

Bedales Schools



Dear Old Bedalian,

The school year has now ended and the summer holidays are in full swing. With this summer bumper issue of the bulletin, I wish a very warm welcome to our newest members, this year's 6.2 leavers.

In the final week of term, there were many tributes to **Keith Budge (staff 2001-18)** by students, staff and governors as he left Bedales after 17 years as Headmaster. Magnus Bashaarat will take over as Headmaster in September.

Parents' Day was described as a "sun blasted, music saturated, joy crammed and amazingly positive and full blooded fanfare for Bedales" by **Matthew Rice (1975-80)**. Current and former students, staff and parents were treated to a wonderful day of exhibitions and events. [See photos](#). Events included the 10, 25, and 40 year reunions, the former parents' lunch, the Stoner vs Bedales cricket match ([read more](#)) and **Gyles Brandreth's (1961-66)** one-man show, *Break a Leg*, in aid of the [John Badley Foundation](#).

Finally, the date for **Ruth Whiting's (staff 1963-2000)** memorial has been set. It will be taking place at Bedales on Saturday 10 November, 2.30pm. Further information will be published in due course.

Best wishes,

Leana

[Burnt Dress](#)

[Stoner Cricket](#)

[Mary's Hand](#)

[The Meeting](#)

[One for Sorrow](#)

[Head Above Water](#)

[Mill\(y\)onaire Milly](#)

[Gyles Brandreth's Teenage Diary](#)

[Doddington Sculpture Exhibition](#)

[Diana Ambache](#)

[Visit from Mike Sadler](#)

[Visit from David Hill](#)

Jo Murphy (staff 2001-10) has brought out a new book, black comedy memoir *Burnt Dress*. Calling on a variety of forms including prose pieces, play-scripts, rhyming satirical verse - and even a multiple choice paper - it charts the rollercoaster of growing up with a manic-depressive (now known as bipolar) parent in the 1960s. 'Bipolar offspring', as they are known, are rather an unsung bunch and Jo wanted to draw attention to their often extremely bizarre childhood experiences. Oliver James - psychologist, broadcaster, author and journalist - said of *Burnt Dress*: 'A forceful and rich piece of work. With its unexpected wit in dark places and hard-won wisdom, *Burnt Dress* is a vital book about surviving extreme parenting.' She hopes to read excerpts from the book at the forthcoming [2019 Bipolar Conference](#) in Sydney.



The Old Bedalian cricket club will be holding their annual Stoner cricket week at Bedales between 23 and 27 July. The event has been running since 1934, when **Benn Bennett (staff 1930-71)** and three OBs dreamt up the idea, gaining Mr Badley's approval. With a match against a different club every day and plenty of socialising, the week promises the usual fun and comradeship. Spectators and new members are very welcome. See photos and read about Stoner's recent (and very hot!) Parents' Day match against Bedales, written by **Justin Jones (1987-92)** [here](#). For further information about the upcoming event or the club in general, please [contact us](#).



Clare McCaldin (1975-85) has been developing a new solo opera called *Mary's Hand*, with writer-director Di Sherlock and composer Martin Bussey. This moving and beautiful show had its first performance in Chester last month and upcoming London premiere is part of [Tête-à-Tête: The Opera Festival](#). Clare plays Queen Mary I, accompanied by trumpet, cello and oboe/cor anglais. The show examines issues of women and power, who writes history for whose benefit and how past events resonate in our present world. It also touches on the personal side of Mary's life that adds nuance and contrast to her reputation as Bloody Mary. Find out more [here](#). 1- 2 August at 8.30pm. Tickets available [here](#).



Lydia Leonard (1995-99) is currently starring in *The Meeting* at the Minerva Theatre in Chichester - a powerful new play by acclaimed writer Charlotte Jones. Set in 1805, Lydia plays Rachel, who has been the voice for her deaf mother since she was born, but now is restless to be heard for herself. Together, they have found sanctuary in a Quaker community that reveres silence. But the world is at war and it is becoming ever harder to live in friendship. When a stranger arrives in their midst, their fragile peace is set to shatter. A spellbinding exploration of the timeless challenges of bringing the truth to light. Until 11 August. Tickets available [here](#).



Playwright **Cordelia Lynn (2005-07)** made her debut at the Royal Court Theatre in 2015 with the acclaimed *Lela and Co*. Now, after winning last year's [Pinter Commission](#), she has returned to the venue with her latest offering, *One for Sorrow*. During an attack on London, 20-year-old Imogen joins a campaign offering refuge to victims. Before her family have even had a chance to have a reasonable discussion, John is at their door. He is different from them. He isn't what they expected. And although they'd never admit it to themselves, he isn't necessarily what they want. Cordelia came up with the idea during the 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, when many locals invited people into their homes, offering them a place of safety during the horrific event. Until Saturday 11 August.



Steuart Padwick (1973-78) has taken on his largest and most challenging project yet. He has designed a 10m high sculpture, *Head Above Water*, for the London Design Festival. The sculpture of a head is in support of and endorsed by charities [Mind](#) and [Time to Change](#). It will be installed on the Queen's Stone Jetty, next to OXO Tower Wharf, and will be on show 15-23 September. The sculpture is a very personal piece for Steuart, about his own battles and getting into a more positive place. It is a symbol of hope, bravery, compassion, positivity and change. Steuart is raising £85,000 for the costs of fabrication (offered at cost) as well as installing and dismantling. Materials, engineering and lighting have been offered free of charge. If you are able to help, or for further information, please contact [Steuart](#). A permanent location will be sought for the piece after the festival.



Alana Hurd (1995-2000) is heading off on a three year UK road trip with two small dogs in a campervan called 'Mill(y)onaire Milly' to change the lives of thousands of people in the UK & Africa. Alana will help as many dreamers and innovators as possible to succeed in their projects/ventures through £100,000s of funding, the right connections and she's raising £1,000,000 en route to fulfil the dream of eight abandoned disabled youngsters in Swaziland with a forever home. Alana has put a great many benefits together for anyone who wants to help her impact this great change by August. Find out more [here](#).



Gyles Brandreth (1961-66) was recently a guest on BBC Radio 4's *My Teenage Diary*. The show where brave celebrities are invited to dust off their old diaries and read them out in public for the very first time. Gyles, who has been keeping diaries since 1959, has now amassed over 50 boxes worth of notebooks, which have their own room in his house. For the show he picked ones from 1961-64, which covers his time at Bedales: "It was the most unusual and delightful school, and this tradition of the handshaking... eventually I came to realise how wonderful it was, that everybody within the community met everyone else, and there was not one teacher who you didn't look in the eye every day." Listen to the programme [here](#).



A selection of **Alison Berman's (1958-63)** sculptures will be on display at the upcoming [Doddington Sculpture Exhibition](#). The collection of indoor and outdoor works from 75 different artists will be exhibited from 28 July until 9 September. With Doddington Hall as a backdrop, the walled gardens, romantic wild gardens and the parkland beyond are the perfect foil for sculpture along with the large indoor gallery hosting a ceramics exhibition. Curator David Waghorne has carefully selected national and international sculptors to complement each area and to provide an eclectic exhibition to suit all tastes, styles and budgets, with almost every piece for sale. Open daily from 11.00-16.00. Normal garden admission charges apply, £7/adult.



Diana Ambache's (1960-66) book *Soul of the Journey* is about Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn's untold journeys towards musical accomplishment. Knitting together music, art and letters, it focuses on how Felix's journey to Scotland (1829) and Fanny's to Italy (1839-40) inspired their greatest works. Their uniquely close sibling relationship is illustrated by their letters, which also include close discussions of their music-making. Diana was short-listed for the European Women of Achievement Awards 2002 for her work raising the profile of women composers – [Women of Note](#). She is looking for a publisher of this fine, pictorial book. Suggestions can be sent to diana@ambache.co.uk.



As part of the celebrations to commemorate the 125th anniversary year of Bedales School, 24 students from Block 5 and 6.2 and teachers completed an arduous five-day 125km walk from the old Bedales in Lindfield, where the school spent its first six years from 1893, to the current estate in Steep. The group was met back at Bedales on 29 June by 98 year old SAS veteran **Mike Sadler (1933-37)**, together with youngest member of the school, three year old Liberty Camping, before all school pupils and staff walked to the Memorial cricket pitch for a '125' drone photo. To mark the occasion, Mike Sadler and Liberty then helped plant a tree using soil carried by the walkers from the original school site. [Read more](#) and [see photos](#).



One of the highlights of Parents' Day was the presence in the Biology department of **David Hill (1956-62)**, the son of **Robin Hill (1912-1917)**. This year the Biology display celebrated the life and work of Robin, a biologist renowned for his work on chloroplasts and what is called the 'Hill reaction'. Before moving on to Biochemistry, when still at Bedales, Robin also developed an interest in plant dyes such as Woad and Madder. On display were some of his experiments with different dyes and fabrics – experiments that do not look dissimilar to a current Bedales Assessed Course project on plant dyes by one of the Block 5 students. This interest was inherited by David, who is a real authority on the subject and was very happy to discuss it at length with visitors to the exhibition. [Read more](#)



Bedales Schools Church Road Steep Petersfield, GU32 2DG
Phone: 01730 300100 | Fax: 01730 300500 | Email: alumni@bedales.org.uk
[Unsubscribe](#)