the wall that formed one end of our Dining Hall. Though I found much to like in Spencer's smaller pictures and sketches, I could not bring myself to admire, either in composition or detail, such of his larger figure-pieces as I had seen; and I had little wish to live, or to compel others to live, in the perpetual presence of one of these on a still larger scale. So instead of taking

the suggestion seriously, I replied that there must be one condition – that any painting intended for that wall should be made on canvas that would be removable if we found it too overpowering for daily companionship. This condition, naturally was not one that could be put to the painter; and so ended the prospect, of which I was neither so sure nor so desirous as the originator of the proposal, of making Bedales (in his enthusiastic phrase) "a Mecca of artistic pilgrimage".

The Carline book, in conjunction with Keith Bell, *Stanley Spencer: a complete catalogue of the paintings* (Phaidon, 1992), should allow one to discover which works are known

to have been worked on at Steep and Petersfield, and to see how some of the ideas later to bear fruit at Burghclere were in germination during this time. To think we could have something like the Sandham Memorial Chapel here in Steep!

I know of three surviving sketches for the Bedales project; there may be more. The largest and most developed of them is the one which provided our previous OB Newsletter cover. The original is in private hands. We hear that the owner is currently offering it for sale, for a substantial six-figure sum. Do you know of any potential buyers?

Another beautiful sketch from the same series does indeed belong to Bedales, thanks to the tremendous generosity of **Bill**

Jackson (1955-60). Please do come and look at it, any time that it's convenient for you to visit.

A third sketch belongs to a dear friend of the school who lives nearby, and has been kind enough to bring it in and talk to Dunhurst pupils about it.

And while I'm sighing for lost masterpieces, let me mention in passing that I've recently learned that Roger Fry painted backcloths for two early Bedales Shakespeare productions. It's surely beyond hope that the works themselves have survived, but I wonder if a photograph of either of them might turn up one day. 🍀



Reminiscing

I attended both Dunhurst and Bedales. One of six of us Chesneys. In fact, a piano teacher there, **Lyndon Johnson (staff, dates unknown)**, composed a short song about us. I was never an academic but knew what was important to me! 'Work of each for weal of all'. That is the Bedales motto and has been with me all my working life! I was fit and determined and worked my way up to become Head of the Laundry Squad and Stage Manager.

I left Bedales in 1970 and went on to Trent Park Further Education College (now a university of course) to train as a Music teacher. **William Agnew (staff, 1967-78)**, the Director of Music at Bedales then and a choir with **Anthony Gillingham (staff, 1946-70)** grounded Music into my receptive mind. Even dear **Bill Crocker (1957-71)**, Physics teacher then, said to me and my confused face, "Jimmie, what does it all matter, as long as the birds keep on singing"! I could never get my mind around Physics.

My first teaching post was as Assistant Music Teacher at Newent Comprehensive School. Well, that lasted one year as they would never allow me to do anything else but Music. I saw an advert from Milton Abbey School: a small, but perfectly formed, boys' boarding school in the heart of Dorset. It was known to some as Eaton-by-the-Sea. I left there for the first time, in 1978, having got married and wishing to broaden my experiences. I became Head of Music at the Middle School, Bedales and worked closely with **Jonathan Willcocks (staff, 1978-89)** who ran Music at Bedales then. Not close enough for my plans, so I moved

again. A total change of beat, as the local press described it. I joined the police force in Petersfield.

Well... that lasted one and a bit years as I then saw an advertisement from Milton Abbey asking for a Director of Music. I applied and got the position. I happily worked very hard there and greatly enjoyed it. I ran the U15 rugby team and took part in athletics and cross country runs as well. I even joined the CCF when they promised I could get my 4-tonne military driving licence through them! I became a housemaster (Damer House) and modelled the way I talked to and treated boys as **Tim Williams (staff, 1966-88)** had inspired me to from my Bedales years. I stayed for years, even decades as I loved it there.

I would eventually leave to teach at King's Bruton: a bigger and co-educational school, as I was looking for a good soprano line which was not possible at Milton Abbey. I was there for only one year, and then bang! A severe crash put a stop to all teaching for me. The accident was not my fault thank goodness, but it resulted in me having brain damage, two broken arms, four broken ribs and a collapsed lung! So, I took up the euphonium to strengthen my lung! Music has to be of the whole person, and it is, lung and all.

Music is still my passion even though I cannot teach it anymore. My years at Bedales gave me that passion and a passion for teaching and a passion about making life better for those we meet – work of each, for the weal of all was, and still is, so real and relevant. ☘

James Chesney (1960-70)

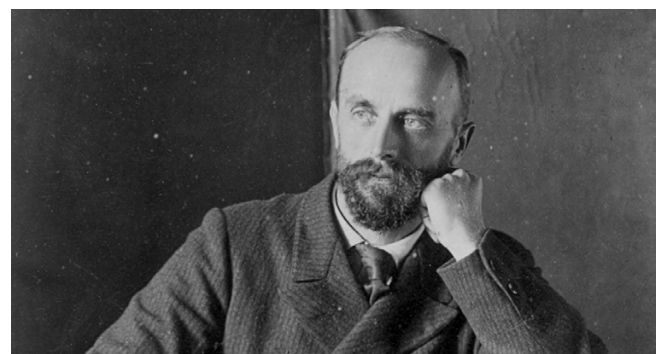
Developing talent

One thing that has become clear to me throughout my life is the fact that we all have talents in varying degrees. I think Bedales, in my case, helped expertly to coach some of those limited skills out of me.

I believe, though, that today's Bedales tends to focus on the academic excellence and there is a tendency to overlook the 'Mr Average' like myself..

I think the mandate of **Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)**, whom I knew, was to try and educate a cross section of humanity and certainly not just with a focus on the elite.

I was certainly no scholar and average in most of my school activities, but somehow Bedales helped to open up my personality and creativity and it was in my time that people like **John Slater (staff, 1952-67)**, **Joyce Caiger-Smith (staff, 1948-83)** and **Hector Jacks (staff, 1946-62)** helped and guided me to become what I am today, and hopefully the work that I am now doing here in India will lead to a



better life for millions of impoverished people.

For the record, about 2,000 children under the age of five years old die of malnutrition daily in India according to UNICEF; added to this is a massive child stunting problem.

Bedales helped to make me what I am today and for which I am forever grateful. ☘

Charles Devenish (1952-58)

In praise of Old Bedalian Parents and Grandparents

Why did it suddenly hit me that I am probably one of the last dinosaurs not to have young grandparents and a father who died, in what we would now call, my early childhood?

As I walk around my bolt hole in southern Spain – the gorgeous Atlantic, not the Costas, I see grandparents everywhere walking with their grandchildren, swinging the children between themselves if the kids are not on their phones or making sandcastles in the sand.

Grandparents are getting younger, or should I say remaining more agile both in body and mind?

Retirement in the 1960s enables some grandparents to collect the little darlings at the school gate, or even better they are dropped off early when the parents go to work.

Then one has the long-distance grandparents who make the superhuman effort to fly to the four corners of the world to see their children and grandchildren who, thanks to Zoom or other methods, recognise these strangers from afar.

I doubt that I am alone in not knowing either grandfather (they died early in life) or my grandmothers. One grandmother only spoke a language foreign to me and the other appeared ancient but was probably in her 60s when I was a teenager.

No, today's grandparents keep fit, eat healthily and are there as a backup when needed. Bedales taught us all this. They are the people who are able to indulge the children with an ice cream or a sweet/candy when the parents are not around. Some of them are the lucky ones who no longer have mortgages and own homes large enough to offer shelter to families on the edge. Not to mention the contribution they make when their grandchildren go into private education: boarding or day.

Today's parents have it harder in some ways; no longer can the vast majority of couples afford to buy a home on one salary. Jobs are no longer jobs for life and uncertainty looms, even ignoring the issues that Brexit and Covid have landed us with. But education is really important, especially a Bedales education. How privileged we were to have been able to benefit from it.

Then, because grandparents and parents are living longer, they all now have to face endless health issues later in life which the overburdened NHS is finding harder and harder to cope with. But offspring with full working lives of their own have to deal with this, with little experience. Long live support groups.

Soon we will have robots or AI to do the menial jobs, but will they replace grandparents/parents? 🤖

Serena Pollak Abrahams (1952-54)

Mr Prain: “Hoop there Volly, No Socks!”

Only **Mr (Martin) Prain (1940-63)**'s eagle eye could spot my brother **Fred (1950-55)**'s vestimentary omission during after-Jaw handshaking.

Our contemporaries will remember that dour Scottish Chemistry (or was it Physics?) teacher Mr Prain. He was the only member of staff who didn't have a first name.

As I sat in his Physics (or was it Chemistry?) classes, wondering what was going on, but feeling as guilty as Kafka's Joseph K of I knew not what, he would pronounce that final, (but often repeated) verdict, “there's no hope at all!”

That his basic idea seems to have been to induce hopelessness was more amply illustrated by his favourite punishment. He would present the (poor innocent) culprit with a box of mixed nuts and bolts, and two empty boxes, into which the offender was to put the sorted nuts and bolts separately. When this had been completed, he would, with relish, re-mix into the first box. Now, the usual Bedalian punishment was ‘extra work’, the performance of a useful task somewhere on the estate, in line with the ‘work of each for weal of all’ ethic. But Mr Prain was made of sterner stuff. He was afraid that extra work might give his victim ‘useful work well done’ satisfaction. (Take my brother Fred for example, half the time he was assigned ‘extra work’, which was often, he had already done it!). Mr Prain's nuts and bolts, like Sisyphus' boulder, were there to reduce the sufferer to hopelessness, especially if the performance had to be repeated! The absurdity of earthly life was then brought home with a bang.

But don't run away with the idea that Mr Prain had no sense of humour; he relished the anecdote about Fred (hoop there Volly, you again!) being sick in Jaw!

Contrary to other staff like **Mr Cawthorne (staff, 1948-54)** (wing three-quarter) or **Harold Gardiner (staff, 1952-68)** (number 8) I never selected Mr Prain on the ‘club 15’ rugby team. But his prowess as a stair climber was impressive. I remember one day when **Charly Devenish (1952-58)** was dangling a pair of underpants outside the staff common room window from the dormitory above. Mr Prain stuck his head out of the window and said, “I'll be hoop there in a minute!” and, sure enough, he made it up the two floors in double quick time, and bursting into the dorm, “Hoop there Devenish! What do you think you're doing’? Charly's calm answer, “fishing, Mr Prain”. And, sure enough, he had made his catch! 🐟

André(w) Voilley (1952-58)

More on Timmy Johnston (1954-59)

As a contemporary and friend of Timmy's at Bedales, I feel I have to add a little to the obituary printed in the last edition of the OB Newsletter, as he was such an exceptional person.

First of all, his brilliant intelligence. He could do absolutely anything with the greatest of ease in all subjects in class. His French was better than mine! But his interests were elsewhere than in class. For example, he was fascinated by the Tour de France cycle race. He often spoke of a cyclist named Roger Hassenforder, the only French professional racer to be of an intellectual background, rather than working class like all the other competitors; I think he identified and if at the time there had been such a thing as a British rider in the Tour, it would have been Timmy! He once cycled to Monza to see the Grand Prix, was knocked off his bike in the mad rush away from the track after the race, was taken to hospital, recovered, and cycled back!

About three years ago, I asked him to read my 'Camus in Paneller' piece (published in the 2022 newsletter) to give me his opinion; he answered, "not my thing, my reading is *L'Equipe* and *Le Miroir des Sports*": two French sports publications prolific on cycling!

As for his talent at long distance running, he discovered it one rainy afternoon at Bedales when usual sports were replaced by 'wet run'. A chap in our block (Timmy was new) was teasing him about something and expressed the view that Timmy might be a 'weed'. Well, just to show who

was the weed, Timmy beat the official wet run record by minutes on his first time round. Years later, he said "in a way, I owe my running career to that chap's teasing!"

Now, to his later career. Talking of his performance in the Mexico Olympic Marathon (8th), he did confess that if he hadn't thought that for an OB to lead the race at half distance was "a hell of a lark" and used better tactics, he might have won. He was acclimatised to the altitude having set up as an international lawyer in Mexico City for the previous year. I also seem to remember something about him having been a lawyer in Tokyo and even opening an English bookshop there.

His last position was at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, in which capacity he investigated the Rwanda genocide.

I don't remember ever seeing him again after Bedales, but we were in contact off and on. We were to meet in Marvejols in the earlyish 2000s, as he had entered an Ethiopian girl runner for the Marvejols (Lozère, France) to Mende Semi-Marathon, and my wife and I were on holiday only about 200 kilometres from there. But the Ethiopian girl didn't get her visa and Timmy didn't go to Marvejols.

Lastly, I was rather shocked to discover in the obituaries his occasional bad temper. I remember his character as being even and pleasant, if occasionally ironic. In later years he confided that his love life had been frustrated by what he called "the famous Johnston nose". Perhaps it was this that spoiled his temper, or was it excessive training? 🌀

André(w) Voilley (1952-58)



NEWS IN BRIEF

Congratulations to all the members of the Old Bedalian community whose recent achievements have been recognised below. Please do keep in touch with news and accomplishments by contacting the Bedales Alumni Team at alumni@bedales.org.uk

Eve Allin (2009-16) is currently working as a freelance producer for theatre. She is lead producer at Broccoli Arts, a producing company making work for/by/about lesbian, bisexual and queer women. She is the producer for internationally award-winning artists Jaz Woodcock-Stewart, Nathan Ellis & Jennifer Jackson and took her production of *Salty Irina* to the Edinburgh Fringe in August, described as "an intelligently written, skillfully constructed piece of theatre" in a WhatsOnStage review. Her recent production *This Might Not Be It* ran from the 30 January to 2 March at the Bush Theatre and she has recently returned to the Soho Theatre as Associate Producer, working on a new play: *Boys on the Verge of Tears*, which opens in April.

Louise Bevan (1966-70) has been elected as a Liberal Democrat District Councillor in Petersfield, having pipped to the post the previous Conservative incumbent and Deputy Council Leader by three votes. **Thomas Figgins (2020-22)**, who is studying Politics at University of Hull and helped deliver leaflets during the campaign for the local elections in East Hampshire has been helping Louise set up and run social media accounts. She left Bedales over 53 years ago and he left very recently yet they share the same Liberal Democrat values and are working together for the weal of the community.

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery staged an exhibition of colourful novelty knitwear designed and worn by **Gyles Brandreth (1961-66)**, which ran until December 2023. Gyles designed them with George Hostler, and their 'Gyles & George' brand has been a favourite among pop stars and celebrities, including Princess Diana and Elton John, since the 1980s.



Charles Devenish (1952-58) is developing India's first private gold mine since Independence at a place called Jonnagiri in the state of Andhra Pradesh, close to a small

town called Gooty. This mine was where the Emperor Ashoka some 2300 years ago started his journey to build the world's largest economy, which was based on gold, diamonds and spices. Charles says: "Who knows? Maybe someday soon we could open a Bedales extension school at Jonnagiri. I am interested to discuss with any small-scale artisanal producer who might be interested to set up business here in India and to be part of a local job creating a light industrial park."



Bart Hill-Reid (2011-18) (founder) and **Harry Bell (2003-14)** (Creative Director)'s unisex clothing brand Speltham has been making waves. Bart featured in a recent article in *The Guardian*: *This summer's biggest fashion trend for women? Men's boxer shorts.*

Lucy Holmes (1978-87)'s design studio Holmes Studio won the Global Design Award for Hockney's Eye at the 2023 SEGDA Global Design Awards.

Alisia Leach (2015-22) and **Fleur Donovan (2015-22)** attended Buckingham Palace to be presented with Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards which they completed alongside their studies in the Bedales Sixth Form.



Eleanor Mardlin (2015-20) recently shared with us that she has started a new position as Regional Advisor at Department for Business and Trade. We wish her every success in her exciting new role.

Alysen Miller (1993-99) recently completed her LLM (Master of Laws) 20 years after her first degree and is now reading for the Bar.

Delilah Montagu (2009-16) has received her second Grammy Award as a writer and feature artist on Fred again...s *Actual Life 3*, which won Best Dance/Electronic Album.



Lynn Percy (1969-77) competed amongst the world's top women croquet players at the WFC 2023 Golf Croquet World Championships in September 2023 after making it through to the last 32 at the Championships. Lynn learnt her croquet at Bedales and has won a number of national competitions in the last few years.

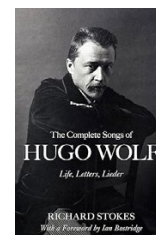
Chief Technical Officer and has also been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Joe Saxton (1975-80) was awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours List 2023 for services to the charitable sector, announced last June. Joe is founder of nfpSynergy and CharityComms and chair of the Association of Chairs, supporting charity boards.

Juliette Perry (2008-15) was selected to compete for British Rowing at the 2023 World Cup III in the women's pair before being selected as a women's sweep reserve for the World Rowing Championships in Belgrade. The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics is her realistic target, although she hasn't written off the Paris Olympics in 2024. We wish Juliette the best of luck!



Richard Stokes (staff, 1969-76) was awarded Order of Merit of the Australian Cross of Honour for Science and Art in 2022, following publication of his book *The Complete Songs of Hugo Wolf*.



Will Wollen (1985-92) has been appointed Director and CEO at Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin. Will is keen to make contact with any OBs, wider Bedalian community or Bedalian arts contacts in Ireland. Please get in touch via the Bedales Alumni Office.



Immie Pike (2010-20) has been awarded The Golden Shears 2023 Robert Bright Rising Star award, for her tailored grand slouch overcoat and Oxford bag trousers in an event at The Merchant Taylors in London, known as 'The Oscars' of the tailoring industry.

A message from **Josh Plough (2003-08)**, founder and co-director of Fundacja Ziemiaki i: OBs, We Need Your Help! Together, we can support the vital work artists do in central



and eastern Europe, where progressive people, places and spaces have been silenced, marginalised and de-funded in recent years. Please help us reach our initial goal of €5,500 to secure our foundation and allow it to keep operating into 2024. Why does this concern you? Well, because progressive culture is under attack everywhere. We can no longer keep taking our values for granted. The populist ideas sweeping across the globe are becoming the norm and setting a dangerous precedent. Help us nurture and unleash a critical, inclusive, creative and welcoming world to counter this rising tide of nativism, extractivism and polarisation. To learn more about our work and donate to the cause please visit donorbox.org/help-us-secure-a-progressive-future-for-all

Nancy Powell (2014-18) left Bedales in 2018 and went on to St John's College, Oxford to read Theology and Religion, graduating in 2022. Amongst various other ventures she is now setting up a pilgrimage and has written an article about it that references Bedales. stoneclub.substack.com

Jonathan Willcocks (1978-89) was awarded a BEM in the 2024 New Year Honours List.

Cat Savage (1986-92) became the first female President of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects in July 2022. In 2023 she joined Silverstream Technologies as their first

If you would like to help us with expertise, contacts and networks, we would love to hear from you, or if you are considering a more significant donation, don't hesitate to contact me directly josh@ziemiaki.eu

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Simon Anholt (1974-79)

wrote and recorded a single *Autumn* while he was at Bedales in 1980 which has been re-released

after 40 years on the compilation album *We are the Children of the Setting Sun*. **Martin Markus (1974-79)** generously

funded the recording at Sounds Aquarian in London,

Elissa van Poznak (1976-78) supplied backing vocals and **Phineas Manasseh (1979-81)** played drums so it was a true Bedalian venture – even the sleeve photography was by **Shaun Frohlich (1977-79)**.



An international NGO named after former Bedales student **Cecily Eastwood (1991-1996)** featured on the BBC Radio 4 Appeal in February 2023. Cecily's Fund was founded in 1998 and named after Cecily, who died in a road accident while volunteering in Zambia on her gap year. A leading provider of education support in Zambia, over the last 25 years Cecily's Fund has raised over £6m and helped over 20,000 vulnerable children. Lwiza Mulenga, a healthcare student who works for Cecily's Fund, made the appeal on Radio 4 on behalf of the charity bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001hwxs

Carmody Grey (1997-2002, staff 2008-12), Durham University's Assistant Professor of Catholic Theology, has joined the panel of philosophers on BBC Radio 4's *The Moral Maze*.

Marika Hackman (2000-10) has released her fifth album *Big Sigh* on Chrysalis Records. The album was produced by Marika along with Charlie Andrew from Alt-J and Sam Petts-Davies, who has worked with Radiohead and Frank Ocean among others.



Producer **William Miller (1980-82)**'s podcast *When it Hits the Fan* featuring David Yelland and Simon Lewis has been helping unwrap the intricate world of crisis communications.

Abi Morris (2016-18) and her band The Last Dinner Party recently won *BBC Radio 1's Sound of 2024*. Abi is the lead singer and chief songwriter of the indie rock band and the music industry is fully expecting everyone, everywhere to have heard of them by the end of 2024!

British-Polish composer **Roxanna Panufnik (1982-86)**'s *Sanctus* was performed during the Coronation of King Charles III in London. The two-minute piece was performed by 60 choristers with organ accompaniment. Talking to the media, Roxanna said: "The piece starts a little mysteriously with an atmosphere of awe and wonderment that accompanies the arrival of angels. The music quickly builds and finishes ecstatically, with organ fanfares and colourful harmonies." Roxanna is among 12 composers who were commissioned to write new works for the Coronation, including Judith Weir and Andrew Lloyd Weber.

Teddy Thompson (1989-92)

released his latest album *My Love of Country* in August 2023. A collection of songs originally made famous by George Jones, Patsy Cline, Porter Wagoner, & many others, now covered by Teddy Thompson.

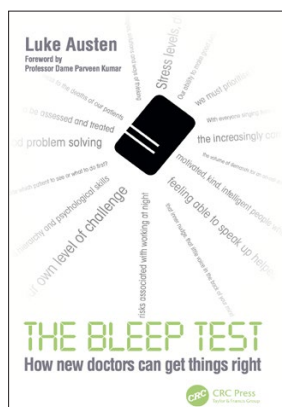


OBs and other choir members made music with the Constanza Chorus, founded by **Joanna Tomlinson (1997-99)**, at their choral concert, *Reflections in Light and Music* in October 2023 at St Andrew Holborn. In December they performed 'A Ceremony of Carols' and other festive favourites at St Marylebone Parish Church, London. Current OBs in the choir include **Lucy Coates (1997-2002)**, **Flora Elliott (2009-12)**, **Katy Millard (2011-13)** and **Lizzie Reynolds (2010-14)**. Any OBs in the London area who are interested in joining the choir should get in touch constanzachorus.co.uk/join-us/

HAVE YOU READ?

A third book by **Diana Ambache (1957-66)**, *Les Parisiennes: French Women composers of the Long Nineteenth Century*, is about the 30 women composers active in France. To be issued later this year, it accounts their broad range of compositions, produced creatively and numerous, despite the musical world's reluctance to include them. Her research can be seen on womenofnote.co.uk

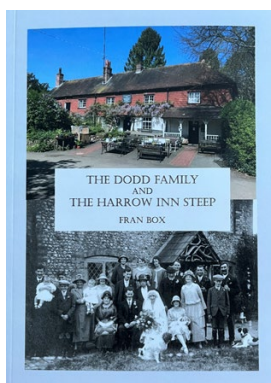
Luke Austen (2010-12) has written a book published in May 2023. *The Bleep Test: How new doctors can get things right* combines gripping and startlingly vulnerable recollections of early experiences on the wards with an array of research findings, from psychology and human biology to anthropology, business and behavioural economics.



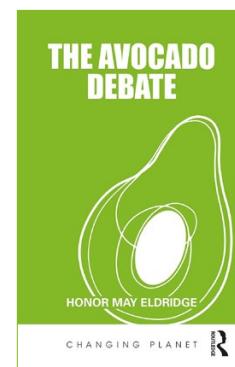
Soundings is a book of journals, reminiscences, essays, lectures and poems written by **Graham Banks (staff, 1980-2013)** between 1979 and 2023. The journals offer accounts of two trips to the USA, one during a sabbatical term in 2000 when he visited New York University, Columbia, Boston University and Harvard.



Fran Box (staff, 1982-2012)'s book *The Dodd Family and The Harrow Inn Steep* tells the story of the Dodd family who have been licensees at The Harrow for more than 90 years and records the history of the pub and the many activities that have gone on there over time. Bedales was responsible for the Dodd family coming to the area; the Dodd children were destitute and living a hand to mouth existence on the streets of London. To purchase a copy please email franboxsteep@yahoo.co.uk



Honor Eldridge (1999-2006)'s recently published book *The Avocado Debate* does not seek to demonise the avocado and its many enthusiasts. Instead, it will illuminate consumers on the often-unseen impacts of foods. This book is essential reading for all who are interested in learning more about the food system, sustainable diets, and the relationship between farming and the environment.



Tegen Evans (2007-12)'s latest children's book *Roman Soldiers* was published in January 2024 by Nosy Crow, in collaboration with the British Museum. Aimed at readers aged 7–10, it uncovers the secrets of the Roman Army – from tactics and training to battles, sieges and life in the barracks.

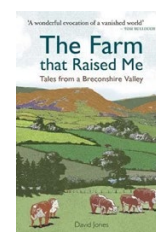


Frieda Hughes (1973-78)'s book *George – A Magpie Memoir* was published in June 2023.

When Frieda Hughes moved to a ramshackle estate in the wilds of Wales, she was expecting to take on a few projects: planting a garden, painting, writing her poetry column for *The Times* (London), and possibly even breathing new life into her ailing marriage. But instead, she found herself rescuing a baby magpie, the sole survivor of a nest destroyed in a storm – and embarking on an obsession that would change the course of her life. As the magpie, George, grows from a shrieking scrap of feathers and bones into an intelligent, unruly companion, Frieda finds herself captivated – and apprehensive of what will happen when the time comes to finally set him free.

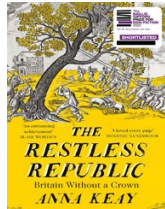


David Jones (1957-61)'s latest book, *The Farm that Raised Me: Tales from a Breconshire Valley* was published in May 2023. Affectionate, evocative and illuminating, alive with dialogue but never misty-eyed, these stories trace day-to-day life on a traditional Welsh Marches farm before the onset of modern farming

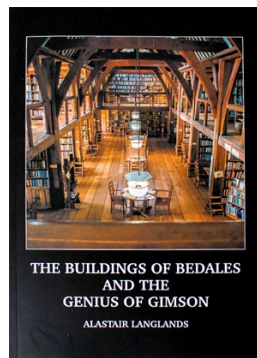


practices. Structured around the seasons, the book traces David's childhood and teenage years, living and working among a close-knit cast of stockmen, horsemen, shepherds and farm workers, under the watchful eye of his father. (Logaston Press)

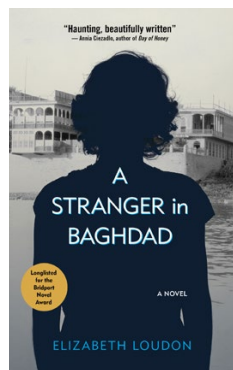
Anna Keay (1987-92)'s book *The Restless Republic: Britain without a Crown* won the Pol Roger Duff Cooper Prize for non-fiction published in the UK in 2022.



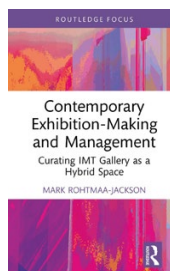
Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001), whose long knowledge of the school dates from his arrival in 1973, tells the story of Bedales, of Ernest Gimson, Edward Barnsley and of Oswald Powell in his book *The Buildings of Bedales and the Genius of Gimson*. They are the thinkers and architects who made the physical place of Bedales. Alastair would love to hear from you with any further insights into the buildings of Bedales via alumni@bedales.org.uk. To order a copy please email development@bedales.org.uk. Cost £20 with all proceeds to the John Badley Foundation.



Elizabeth Loudon (1970-1975): Aged 65, Elizabeth's debut novel *A Stranger in Baghdad* was published in May 2023. Elizabeth went to Baghdad in 1975 with Caro Rollings (née Giddens, 1965-75) and she never forgot the experience; it inspired her to dig deeper into the lives of Anglo Iraqi families and to create a fictional Baghdadi family who fall foul of the Baath Party as it comes to power.



Mark Rohtmaa-Jackson (née Jackson, 1987-94)'s new book *Contemporary Exhibition-Making and Management: Curating IMT Gallery as a Hybrid Space* is about the contemporary art gallery IMT Gallery, based in London, that he co-founded in 2005 with Lindsay Friend.



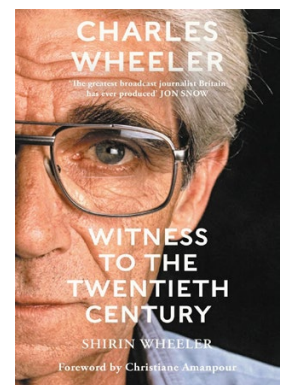
Borderline came about thanks to Ed Simmons (1991-2001)'s wedding in 2016, where Daniel Miller (1988-2001) and Marco Sandeman (1995-2001) met for the first time since leaving school. They started exchanging scripts and ideas, and Daniel ended up writing the script for *Borderline*. Natalia Tena (1998-2003) agreed to star in the film, which was both a coup and a joy, as they had been working together regularly since Bedales. Ed Simmons temporarily abandoned his wife to be Marco's assistant director for four weeks of frantic shooting. They also had help in countless ways from a host of other OBs and their parents, including Sirius Flatz (1996-99), Phillip Sandeman (1996-2002), Lysander Ashton (1993-2001), and the parents of Cosmo Davenport-Hines (1999-2004) and Will Davies (1995-2001).



Catriona Ward (1996-1998)'s latest dark thriller *Looking Glass Sound* was published in April 2023. In a lonely cottage overlooking the windswept Maine coast, Wilder Harlow begins the last book he will ever write. It is the story of his childhood summer companions and the killer that stalked the small New England town. Of the body they found, and the horror of that discovery echoing down the decades.



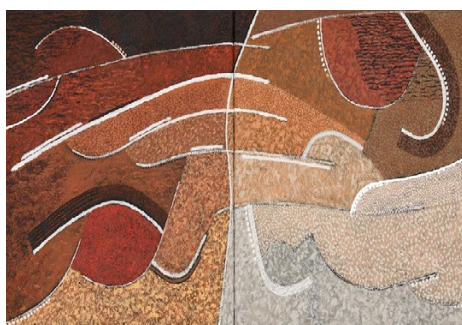
Shirin Wheeler (1976-80) has written a biography about her father, *Charles Wheeler: Witness to the Twentieth Century*. Charles was the BBC's longest-serving foreign correspondent and one of Britain's greatest news reporters, reporting for radio and television for over four decades from most of the world's trouble spots. Charles often came to Bedales to give insightful talks and Shirin was a BBC journalist for 25 years, now advising on EU climate action, gender equality and innovation in and out of Europe.



HAVE YOU SEEN?



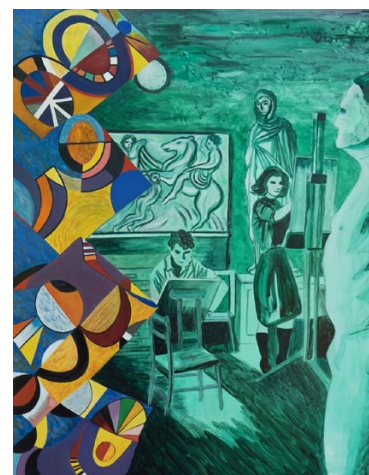
Marika Hackman (2000-10) returned to Bedales last August to film the video for her new single, *No Caffeine*. The video, for Marika's first single for four years and her first new original material since her 2019 album, *Any Human Friend*, was filmed on Cobbs Field. Co-directed by Marika and Transgressive Records' Natàlia Pagès Geli and produced by **Tarquin Ramsay (2010-12)**, the video reflects the spinning, dizzying experience of anxiety, which is the subject of the single. Marika describes *No Caffeine* as "a list of what to do to avoid having a panic attack and looking at my anxiety as an abusive partner." Tarquin, Head of Production for Barcelona based production company OL64 said after shooting the video, "I was delighted to work together with Marika on *No Caffeine*. After 10 years as a producer, it all started back in filmmaking after-school club led by Simon Kingsley-Pallant, Dunhurst's Head of Drama. What a treat to finally get to make a video on Bedales soil!"



John Hitchens (1947-57)'s latest exhibition *Wood – Sand – Stone* took place last autumn at the Weald and Downland Living Museum. He has followed in the footsteps of both his father **Ivon Hitchens (1903-09)** and grandfather (Alfred) who were also renowned painters. John's next exhibition *Migrating Thoughts* will take place from 7 September to 26 October 2024 at the Chippenham Museum and Art Gallery.

The Motive and the Cue, directed by Sam Mendes and starring **Johnny Flynn (1996-2001)**, opened at the National Theatre last year, a play on the making of Burton and Gielgud's *Hamlet*. This fierce and funny new play by Jack Thorne offers a glimpse into the politics of a rehearsal room and the relationship between art and celebrity.

Taymour Grahne Projects presented *The Bell, The Bell*, a solo show by London based artist **Luey Graves (1998-2004)** in January of this year. The exhibition featured a collection of small, treasure-like paintings on panels. The paintings manifest as a collective vision or narrative that nets these singular works together, all inspired by the artist's experience of the audiobook of Iris Murdoch's *The Bell*.



Benjamin Greening (2016-23), **Josh Baty (2017-23)** and **Rowena le Poer Trench (2009-23)** all starred in Petersfield Youth Theatre's spectacular performance of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* in September.

Sean Rainbird (1972-77), art historian and museum director curated Sean Scully's *Smaller Than The Sky* exhibition at Houghton Hall for six months last year. Sean was Gallery Director at the National Gallery of Ireland for many years until the end of his tenure in September 2022.

Jonathan Taylor (1963-73) and his team were on the winning podium on BBC's *Only Connect* in March last year. He had previously represented Birkbeck, University of London, in their *University Challenge* team in 2020.

Julia Ackerman (1967-71)

Julia Hardy Ackerman died aged 70, on 12 December 2023 in Portland, succumbing to a long illness. Born on 19 September 1953 in Knoxville, Tennessee, Julia was the daughter of Edward Ackerman and Adrienne Desjardins. Julia is survived by her sons, August and Clair Popkin; daughter-in-law, Jessica Schreuders and grandson Dean Popkin; sisters, **Helen Archer (née Ackerman, 1964-68)**, Tippy Ackerman, and brother **Justin Ackerman (1969-72)**; nieces Cecilia Ackerman, Anna Ackerman, Anouk Ackerman, and Aurelia Baroni Ackerman; nephews, Damien Petty, Peter Ackerman and Jayden Xu Ackerman; great nephew, Arthur Ackerman Conterato; and great niece Annika Tufts Ackerman.

The third of five siblings, Julia moved to Switzerland in 1960 with her family and beloved nanny, Leonore Khulmann. In her early years in the Swiss Alps, Julia attended local schools before following her sister and brothers to pursue her formal education at Bedales School in England. An avid reader blessed with keen intellect, Julia excelled in academia and, following in her beloved brother **Francis (1968-69)**'s footsteps, won a place at Clare College, University of Cambridge to read English Literature.



Under the guidance of her tutor, Dr Richard Gooder, Julia's studies, along with her passion for 20th Century poetry, shaped her lifelong love of writing through which she blended Elizabethan literature's themes of love, time, and the eternalisation of beauty, with more modern explorations of inner life, death, re-birth, and the metaphysical. Julia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Cambridge in June 1976 and received her Master of Arts two years later.

In the autumn of 1976, Julia returned from her many years in Europe to settle in New England. Reunited with her grandmother, Helen Desjardins, of Walpole, who fostered her love of Maine from the earliest age, Julia joined Francis in Boston. In September 1977, Julia married Michael Popkin, and in 1978 they moved to Whitefield, Maine. Their first son, August Hardy, was born in February 1983, followed by his younger brother, Clair Lovejoy, in March 1985. After Julia and Michael parted ways, Julia devoted herself to raising her two sons in Wiscasset and Portland, while pursuing a master's degree in Social Work from the University of New England. Once licensed, Julia practiced psychotherapy in the mid-coast region, later establishing a private practice in Portland and Whitefield. As a psychotherapist Julia devoted special attention to the treatment of trauma and was loved by many clients for her highly responsive, deeply empathic sensitivity and unique insights.

Influenced by her father's Swedish roots and his love of Asian art, Julia had a passion for Scandinavian literature and culture, and Japanese prints.



Another devotion was to cats, and in Julia's house, cats ruled, keeping Felidae watch over her. While still writing poetry, Julia co-authored *The Ice Bear*, a medieval Scandinavian epic with Francis. Sadly, Julia was still preparing the manuscript for publication when she passed on. Always quick of mind and wit, Julia loved Scrabble and Bananagrams which she played with singular drive, old New England whaling songs, classical and alternative music, Tai Chi, and long contemplative walks through deep woods or along empty beaches from which she drew inspiration for her art and writing. Julia was a lifelong advocate for animal rights and wildlife conservation, especially snow leopards, and in her brave struggle to overcome ovarian cancer, became interested in helping cancer survivors.

A loyal and devoted friend to many, Julia's understanding and compassion were rare gifts for those whose confidence she shared. 🌸

Justin Ackerman (1969-72), brother

David Brooke (1943-50)

David Edward Brooke died on 15 May 2023, in Lakeland, Florida. He was born on 15 April 1932 in Sheerness, Kent, England and raised in Leeds, Yorkshire. His parents, Martha Ellen 'Patricia' Brooke (née Pocock) and Albert Edward Harris Brooke, were repertory actors performing in plays throughout England. David received his medical degree from University College Hospital, London in 1955. Doing his National Service as a captain in the British Army he was based at the Colchester Military Hospital and put in charge of a primary medical care base for soldiers in Shoeburyness.

Tanzania, East Africa (1958-1971): In 1958, as a young doctor, David joined the British Colonial Service in Tanganyika (now Tanzania). After Tanzanian independence, he served as a district and regional medical officer in various regions of Tanzania as well as the cities of Dodoma, Arusha and Dar es Salaam. His work involved clinical duties in all areas of medicine – surgery, obstetrics, paediatrics, anaesthesia, and preventive medicine, as well as administration.

Kenya, East Africa (1971-1977): In 1971, David became the Medical Director of the Flying Doctor Emergency Service of the African Medical and Research Foundation,



currently known as AMREF Flying Doctors, based in Nairobi, Kenya. This involved administration, medical education, clinical medicine, surgery, anaesthesia, paediatrics, obstetrics, gynaecology and emergency care as well as rural health planning in Southern Sudan, Mali, Botswana, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Tanzania and Malawi. David helped institute "africanization" of AMREF by employing Kenyan pilots, nurses and doctors during these early years of Kenya's independence. He was a consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Northern Sudan, served on the Executive Committee of the Kenya Society for the Blind and was the former chairman of the Leprosy Committee for Central Kenya.

North America (1977-2023): David immigrated to Manitoba, Canada in 1977, moving from medicine in the under-developed world to highly technical medicine in the intensive care unit of the Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg. Emergency medicine seemed to be the best path for him. After St Joseph's Hospital in Tacoma, Washington he became the Medical Director of the University Hospital Emergency Department in Augusta, Georgia.

In 1986 he became the Medical Director of the Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center (LRHMC) Emergency Department. Times were changing. Emergency medicine became a specialty. He encouraged all the doctors to do the qualifying ACEP (American College of Emergency Physicians) board exam. He brought in the first female ER doctors. He employed the first ER paediatricians. He also brought in medical assistants. He helped institute triage. When he arrived, the LRHMC Emergency Department saw about 35,000



patients – when he retired this had increased to 110,000 patients per year, and today it is almost double that. All board-certified ER physicians. The busiest emergency department in the country. When he retired in 1999, he then became the first Medical Director of LVIM (Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine).

To balance his life and stress level, he was a wood worker, building furniture. He was a devoted birder wherever he lived. More importantly, he was an avid supporter of Leeds United Football Club, no matter how good or bad. Like his parents, in Africa he appeared in professional and amateur theatre productions.

He had decided as a 10-year-old that he wanted to be a doctor. Look where it took him. An incredible life. On top of it all, a delightful prankster with a marvellous British sense of humour and a deep respect and care for all of us.

David is survived by his wife Gloria Brooke (née Greenwood); his daughters **Victoria Brooke (1966-76)** (David) and Alexandra Troy (Nick); his stepsons Samuel Meisler (Julie) and Joshua Meisler (Elodie); his nieces, nephews and grandchildren (**Ruben Brooke, 2014-16**). ☹

Joshua Meisler, stepson

Hugo Burge (1985-90)

Hugo Burge died suddenly on 10 May 2023, aged 51. It was a huge shock to his family, to his many friends, and to the thousands of people whose lives he had touched. He was an introvert who somehow knew hundreds of people. He was a very reserved person who also managed to have many people who would claim him as their best friend. He was an extraordinarily successful businessman who was thoroughly down-to-earth and remained steadfastly 'Bedalian' throughout his life.

Hugo came to Bedales in Block 3, along with a small crop of fellow pupils from Windlesham. His quiet gentleness made him popular with everyone. He was a very good sportsman, captaining the 1st XI cricket, and representing the school in hockey and tennis as well. He was particularly interested in Design and considered studying Architecture after school. As an only child, he made some lifelong friends who became his 'brothers'.

Hugo was part of the unusual year of 1990 that saw 13 OBs go to Oxbridge. He joined nine of us who went to University of Cambridge, where he read Geography at Sidney

Sussex. After university, he entered the property world, following his father's career choice, and it seemed likely that this would be what he would end up doing. But a chance encounter in a taxi after a dinner party changed all that, when he met John Hatt, the founder of Cheapflights.

Hugo became part of the team who bought in and took over the company. In 2003, he moved to Boston and single-handedly founded the American version of the website. It was a key moment and the company went from strength to strength: in 2006 passing £1 billion in sales, in 2011 acquiring Danish travel firm Momondo, and finally being sold for \$550 million.

He also founded a venture capital outfit called Howzat (whose name showed his enduring love of cricket!) which continued to invest in internet start-ups, particularly in the travel world, with some very notable successes, such as Trivago.

His father Oliver had bought a farm in 1988, which surrounded a Sue Ryder home in a vast stately home called Marchmont House in the Borders of Scotland. In 2007, he bought the house too, and Hugo made the amazing

decision to move there to renovate it with the windfall from his internet businesses. It was a mighty task to turn a nursing home back into the grand house it had once been, but the completed project earned the Historic Houses Restoration Award in 2018.

Hugo was very much imbued with the Arts & Crafts movement at Bedales and one whole floor of Marchmont House was dedicated to furniture from its members. He also turned the stables into studios to create a community of makers: artists, sculptors, and perhaps most famously, the Marchmont Workshop: rush-seated chair-making seemed likely to disappear as a craft, but Hugo's timely intervention saved it, ensuring the tradition would continue for many years to come.

He had lots of plans for the future at Marchmont and it is a huge shame that these will not now be realised. On a personal level, he was plotting a trip out to Australia to see his family and his great friend **Will Bryceson (1988-90)**; he was hoping to visit another best friend **Pier-Paolo Olcese (1988-90)** in Argentina.

Dillon Bryden (1983-90) remains as the Technical Manager at Marchmont House, to try to continue Hugo's vision. Hugo was integral to the arts world in the Scottish Borders and, as a generous patron and supporter of many artists, he will be missed keenly. His many friends will miss him no less.

I was immensely fortunate to have been one of his Bedalian 'brothers'. We shared a love of travel: exploring new places, world cuisine, the wonders of nature. There are many happy memories to treasure: after our first year at Cambridge, Interrailing for a month around Europe with **Darren Lucas (1981-90)**; numerous adventures over the years with Will Bryceson in Africa, Asia, and Australia. More recently, many sailing trips together in the Hebrides, where he loved the peace and beauty. Just over a year ago, Hugo,



Will, and I drove around Andalucia in southern Spain, discussing the future and our plans.

Bedales is a very special place and growing up together is incredibly bonding. Hugo loved coming back, to play in OB cricket matches, to wander around the grounds, to eat in favourite restaurants in Pefe (if they still existed). He might not have become the person he was without the school and the people he met there.

He was a man of rare talents: a deeply empathetic person, whose success at business seemed almost incidental to who he was essentially: an incredibly kind person, with an almost childlike zest for life. His early death has been a very difficult surprise for all those who knew him well, and the world will be a very much poorer place without him in it. ☹

(Alastair) “Mac” Mackeown (1979-90)

*There will be a memorial cricket match for Hugo on Parents’ Day, 29 June and anyone who wishes to play for Stoner Cricket Club against the school is encouraged to contact the Alumni Department who can put you in touch with **Julien Allen (1975-1990)**. There will also be a tree-planting ceremony in his memory and anyone who would like to attend can ask to be put in touch with me through the Alumni Department as well.*

Peter Wilgress Coates (staff, 1989-2014)

To think of Peter is to think of being outdoors. He loved nothing more than a bright, fresh winter’s day, a long walk – a brisk walk – and his dog. Peter was generally on a mission, anxious to get to his destination or to see some rare bird, usually in a bitter wind on some blasted heath, when he must always be the one to see the rarest bird, or the first otter. After many such walks, his family and friends will tell you to beware those dangerous words: “I know a shortcut” which, as Peter strode confidently ahead, invariably led to a bog and boots full of water.

Peter needed a project and was never without one. In taking over Outdoor Work, Peter embarked on a lifetime of projects, building connections with the Weald and Downland Museum, whose experts frequently tutored projects at Bedales, and through whom he introduced Heavy Horses to the school. Aside from teaching Maths to A Level, Peter knew something about almost every aspect of rural crafts and traditional skills, developing a particular passion for building in green oak, aided and abetted by **John (1978-85)** and **Henry Russell (1978-85)**. Speak with any Bedalian and you

will discover the countless ambitious, practical and fascinating projects he instigated or encouraged, such as designing a chicken-house, re-building a Land Rover or a Romany caravan from scratch.

Devising the Bedales Assessed Course in Outdoor Work (externally assessed by the Weald and Downland Museum experts) was one of Peter’s proudest achievements, creating in this alternative to standard GCSEs an officially recognised means of confirming the Bedalian values of ‘work of each for weal of all’, through the use of ‘head, hand and heart’. Peter believed strongly in a holistic approach, whereby academic and less-academic attributes were valued equally and in which initiative, interpersonal skills in collaboration, co-operation and creativity were highly regarded.

Peter’s boyish charm has led many people to describe him as Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up, and it’s true that Peter never lost his taste for adventure. Growing up in the New Forest, he seemed to spend his days climbing trees, finding bird nests, collecting tadpoles and getting wet. Later, he shared his enthusiasm with his pupils, through the Duke of Edinburgh Award



and Outward Bound, gaining the Mountain Leadership certificate, leading expeditions to the Lake District, Scotland, Wales, and a World Challenge expedition to the Himalayas. In association with Waterford, the school founded by Michael Stern, Peter led a party to Swaziland (now Eswatini), to help build a community project for children orphaned by AIDS.

The young Peter didn’t particularly understand school: how was he to know that he (the Knave of Hearts) was meant to eat the jam tarts on the night of the performance, when he’d been told through all those rehearsals to leave them alone? And why did the teacher chastise him, when five-year-old Peter told her the name of that plant was ‘Mind Your Own Business’. These injustices lingered, but he went on to become

an inspirational and caring teacher, with a passion for doing things right. Dyslexic before dyslexia was recognized, Peter found words difficult, and he was never a confident public speaker; particularly on camera - but he was ecstatic when, after an episode of *Country Ways* he was recognised in the ice-cream queue at Chichester Festival Theatre. Years of playing cards with his grandmother had made sense of numbers, and Peter could understand why students struggled with interpreting a question, so he would devise methods of helping them see a way through. Peter

never gave up on a student, and they never forgot him; Peter was slightly disconcerted to find that one of his Bembridge students, after an army career in the Tank Corps, had become the Bursar at Bedales. Peter's day-release from hospital at Bedales in June, meeting former colleagues and students, talking over old times, and hearing how he had helped so many on the path to future success, gave Peter new comfort, strength and encouragement, which supported him through the difficult times ahead.

Peter loved his work; he thrived on it and transmitted his enthusiasm

with humour and verve: he knew he was fortunate to find a place where he could flourish in every sense and Bedales was fortunate to have him.

Peter's teaching career began at Bembridge, then Millfield and thence to Bedales in 1989. Peter immersed himself in Bedales life and is remembered not only as a popular and highly valued teacher, but as a great raconteur of silly stories, an energetic chair of several committees, including planning, curriculum, and the common room, where he was a friend to all. In conclusion, **Keith Budge (Head, 2001–18)** describes Peter as "the epitome of youthful energy and optimism in both body and spirit... But perhaps the image at the warm heart of Peter's magic was early morning bread baking. This, more even than the spectacular end of the whole school effort pageants, was where Peter presided like a blend between a kindly chef and a benign shaman. These were magical scenes and magical moments whose imprint will be lifelong amongst the many of us who engaged with his enticing, upbeat and vibrant world." 🌟

Sylvia J Coates (staff, 1995-2014)



Tom Daubeny (1987-92)

Tom was an inspiring, multi-faceted man who squeezed every drop of joy out of life, brought excitement to the ordinary, wasn't cowed by life's barriers and mixed it all up with compassion. He developed a stellar career in medicine, rising to a consultant in two highly pressurised medical fields, became a flying doctor and helped to save many lives.

His life was a tale of two halves; young Tom was brimming with hilarious, ill-thought-out, often dangerous

escapades and with time he bloomed into a caring and driven adventurer with an enviably inquiring mind.

As a young lad, he grew up in London with sister **Nelly (1986-92)**, son of Nick & Nina Daubeny. He was a boys' boy, climbing trees and leaving a trail of chaos and dead arms behind him. He arrived at Bedales in a tattered QPR cap with scraggy red locks poking out, mud-stained ripped jeans with an impish smile and devil-may-care zest for life. His tunnel vision

for mischief in his formative years meant he was always pushing the limits, be it 'car surfing', driving his mum's car unlicensed into a river, creating homemade death slides or canoeing alone into a storm. He mainly used his formidable intelligence to weasel out of trouble, to win chess matches, play devil's advocate and discuss obtuse philosophical arguments.

After Bedales, he travelled the world for a year before studying Physics & French at both The University of Manchester and University of Toulouse and was focused more on fun rather than academic achievement. His joie de vivre and good humour made him many lifelong friends.

Tom was fiercely competitive, regularly playing squash, club cricket, 2nd XI football, cycling, tennis, padel, darts, water polo, fencing, skiing, table tennis, sailing, golf, paddleboarding and even AFL which were often sequenced in heptathlon-type battles. To him, every point mattered and arguments would ensue about the latest made-up rules.

In the early 2000s, after a couple of career false starts, he was captivated by the idea of becoming a doctor. He applied to St George's University Hospital despite entry being hugely competitive and him having no discernible experience nor prior interest. However, nothing seemed impossible for Tom. So, he retook his A Levels, volunteered in war-torn Afghanistan and then charmed his way through the interview. This change in direction gave him a clear purpose in life.

While studying, he met his future wife Charlie, also a training doctor, and they moved to Chichester becoming part of that community. In no time, he became a father of two beautiful and brilliant girls, Rosa and Willow. He doted on them and saw them as his greatest achievement. Becoming a family man brought him great joy and a much-needed grounding in life.



Around then, Tom's more sensitive and intuitive side started to blossom. He believed "everyone has something interesting to say, but you have to ask, be present and really listen". This was part of his charm; he didn't judge people and could see them exactly as they were.

After a few years as a doctor, itchy feet meant he was off to Mozambique and Sierra Leone to train anaesthetics to local doctors. Then before long he took his family to remote Western Australia to take up a post as a flying doctor where he combined work with exploring the outback and fishing the creeks with friends. After narrowly avoiding being eaten by crocodiles (literally), they all returned to the UK.

When the Covid pandemic struck, he became one of the amazingly brave doctors to face the nation's fears, intubating Covid patients by day before home schooling his kids at night. He reached consultant level in both neuro intensive care and in anaesthetics, while helping to shape innovation strategy at his NHS trust.

A cancer diagnosis came and he

exhibited a calm pragmatic realism and profound strength to continue making the best of life. He wasn't bitter and despite every set back was stoic. His enviable outlook on life was perhaps that of an eastern philosopher: an ever-present joyfulness; an openness to new ideas; and a philosophical nature with innate equanimity.

Time with Tom was never grey. It was bright lights, brilliant ideas, questionable facts, disagreements and lots of laughter. He was a loving, loyal, inspiring and charismatic man who lived life with an extraordinary intensity. He encouraged friends and family to have fun out of their comfort zone and created adventures from the mundane. He left everyone who knew him with a catalogue of ridiculous, outrageous and often quite unrepeatable stories. He will be greatly missed by the many who knew him and we will remember some of the most fun, wildest, funniest moments of our lives that were spent with him. Goodbye Tom. 🌹

Edwin Blanchard (1990-92)

Joy Fry (staff, 1970-95)

My mother was born in Rake on 4 November 1928, she was the youngest of five siblings all living in a two-bedroom cottage at Primrose Lane, Rake, near Liss. She attended Rake Primary School. During the War the local children went to school in the morning and the evacuees from London went to school in the afternoons. She left school at age 14.

Mum started work at the Home and Colonial store, Chapel Street, Petersfield, having to cycle in to work most days from Rake, only catching the bus in very bad weather. In February 1947, for 18 months, she followed one of her older sisters and joined the WAAF where, although the War was over, she worked at Bletchley as a telephonist with the rank Aircraftwoman 2nd Class.

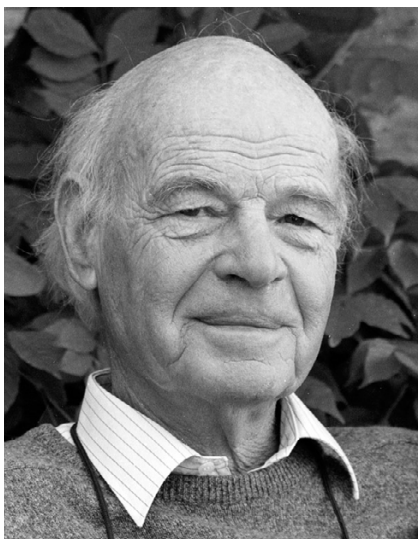
She returned to Rake and, again, hoped to follow her sister and applied to work at Petersfield Post Office (GPO) as a telephonist. She had an exemplary reference written by the RAF, but the manager of the Petersfield PO switchboard refused her application as he said he couldn't have two sisters working together. Mum went on to work at Petersfield Urban District Council.

In 1970 she successfully applied to work in the Bursar's office at Bedales. She really enjoyed her work at this office working with three Bursars, **Jack Walesby (staff, 1948-72)**, **Bob Alexander (staff, 1973-87)** and **Bruce Moore (staff, ?-2011)** and making lifelong friends of her work colleagues and also amongst the teaching staff, in particular **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)**.



Mum retired in 1995 aged 63, which was when my father, a local postman, retired. They spent their retirement holidaying and looking after their seven grandchildren. Mum died in February 2023 of 'old age'. 🌹

Gill Stevens, daughter



Our father Michael Morris, who died aged 90 in February 2023, was born in South Wales to a successful tinsplate industrialist father, and a mother who, before her marriage, had for a short while taught Gymnastics and Dance at Dunhurst.

Michael Morris (1944-50)

That brief encounter started a family association with Bedales that lasted all of Michael's life. His early education was spent evacuated from Swansea to the very beautiful Cothi Valley in mid Wales where, he told, much play and very little formal learning took place; so when he followed his brother **David (1943-47)** to Bedales in 1944 he claimed he could hardly read or write. His stories of school life mainly focused on collecting unexploded munitions from war time training grounds and storing them in dormitories - to the consternation of the local bomb squad. He credited an excellent English teacher, who recognised his dyslexia, with patiently bringing his literacy up to speed - but his strength as a mathematician led him after school to study Civil Engineering at Loughborough University.

In his 20s, alongside constructing pit heads, roads and motorways, he had a keen interest in sports cars and skiing, and dipped his toe in the world of amateur motor racing - but his level head and engineer's sense of perspective (or was it also his nonconformist, quite puritanical upbringing) prevented him indulging those passions too far.

At an Old Bedalian weekend in 1960 he was asked if he could give a lift home to a younger female **Susan Hooper (1950-55)**, who lived not far from where he was building the M50 motorway. Whether it was his rapidly receding hairline or his dark green Frogeye Sprite, something significant clicked during the journey. They were married within months.

Together they were further entwined with Bedales when in 1970, again at

an OB weekend, they were offered the chance to buy, from an elder Old Bedalian, Pennyfold, a house in Steep just opposite the school entrance. As a consequence, they sent their, by then, three sons to Bedales for almost the full duration of their school education and lived as part of the Bedales/Steep community for the next 10 years.

During the 1960s and 70s, working with the engineering firm Rendel Palmer and Tritton, his professional projects became more international. One of the more involved was a road bridge over the River Tigris in Baghdad, during which they uncovered the remains of an earlier river crossing on the site, constructed during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar the Great in the 6th century BC. He was amused when contacted by the MOD during the first Gulf War enquiring about how best to destroy 'his' bridge - if its destruction became militarily necessary. And was relieved that it never did. Other projects took him to South Asia, Malaysia and Kenya.

From the 1980s onwards he altered his career path to become an arbitrator

and contract law specialist in relation to Civil Engineering projects, working on the Milford Haven Bridge collapse investigation, the Thames Barrier, the Channel Tunnel and the Jamuna Bridge project in Bangladesh amongst others.

In retirement he and Sue had a very happy but too brief number of years living by the Malvern Hills, indulging their love of walking and gardening and spending as much time with their eight grandchildren as we would allow, before Sue's horribly untimely death when he was only 75. As a widower he moved into the house in Ledbury she had eyed up for their dotage and set about designing and developing a formal town garden from scratch, and restoring the 1935 MG sports car he had bought for her 60th birthday. He learnt to cook very well (he was a lifelong vegetarian) and was an active member of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust - but his principal focus was family and grandchildren, though as he got older he readily admitted that life was becoming a waiting game to be with Sue again. His association with Bedales continued when two of his

grandchildren, **Sofia Gaetani Morris (2012-14)** and **Jacob Morris (2019-21)**, attended Sixth Form there and he would readily take and collect them - reliving past times - but he got equal pleasure from the full scope of schools attended by all his grandchildren understanding at last that Bedales might not be right for everyone.

In earlier days of railway construction an engineer first laid a so-called temporary way in order to prepare the ground and get the necessary parts in place for the permanent way to come - it seems a fitting metaphor for the measured and balanced life of a man who provided the bedrock of unconditional love and solidity for his wife, sons and their families. And now his temporariness is complete, and he is on his permanent way, we are left with a substantial and unfillable void - but hopefully the inherited know-how to incorporate and live with this hole within our lives. ☹️

Rupert Morris (1972-80), James Morris (1971-81) and Gyles Morris (1971-84), sons

Elizabeth Murray (1973-78)

Elizabeth Murray, who has died of cancer aged 63, set up the pioneering University College London (UCL) eHealth Unit in 2003. Just four years later it was one of the largest and most interdisciplinary digital health units in the UK.

Murray was an innovator throughout her career, first on where to train doctors and later in spearheading the use of the internet to improve patient care. After qualifying as a GP in 1991, she became increasingly involved in medical education and made her name with research that demonstrated the then controversial approach that

medical students could be taught clinical medicine in a general practice environment just as successfully as in a hospital. "We challenged the paradigm - a lot of people were very cross," Murray recalled.

The study was the beginning of the shift by medical schools to community-based teaching for clinical students. The experience also gave Murray an early taste of what it was like to challenge the medical consensus.

From the late 1990s, Murray was an early mover in using the internet and web-based tools to give patients a more hands-on role in treatment choices and to improve healthcare.

She used a Harkness fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco, in 2001 to study the impact of the internet on the doctor-patient relationship and from then on digital health became the focus of Murray's research.

Back in the UK, as she set out to establish the UCL eHealth Unit, "people told me there was no such thing as e-Health," recalled Murray. Disregarding the sceptics, the unit developed computer-based treatment decision aids for doctors and a range of web-based tools for patients. These included the Down Your Drink online treatment programme for hard-to-reach problem drinkers who could access the programme anonymously.



The unit's HeLP-Diabetes online self-management programme for type 2 diabetes was the first web-based app adopted by NHS England for national roll-out and remains in use today as Healthy Living for People with Type 2 Diabetes.

Murray was as committed to implementation as to research and in 2015 established HeLP-Digital, a not-for-profit community interest company with UCL and Whittington Health, to disseminate and implement HeLP-Diabetes, with support from the Cabinet Office.

Ever at the vanguard, as soon as the Covid-19 pandemic took hold Murray launched her final project to bring together cross-disciplinary expertise, including a specialist commercial app developer, to develop and deploy the Living With Covid Recovery app, which went "live" in August 2020. This provides long Covid patients, their clinicians and carers, with an internet-based monitoring and rehabilitation tool and was swiftly taken up by a number of NHS Trusts in England. Murray remained at the eHealth unit until ill-health forced her to retire.

Murray (who used her mother's maiden name) was born in London to John Powell-Jones, a career diplomat, and Ann (née Murray), later an author on Chinese history and sculpture. Announcing at the age of two that she was going to be a nurse, Murray was asked if she realised that women could be doctors. "Then I'll be a doctor," she replied. "And I never changed my mind," she said just before she died. Due to the diplomatic postings of her father and then her stepfather, the childhood home of Elizabeth and her two brothers, Mark and Robert, moved between the Congo, Brazil, China, Egypt and Iceland.

When local schooling became impractical, she attended Bedales boarding school in Hampshire, in 1978 securing an exhibition to St Hilda's College, Oxford, to study physiological sciences; she graduated in 1981.

A master's degree in 1982 at Wolfson College, Oxford, in reproductive endocrinology inspired her interest in combining clinical practice with academic research and "the sheer joy of finding things out". Clinical training was completed in

1985 at what was then the London Hospital Medical School. But a year working in obstetrics and gynaecology left Murray with the professional frustration that "there was more to a woman than her pelvis".

After a break in Australia, she returned to England where an unexpected job as a locum GP led in 1989 to a GP traineeship at the James Wigg general practice in Kentish Town, London. In 1991 she started her research career and an enduring relationship with UCL as a clinical lecturer alongside practising as a GP.

Murray cited her lifelong feminism – "my standing up for women, helping junior female researchers" – as well as a commitment to transparency and fairness as being at the core of her professional life. The eHealth unit was an environment where male researchers learned to be comfortable being in the minority. In 2013 Murray received a chair at UCL as professor of eHealth and primary care – perhaps later in her career than would have been the case for a man – and she recalled that many next-generation female GP academic researchers told her they were delighted for Murray but also "glad for all of us".

In 2018, Murray entered into a civil partnership with her long-term partner, Debby Lennard, a senior civil servant. Plans to split their time between England and France were thwarted by Murray's diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer in early 2022.

Murray is survived by Debby, her brother Mark, and her nieces and nephews, Sarah, Luke, Agnes, Stella and William.

Elizabeth Murray, medical researcher and GP, born 8 February 1960; died 7 April 2023. 🌹

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Steuart Charles Padwick (1973-78)

Steuart was born in Plymouth on 25 November 1959, 13 months after older sister **Lisa (1971-75)** and two years before youngest sibling, Robert. The son of Commander Michael Padwick, an officer of the Royal Navy, and of Nita Harris, a nurse and artist. Soon after birth, Steuart's father was transferred to Sydney where the family spent most of the next eight years. Once returned to England, the family settled initially in Gosport and then Durham. Steuart joined Bedales in 1973 where his passion for design, and in particular furniture, was born.

These early years of Steuart's life were difficult for him. He suffered the effects of a father who was often away at sea, a mother who was at times severely handicapped by rheumatoid arthritis and the constant moving around. Steuart, however, found solace in the Bedales workshop, where he spent as much time as possible. He was fortunate to have had, in particular, **David Butcher (staff, 1963-92)** as woodwork teacher who inspired him to develop his interest.

This culminated with the design and fabrication of an hexagonal dining table and six chairs in his final year – a feat and quality unprecedented at Bedales – and gave a taste of the talent that was to be revealed.

In 1978 Steuart joined the private furniture design school Parnham House, Dorset (now closed) founded by John Makepeace. The two years here sealed his future as one of the nation's top furniture designers and makers. He went on to co-found the workshop SF Furniture in Gloucestershire with three fellow Parnham graduates. Here Steuart was commissioned by neighbour the Duke of Beaufort to design and make a wedding present for the then Prince Charles and Lady Diana. They hated it! Though upsetting at the time, he laughed about it eventually and was relieved when years later the nursery furniture he was commissioned to make for Prince William and Kate's children was well appreciated.

In 1981 Steuart took a break from furniture, joining his brother at East 15 Acting School, London for two years. He



realised it was not his field and returned to his first love, but this time going into commercial furniture design, studying at the Royal College of Art. It was during these years that he met Vanessa Ewan. In April 1989 they welcomed Todd into their lives but sadly Steuart and Vanessa separated while Todd was still very small. Despite the separation their love, friendship and respect for each other lasted till his death.

While continuing with his own projects, Steuart joined Conran as one of the buyers and own-brand designers in 1997. In 2009 he launched his own design brand with work often seen in magazines. His major financial breakthrough finally came in 2010 when he was approached by the site Made.com to design their launch products. Though hesitant, he was soon to realise it was one of his best decisions ever. It "worked incredibly well and it's been a wonderful collaboration" he said. He became their first and most successful designer, 10,000 pieces of his designs selling annually, right up until they folded in 2022.

During the years of dedication to his work, Steuart still found time to develop his passion for dangerous sports, skiing and paragliding. He had two spectacular accidents: the first in his mid-40s during a paragliding flight when his parachute collapsed 50m above ground and Steuart shot to earth piercing his lungs and breaking his back, among many other bones; the



second in 2008, while skiing off-piste with his son in Austria. During a sudden 'white-out' he unwittingly headed over a cliff breaking more bones and piercing his lungs again!

In 2014 Steuart was invited to a two week 'open studio residency' at the Haystack Mountain Craft College, Maine. While experimenting with wood and pebbles on the beach, he created a sculpture that, when the tide came in, was 'drowned' leaving just the uppermost piece 'floating' on the water. It was here that Steuart had the sudden realisation that after struggling years with depression he was now holding his 'head above water'.

During these years, Steuart received multiple awards for his designs and with the income generated by his sales through Made, he was free to work on his own projects aside. Steuart met his partner Natalie May in 2017, who became his creative and project director. The following year, 2018, Steuart was commissioned 'carte blanche', to do something for the London Design Exhibition. While initially thinking of something more in line with his usual work he was then offered the use of the jetty off Gabriel's Wharf, on the South Bank, London. Within 24 hours and only 12 weeks before deadline, the idea for *Head Above Water* was born.

This was a 9m high wooden head, gender, race and age neutral. The idea

came from his 'revelation' while in Maine. This was the start of several projects over the last five years of his life that Steuart, through his art, used to promote the charity, Time for Change (sadly folded in 2021). The charity promoted mental health awareness, a subject close to Steuart's heart due to his own battles. As he put it in an interview during the building of the head "People aren't ashamed of saying 'I broke my leg', but we're embarrassed to say, 'Oh, I've had depression'." The public could interact with the head, using an app. "You can play with it – hashtag happy, hashtag sad – and change the colours in real time, but it also makes you realise that you can change your emotions and that's kind of fun" he explained.

Two more major projects followed, *Talk to Me* in 2019 stationed at Kings Cross, during the London Design Exhibition and now in permanent position at Cody Dock, East London as part of *The Line Sculpture Trail*. This consisted of two 3m high wooden figures each with a block or 'burden'. On approaching these two giant interactive figures, cracks seemed to appear on the 'burdens' and voices emanated from them, speaking poignant and uplifting words from writers, poets, actors and mental health ambassadors. In 2021 Steuart was asked to design something for COP 26 being held in Glasgow. This

was his last major project, the *Hope Sculpture* - a 27m high statue consisting of four round legs (representing the old chimneys of the coal mining days) tapering up to the top where there is a figure of a child with its arms outstretched to the world.

In an interview, Steuart once stated "If these pieces of art can spark someone to start talking then that's extraordinary" and Steuart's work certainly did that.

In January 2023, Steuart was diagnosed with stomach cancer that had already spread to other organs. He passed away on 3 April 2023 with his partner and family by his side.

As Steuart's closest friend said, "Steuart was a man of huge creativity, energy, passion, humour, kindness and generosity and touched so many lives in so many ways. An adventurer who lived life to the full".

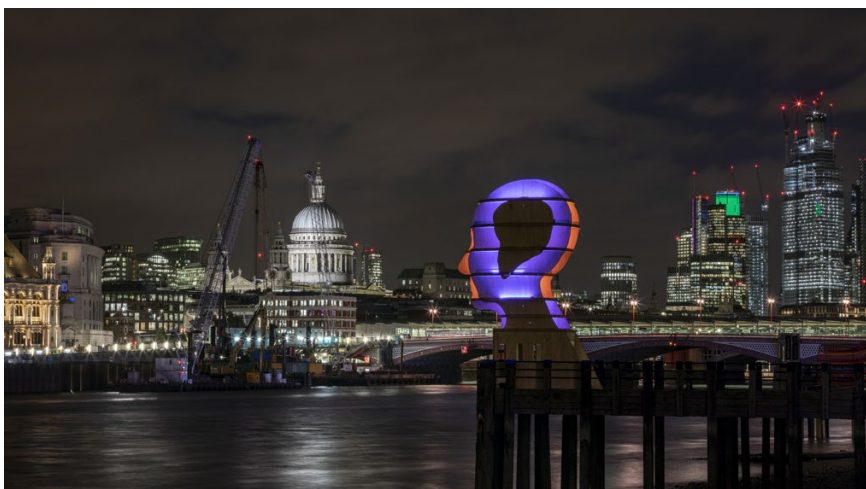
He is greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Lisa El Amin (néé Padwick, 1971-75), sister

If kindness, creativity, love, and laughter had been the currency of the past six decades, Steuart Padwick's wealth would have been beyond the dreams of many.

Steuart, an exceptionally kind man, possessed a rare combination of creativity and an infectious sense of humour. His laughter was contagious, touching the hearts of everyone he met. Yet, behind his joyful exterior, Steuart navigated the complexities of mental health, a battle largely unseen by many of his lifelong friends who adored this wonderful man full of laughter and light.

In Natalie, Steuart found more than a partner; he found his comedic foil, his muse, and the one person who could decisively tell him that, yes, wearing socks with sandals was a terrible idea. Their love was a dance of laughter,



creativity, and like many of the best partnerships, the occasional spirited debate over the most trivial of matters which seemed so very important at the time. Steuart had discovered not only his true soulmate but also his catalyst for transformation. Their relationship was a beautiful paradox of deep love and playful challenges, where Steuart's stubborn nature met Natalie's decisive spirit, creating a dynamic that was as harmonious as it was powerful.

Together, they conceptualised and created *Head Above Water*, a monumental sculpture on the Thames near Southbank. This awe-inspiring structure, changing colours in response to people's emotions, was not just an art piece; it was Steuart's own journey – from the depths of despair to the heights of hope – shared with the world. It was his first public acknowledgment of the battles he had faced, a brave step made possible by Natalie's love and unwavering support.

Their collaborative journey continued with *Talk to Me* and *Hope*, sculptures that stood not just as art, but as symbols of resilience, conversation, and optimism. These creations were embodiments of Steuart's philosophy – to find humour and joy even in the darkest moments and to listen with a truly open heart.

Steuart's early years, marked by movements and changes, were a prelude to his extraordinary life. His time at Bedales and the furniture college of Parnham planted the seeds of creativity that would later flourish. His work, from crafting furniture for royalty to designing iconic sculptures, was marked by a playful ingenuity and a desire to bring smiles to people's faces. As Thomas Heatherwick, a friend and fellow designer, noted, Steuart was "one of the most free-thinking, creative people" he had known.

Brent Hoberman, CEO and founder of Made.com, admired Steuart's humility paired with his genius. His designs, though light-hearted, carried the weight



of his experiences, his struggles, and his victories. His works were not just pieces of art; they were chapters of his life, shared openly with the world.

Steuart's legacy is multifaceted. He leaves behind not only awe-inspiring public sculptures but also an unbreakable spirit of hope and resilience. He showed us that the most profound strength often lies in vulnerability and that true listening can be the greatest gift we offer to another.

He adored being a father and took great pride and joy from his relationship with his son Todd and their shared adventurous spirit and creativity was such a constant delight for him.

As we remember Steuart Padwick, we celebrate a man who laughed heartily, loved deeply, and listened intently. We cherish the moments of joy he brought into our lives, the laughter

he shared, and the profound impact he had on our understanding of mental health and empathy.

Steuart, wherever you are, may you feel our love and gratitude. Your spirit continues to inspire and guide us, just as your art lights up our hearts. You may have left this world, but your legacy endures, as vibrant and impactful as ever.

Steuart Charles Padwick, a beacon of hope, a source of laughter, and a friend to many, will forever be remembered and deeply missed. 🌟

Alex Willcock, friend and former parent

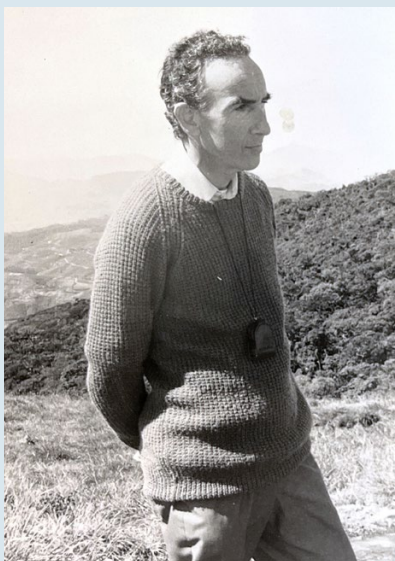
Editor's note: Much more detail on Steuart Padwick's work can be found at thehopesculpture.com and [youtube.com/channel/UCj8mILFSfL-Fc_wOjwuXa2w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj8mILFSfL-Fc_wOjwuXa2w)

Dolf Polak (1938-42, Governor, 1976-83)

Doctor, violinist and professor of renal medicine who played with many professional musicians while running a regional renal unit.

Dolf Polak, who has died aged 98, was born in The Hague, Holland, moving to London with his family when he was five years old. His parents, Jacques Polak and Connie van den Bergh, brought with them a love of art and music, and Dolf learned the violin from an early age. Throughout the 1930s, the family home was a haven for Jewish refugees including many musicians.

Connie chose progressive schools for her children; Dolf went to Bedales to avoid the Blitz. He found many excellent musicians to play with there, including both staff and other pupils, and made friends whom he kept for the rest of his life. He returned to London regularly for violin lessons, and might have opted to become a professional musician, but with the War raging and many Dutch Jewish friends and family members dead or missing he chose medicine instead.



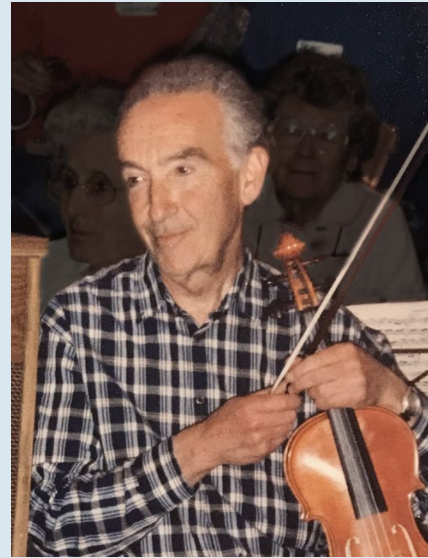
As a medical student in Cambridge (and later London), Dolf still found time for music, often playing with people who later became celebrated performers. One chamber music evening in his college room provoked the philosopher Wittgenstein, whose room was near Dolf's, to come and tap on the door and ask for some quiet. Dolf's own studies may have suffered, too – later he boasted about being the only professor of medicine with a Third Class degree.

Both studying and playing were interrupted when the Dutch Army sent him to Europe as a dispatch rider, so it was 1948 before he began his 40-year career in the NHS. Dolf's generous charitable giving and lifelong sense of duty towards people in difficulties followed his parents' example, and he never lost the mixed feelings of a lucky survivor.

In 1953, Dolf went back to Bedales to lead a performance of *Dido* during the reunion weekend. **Thalia Salaman (1944-49)** was there to sing the part of one of the witches. She was still an undergraduate but had already begun working as a sculptor. They were married straight after her finals, in 1954, and had four children: **Louisa (1972); Jenny (1974-76); Kate (1976-78)** and **Ben (1975-80)**, all of whom went to Bedales.

In 1964 Dolf got the job of starting a regional renal unit in Portsmouth, and when a new medical school opened in Southampton in 1971, he became a professor. He and Thalia renovated an old rectory nearby, creating a large music room; they lived there for 40 years.

Despite being a full-time doctor and academic, Dolf was always a sought-after musician, playing in a



local orchestra and many chamber ensembles. The informal concerts he and Thalia organised at home became more regular after Dolf retired in 1988, and he began teaching violin.

In 2006 Dolf and Thalia moved to Fulbourn, where they were warmly welcomed by local chamber music players. He continued playing the violin until he was 96, when arthritis prevented him. Always a lover of walking, Dolf went out daily into Fulbourn Fen or further afield.

In his spare time, he began writing string arrangements of some of the music he loved, creating many short 'encores' as well as a full-scale quintet. His formidable knowledge of the chamber music repertoire made him a daunting audience, but after he stopped playing, he loved having people come and play to him, remaining a courteous host to the end of his life.

He leaves Thalia, their four children, nine grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. ♣

Louisa Polak (1972), daughter;
Jenny Polak (1974-76), daughter;
Kate Polak (1976-78), daughter;
Ben Polak (1975-80), son

Mike Sadler (1933-37)

The last of the SAS 'originals' who fought in the Second World War Mike Sadler's navigation skills, documented in Ben Macintyre's book on the SAS, bordered on the superhuman.

The Royal Navy always used to say that navigation precedes gunnery. It was also true of the war in the north African desert, and the *raison d'être* of the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG). The SAS, formed 10 months after the LRDG, soon discovered how true it was too. Mike Sadler, the last survivor of both the LRDG and the original SAS, was a "first navigator", a senior post in the former. Unsurprisingly, David Stirling, the SAS's founder, poached him for his new raiding force.

For the most part, the British Eighth Army's desert war against, to begin with, the Italians, and then Rommel, was fought along the relatively narrow coastal strip of Libya. The great Cyrenaican sand sea to the south was, or seemed to be, as impassable to mechanised forces as the jungle was in the Far East.

However, its "impassibility" was also an opportunity for determined men on both sides to play havoc behind the others' lines. With only 10,000 British troops in Egypt to defend the Suez Canal in September 1939 until reinforcements could be shipped from Britain and India – to be joined later by troops from Australia, New Zealand and east Africa – the 700 miles of Libyan-Egyptian frontier were an open invitation for the many thousands more Italian troops in Libya to raid Egypt if Mussolini were to enter the war.

When the SAS were disbanded at the end of the War, Sadler left the army and joined the Falkland Islands Dependencies Antarctic survey, for which he was awarded the Polar Medal.

Major Ralph Bagnold of the Royal Signals (and formerly the Royal Engineers) had spent much of the 1920s and 1930s exploring the desert and had published *Libyan Sands: Travel*

in a Dead World (1935). He at once suggested forming a desert scouting force to avert a surprise attack. He was turned down, and again in January 1940, but when the Italians declared war in June the new commander-in-chief for the Middle East, Sir Archibald Wavell, approved the plan.

The LRDG began operations in September. Sadler would be recruited by members of Captain Gus Holliman's S (Rhodesia) Patrol in a Cairo bar a few months later, having come there with Rhodesian forces from the Ethiopia campaign. "The idea of navigating by the stars was so fascinating I couldn't resist," he explained in later years.

Fascinating it may have been, but easy it was not, by day or by night. Maps were largely blank because, except for rock and the oases, the desert was featureless. Even the larger dunes came and went with the wind. Navigating was therefore about keeping meticulous records of bearings and distances – "dead reckoning". A vehicle's milometer gave the distance travelled, adjusted for known error in the instrument, but the bearing was a far greater problem.

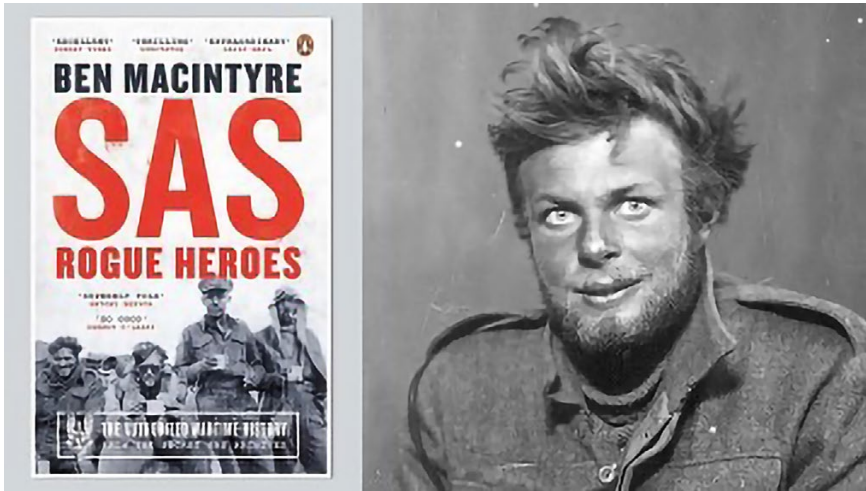
A magnetic compass was no use because of the vehicle's magnetism. Only by dismounting and walking away a hundred yards or so was the magnetic effect overcome – a time-consuming business. Bagnold had invented what he called a sun compass. It consisted of a flat disc with a vertical knitting needle which cast a narrow shadow over the standard 360-degree marking. When positioned in the centre of the stationary vehicle, the true bearing of travel could be determined with the aid of tables based on date, time and approximate latitude. When conditions allowed, the final reckoning could be checked by observation of the altitude of the sun and stars using a theodolite, and either a nautical almanac or air navigation tables.



Sadler was trained by the legendary "Lofty" Carr (obituary, April 20, 2022) in the rudiments of astral navigation and the theodolite. Carr found him a quick learner. Years later, Sadler said it was "because I was interested in it, and when you were interested in something you learn and I suppose I have a natural feel for it".

As one experienced practitioner wrote, the essentials of desert navigation were "map-reading (with the limitations of map accuracy appreciated), dead reckoning (with the limitations of heading and distance-measuring accuracy appreciated), astro (with the limits of instrument error and time measurement appreciated), and overall a shrewd judgment of human error; a meticulous regard for truth and logic, and the methodical care in the maintenance of the navigation log, the re-setting of time pieces and sun compass".

Sadler, who would go on to be the SAS's principal navigator, seemed instinctively to understand the human-error factor. "One of the essential things was not to let doubt creep into your mind," he said. "You have to be confident because it was awfully easy, especially at night, to start feeling you're going wrong and you should be further to left or right. It was rather easy to give way to that feeling if you weren't



confident. It was a challenge, navigating, but I liked the challenge. I was young and you don't really think about pressure at 21."

In December 1941 he took part in the first successful joint LRDG-SAS raid, on Wadi Tamet airfield, led by Lieutenant Paddy Mayne, a former Irish rugby international who would become one of Britain's most decorated soldiers. The SAS, formed only five months earlier, were still heavily reliant on the LRDG to get them to where they wanted to go, so much so that the SAS joked that the LRDG were the Libyan desert taxi service.

The six-man team destroyed 24 aircraft and a fuel dump. Returning to base camp in the desert as the sun rose, they were attacked by Italian fighter-bombers. "I suppose it was quite alarming," Sadler recalled phlegmatically years later, adding that it might just as easily have been the RAF, who could not be expected to know the location of every patrol, or instantly recognise their vehicles.

As reflected in the BBC's historical drama series *SAS Rogue Heroes* (2022), based on the *Times* journalist Ben Macintyre's book of the same name, Sadler's navigation skills in featureless deserts bordered on the superhuman (he was portrayed by the actor Tom Glynn-Carney in the series). In the summer of 1942, Sadler guided a convoy of 18 vehicles armed with twin

Vickers K machineguns across 70 miles of desert, at night, without headlights or map, to within 200ft of Sidi Haneish airfield.

They burst on to the airstrip and opened fire as they drove between the planes, destroying at least 37. Sadler, 5ft 10in and well built, stayed to pick up stragglers and photograph the devastation, and to bury one of the SAS drivers who had been shot through the head. For the Tamet and Sidi Haneish raids, he was awarded the Military Medal.

Willis Michael (Mike) Sadler was born in London in 1920, the elder of two sons of the director of a firm making Erinoid, a synthetic plastic material formed of casein and formaldehyde and used at the time to make knitting needles, white piano keys (replacing natural ivory) and electrical goods. His mother was a Scot.

Sadler was educated at Bedales in Hampshire. The choice was significant. Bedales was opened in 1893, a small and intimate school run on "progressive" lines, non-denominational and popular in Fabian circles, cosmopolitan and arty. The musical theatre lyricist **Alan Jay Lerner (1932)** was a contemporary.

In 1937 Sadler went to Rhodesia as a farming pupil, and in 1939, only days before the outbreak of war, he joined the Rhodesian infantry. He said later that he had not wanted to miss anything

but that he found that all he was doing was guarding German internees, so got himself discharged as a "key man on the land" and then immediately re-enlisted, this time in the artillery.

Sadler's private life was textured. Among other relationships it featured two marriages; the first, in 1947, was to Anne Hetherington, who had been a driver with the Fany (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry) at Bletchley Park, and therefore probably working for the Special Operations Executive (SOE). They had met towards the end of the War when she drove him to airfields. The marriage was short-lived, however, and Anne went on to marry Baron Hans von Blixen-Finecke, nephew of Karen, played by Meryl Streep in the film *Out of Africa*.

In 1958 Sadler married Patricia (Pat) Benson, the daughter of an Indian Army officer. She had been a meteorologist in the Wrens during the War, working subsequently in the Foreign Office and later as a teacher in Sussex. Pat died in 2001. Their daughter Sally, who is semi-retired, survives him.

In the panic after Rommel's arrival on the Egyptian frontier in June 1942, there seemed to be nothing to prevent Axis troops reaching the Suez Canal. Stirling decided that his most useful contribution would be a series of tip-and-run attacks on their tenuous line of communication along the coastal road.

For this he secured his own vehicles, no longer relying on "lifts" from the LRDG, including a batch of the newly arrived (American) Willys Jeeps, and established a forward base in the desert with sufficient stocks of ammunition and petrol for several weeks without resupply.

Precise navigation would again be key to success, so he got Sadler, by then a sergeant, transferred from the LRDG to the SAS as his chief desert navigator. No one resented Sadler's arrival. Besides his reputation as a navigator, his modesty was endearing, and he was quickly accorded honorary "original"

status. Newcomers also found him a gifted and patient instructor.

However, the SAS were not used on harassing raids as Stirling intended but instead, after being reinforced by other units, in outright attack against the port facilities in German-occupied Benghazi. Security was compromised and the raid was a disaster.

After General Sir Bernard Montgomery's success at El Alamein in October 1942 and Rommel's consequent withdrawal westwards, Stirling's force returned to intelligence gathering and reconnaissance. About this time – quite irregularly, though later formalised – Stirling commissioned Sadler in the field.

In January the following year, he and Sadler, now a lieutenant, set out with a small SAS party to seek a route through the desert by which the Eighth Army might outflank the German defences of the Mareth Line in Tunisia, and to link up with the newly landed (Operation Torch) Anglo-American First Army. The patrol was ambushed in scrub near the Gabès Gap, the passage between the sea and impassable salt marshes, and Stirling was captured, spending the rest of the war in Colditz.

In the mêlée, Sadler escaped with another SAS soldier and an Arabic-speaking Frenchman. Without a compass, maps, food or water, Sadler led the trio on a five-day, 100-mile trek to reach the First Army. Abbott Liebling, the American war correspondent, saw him emerge from the desert, and wrote: "The eyes of this fellow were round and sky blue and his hair and whiskers were very fair. His beard began well under his chin, giving him the air of an emaciated and slightly dotty Paul Verlaine."

Sadler was subsequently flown to Eighth Army headquarters and assigned to guide the New Zealand Corps round the southern flank of the line.

After the Allies' final defeat of the Axis forces in north Africa in May 1943, the SAS, now under the command of

Paddy Mayne, took part in the invasion of Sicily and mainland Italy, and Sadler took on a more combatant role. Later that year he was flown to England to form an intelligence section for the expanded SAS brigade preparing for operations during the invasion of Normandy.

On the night of August 7, 1944, Sadler, now a captain, and Mayne parachuted into the Loiret département some 60 miles south of Paris to join the SAS squadrons already operating there, to co-ordinate the local "Maquis" (Resistance) sabotage in support of the Allied breakout from Normandy.

This almost cost him his life. Hitler had ordered that any captured SAS were to be summarily executed (the so-called Kommandobefehl). While crossing the Montargis-Orleans Road in a two-Jeep patrol, Sadler encountered a stronger German one. At first he bluffed them with a cheery wave, but after passing within a few feet of each, the Germans opened fire. Sadler ordered his second Jeep to flee while he used his twin machine guns to hold off the enemy. He was subsequently awarded the Military Cross, his recommendation for gallantry initiated by Mayne and approved by Montgomery.

When the SAS were disbanded

at the end of the War, Sadler, by now a major, left the army and joined the Falkland Islands Dependencies Antarctic survey, for which he was awarded the Polar Medal. He then spent two years with the American embassy in London on "information work", ostensibly distributing publicity films, before being recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6). All he would say about his time with MI6 was that it allowed him also to indulge his love of ocean sailing, particularly in the Caribbean.

He finally retired – officially, at least – in 1984, spending his later years in a retirement home near Cambridge.

The LRDG and SAS finally came together when the LRDG Association joined the SAS Regimental Association in 2000, and in 2017 a memorial to the LRDG was installed at the SAS chapel in Hereford, with the words, "They Showed Us The Way". By then, however, Sadler's preternatural eyesight, which had so often shown the way, was rapidly fading, and by the end was wholly gone.

Major Michael Sadler MC MM, LRDG and SAS "original", was born on February 22, 1920. He died on January 4, 2024, aged 103. 🌹

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Catherine Scott (1970-1973)

I opened up the 2023 Old Bedalian newsletter, on behalf of my sister. She has sadly died – in October 2022 – in London, where she lived for most of her adult life.

I can pass on to you the fact that her years at the school seemed to suit her very well, and she made good friendships. She also learned enough to go to university, despite one last event in Sixth Form – having a crash on her bike at the Bedales Le Mans! It led to

Sussex European Institute, University of Sussex giving her an easier A Level requirement and she became an ESOL teacher of great merit!

She would have asked me to send you all her warmest wishes - especially since she has now found the place she had always desired, after her discovery of Christian faith many decades ago. 🌹

Charles Scott, brother

machine and a lathe.

Whilst working at Kynoch he attended a one-day release course and obtained a BSc in Applied Physics at Aston University. He was a member of the Institute of Physics. He worked successively in industrial instrument maintenance, X-ray crystallography, industrial instrument development and medical instrument development at Birmingham Medical School. He then spent the next 30 years working for Joseph Lucas and later for SAGEM (a French company) developing electronic parts for cars. He retired in 1999. He was an accomplished linguist, fluent in French and German – skills he was able to use in his trips abroad for the firm.

He had many interests, in particular photography, and was a keen member of Smethwick Photographic Club. He borrowed his father's box Brownie at age 13 and at age 20 he bought a ¼ plate camera for 15 shillings and was hooked. He loved chamber music and he and his wife Dorothy were regular visitors to West Cork Chamber Music Festival in Ireland.

He was an avid reader and was usually to be found quietly reading in the lounge, engrossed in a book. His first wife Judith Cutler was a recognised writer of crime stories. The couple had one son, Jonathan.

He married his second wife Dorothy in 1996, shortly after Dorothy's retirement from working as a GP. They enjoyed travelling and spent many happy holidays abroad including a special visit to Athens to hear the concert pianist **Martino Tirimo (1956-59)** who had also attended Bedales School, although much later than David.

David had many qualities of charm and wit – he always had a humorous story to tell. He was generous in nature, a true gentleman. He was loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed. He lives on in the hearts of those he loved and will not die.

Dorothy Williams, wife

David G Williams (1953-56)

David was born on 8 August 1939. At that time, communications were not so fast as they are now, so it took about four weeks for the news to reach Germany. The Second World War started on 3 September 1939.

Some years ago, David made some autobiographical reflections entitled *My War* from which I will give you a few excerpts:

David and his parents lived in Sabell Road, Smethwick. During the War there was no electricity, lighting was by gas, there was a gas boiler and a gas cooker in the kitchen. In the corner was a shallow sink with a cold tap, the only water in the house. After the War his grandfather made a kitchen table with a lift-up lid and a rectangular zinc-lined bath under the lid. During the War there was a great shortage of iron for making guns, tanks and ships.

All the houses in Sabell Road were built with cast iron railings on top of their front garden walls. One of David's earliest memories is of a team of men cutting off all the iron railings so that the metal could be re-used.

David's father (known as 'Orris' ie Horace) was in a reserved occupation which meant that he was not liable to be called up for the army. At night he was an Air Raid Precautions (ARP)

warden, which meant that during air raids, he had to patrol the streets looking for fires, and trying to rescue any people from bombed buildings and giving first aid. There was a strict blackout to make it harder for German bombers to find their targets and all the streetlights were off. The houses had blackouts to cover their windows – one of the warden's jobs was to ensure all the windows were covered. Everyone had an air raid shelter – whenever there was an air raid there would be a loud siren and everyone would troop into the shelter in the garden.

David remembers walking down the road with his uncle Norman in his new army uniform – within a year he was killed at Monte Cassino.

At the end of the War there was a big fireworks display on VJ Day. David has loved fireworks to this day!

David won a scholarship to go to Burford Grammar School and later he attended Bedales School which had a marked influence on him for the rest of his life. He was apprenticed as an instrument technician for 10 years at Kynoch in Wilton (part of ICI) where he learned many practical skills which served him well in later years. He had a fully equipped engineering workshop in the garden shed, with a miller, drilling

Giles Williams (1980-89)

It was an extraordinary innings of 51 & 3/4s... the first half was stylish, confident, carefree, and effortless... but then while on 26 he received an almost unplayable delivery which necessitated a lengthy and thorough DRS (Decision Review System) review that he barely survived. The second half of his innings proceeded with caution, wisdom, expertise, but also much happiness.

With sister **Sophy (1980-87)** paving the way, Giles attended Bedales as a boarder from age 9-18 where like many, he made lifelong friendships and bonds with 'the lads' who remain a tight-knit gang to this day. School was a reassuring constant with army parents moving regularly around the Middle East, Germany and the States.

He read Business Studies at University of Westminster and went on to enjoy the roaring 90s mainly in London wine bars and PR industry events. He was beginning to establish himself in his field... until he faced a virtually unplayable, cruel delivery... which forced him to prioritise recovery, health and wellbeing.



Aged just 26, Giles was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and endured many rounds of gruelling treatment and operations over the ensuing 25 years but was determined not to let his illness define him. Throughout he showed unflinching humour, optimism, courage, and resilience.

Sport remained a constant throughout his life. He was a supremely gifted and highly competitive athlete, endowed with physical, mental, and instinctive superiority. He racked up dozens of 100s and 50s at Steep and Winsley Cricket Clubs. He was a fearsome fast bowler in his youth who terrorised batsmen and slip fielders alike, and who continued to be a prolific wicket taker in later years.

He was also a brilliant footballer (and committed Arsenal fan), who started off as a goalkeeper before realising that he would be even more popular with the opposite sex if he scored goals -- which he did in abundance after moving to centre forward -- before settling at centre back from where he could lead his team and dictate the game. He was also an effortless and natural skier.

He married twice and was incredibly well looked after and loved. In partnership with schoolmate **Max Duckworth (1982-89)**, Giles and his wife Fiona loved living and working at Grove Farm in Box, where they built a self-catering holiday business, powered the farm with solar energy, grew biodynamic vegetables, and kept rescued chickens and turkeys, cows, horses and bees.

He was also a loving godfather to three children belonging to **Sasha White (1980-85)**, **Nick Vale (1982-89)**



and Max Duckworth.

Giles was a thoroughly decent, caring, and loyal gent with an immaculate Lego head of hair. He was mischievous, playful, and genuinely funny -- with a rapier wit that could cut you down in a few words, a tweet, or a single GIF. Well trained at school, he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of music -- with an ability to decipher pretty much any song after only two or three notes. A man of deep conviction, with unwavering opinions on nearly all matters, he was able to see through a lot of the fluff and hyperbole of life today. ☘

Sophy Williams (1980-87), sister.

All OBs are cordially invited to join other friends and family in raising a bat to celebrate Giles' extraordinary innings on Sunday 7 July 2024 at the annual Giles Williams Cricket Cup held at Winsley Cricket Club, near Bath. To RSVP or for further information, please email Giles' sister Sophy on sophy@allforabetterworld.com

We are very grateful to family and friends for all the contributions for the obituaries of Old Bedalians and former staff in this newsletter. If you would like to provide an obituary for a future issue, please get in touch with the Bedales Alumni team at alumni@bedales.org.uk

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

Births

Camilla (Milly) Horsley (2001-03) and Tom Jarman, a son, Jago Woody Beresford, on 3 August 2023

Josephine Jonathan (2006-08) and Cornelius Halladay-Garrett, a son, Augustine Morris, on 19 January 2024

Minty Nicholson (2000-08) and **Will Nott (2007-10)**, a daughter, Hebe Agnes Eve, on 7 April 2023

Josh Plough (2003-08) and Julia Owczarczak, a boy, Gabriel Francis Mungo, on 22 September 2023

Eleanor Plumbe (2009-14) and Luke Nelson, a son, Laurie, on 8 December 2023

Tortie Rye (néé Ballantine Dykes, 1996-2000) and **Will Rye (1987-89)**, a daughter, Zelda Rose Isobel, on 7 November 2023

Marriages

Olivia Brett (2006-14) and Gabriel Bliard, on 28 May 2022

Léo Burton (1987-93) and Karen Butler, on 10 September 2022

Charlotte Glass (2008-10) and Jack Twedde, on 12 February 2023

Claire Hall (1985-2000) and Peter Coysh, by civil partnership, on 4 April 2022

Charlie Raines (2009-11, staff 2014-16) and Benjamin Doswell, on 26 October 2023

Katie Shannon (2005-13) and Harry Hewlett, on 8 April 2023

Emma Sueref (2002-12) and Nick Constable, on 14 December 2023

Jack Westgarth (2003-08) and **Kelly Johnson (2001-09)**, on 25 November 2023

Deaths

Julia Ackerman (1967-71), on 12 December 2023

Helen Baird (née Mayall, 1937-45), in August 2022

Nevil Barker (1943-45), on 14 November 2022

David E Brooke (1943-50), on 14 May 2023

James Brooke (1944-46), on 18 September 2023

Hugo Burge (1985-90), on 10 May 2023

Peter Cartwright (staff, 1980-?), on 7 March 2023

Peter Coates (staff, 1989-2014), on 10 September 2023

Alastair Cochrane (1985-93), on 29 December 2023

David Cooper (1941-44), on 17 April 2022

Tom Daubeny (1987-92), on 22 October 2023

Christopher Desoutter (1939-46), on 2 January 2023

Pamela Duncan (née Sherman, 1940-45), on 7 October 2011

Norman Edwards (1948-56), on 20 June 2023

Gillian Ferguson (née Stronach, 1947-50), on 27 November 2022

Joy Fry (staff, 1970-95), on 14 February 2023

Jolyon Goodman (staff, 1966-73), on 15 July 2023

Christopher Granville Mathews (1968-73), on 16 November 2017

Jenifer Hine (1938-40), on 13 October 2020

Diana Holman (1943-49), on 25 February 2023

Jill Lloyd (née Napier, 1943-48), on 9 March 2022

Rachel Mason (née Godlee, 1942-48), on 1 February 2023

Michael Morris (1944-50), on 8 February 2023

Elizabeth Murray (1973-78), on 7 April 2023

Gordon Nelki (1946-54), on 1 May 2022

Hugh Neville Gunther (1945-55), on 7 June 2022

Steuart Padwick (1973-78), on 3 April 2023

John Perrin (1941-47), on 13 March 2023

Dolf Polak (1938-42, Governor 1976-83), on 21 November 2022

Sally Raffles (née Sieff, 1942-50), on 3 November 2022

Tony Reid (1964-69), on 29 September 2023

Rhys Revell (1938-41), on 26 February 2023

John Robinson (1949-54), on 11 April 2023

Robin Rousham (1942-53), on 3 November 2022

Mike Sadler (1933-37), on 4 January 2024

William H Salaman (1951-58), in January 2023

Catherine Scott (1970-73), on 30 October 2022

Shirley Valentine (née Hall, 1944-47), in December 2022

John Watt (1952-56), on 13 March 2023

David Williams (1953-56), on 26 March 2023

Giles Williams (1980-89), in February 2023

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2023

Class of 2023

Name	Destination	Course
Leon Amos	University of Westminster; London	Law with Foundation
Poppy Batory	University of Chester	Zoology (including foundation year)
Clemmie Bevan	SOAS	History of Art and Music
Felix Bicknell	Royal Agricultural University	Business Management (with placement year)
Isabelle Bluestone	University of Sheffield	Biology (with placement year)
Beau Brentnall	Wiltshire College	Art Foundation
Jack Brooksbank	University of Nottingham	Ancient History and Archaeology
Kipp Bryan	Central Saint Martins	Art Foundation
Skylar Cazac	Camberwell	Art Foundation
Nesta Chinn	University of the West of England, Bristol	Media Communications
Willa Cole	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Jemima Corcoran	UCL	English
Maya Cressman	University of Liverpool	Philosophy and Politics
Bella Cutts	University of Exeter	Sociology
Jamila Downes	Guildford College	Art Foundation
Gracie Fincher-Sell	Falmouth University	Film
Dylan Grafftey Smith	Falmouth University	Music Production and Sound Engineering
Isabella Greef	University of Bristol	Philosophy and Spanish
Benjamin Greening	University of Reading	Economics
Felix Hales	Alton College	Art Foundation
Millie Harris	University of Leeds	Nutrition
Natascha Hertweck	Goldsmiths, University of London	Popular Music
Ying Highfield	University of Bristol	Psychology
Vicente Ho de Castro Menano	University of York	Environment, Economics and Ecology
Leila Ioannidou	University of Exeter	English and Communications
Kervan Karatas	University of Westminster	Biomedicine
Ottilie Katkhuda	University of Bristol	Economics and Accounting
Otto Lehmann	Nottingham Trent University	Product Design
Danil Levchenko	University of Reading	Environmental Management and Sustainability
Zoe Lobbenberg	University of Aberdeen	Philosophy and Politics
Eben Macdonald	Durham University	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Kit Mackay	University of Exeter	Art History and Visual Culture
Guy Martin	University of Surrey	Chemical Engineering
Arlo Martin	University of York	Chemistry (with year in industry)
Madison Matthews	University of Bristol	International Social and Public Policy (with study abroad)
Elio Mazas	Bath Spa University	Forensic Psychology (with professional placement year)
Elizabeth McFarlane	Newcastle University	Classical Studies

Class of 2023

Name	Destination	Course
Martha (Robin) Michelmore	Arts University Bournemouth	Performance Design and Film Costume
Thomas Montagu	University of Bristol	Business and Management
Kamaya Nelson Clayton	London South Bank University	Acting and Performance
Milo Nutt	Sapienza, University of Rome	Classics
Connor O'Donoghue	Cardiff University	Astrophysics
Margot Paisner	University of Sussex	English Language and Literature (with a study abroad year)
Dominic Pearce	De Montfort University	Product Design
Ophelia Phillips	University of Bath	Politics and International Relations (with professional placement or study abroad)
Clementine Pike	Falmouth University	Costume Design for Film and Television (with professional placement)
Inigo Portman	University of Bath	Politics and International Relations (with professional placement or study abroad)
Zach Ranger-Sizeland	University of Plymouth	Geography (with foundation year)
Sukey Ridge	The University of Edinburgh	English Literature
Anne-Sophie Robson	Newcastle University	Politics and History
Guendalina Schiaffino	Institute of Contemporary Music Performance	Popular Music Performance – Vocals
Ava Sender Logan	University of Aberdeen	Biochemistry (with industrial placement)
Maria Shabanova	Northumbria University, Newcastle	Mathematics, Physics and Electrical Engineering Foundation Year
Imogen Shannon	Bath Spa University	Geography - Human (with professional placement year)
Nate Shuster	University of Bristol	Chemistry
Nicole Simpson	John Cabot University, Rome	Liberal Arts
Seren Standring	Kingston University	Fashion (including sandwich year)
Zach Stewart	University of Worcester	Cricket Coaching and Management
Rio Taverner	IE University Madrid, Spain	Behavioural Science
Rowena Le Poer Trench	L'École Int. de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq, Paris	Acting
Constance Thoms	Goldsmiths, University of London	Psychology
Benjamin Tsang	University of Sussex	Psychology (with foundation year)
Leela Walton	University of Exeter	Sport and Exercise Medical Sciences
Yunhao Wei	Lancaster University	Sports and Exercise Science
John Wentworth-Stanley	Loughborough University	Product Design Engineering
Huw Wheeler	Swansea University	General Engineering
Jack Wheeler	Nottingham Trent University	Law with Criminology
Romilly White	University of Glasgow	Geography
Barbara White Pereira	University of the Arts London	Fashion Design and Development
Mary Whitley	University of Glasgow	Film and Television Studies
Constance Witheridge	University of Oxford	Philosophy and Beginners' Italian

Class of 2022

Name	Destination	Course
Lucy Albuquerque	University of Sussex	Social Sciences
Natasha Arney	The University of Edinburgh	Biological Sciences - Zoology
Patrick Bell	University of Manchester	English Literature
Ben Bradberry	University of Exeter	Philosophy
Samantha Dale	University of Sussex	English
Mathilda Douglas	Oxford Brookes University	Sport, Coaching and Physical Education
Jasper Dreyfus	University of York	Philosophy/Politics
Olivia Ewing	University of Winchester	Psychology
Huxley Green	University of Bristol	Physics
Harry Hornsby	University of Bristol	Chemistry with Computing
Chiyo Jeffcock	University of the West of England, Bristol	Biological Sciences
Jasper Kennedy	Queen Mary, University of London	Biological Sciences with Foundation
Poppy Kingsley-Pallant	Oxford Brookes University	Business and Management
Anastasia Lawes	University of Manchester	French Studies
Shanklin MacKillop-Hall	University of Leeds	Fine Art with History of Art
Raef Macnaghten	University of Birmingham	Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership (PwC)
Ayanda Malala	University of Sussex	Psychology
Kit Mayhook-Walker	Falmouth University	Television
Taragh Melwani	The University of Edinburgh	History
Maya Muller	Leiden University, Netherlands	International Relations
Martha Rye Lees	University of York	Midwifery
Amelia Smith	University of Leeds	Cultural and Media Studies
Antonina Solovieva	UCL	German and History
Archie Tier	Liverpool Hope University	Criminology and Education
John Tucker	University of Warwick	Management
Mabel Watson	King's College London	Music

Class of 2021

Name	Destination	Course
Hazel Harries	Abertay University	Game Design and Production
Jacob Heneghan	University of the Arts, London	Fashion Communication: Journalism
Alice Hockey	University of York	History of Art
Chiyo Jeffcock	University of the West of England, Bristol	Biological Sciences

Class of 2020

Name	Destination	Course
Kitty Atherton	University of the West of England, Bristol	Philosophy
Romilly Howes	University for the Creative Arts	Jewellery and Silversmithing

