

# Bedales Schools



Dear Old Bedalian,

Welcome to the first bulletin of 2019. I hope that you have had a good start to the New Year.

Earlier this month, a group of OBs from the class of 2008 returned to meet 6.2s and describe their career paths since leaving Bedales. This has been an annual event for some time now and this year they were a typically varied group including a technology consultant (**Dominic Black**), a human resources manager (**Charlotte Drew**), a vet (**Tom Elwes**), a chemical engineer (**Arran Marais-Gilchrist**), a marketing manager (**Minty Nicholson**), an A&R manager (**Zoe Warshaw**), an entrepreneur in residence at the University of Oxford (**Ollie Waterhouse**), and a furniture designer (**Ezra Winter**). The OBs were at pains to point out that a successful career depended not only on hard work but on confidence, a sense of purpose and a willingness to adapt and seize opportunities. They were generous and encouraging in their advice and the 6.2s responded well to the foretaste of what they might be like in ten years' time. Many thanks to all eight OBs for their precious time.

This will be my last monthly update for a while as I am going on maternity leave at the end of the week. Alex Beckmann will be joining Bedales soon to take over alumni matters whilst I'm away. Please do continue getting in touch with your news - you can reach Alex on [alumni@bedales.org.uk](mailto:alumni@bedales.org.uk). You can also still of course contact our volunteer Alumni Officer, Philip Parsons, on [pparsons@bedales.org.uk](mailto:pparsons@bedales.org.uk).

I wish you all a happy and successful 2019!

Best wishes,

Leana

[Mary's Hand](#)

[Christopher Hall Retrospective](#)

[Back Roads of the Catalan Pyrenees](#)

[CognitionX](#)

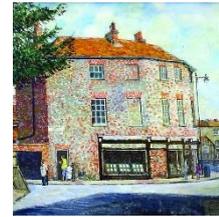
[Bedales Rock Show](#)

[Bedales Chamber Concert](#)

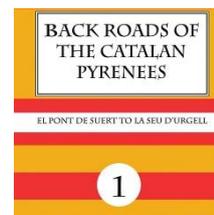
**Clare McCaldin (1979-85)** has developed a solo opera called [Mary's Hand](#), with writer-director Di Sherlock and composer Martin Bussey. The show had its premiere last year and will now be touring the UK in 2019. Clare plays Queen Mary I, Bloody Mary to her enemies, who loves to play dice and cards. Over a game in which the audience chooses the next card to be turned, Mary reflects on her life: her royal family, faith, marriage, her desperate desire for a child, and her blackened reputation. Clare's tour starts next month. She will be performing in London on 15 and 19 February and will then travel north, to Hexham on 22 February and Lancaster on 23 February. More dates and further information [here](#).



**Christopher Hall (1943-49)** was an artist who was fascinated with history and preserving the individual character of towns and villages. His attention to the small details of everyday life gave his paintings a distinct figurative style for which he became well known. Christopher lived in Newbury and his detailed studies of his local area, as well as subjects from Wales, Europe and the US, can now be viewed at Newbury's [West Berkshire Museum](#). The retrospective exhibition features 30 paintings and many sketches drawn throughout his career - highlighting his evolution as an artist between the early 1950s and 2016. Entry is free, but donations are welcome. Until 24 February (Wed-Sun, 10am-4pm).



Travel writer **Duncan Gough (1970-75)** has published a new guide. *Back Roads of the Catalan Pyrenees - El Pont de Suert to La Seu d'Urgell* forms part of Duncan's [series of three books](#) which cover his favourite motorbike routes in the region. The two other titles, *Biscay Ports to El Pont de Suert* and *La Seu d'Urgell to Solsona* were published last year. Duncan finds that "the Catalan Pyrenees, and in particular the Lleida province, is a biker's paradise". The books, which are also applicable to other forms of transport, cover hundreds of kilometres of back roads. Duncan has included hand-drawn maps and sketches, and introduces the reader to the history and beauty of the area. Find out more [here](#).



In 2015, **Charlie Muirhead (1988-93)** and **Tabitha Goldstaub (1999-2004)** founded [CognitionX](#), an artificial intelligence advice platform. Charlie and Tabitha recently featured in a Techworld [article](#) explaining how, despite many big AI data projects failing, they believe that their startup can make a difference. "We felt that there was a need to democratise access to good advice on technology adoption." The CognitionX system functions as an advice marketplace that matches questions to domain experts in real-time. They want this advice to result in "safe and responsible deployment of these very powerful technologies, and that the benefits get shared amongst everybody and don't end up manifesting with a very small group of people." [Read more](#).



There are still a few tickets left for the upcoming Bedales Rock Show. The 2019 show will mark the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of this now legendary event, which has become a remarkable demonstration of the extraordinary talent and versatility of Bedales students. All proceeds from the event go to the [John Badley Foundation](#) which offers financial support through full bursaries for talented young people, whose family circumstances mean that a Bedales education would otherwise be out of reach. Tickets are available for Wednesday 6 February. Book [here](#). Come early to enjoy pre-show drinks at the JBF Pop-Up bar in the Bedales Theatre Foyer from 6pm. Free sausages!



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