OLD BEDALIAN NEWSLETTER 2026



Bedales











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We are so grateful to Mary Hancox, Alumni & Development Manager, who left in March 2026 after 16 years of committed service to the school. Over this period, she has been at the end of the phone and email, liaising with OBs and responding to their queries with care and empathy as well as organising convivial and successful OB gatherings and reunions. We are delighted to announce that **Alice Shaw (1992-99)** takes over the Alumni Manager role from 20 April – please continue to use alumni@bedales.org.uk to contact the school.

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 if known. Please help us update our records if you spot any missing or inaccurate dates! And do submit comments, future articles and letters to the Editor via email at alumni@bedales.org.uk

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Front cover: 'Work of Each for Weal of All' motif, designed by Edmund Garrett, 1894.

Edmund and **John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)** together wrote the first pamphlet of the school. Badley said: "The rose stood for England and the bee for hard work."

Source: *Bedales School: The First Hundred Years* by **Roy Wake (staff, 1949-59 and governor, 1984-90)** and **Pennie Denton (née Player, 1947-57)**, published 1993 by The Hoggerston Press.

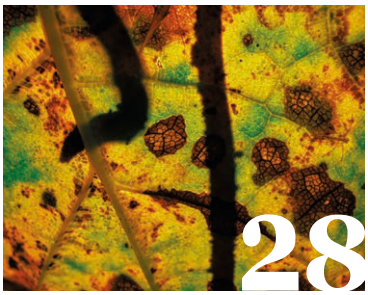
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WELCOME



Sylvia Kahn-Freund (1959-70), Chair of the Bedales Association Steering Group

As a review of 2025 this newsletter illustrates that regardless of the difficulties placed recently on independent education, such as VAT on fees and other increasing costs, the spirit of true learning has not been diminished at Bedales.

It is heartening to read that educators in the state sector too rate the love of learning above dogma and examinations, despite financial and examination requirements that prevent them from making changes to the national curriculum to better hold students' interest. Sadly there seems no imminent change likely in the GCSE regimen. (May – Fighting to keep the love of learning alive, page 16). Bedales Assessed Courses however, both popular in school and supported by universities as proper entrance qualifications, are set to expand into the sciences, aiming to provide a relevant preparation for students going on to science A Levels.

It is particularly encouraging to hear from JBF students how they view their time at Bedales, and how they have made use of the opportunities it offered them for future careers. Their visits back to the school after leaving, whether for a poetry reading or Sixth Form careers event, confirm how much they become part of the inter-generational co-operation and conversation between the school and its alumni. A quick glance through the Bedales School Roll evidences a more literal multi-generational aspect of the school, in the number of families choosing Bedales decade after decade. The Morris family is one such example (see 'My journey so far', page 28 and the podcast article on page 33).

I am in part responsible for the land management of some 350 acres of lowland heath belonging to my local natural history organisation and so I read with great pleasure the extent to which Outdoor Work is so much more now than just an alternative to sport or an opportunity to drive a large tractor at an early age. Whatever career path students take later in life, they will always benefit from an understanding that the choices we make in using the resources available to us now will determine the choices available in the future. The Outdoor Work department offers a hands-on and serious approach to the concept of sustainability. Long may it continue.

My thanks as ever to the alumni team for all the work they put into enabling reunions and connecting OBs of different cohorts to the school and to each other. I would like to say a personal thank you to Mary Hancox who left at the end of March after many years of wise advice and cheerful work for the Steering Group. I will miss you!

Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales



Since the last OB Newsletter, Bedales – like all independent schools – has been working hard to respond to the impact of the imposition of VAT on its fees to parents, as well as the loss of business rate relief. This, in addition to the other costs placed on all businesses, organisations and charities since the change of government in 2024, has been a significant and time-consuming challenge.

In leading with this item of news in what is normally a message full of hope and positivity, I do not want Old Bedalians to be overly alarmed as the school is in a strong position, both in terms of its finances, its student numbers and, most importantly, the strong offer it has to our students which cannot be found elsewhere, either in this country or overseas. Instead, I am identifying this event as a moment in the school's history and that of education more broadly as it will be seen as a watershed moment for the sector. There will be schools that come through the current challenges and those that unfortunately will not. The impact on Bedales will undoubtedly result in shifts – some of which we cannot foresee at this relatively early stage of transition to this new landscape.

One upside of the situation (I am and will always be the school's 'optimist in chief') is that donations to The John Badley Foundation and the Bedales Grants Trust Fund – the two charities that support means-tested bursaries for our students – are exempt from VAT. This means that any donations we receive (and we remain deeply grateful to those who are able to support students who would not otherwise be able to access a Bedales education) are not affected by this tax rise. As ever, they also continue to be eligible for the 25% gift aid that is applied to all donations that come from UK taxpayers.

Another positive of this situation is that it pushes us to look even more to the wider world for multiple reasons – comparing what we are facing in the UK with other countries; expanding our international intake a little to balance out the more challenging UK market; visiting other schools abroad as we calibrate our educational offer with other approaches; and connecting even more with our alumni. If any of you reading this are interested in meeting up with me or other members of the school community in far-flung places, do get in touch as you might be surprised where we pop up next!



Aside from the above, you will see that Bedales continues, as always, to be a place where academic endeavours dovetail with creative excellence; where we continue to explore what best practice looks like in education; and where we are not afraid to challenge the status quo when the evidence tells us there is a better way.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, either here in Hampshire or out and about in the UK and the wider world. We also love hearing from you about your memories of your time here and your ideas about what we're doing now. With very best wishes, Will.

OB EVENTS – REVIEW OF 2025

We are very grateful to the many Old Bedalians who give up their time to return to Bedales and who contribute to the school's co-curricular life with their insights and talks.



Screening of soil health film – January

Bedales held a public screening of the soil health film *Six Inches of Soil* in collaboration with Petersfield Climate Action Network (PeCAN). A packed Bedales Theatre of local environmentalists and members of the school and local community then enjoyed a discussion on the important topics raised around farming, food production and sustainability. **Louise Bevan (née Trueman, 1966-70)**, Deputy Chair of PeCAN commented: "It was wonderful that Bedales collaborated with the local community around an issue that is critical and urgent – addressing and reversing biodiversity loss and reducing carbon emissions, issues that people care deeply about. It was an important call to action: Think Global, Act Local."

Steinway Recital – February

We all enjoyed the wonderful Steinway Piano Recital in February – the first recital since our 1976 Steinway Model D grand piano was fully rebuilt in early 2025 thanks to the generous support of the Bedales community. Students, staff and OBs performed an entertaining programme which included **Joel Edgeworth's (2009-24)** 'party piece' – Schumann's *Kinderszenen*, **Bella Doyle (2015-20)** singing Mozart's *Voi Che Sapete* from *The Marriage of Figaro*, **Claude Barker (2016-21)** playing Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No. 27 in E Minor* and a dramatic performance of Scriabin's *Black Mass* by **Simon Aldrich (1973-82)**. **Jamie Bland (2013-20)** and his father JP kindly supported the concert with video production. Watch a recording of the concert here vimeo.com/1070405710/33d57ed7e7?ts=0&share=copy



OB gathering in LA – February

OBs travel far and wide once they leave the rolling hills of Hampshire and many of them end up in the US – particularly in New York, the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles. For this reason, Head Will Goldsmith regularly visits the US, and made a trip to the West Coast to attend both the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival and an OB gathering generously hosted by **Francesca Peters (1996-98)**. As well as giving OBs of all ages and careers an opportunity to connect and support each other, it is always useful for the Head of Bedales to find out how OBs are getting on in their lives and to hear the wonderful and varied tales of the school's past. Those present included **Jade Mark (2018-22)**, **Oliver Moseby (2001-06)**, **Jamie Holt (2010-15)**, **Dan Cowan (1985-88)**, **Simon Sproule (1977-85)**, **Willow Bidwell (2006-16)**, **Sarah McShane (2012-14)**, **Catriona Ward (1996-98)**, and **Doris Tse (1993-93)**.

Francesca said: "It was my great pleasure to host the Los Angeles (& LA adjacent) Bedales alumni for some drinks and mild feasting. January hit LA like a freight train, and it was great comfort to gather in community for a bit of joy and nostalgia (and a side of jam doughnuts). I always love how easily conversation flows across generations and oceans when Bedalians come together, and also how inevitably we will end up by evening's end around a piano taking turns at every genre of music and merriment."







Law Jaw – March



Current governor **Jess Boyd (1991-96)** returned to speak about her career in law. Jess delivered an insightful Jaw, discussing her professional experiences and explaining that it was during her time at Bedales that she developed the relevant attributes to support her chosen career. A practising barrister at Blackstone Chambers since 2007, Jess is ranked in the leading legal directories in the fields of Administrative / Public / Regulatory Law and Civil Liberties and Human Rights among others. Making the most of her visit, students interested in law had the opportunity to speak further with Jess during a relaxed Beyond Bedales careers event at Steephurst.



Drama workshop – March

Olivia Grant (2005-07) joined a group of 6.1 students as part of a series of talks on forging a career in the arts. Olivia is a casting director, known most recently for her work on *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy*, *Lee*, *Masters of the Air* and *Goodbye June*.

OBs overseas – March



Head of Bedales Pre-prep Fiona Read visited the Far East on an admissions trip where she enjoyed meeting up with several OBs: **Nick Bellamy (1978-85)** and **Nic Dunlop (1986-88)** in Bangkok; and **Claire Allen (née Sack, 1986-88)**, **Nick Barger (1994-99)** and **Mark Bromley (1992-99)** in Singapore.

Tristan Wilson, Head of Languages, was delighted to catch up with **Alisia Leach (2015-22)** whilst on a French A Level and Enrichment trip to Paris. Alisia was spending her third year in Paris studying Economics as part of her undergraduate degree at Cardiff University. She was able to give students an insight into what to expect from a year abroad. Alisia joined students for a trip to the theatre followed by dinner.

Drama workshop – May



By Charlotte and Zibs, 6.1

In our 'Forging a Career in the Arts' Enrichment, we were visited by successful actor **Pierro Niel-Mee (2010-12)** who had recently finished a run at The Globe Theatre. From leads in classical 20th century theatre to new unreleased TV shows, Pierro has learnt a lot about the industry since leaving Bedales in 2012. His perspective on entering it was different from what we had heard from other visiting theatre and show-makers; he had gone straight from Bedales into acting, having a good agent from the age of 14. Pierro was supportive of drama schools, but at the heart of what he shared with us was having passions outside of acting and putting aside your pride. He said: "Some days you'll be a lead at the Globe on a six-month show and some days you'll be serving beer in a pub. You have to put your ego aside." He highlighted the importance of not making acting your life and that, in his experience, the best actors he had worked with were people who had studied something different at university or had other passions they had pursued and then gone on to drama after. He gave details of his experiences working with different types of directors, projects, creative relationships, how he gets into character and how his approach to his trade has changed over the years. He also mentioned how, when you are in the industry and you have time out of work you should be grateful for it as most people work 9-5 jobs weekly and don't get long holidays, whereas actors might work very hard for intense periods but be out of work for a while. "Always keep one eye on work" but also relax and pursue other interests in life – friends, passions, experiences, another trade.

Parents' Day – June

Once again we were pleased to host the annual 50, 40, 25 and 10 year reunion events for OBs on Parents' Day. The Classes of 1985 and 1975 gathered for a sit-down lunch in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch and the Classes of 2000 and 2015 attended their respective reunions in the evening outside the Sotherington Barn and the Sam Banks Pavilion. We are extremely grateful to the following people for their help with organising these events: **Antony Townsend (1962-75)**, **Elizabeth Loudon (1970-75)**, **Georgia Glynn-Smith (1980-85)**, **Alexa Reid-Matthews (1995-2000)**, **Dan Wheeler (1986-2000)** and **Roly Botha (2010-15)**.

The Bedales Association hosted informal drinks on Steephurst Lawn for OBs to come together in the afternoon before the evening reunions kicked off. Head of Bedales Will Goldsmith spoke to the many OBs, staff and former staff present and it was wonderful to see everyone mingling in the evening sunshine.

An additional informal picnic gathering for OBs who left in 1965 and adjacent years was organised by **Charlie Hattersley (1955-64)**, **Jeremy Ambache (1955-65)** and **Adrian Langinger (1956-64)**. Those present at the gathering included, **Alan Lucas (1956-64)**, **Jane Hockings (née Denholm, 1955-64)**, **Seona Ford (née Denholm, 1953-62)**, **Tosh Denholm (1959-69)**, **Geoffrey Winnicot (1956-64)**, **Robin Walesby (1950-64)**, **Gail Wallbank (née Coulton, 1956-65)**, **Tom Hilton (1961-63)**, and **Brian Crisp (1959-64)**. Charlie reported: "Coinciding with Parents' Day, a small group of 'septuagenarians' and some notable 'octogenarians' met for a picnic on the old grass courts between Chestnut Grove and the Mem Pitch. The weather was very kind – perhaps even a bit too sunny, if that's possible! The adjacent large marquee, which was in place for the formal year group reunions, was open to us for tea and cakes and an opportunity to meet cohorts of different generations and time for reflection. Our informal get together, suggested by Jem and Adrian, was an excellent idea as not only did Bedales include us in the lovely tea, but the whole school was open for informal exploration. Having previously visited during term time, it came as a bit of a surprise to realise that in today's world we couldn't wander around places that are so familiar in our memories. So visiting on Parents' Day enables a greater opportunity to enjoy the beautiful environment and to re-live some past experiences."















Working in food – June

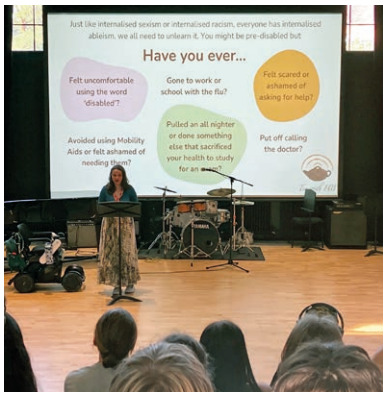
Students in Blocks 1 and 2 enjoyed a dynamic Beyond Bedales session, led by OB and former parent **Julia Catton (1972-83)**, the creative mastermind behind Percy Pig. Julia drew on her rich experience in food product development to share insights into bringing ideas to market, leading creative teams, and adapting to the fast-changing landscape shaped by AI and social media. The session was interactive and hands-on, with students taking part in a quiz and product design challenges with delicious prizes. Julia offered an inspiring glimpse into how passions sparked at school can grow into creative, real-world careers.



Community sector event – June

OBs, parents and Bedales staff working in a range of fields within STEM gathered at the Old Talisman in central London for a vibrant evening of conversation and drinks. Events like these are made increasingly meaningful by the insights shared by members of our community, and we very much hope to offer more opportunities for connection and dialogue in the future.

Exploring disability in Jaw – June



Bedales welcomed **Blossom Gottlieb (2017-19)**, who delivered an inspiring and eye-opening presentation to students on the topic of disability and ableism. The session explored what might be considered a disability and encouraged us to challenge and unlearn internalised ableism, a bias that many of us unknowingly carry.

Blossom shared powerful examples of how bias against disabled people shows up in everyday life and offered practical advice on how we can make positive changes. From rethinking the language we use to ensuring accessibility in our spaces, the talk highlighted simple yet impactful steps towards creating a more inclusive community. Her message was clear: by recognising and addressing internalised ableism, we can all play a part in fostering equality and respect for people of all abilities.



OB Triffids – July

Rupert Muldoon (1996-2001), Remy Blumenfeld, (1977-82), Ned Smith (2003-11), Hugo Francis (2002-11)

The annual drinks party of the LGBTQ+ alumni societies was another joyous, summery event, hosted at a little bar in the City with the dome of St Paul's above us. The long, warm summer evening brought everyone out – old friends and new faces alike. The mix was made even more eclectic by celebrating alongside alumni from Radley, Harrow, Sherborne, Eton, and Westminster. If you'd like to hear about future events, do email us – we welcome absolutely everyone. triffids.ob@gmail.com



Informal OB gathering – July

Veeraswamy was the venue in London for an informal reunion organised by **Tosh Denholm (1959-69)** and **Krip Rojanastien (1964-69)** in July to coincide with Krip's visit from Thailand. A dozen OBs met for lunch and enjoyed catching up over the excellent authentic meal produced by the capital's oldest Indian restaurant. Sadly it is under threat from the Crown Estate which plans to refurbish the building which would mean Veeraswamy moving elsewhere.

Stoner Cricket Week – July

Justin Jones (1979-92)

Last July Stoner cricketers once again emerged from hibernation to take on all comers on the Mem Pitch.

Monday brought Barnes, who won the toss and kindly put us into bat on the first of many baking afternoons during the week. They crept to a score of 174/7, with wickets shared around between **Josh Baty (2017-23)**, **Albie Waterton (2012-14)** and **Paul Bradley (1999-2007)**. In reply, there were notable contributions in a successful chase from **Ben Seddon (1993-98)** (35), Justin Jones (48 n.o.) and Josh Baty (25). Our first win of the week at the first attempt.

Tuesday brought the wily 40 Club to Bedales. Ben Seddon, captain for the day, won the toss and elected to bat. A solid total of 204/7 was posted, with 55 from current student Henry Bott and 44 from **Huw Wheeler (2015-23)**. The opposition, after losing some early wickets, could not be brought out of their shells or dislodged, so the match was drawn, with the opposition ending on 93/7. Once again wickets were spread around with a brace each for Alex and Toby Jones.

East Meon came to play on Wednesday and put Stoner in to bat. Toby Jones opened the batting and top-scored with 37, but the batting fell away and Stoner posted a below-par 136 all out. East Meon chased the total down in 30 overs for the loss of six wickets, with Henry Bott scoring a traitorous and possibly decisive 37 not out for the opposition. The match was followed by an excellent barbecue on a balmy evening.

After some recovery time on Thursday, Friday brought temperatures in the 30s and a team from Stansted Park. After Tuesday, we were determined to stay in control of our destiny, so heroically elected to field in the heat of the day. Toby Jones took three wickets and Tom Blackburn two wickets in Stansted's score of 199/7 declared. In reply, Stoner romped to victory in 30 overs for the loss of three wickets, with top contributions from Tom Blackburn (52) and Josh Baty (85 n.o.).

Two wins, a draw and a defeat was a good result, and happy cricket was played all week. Thanks to Albie Waterton for bringing together the teams and **Matt (1967-78)** and Tess Evans and **Sarah Roberts (1960-72)** for organising the sumptuous teas. Stoner week will be back this coming July – come and be part of it.





Stansted Players – August



The Stansted Players returned once again to the Bedales Theatre in the summer for a stage production of The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Review by Andrew Plaistowe.

The Royal Shakespeare Company received rave reviews for its Stratford production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* which, for three nights, ran concurrently with the Stansted Players' production in the Olivier Theatre, Steep. This also is a rave review.

This was a pacey production, judiciously cut and sensibly played for laughs. Paper-thin plots, which an audience can see right through while the characters remain oblivious, make the play perfect for a panto-style production and **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** and his intrepid troupe of theatrical pioneers gave us plenty of opportunity to boo and heckle and revel in the comedy they created.



As the play opened and the two gentlemen of the title parted ways, Valentine (**George Sinclair, 1998-2008**) to Milan and Proteus (**Christy Callaway-Gale, 2005-12**) to remain in Verona, the cast sang their first number, *We'll Meet Again*; a suitably topsy-turvy choice for opening a topsy-turvy play.

This was really Christy's play. Proteus is a nascent and not nearly so nasty Iago, flirting with, winking at, and continually revealing his plans in arch asides to the audience. We the audience are very much of the devil's party, and Christy's impressive energy, running rings around all the other characters, kept us willing him/her on.



Valentine, the jolly nice other gent, is as principled as his friend Proteus is amoral and in playing him George endearingly hammed up the nice-but-dim aspects of the character. His bungled attempt at elopement with a cloak and a rope ladder drew much laughter and, were it not for his servant, the aptly named and wonderfully zippy Speed, (**Lucy Lee, née Coates, 1995-2002**) his pitiful machinations would surely have brought him to a much more tragic end.

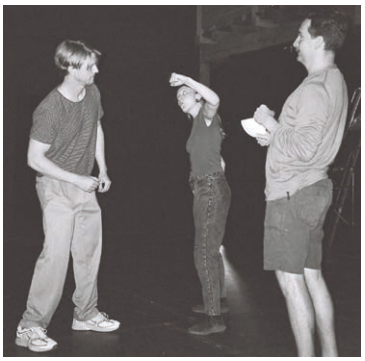


Lucy did much to keep the action chasing along while the play's clown, Launce (**Jordan Theis, 2003-10**) did as much to slow things down in his famous one-sided chats with his dog, Crab, played dispassionately by Jordan's own dog, Brunnhilde. (Brunnhilde was given centre-billing in the programme. Had neon lights been within budget her name would no doubt have adorned the exterior of the Olivier Theatre.)

While also playing the clown, Jordan directed all the music, which is always an integral part of a Stansted Players production, punctuating the action with cleverly chosen choral numbers beautifully sung by an ensemble who shine particularly brightly in song.

Jessica Price (1999-2004) played the ardent Julia, Proteus' beloved, who becomes Sebastian to catch her faithless lover out. The gender swap happened in a scene so swift that all the dialogue was cut and replaced with very expressive and effective dumb show. Jess skilfully made each of her roles quite distinct.

Much of the cast demonstrated their versatility, taking on multiple roles. Harriet Thompson first played the gender-switched Antoni(o)a with all the aplomb of an Austen matriarch but later became the hale and hearty Sir Eglamour, hammy as hell and straight out of panto land.



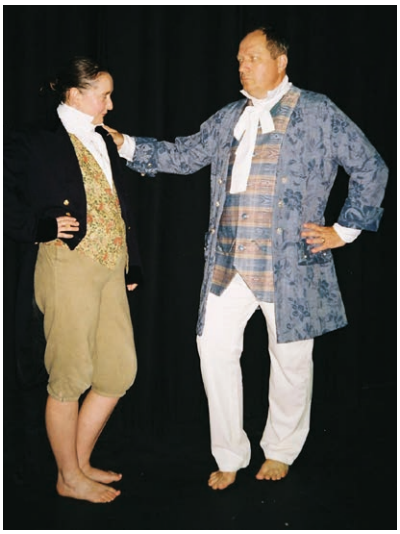
Rebecca Langlands (1979-90) literally and metaphorically wore the most hats in the play and proved herself a talented foley artist, brought onto stage armed with a wooden spoon, a frying pan and a baking tray to hammer out the blows between the actors in the play's slow-mo, bust-up denouement. Brawl Master was **Dan Wheeler (1986-2000)** who extracted all the comedy he could from the scene as Proteus's evil machinations were cartoonishly exposed and the cast saw what everyone in the audience had seen from the beginning.



Simon Fothergill (1986-2000) was Sir Thurio, silent, moody and expressing everything with his trombone. Lit by a golden evening light (provided by Simon and **Janet Auty, staff, 1991-2015**) that winked off the slide of his trombone, he serenaded Silvia (**Serena Brett, 2003-11**) with *La Vie en Rose* and while she showed her utter contempt for him, Simon won the audience over even if he failed to win her.

As well as being the play's main love interest, Serena provided excellent choreography, enhancing the already wonderful musical numbers with a touch of razzle-dazzle!

Nick Tier (1982-86) played Silvia's father, the Duke, avuncular yet outraged at his daughter's choice of suitor and determined to impose his will. Shakespeare gives the Duke some wonderfully melodramatic lines and Nick was in his element, exploiting the inadequacies of the poetry.



Perhaps the most ridiculous part of the plot is the employment by a band of outlaws of Valentine as their chief because he is, inexplicably, a linguist. He accepts the role as long as they will commit no outrages against silly women. Perhaps ironic in a play full of silly men. The outlaws were played for plenty of laughs by Alastair and Lucy, who, like a pair of twin Bill Sykeses, were armed with knobbly cudgels to express the violence they would surely be incapable of meting out.

Julien Allen (1975; 1988-90) joined the cast as a singing gentleman, musical highlights being Schubert's *Who is Silvia* which allowed Julia to witness the duplicity of her betrothed; the obligatory pop number, *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*; and a deliberately wooden and brief rendition of *Here Dwells a Pretty Maid*, which drew a round of surprised applause at the piece's brevity and stiffness in a play so madcap and baroque. The lyrics of *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* provided a very apt end to the play, fading out to the "still small voice of calm."

Joanne Greenwood provided the Regency costumes, Sam Bibby, **Alice Wheeler (née Clarke, 1998-2006)** and **Dan Wheeler (1986-2000)** and Audrey and Romola (with a dash of Will Goldsmith) fed the company during the two-week rehearsal period.

As with all the plays produced by the Stansted Players, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* is rarely seen on stage, but this was an exceptional treat that could very easily have transferred from Steep to Stratford.

Prisons Jaw – September



We were delighted to welcome **Lili Bidwell (2006-13)** for the first Jaw talk of the academic year. Lili shared her experiences working as a prison officer at HMP Wandsworth, offering a fascinating insight into a career that is both challenging and rewarding. Her talk explored why being a prison officer is a career worth considering, gave a glimpse into a typical day in the role, and included inspirational stories of how the prison service has helped reform the lives of many men she worked with. As part of the British Values curriculum, Lili also placed prisons within the wider context of the justice system, helping students understand their significance in society.

Lili has now left the prison service and is working for a charity in Canada supporting the rehabilitation of justice-involved individuals.

OB drinks in Paris – September

On the eve of the UK Boarding Schools Fair in Paris, Head of Bedales Will Goldsmith was delighted to reconnect with OBs living locally – gathering in the working kitchen of renowned chef of Rose Kitchen, Rose Chalalai Singh (current parent). A convivial mix of OBs and parents enjoyed Rose's hospitality in an intimate and relaxed setting. Those in attendance included **Anna Heining-Farmiloe (2011-25)**, **Mila Fernandez (2014-19)**, **Miles Hudson (2010-15)**, **Audrey Kettaneh (1983-88)**, **Elisabetta Castelli-Cornier (1962-73)** and **Amanda Harding (1983-85)**. Will also managed to catch up over the weekend with **Carlos Heneine (1976-80)**.





Badley Day – September

On Badley Day, Sixth Form students worked alongside artist and timber-framing tutor **Gabriel Langlands (1977-90)** to make traditional wooden pegs for a new tennis court pavilion planned for the Senior School. "Back when I was here, it was called the Whole School Effort," Gabriel reflects. "Getting physically stuck in, chatting with students, making something tangible, it's the same now as it was back then."

For current students, some of whom spent last year making a timber-framed animal shelter in the centre of the school, the rewards are immediate. "I love it, we're learning to do what they did in the olden days," says Rex. Owen added: "We're learning new skills and seeing what we've created, adding to the school." George summed it up: "It's very rewarding because we get to see the final product and feel proud that we've made a contribution to the school."

Gabriel highlights the meditative quality of the work: "Using no power tools, standing in wood shavings, hearing mallets strike, it's an antidote to modern life. And talking with students at different life stages is a pure joy." In every peg hammered, tradition meets the present. It's more than craft; it's a tangible way for Old Bedalians to pass on skills, values, and pride.

Celebrating 25 years of Chris Grocock – September

A *Vogue* writer, a KPMG consultant and a University of Cambridge librarian walk into a BBQ… It sounds like the beginning of a story, but it was in fact the joyful reality unfolding in the Sam Banks Pavilion during a celebration to mark Latin and Classics teacher Chris Grocock's 25 years of teaching.

Over 30 OBs, alongside colleagues and friends, reunited for the silver jubilee. Guests enjoyed authentic Roman food prepared by historian and chef Sally Grainger – Chris's wife and co-editor of Roman cookery book *Apicius*. One of the most striking parts of the celebration was hearing what Chris's former students have gone on to achieve. Shortly after leaving Bedales, **George Hay (2002-07)**, now a consultant analyst at KPMG, travelled overland to the Black Sea to follow the exile route of the poet Ovid. **Laura Johnson-Wheeler (2007-11)** writes for *Vogue*. Disability writer and consultant **Blossom Gottlieb (2017-19)** uses her voice to champion inclusion and accessibility. **Robin Allez (2007-14)**, now a University of Cambridge librarian, first discovered a love of languages at Bedales, even mastering Elvish in the Pre-prep! **Cameron Cross (2008-16)** works in forensic accounting for the Civil Service, while **Angus Carey-Douglas (2009-14)**, after flying single-engine planes in Kenya for Save the Elephants, is preparing for a posting with the British Antarctic Survey.

Chris's jubilee celebrated not only his immense contribution to Bedales but also the remarkable journeys of those he has inspired.





OB Reunion – October

We were delighted to welcome back Old Bedalians who were at school in the 1940s, '50s and '60s to a reunion hosted by Head of Bedales Will Goldsmith at his house. Some had travelled from overseas and guests began the day reminiscing over coffee before hearing Sixth Form students perform a lively extract from Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. **Tara Ward (née Wheating, 2002-07)**, who has kindly helped with previous reunions and who runs her own catering business, served up a delicious lunch after which OBs made their way to the Lupton Hall for music performed by students. They then continued their trip down memory lane with student-led tours around the school before heading back to the Head's house for afternoon tea.

The next 75+ OB Reunion is scheduled to take place in September 2027.



Movember Assembly – November

We were delighted to welcome back **Josh Baty (2017-23)**, who spoke to students about his role as a Movember ambassador at Bournemouth University. Josh shared how he and many students there have taken on the challenge of raising money for this vital charity, which focuses on men's mental health.

His message to students was clear: check in with your friends and speak up if you're not feeling okay. Josh introduced the helpful acronym ALEC, reminding us all to ask "are you OK?" listen without judgement, encourage action, and check in regularly.

It was inspiring to hear Josh's passion for this cause and the practical steps we can all take to support one another.

OBs v Bedales 1st XI – November

The 1st XI team was delighted to host a group of recent leavers for a football match coordinated by **Edward Lee (2014-25)**. The OBs prevailed after a penalty shootout.

Rowing Jaw – November

Amara-Star, Block 3 student

We were entertained by **Juliette Perry (2008-15)**, who now rows for Great Britain. She spoke about her journey through rowing, and she told everyone how important it is to grab every opportunity. When she was at Bedales, she said that she was never a sporty student and focused more on academics, choosing stage crew rather than sports. But this all changed when she joined the University of Oxford. She was invited to join a rowing taster session as she was quite tall, and she agreed to go because she thought that it would help her make connections and friends. It did, but she said she had "found a new passion". Since then, she has competed in many different rowing competitions, including the Blue Boat race, and she eventually clawed her way up to rowing for Great Britain.

I must admit, before I heard Juliette speak, my knowledge of rowing was very little but there was much to learn from Juliette's talk, not just about rowing but about important skills like perseverance. Everyone enjoyed her talk, and people remarked on how they felt it was "engaging and interesting".



UPCOMING REUNIONS

This year's summer OB reunions will be taking place on Parents' Day, Saturday 27 June. We are planning all the usual events and entertainment.

Class of 2016 Reunion
The 10 year reunion for the Class of 2016 will start at 7pm at the Sam Banks Pavilion and includes a barbecue.

Class of 2001 Reunion
The 25 year reunion for the Class of 2001 will start at 7pm outside the Sotherington Barn and includes a barbecue.

Class of 1986 Reunion
The 40 year reunion for the Class of 1986 will start at 11am and includes lunch in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch.

Class of 1976 Reunion
The 50 year reunion for the Class of 1976 will start at 11am and includes lunch in the marquee overlooking the Mem Pitch.

Electronic invitations have been sent out for all 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 (alumni@bedales.org.uk or 01730 711695).

PARENTS' DAY 2026

Parents' Day will be held on Saturday 27 June. All members of the Bedales community are welcome.

Exhibitions • Afternoon Tea • Music • Drama

Please book tickets for the 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).

Bedales Association Drinks
All OBs attending their reunions and any other visiting OBs and former staff who are coming along for Parents' Day are invited to join us for informal drinks from 5.30-6.30pm. Weather permitting this will take place on Steephurst lawn.









A YEAR AT BEDALES

A selection of stories from the School's weekly bulletin to give a flavour of life at Bedales in 2025.

JANUARY

Broadening skills for scientists

Bedales Senior Head of Science Liz Stacy has contributed to a Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) article about the need to reform Chemistry education to upskill our future scientists.



The demand for chemists is rising, but employers are increasingly looking for professionals with a broader, and more transferable, skillset as well as a sound knowledge of Chemistry. According to the RSC *Future Workforce and Educational Pathways Report*, employers seek candidates who possess strong communication skills, critical thinking abilities, teamwork, green skills, and digital literacy. Graduate scientist Annabelle Nicholson highlights that her company now hires individuals who are not only proficient in Maths and data but are also confident, change-oriented communicators. She notes: "The biggest problem to solve is poor communication."

Educational reform is necessary to meet these demands. Liz Stacy highlights that Bedales is looking to introduce more practical skills like report writing, presentations, and poster development to assess students in different ways. Charles Gill, a Biology teacher, points out the absence of a curriculum requirement for communication and collaboration skills, suggesting that changes won't happen until exam boards address these gaps.

Digital literacy is another critical gap, with Liz noting that many students nationally leave school without basic spreadsheet skills. Similarly, critical thinking, which inventor Rory Back believes is best developed through teamwork and project-based work, is not effectively fostered in traditional textbook-driven education. Green chemistry is also gaining attention, with Rory advocating for sustainability awareness in the curriculum, suggesting practical exercises like calculating the carbon savings from reducing material waste.

Some educators believe that reducing content in subjects like electron configuration or pH could make room for more relevant skills. Liz notes: "We'd be giving students really beneficial skills that would help them progress at A Level and beyond." Researcher turned Chemistry teacher Brotati Veraitch supports this, suggesting the removal of repetitive topics to create space for essential skills like data analysis.

Ultimately, there is a growing consensus that schools and employers must collaborate to reshape education, ensuring students are equipped with both the technical and transferable skills needed for future careers in chemistry and other scientific fields.

As part of its 10-year strategy, Bedales has committed to replace Science GCSEs with the school's own Bedales Assessed Courses, recognised by UCAS. These innovative courses, which are now in development in liaison with external organisations including the RSC, will allow students to engage with more advanced content, including continuous and varied assessments that ensure both knowledge and skills are being assessed but that won't inhibit the use of innovative teaching like the current GCSE system.

The full RSC article can be read on their website edu.rsc.org/feature/skills-to-succeed-in-the-future-chemical-sciences-workforce/4020583.article

FEBRUARY

A celebration of reading – World Book Day

Members of the Bedales community joined other schools in the UK and Ireland to mark this year's World Book Day, by dressing up as their favourite book characters and immersing themselves in a series of reading-related activities.

At Bedales Prep, literary favourites were brought to life through a vibrant display of costumes, with the likes of Elizabeth Bennet from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, leading characters from L Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and the Queen of Hearts from Lewis Caroll's *Alice in Wonderland* all attending lessons for the day.

Head of English at Bedales Prep Nichola Gotel led a World Book Day themed assembly in the morning, emphasising the power of reading for all ages and explaining the reasons behind the annual event. Dressed as Prue from *The Land Girls* by Angela Huth, Nichola shared a selection of books with strong female leads ahead of International Women's Day in March, before handing the assembly over to a group of Block 2 students. The students hosted a short debate, based on a hypothetical scenario in which all books, bar one, would be lost forever. The individuals pitched their choice of book to the audience, providing a brief description and explaining why their story should be the one to survive. Among the line up were Alice Walker's *The Colour Purple*, *Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich and *The Holy Bible*, however it was Julia Donaldson's much-loved *The Gruffalo* that received the most votes and was therefore saved.

In the lead up to World Book Day, teachers dedicated more time to books and storytelling in tutor times, providing opportunities for reading as much as possible and sharing an appreciation of books through games, discussions and recommendations.

The celebration of books and storytelling continued throughout March, with children at Bedales Prep participating in a sponsored Readathon to raise money for Read for Good – a UK charity that provides children and young people access to books in schools and hospitals to inspire a life-changing love of learning. Students and staff kept track of the number of pages read each week with a coloured chart and once a book was completed, the title was written on 'book stack' posters in The Well.

In addition to dressing up, children at Bedales Pre-prep were encouraged to create masks inspired by their favourite book characters, which were proudly displayed in the Library. The children also attended weekly workshops run by Bedales Librarian Marianne De Giovanni, to help them explore how illustrators bring stories to life through pictures, and as part of their exploration into African countries, Year 2 children experienced stories from Uganda with storyteller Kwame.



Nichola Gotel commented: "Books – for me – are always about understanding, about trying out other lives and perspectives and living bigger and broader than any of us can in a single lifetime. Knowing you are part of something bigger, an international celebration such as World Book Day reminds us that everyone's story matters and that the joy of storytelling draws us closer together."

Originally established in 1995 by UNESCO, the annual event promotes the enjoyment of books and reading for pleasure and is celebrated by 100 countries around the world, with 2025 marking its 30th anniversary globally. In the UK and Ireland, World Book Day was first celebrated three years later in 1998 and continues to take place annually.



MARCH

Global Perspectives student projects

Civic engagement with Damian Hinds

Block 5 Global Perspectives students have been working on group projects, with two groups organising and delivering insightful events with external speakers to highlight their chosen topics.

For their project, Block 5 students Tom, Bella, Mir and Noah decided to focus on civic engagement, setting out to create an event exploring how to increase participation by young people to instigate change in their communities.

The four students contacted East Hampshire Member of Parliament, the Right Honourable Damian Hinds, who agreed to visit Bedales to meet them. They then arranged to present to Damian Hinds and Bedales Senior students, prior to holding a Q&A session exploring key issues. We're grateful to Damian for his time and support for the students' project.

Global Perspectives Lecture

Our annual Global Perspectives Lecture was organised by a group of Block 5 students as part of their BAC Global Perspectives project on supporting refugees in South East England.

Block 5 students Sorrel, Jago and Gabe invited founders and trustees from two refugee charities – Rural Refugee Network and Refugees Welcome in Richmond – to the Bedales Olivier Theatre for a Q&A style event.

As well as discussing their charities' backgrounds and purposes, the visitors gave important insights into the barriers faced by refugees and asylum seekers within the UK and globally, including access to housing, language support and careers advice.

Thank you to our visiting speakers and audience members for their valuable input, and congratulations to all our Block 5 Global Perspectives students for the hard work they've put into their projects.

APRIL

6.2 v staff hockey match

The annual 6.2 vs staff hockey match provided plenty of excitement, with 6.2 securing a well-earned 3-1 victory after an early scare from the staff team.

The match began with high intensity, and it was the staff team who struck first. Learning Support Teacher Nathan Honeycombe opened the scoring with a stunning backhand finish, leaving the 6.2 defence and goalkeeper with no chance. The early goal gave the staff momentum, and they pressed hard for a second, but 6.2 stood firm, weathering the storm and growing into the game.

As the first half progressed, 6.2 found their rhythm. Jonah was the first to respond, capitalising on a well-worked move to bring the game level. With confidence building, Ed soon put 6.2 ahead with a composed finish after a slick passing sequence.



The second half saw the staff team push for an equaliser, but 6.2's defence held strong, with some key interceptions and solid goalkeeping keeping the lead intact. As the game neared its conclusion, Bo sealed the win with a well-taken goal, ensuring a 3-1 triumph for 6.2.

It was a competitive and entertaining match, with both sides showing great skill and determination. The staff put up a strong fight, but 6.2's attacking quality and superior fitness ultimately made the difference. Well done to all 16 students who played, and thank you to the staff for dusting the cobwebs off their sticks and coming down to the astro.

MAY

Fighting to keep the love of learning alive

Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales School

Whatever you might think of the current government, it was positive to be welcomed by the chair of the All-party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on education who was, until the end of July 2024, a teacher in a secondary school in Wales. Another member of the committee was in the same position, although at primary level. The joy of having educators operating as legislators is that they bring a pragmatism that is fostered at the coalface of public service, rather than in parliamentary corridors, think tanks or polling organisations. Without exception, I have found that political divides between the state and independent sectors soon melt away when you put teachers from all types of school in the same space. This pragmatic collegiality is something that is missing from other contexts, whether that be in the press, on social media or the House of Commons. Perhaps it is something that is fostered by the fact that no child ever chooses into which family they are born.

My invitation to represent Bedales School at a roundtable evidence-gathering meeting at Portcullis House in Westminster was following on from a submission we made in April to an inquiry by the APPG "into the loss of the love of learning" by so many young people in England. While Bedales is by no means a perfect school (where is?!), there are things that we do which we know generate an intrinsic love of learning, creativity and critical thinking that lives with our students for life. In a recent survey of students in the Senior School, more than 90% stated that they enjoyed being at school all or most of the time. When it came to their learning specifically, 80% reported enjoying it all or most of the time. In a new study published by ImpactEd, looking at state school student satisfaction, the statistics for Bedales compare very favourably with the average rate of

satisfaction for their peers in maintained schools.

The interesting thing to note is that overall satisfaction rates in the state sector remain high right up until the end of primary school. While there are always multiple factors influencing this kind of statistic, secondary school starts for children aged 11 in most schools in England now (unlike Bedales where it starts at 13). It is also interesting that the diet of GCSEs for 14-year olds (and increasingly 13-year olds) is something which is increasingly attributed to lowering engagement and even attendance. While mid-adolescence is never an easy time, there are certainly things we can do differently to make it less painful. Certainly, recent statistics show teenagers in the UK as having the second lowest levels of life satisfaction of any advanced or developing economy.



During the discussions, led by MP Steve Witherden, the down-to-earth former Head of Drama, the assembled headteachers, principals, union leaders and the Head of Research for the Chartered College of Teaching didn't have enough time to cover what needed to be said about the current state of education in this country. Aside from universal agreement of the negative impact of austerity on education and associated public services, the most interesting points raised were about the narrowness of the curriculum and the lack of agency, both for students and their teachers. As the sole representative of the independent sector invited, I was a little hesitant at first to explain how Bedales is able to exercise its independence as it felt churlish when compared with the challenges faced by state sector colleagues. However, the warmth and openness of the other attendees soon saw me sharing how we formulate a curriculum and assessment model across the Whole School to suit our students.

The only real time we make significant compromises is at Sixth Form where we fully accept the need for high-stakes external assessments in the form of A Levels (both as an appropriate challenge for our oldest students and as a rigorous 'exit ticket'), particularly as we move slowly and carefully towards the two GCSE model for our 14-16-year-olds. All of this was warmly received. In the current political climate in the UK towards the independent sector, one strong case for our existence is our ability to forge ahead with much-needed reforms in a way that could be of use to students and school leaders in the underfunded state sector. While there are some other independent schools that also exercise their independence in this manner, there are many who sometimes seem as stuck in their ways as the state sector but without the excuse of stifling governmental control. There may be good reasons for this but there must surely be more that we can do than simply complain about the imposition of VAT, wrong though it is.

The meeting ran significantly over our allocated time and many of us carried on passionate and constructive conversations outside on the street, surrounded by selfie-taking tourists and urban joggers. The following morning, I received a message from a lead policy specialist at one of the national education unions wanting to talk more about how the state sector could learn from the independent sector, in particular how creativity is still a core part of the offer that state schools are not able to provide. I am also hoping to work with the Chartered College of Teaching on critical dialogues around the current educational paradigms.

As such, it was a really worthwhile trip to London, and it demonstrates the continued relevance of the Bedales approach to the wider education debate in this country and beyond.

impactedgroup.uk/resources/report-mind-the-engagement-gap

unicef.org.uk/press-releases/uk-joint-second-to-last-for-teenage-life-satisfaction/

bedales.org.uk/learning/senior/curriculum/bedales-assessed-courses-bacs-



poetry and folk music performance. Following the festival, the abundance of the work created contributed to the long-standing Bedales 'Poet's Stone', a creative writing magazine including works from staff and the student body. We are also renewing another Bedales magazine titled 'The Weal', a collection of articles written by a team of students about a diverse range of topics, from sausage making to Hiroshima-inspired fashion. These were available to buy from Reception on Parents' Day.

We are so grateful to Blossom and Esme for their time and contributions to this event.

JUNE

Bedales Poetry Festival

Olive and Charlotte, 6.1 (English Dons)

The Bedales Poetry Festival took place in June. We were lucky enough to have poets Kat Francois, Mr Gee (both well-known spoken-word performers) and **Esme Allman (2013-15)** perform in Jaw and work with the students. The day involved a number of exciting and eye-opening workshops with Kat and Mr Gee, where we were encouraged to write about themes personal to us and to use particular tools within them, such as repetition of phrases, chorus and rhyme. We then took our pieces and broke them up into sections, before weaving them together with other people's works to create a unique performance piece with an overarching theme. In the evening, we went to the Olivier Theatre and watched a number of students and teachers perform alongside Esme Allman and **Blossom Gottlieb (2017-19)**. There was a large variety of works, with many original pieces as well as some Shakespeare sonnets, song lyrics and contemporary poetry.

Hearing students' personal work (some of which was created in the workshops) in such an intimate environment was very powerful. Esme then performed poems from her newly released poetry collection *Sweet Bone Girl*, accompanied by a powerful soundscape created by DJ Merce White. The unique collaboration between spoken word and sound created a new kind of performance that inspired students to continue writing and creating in new forms. However, the music and poetry medley does not stop here – we are excited to start working on the upcoming Poetry and Folk Night happening in September, where we invite students to hone their craft through lyrics,

JULY

Summer Show: *The Terrible Infants*

Hayley Cole, Director of Dance & Drama

I love the work of Oliver Lansley and *Les Enfants Terribles*, so when I saw this production in Wilton Music Hall in 2017, I knew it would make an incredible Bedales Summer Show.

It was originally written for five and I think ours incorporates 50 so there were changes to be made! That is the joy of plays like this; they give you creative freedom within the wonderful world they have written, so you can create your own worlds.

It has been fantastic to work with the cast devising these stories and how we present them, likewise incorporating the ideas and creations of the crew and those working in wardrobe. We were lucky in the process to work with an actor from the company who helped us with our puppetry. The puppets were an essential part of the production, and the cast have learned so much in bringing them to life and have done so beautifully.

Another essential part was music – coincidentally a composer had been in touch about a new service he was offering to write scores for school productions. I welcomed this opportunity and he, Harry Boulton (Assistant Director of Music) and the band created a totally unique Bedalian score based around the theme desired, and the skillset of those playing. *The Terrible Infants*' cast, musicians and creatives gave three energetic performances to full houses, showcasing the fantastic circus-themed set, props, puppets and costumes, accompanied by live music throughout.

I am incredibly proud of those involved and thankful to the production team and we are thrilled the audience enjoyed it as much as we did!

We received some wonderful audience feedback:

"It was an incredibly impressive show – right down to every painted drum and costume. We were really blown away by how well staged and directed the kids were. I hope there are lots of photos of those incredible costumes – we were so impressed."

"It was totally glorious, a tour de force. The acting, movement, costumes, music, the whole show was superb – I came home and wanted to watch it all over again."







AUGUST

Bedales students access top university destinations

Following the release of A Level results, Bedales students are celebrating after securing offers from some of the most prestigious educational and artistic institutions globally.

32% of grades achieved by Bedales students were A*- A, with 18% of students achieving the equivalent of at least three A grades, nine of whom had previously attended Bedales Prep or Pre-prep school.

Bedales students will study on some of the most demanding courses at universities featured in the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings 2026, including:

- University of Oxford – History of Art; Biochemistry; Biology
- King's College, London – Neuroscience; Liberal Arts; Culture, Media and Creative Studies
- University of Edinburgh – Cognitive Science; Religious Studies and English Literature; Interdisciplinary Futures
- University of Manchester – Architecture; Drama and Film Studies; Aerospace Engineering
- University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada – Biology
- University of Bristol – Physics; Neuroscience; Liberal Arts; Law; Modern Languages
- University of Western Australia – Business and Commerce
- University of Southampton – Mathematics with Statistics; Marine Biology with Oceanography
- Durham University – Accounting; History; Physics and Astronomy; Geography

Members of the 2024 cohort who applied through this year's cycle will also be taking up places at QS Top 100 universities including:

- UCL, University College London – English; Comparative Literature
- University of Edinburgh – Social Anthropology and Politics; History of Art and English Literature
- University of Southampton – Chemistry
- Durham University – Modern Languages and Cultures; Business and Management

Bedales' strong reputation in the performing arts continues this year, with three students gaining prestigious offers to study Music at Leeds Conservatoire and another to study Music at Goldsmiths, University of London. Bedales students will also be taking up places to study: Acting at the prestigious Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama; a Foundation Course in Acting at RADA; Theatre and Production Technology at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts; and Dance courses at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and the University of East London.

A number of students have opted to continue their art and design education, pursuing Art Foundation courses at Kingston University and the University of the Arts, London. Other Bedales students are joining undergraduate art and design courses including:

- University of the Arts, London – Fashion Design Technology; Fashion Styling and Production; Costume for Theatre and Screen
- University for the Creative Arts – Illustration
- Glasgow School of Art – Fashion Design
- Kingston University – Product and Furniture Design
- KLC School of Design – Interior Design

International study continues to be popular with Bedales students. Further to the courses highlighted above, other offers include places at Ithaca College, New York to study Biology and Universidad de Navarra, Spain, to read Chemistry.

Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales commented: "We are so proud of our students on their outstanding achievements this year. Their success in securing places at a remarkable range of universities and colleges is a testament to their dedication, curiosity and vitality. From highly competitive STEM courses to world-renowned arts and humanities programmes, our students continue to defy the national trend of narrowing subject choices, instead embracing breadth and depth in their academic pursuits.

"We're especially pleased to see how they've applied their independent learning skills and creative thinking to follow their passions with confidence. Whether heading to conservatoires, top-ranked global universities, or innovative art and design institutions, Bedalians are charting bold and inspiring paths. We celebrate not just their results, but the spirit with which they've approached their education and the exciting journeys ahead."
topuniversities.com/student-info/choosing-university/worlds-top-100-universities





SEPTEMBER

Adam Jay, CEO Vinted Marketplace

Tanya Darlow, Director of Development

Adam Jay, CEO of Vinted Marketplace, joined us to speak to a packed Olivier Theatre about Vinted's mission to redefine what it means to buy, sell and share second-hand fashion.

We were treated to a masterclass in public speaking as he wove together the story of how Vinted grew its reach across Europe to become the well-known platform it is today, insights into his day-to-day life as a CEO, and some well-pitched career advice to the students in the audience.

He explained how the simple idea of buyers also being sellers makes second-hand fashion easy, while helping to cut down on waste and new production. Adam also spoke about his own career journey, from Hotels.com to AVIS and Travelport, and how those experiences prepared him to lead Vinted Marketplace and help to drive new projects like Vinted Go and Vinted Pay. The audience had plenty of questions, sparking discussion on everything from entering new markets to the role of AI, online safety and the circular economy. Adam left students with some great advice: stay curious, work out what you're good at, build connections, and remember the importance of kindness along the way.

OCTOBER

Bedales inspection highlights significant strength



A recent inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has confirmed that Bedales School meets all required standards across leadership and management, the quality of education, students' wellbeing, contribution to society and safeguarding. The inspection report has also highlighted the Outdoor Work curriculum as a strength that reflects the very best of the school's ethos and practice.

Inspectors confirmed leaders and governors at Bedales Senior, Prep and Pre-prep know the school exceptionally well, with students' wellbeing firmly at the centre of all decision making. The school's self-evaluation was described as "rigorous", and the safeguarding culture as effective across all areas. Staff across the school work closely together to ensure students feel safe, supported and known.

Will Goldsmith, Head of Bedales commented: "This report is a strong endorsement of our students, staff and community, and it celebrates the distinctive Bedales way of doing things. The identification of a significant strength is a rare accolade in the inspection process. We are delighted with such positive external validation, although we continue to place greater value on intrinsic motivation – the curiosity, kindness, independence and love of learning that is difficult to measure by an inspection."

Clare Kirkham, Head of Bedales Prep added: "We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed during the inspection – students, staff, governors and particularly the many parents and students who completed surveys or interacted with the inspection team. Your thoughtful engagement helped inspectors gain a genuine and rounded picture of life at Bedales."

Teaching across the Pre-prep, Prep and Senior was judged by the inspectors to enable good progress by students. Inspectors highlighted well-planned lessons that match students' needs; effective assessment and tracking of progress; a co-curricular programme that enables students to develop skills and interests in areas of their choice, spanning drama, music, sport, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and extensive clubs and societies; effective academic support for boarders; good progress for students with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) and those with English as an Additional Language.

The design and implementation of the curriculum – running from the Early Years through the Prep to Bedales Assessed Courses, A Level and the Extended Project Qualification – was described as "well-planned and structured". Inspectors found students to be "confident and articulate". They highlighted thoughtful teaching about healthy relationships, ethics and current issues; high participation in sport and physical activity; respectful behaviour and an effective anti-bullying strategy; strong pastoral care and supportive boarding houses, offering a "welcoming experience".

Students were commended for their sense of responsibility, their democratic engagement through the school council, and their inclusive and respectful relationships.

Inspectors praised the school's effectiveness in preparing students for the wider world, highlighting: leadership opportunities and democratic participation; impartial teaching on political issues; "well developed and effective" careers education and guidance; real-world economic education; community service and partnerships with local charities and schools.

In recognising Outdoor Work as a "significant strength" of the school, the inspectors praised the "very high" quality of students' work and the breadth of their skills.

Andrew Martin, Director of the Outdoor Work Faculty commented: "Outdoor Work has been central to Bedales since its founding, rooted in the belief that education should be practical, humane and connected to the real world. This longstanding tradition has continued to evolve in ways that speak to today's priorities and opportunities, incorporating aspects of environmental science, biodiversity and research. Together, these elements

ensure that Outdoor Work remains a uniquely Bedalian blend of tradition, enquiry, ingenuity and relevance to the world our students will enter."

In addition, safeguarding across all phases was described as effective and fully embedded in school culture. Training, reporting, record keeping and recruitment checks were all found to be robust.

Inspectors identified three areas for further development, which the school has already begun addressing: publishing updated safeguarding and attendance policies more promptly; making more effective use of assessment in Relationships and Sex Education; promoting mutual trust and respect through mentoring by students in mixed-age boarding.

The full report is available at bedales.org.uk/introduction/inspection-reports

NOVEMBER

Sixth Form Osaka trip

Maya, 6.1

Bedales rekindled its relationship with the Land of the Rising Sun over half term as a mixture of 6.1 and 6.2 students made the journey to Osaka in Japan, alongside Tristan, Matt, and Ana. We immersed ourselves in a culture that is so alien to Britain, ultimately curating the experience of a lifetime.

Following a two-day journey from Heathrow to Kansai Airport we partook in what would become the best 10 days of my life – greeting the holy bowing deer in Nara Park, visiting various temples, and commencing our goshuin ('honourable red seals') collection. We threw ourselves into the culture as we tried traditional costume, such as the elegant kimono, and learnt about the large difference in customs that mirrored the literal distance between England and Japan. From replacing our shoes with slippers as we stepped into Assumption Kokusai Junior/Senior High school, to the oddly high-tech public bathrooms that play music, and ensuring that we weren't being 'meiwaku' (disturbing the peace).

A personal highlight of the trip was meeting the students at the school. This enabled us to practise speaking Japanese with them, as well as participate in various classes, including learning koto, calligraphy and a tea ceremony. We also got to help at the kindergarten. Fortunately, we were able to reunite with some of the students from Assumption towards the end of our trip, during an entertaining night of karaoke!

Throughout our trip, we had an unforgettable time – attempting to order food in Japanese, trying all the exotic foods and drinks that were so foreign to us, and returning (reluctantly!) to England with a new perspective.

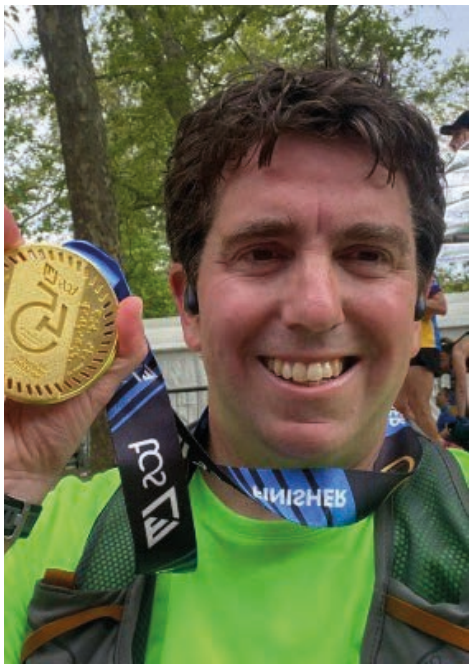
I would highly recommend applying for this trip next year, as it is the experience of a lifetime and it was amazing to have been able to share this experience with everyone who came with us!



DECEMBER

Headships for Peter and Graeme!





We are delighted to share some exciting news, though with some mixed emotions too. Graeme Thompson, our Prep and Pre-prep Deputy Head (Pastoral), has been announced as the next Head of Tockington Manor Pre-prep and Prep. And last autumn Ditcham Park School confirmed that Peter Thackrey, Bedales Senior's Deputy Head (Pastoral), will be taking up their headship.

Whilst we are immensely proud of Peter and Graeme and thrilled to see their talents recognised in these prestigious appointments, we will of course feel their absence keenly here at Bedales. Their dedication, warmth and commitment to our community have left a lasting mark, and they will be greatly missed.

Graeme and Peter will both be taking up their new roles in September 2026. We will be giving them a proper send-off in the Summer term, and until then we look forward to continuing to benefit from their leadership and support.

"We focus on developing staff who embody our approach: creative, independent, and values-driven," explains Will Goldsmith. "At Bedales, we don't just educate students, we cultivate the kind of teachers and leaders who inspire them. Our investment in staff development means our students are taught by educators who model curiosity, resilience, and leadership."

"For many years, Peter has been a cornerstone of the school community. He has established strong structures and ensured colleagues feel empowered to provide the exceptional pastoral care for which the school is known, particularly supporting families as they returned to normality post-pandemic," says Will.

Colleagues describe him as "the most relentlessly positive, compassionate, and proactive man we know." Earlier this year, he ran the London Marathon in memory of much-loved teacher **Will Lithgow (staff, 2007-24)**, raising over £9,000 for Rowans Hospice and opening conversations with students about grief. True to form, he even brought his signature energy to Breast Cancer Awareness Day, running home to don his pink shorts!

Graeme has also proven himself an extraordinary leader, as Head of Bedales Prep Clare Kirkham explains; "Graeme helped guide the school safely through Covid, including setting up an online Camps Week, and creating initiatives such as our Student Voice Conferences and leading the Equality Council. He has championed wellbeing across the curriculum and school ecosystem, ensuring we remain a nurturing and inclusive environment."

"Graeme has also enriched school life through performance and creativity, taking to the stage himself – most recently as the Selfish Giant in the Group 1 musical and a Dickensian gentleman in the Prep Christmas Concert! His vision, dedication, and energy have left a lasting mark on students and colleagues alike."

Peter and Graeme will become part of a long tradition of Bedales staff alumni going on to lead schools across the UK and beyond, spreading the same ethos that students experience here every day. Other headships for Bedales colleagues over the years include:

- Phil Tattersall-King – Dover College (2025)
- Rick Cross – Reddam House (2021)
- Nick Robinson – West Buckland (2018), then Prestfelde (2022)
- Mike Lambert – Dubai College (2015)
- Dominic Oliver – Lancing (2014), then Oundle (2025)
- Colin Baty – Great Walstead (2010); Bedales Prep (2017); Danes Hill (2025)
- Leo Winkley – St Peter's, York (2010), then Shrewsbury (2018)
- Jonathan Taylor – Bootham (2004)

Since the writing of this article, Head of Bedales Pre-prep Fiona Read has accepted the role of Head of Prep, Wellington College International, Thailand.

BEDALES' HISTORIC ARCHIVES

Marianne De Giovanni, Head Librarian, Bedales Senior

Bedales' historic archives are entering a new chapter: better protected, more accessible, and ready to play a central role in telling the school's story to future generations – with Old Bedalian support proving crucial to this transformation.

Since its foundation in 1893 as a humane alternative to the authoritarian public schools of its day, Bedales has valued memory, reflection and the written word. For more than 130 years, students and staff have documented school life in publications, photographs and personal papers. The archives now include the complete run of The Bedales Record (1894–1935), **John Haden Badley (Founder and Headmaster, 1893-1935)**'s official magazine, alongside the student-led Bedales Chronicle, first published in 1907. Together with committee minutes, theatre programmes, plans, photographs and items such as Badley's watercolours, these materials form a vivid record of the school's evolving philosophy of educating 'Head, Hand and Heart'.

Although the archives were only formally established in 1999, recent digitisation and OB contributions have begun to close gaps in the early record.

As Bedales plans for the future of its heritage, the physical care of the archives is central. Across universities and leading schools, purpose-built or adapted archive stores with controlled temperature and humidity have become standard, often located near libraries and teaching spaces so that collections remain both secure and intellectually accessible.

Best practice emphasises compact shelving, fire and flood protection, and the separation of reception areas from long-term storage, allowing new accessions to be stabilised before joining the main sequence. Bedales' current review draws on these models as it explores upgraded or new accommodation



that can protect vulnerable materials and support future growth in both paper and digital holdings. The aim is not merely to build a vault, but to create a working home for the school's memory, aligned with national standards yet suited to Bedales' distinctive ethos.

Long-lived archives inevitably contain fragile treasures: worn volumes, silvering photographs and plans marked by heavy use. Modern conservation offers effective tools to stabilise such material, but requires expert, prioritised programmes.

A tiered approach – combining low-cost measures such as acid-free enclosures and improved housing with selective referral of key items to professional conservators – mirrors national practice. At Bedales, damaged volumes of The Bedales Record and early Chronicle issues already benefit from better packaging and environmental conditions, while candidates for specialist treatment are being identified for phased conservation.

Reinvigorating an archive is as much about people as paper. Archives can strengthen community





Asha addicts photographed wearing their own favourite pieces: (left) the painters Valerio and Camilla Adami; (right) the writer Frances Partridge with her editor, Rebecca Wilson, and (top) Pop artist Robert Rauschenberg

Photographs: Herbie Knott/Jillian Edelstein

HECTOR JACKS 20.1.94

Hector Jacks, Headmaster of Bedales School, 1946-62, died on January 9 aged 90. He was born on June 25, 1903.

HECTOR JACKS was the third headmaster of Bedales, holding the position for 14 years, after which, during more than thirty years of retirement, he remained in touch with the school, always available with advice if asked, but never interfering.

Jacks's own appointment hinged, first of all, on a lengthy scrutiny by John Haden Badley, the school's founder, and then, characteristically, on his performance in preaching at the school's Sunday service. For the situation that the school was in his selection proved exactly right.

The decision in 1940 not to move the school away from Petersfield had had many consequences. First of all, there had been a considerable fall in the number of pupils. Secondly, the buildings and estate received only the minimum maintenance. Thus, when Jacks took over, finances were shaky and the postwar outlook most uncertain.

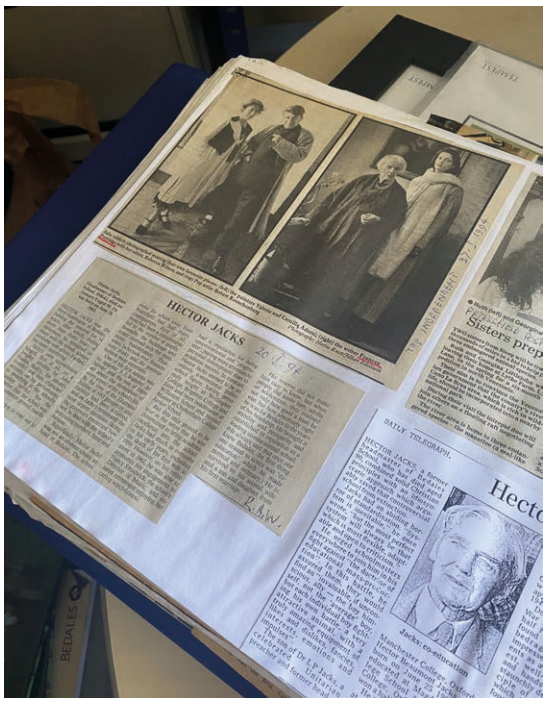
One of his first actions was to appoint F.J.Walesby as bursar, and the two of them set about the restoration of every aspect of the school's life. By the time of the Diamond Jubilee of 1953 prosperity and stability had been achieved, and on Jacks's retirement the most urgent questions facing the governors concerned how best to deal with the school's increasing numbers, fame and fortune.

Superficially, Hector Jacks was not an obvious choice as head of Bedales. The school had a reputation for being unconventional and "progressive"; paying more attention to personal development than to academic success. In contrast, Hector Jacks seemed to be an entirely conventional public school figure, having previously taught at Wellington College, Brighton College and Eton and been headmaster at Willaston School and Second Master at Cheltenham College Junior School.

But this only proved to be true in the sense that he was determined to bring academic excellence into the school. Jacks had much to overcome in his early years, including the death of his first wife in 1959. However, on his retirement in 1962, he was able to announce his engagement to Nancy Strudwick, the school's Director of Music, and entered retirement enjoying her caring watchfulness.

His reserve did not make him easy to know, but when people did know him, adults or adolescents, they realised not only how good a man he was but how absolutely right he was for Bedales in the years of his headship. He brought it stability and prosperity and established its reputation as a leading co-educational school. (He always said that once one knew Bedales, the first thing one ceased to notice was "co-education" which he made normal and ordinary.) He is survived by his second wife and a son and daughter from his first marriage.

R.A.W.



identity, support inquiry-based learning and foster 'heritage bonds' between young people and their environment.

Bedales' digital archive, funded initially by the Bedales Association, already makes early printed records widely accessible. Future plans include small rotating displays, larger curated exhibitions marking key anniversaries, and enhanced support for teaching across the age range. Improved enquiry services and appointment systems will also help researchers, family historians and OBs explore the collections more easily.

Across the education sector, revitalised archives are often sustained by philanthropy and the engagement of former students. OBs have already funded digitisation and contributed personal collections that enrich the official record.

The archives are not a static repository but a shared endeavour. With renewed investment and imaginative use of physical and digital spaces, Bedales is poised to ensure that its distinctive history remains both well protected and vibrantly alive for generations to come.







As the archives move into this new phase – improving storage, conserving fragile items and planning more ambitious displays – the school will again look to its extended community for support, whether through donations, historically significant material or specialist expertise.

If you would like to contribute to the Bedales Archive please get in touch (alumni@bedales.org.uk). To access historical copies of the Bedales Record and Chronicle visit bedalesschools.daisy.websds.net/authenticated/Browse.aspx

LOOKING BACK 75 YEARS

Helen Martin, Outdoor Work Assistant & freelance writer

There are four strands to the school's 10-year strategy: Learning, Living, Community and Environment. In October last year, a chance conversation with **Rollo Wicksteed (1948-54)** got us thinking about the second.

The importance of giving back is a key part of our Living strand. Ever since the school was founded in 1893, students have served the school community in many ways, from growing crops during the First World War, to helping build the beautiful Sotherington Barn, which is where we caught up with Rollo at the Bedales Agricultural Show.

"Back then, students did all kinds of jobs," he recalls. "There were students milking cows, picking apples, helping in the gardens. We weren't allowed to eat the apples though, they had to go to the thatched apple shed for the kitchens. I got into a lot of trouble for scrumping! The old farmer who lived on site would also turn them into cider and sell it to us for sixpence."

Life at Bedales was rich with responsibility. As Head Boy, Rollo performed 'Jaw checking', which meant standing on the stage and ensuring that before Jaw began, all 200 or so students were sat in their proper seat. Your seat was determined by your vocal range, such as alto, tenor or bass. He admits to being banned from choir for unreliable timekeeping and for adding a few extra hallelujahs during his *Hallelujah Chorus* solo.

Students also served as 'room do'ers', moving tables and trunks at the end of term. Or, they might have joined the school fire brigade (which included future architect **Jon Barnsley (1936-47)**, who went on to design a number of Bedales buildings), or become stagehands.

"All the naughty boys wanted to be stagehands, but the most popular job of all was server. It meant carrying food from the kitchen to the tables in the Dining Hall. You'd eat last, but you got more! Back then rationing was still enforced. Each person had their own labelled jam jar on a shelf, for their ration of jam and sugar. It was considered a crime to steal anyone else's, although it was fine to sell them, like I did."

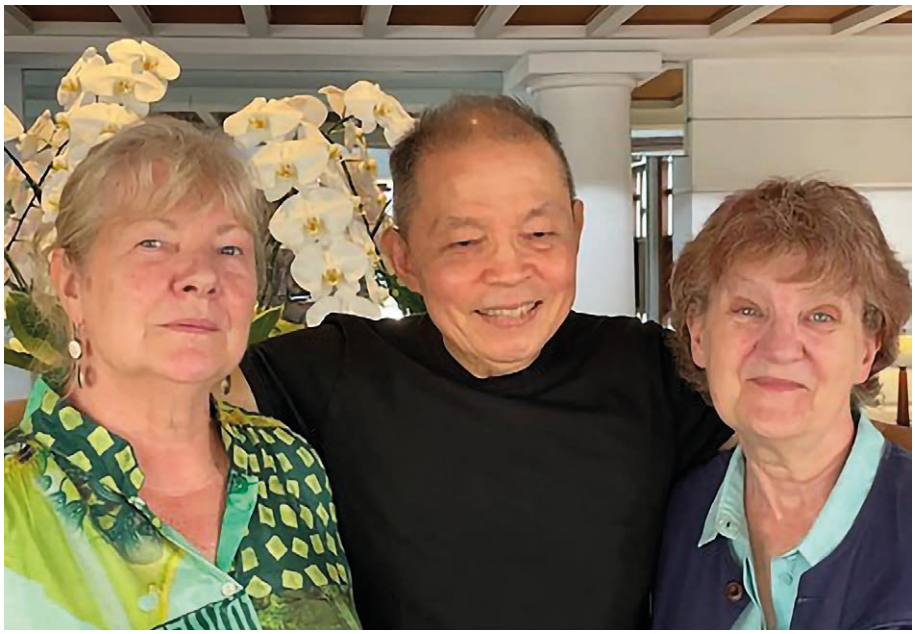
The extra cash was much welcomed. Despite all their work around the school, students were only given threepence pocket money a week!



Rollo in Outdoor Work – if you look closely, you can see Steephurst in the background

CHIVA-SOM, THAILAND

Sylvia Kahn-Freund (1959-70)



'Haven of life', Chiva-Som is the original, pioneering 'wellness' hotel. Set in lush gardens on the beach just outside the town of Hua Hin in Thailand it is the inspirational template which many other hotels and 'spas' have tried to emulate. It began as the family beach house of Boonchu Rojanastien, who in 1995 decided to develop the site into a place which would enable and celebrate the enjoyment of a healthy life. It offers its guests an individually tailored programme of treatments, spiritual and physical exercise and a cuisine which is so delicious and varied that merely to call it healthy would miss the point – it is to be relished!

Chiva-Som has won many international accolades, and reviews from those who have experienced it have described a stay there as transformational. **Krip Rojanastien (1964-69)** is CEO and is much in demand as a speaker on occasions when the increasingly influential 'wellness' hospitality sector gathers. At a recent event, Krip explained the holistic principles that underly Chiva-Som's approach and which support the wellbeing of 'Mind, Body and Soul'. This should come as no surprise to those familiar with the Bedales ethos of 'Head, Hand, Heart' and how this translates into practicality is immediately apparent for those lucky enough to experience a stay at Chiva-Som.

In January 2025 my husband Christopher and I, together with **Tosh Denholm (1959-69)**, were fortunate enough to spend a week at Chiva-Som. The main purpose of the visit was to spend time with Krip and his partner Karen, but we also enjoyed all of the best that Chiva-Som has to offer in wellness hospitality. Every weird and wonderful experience is available, from flotation therapy to hyperbaric oxygen therapy. We enjoyed full days of group classes and individual treatment sessions, wandering between exotic pavilions in the peaceful gardens. We were thoroughly spoilt.



Krip's generosity did not stop there. In December, he donated a five-night stay at Chiva-Som, Thailand, to be raffled by Bedales to raise funds for the new Rock Studio. Krip says his time at Bedales was instrumental in shaping his love of music and he wanted to support the Rock Studio and the valuable opportunities it provides. What a wonderful way to give back to the school that we all loved and to support future creativity. The raffle raised over £9,000 for the studio and the winner is the partner of a member of the hard-working Domestic team at Bedales. I hope they enjoy a well-deserved break in the paradise Krip has created. Thank you, Krip! ✪





MY JOURNEY SO FAR

Jake Morris (2019-21)



Bedales is in the Morris blood. It's quite literally shaped a substantial part of several in my family. All in all, around 20 relatives of mine have been through the school. My grandparents **Michael Morris (1944-50)** and **Susan Morris (née Hooper, 1950-55)** met there as well as my father, **Gyles Morris (1971-84)** and uncles, **James (1971-81)** and **Rupert Morris (1972-80)**. More recently my dear cousin **Sofia GM (2012-14)** (doing an excellent part in the Bedales Podcast! – see page 33) and the latest member, me. I am beyond grateful for the platform it gave me during my A Levels. The school allowed me to indulge in my three deep interests, History, Politics and Photography. Since leaving it's all been rather busy.

When I finished back in June 2021, we were still in the shadow of Covid, and I discussed with my parents the possibility of a gap year. I wanted to try at least to pursue my love and passion for wildlife filmmaking and if it were okay to postpone my place to study History at the University of Bristol until the following year. They agreed. I've now had a few gap years, which are morphing, ever so slightly, into life. Four years later, through a good mix of hard work and luck, I've been credited for Cinematography on a wildlife series *Nightmares of Nature* for Netflix, Emmy award winning *A Real Bug's Life* for National Geographic/Disney+ and secured a Junior Camera Operator position on a new BBC Natural History series *Hidden Planet*, showcasing the incredible lives of insects like never before. To say it's been surreal is definitely an understatement. It wasn't long ago that I was filming ants with **Milo Whittle (2017-22)** in the Sand Quarry for my Photography A Level!

I was in my dorm on 6.2 flat when I first dreamt of the opportunity to be a Junior Camera Operator (JCO) for the BBC Natural History Unit (NHU). In the heat of mock exams, a job advert came out in late 2020 for a JCO position on BBC's *The Americas*. I thought I should give it a shot. I applied for the job and, not surprisingly, didn't get further than that. This position comes around every time the BBC NHU gets a new commission for a wildlife series and depending on the scope, the time frame and specialism of the show, they may pick one person or three for their camera bursary or JCO position. I've applied for the position every year, on every new project since, and never got anywhere. There is a long list of criteria needed for a JCO role; at least one broadcast credit against your name is a vital ingredient on the list and when I left Bedales, that was my first task.



A Real Bug's Life, National Geographic/Disney+



Jake in South Africa, Hidden Planet, BBC

My first job came far quicker than I had anticipated. During my A Levels, I began contacting producers and camera people. I'd send them copies of my films to try and gain advice and feedback. Always (and still am!) hungry to improve. One producer that had been in touch floated the idea of a filming opportunity that he had me in mind for. In August 2021, I was whisked off to Cyprus as a camera operator for four weeks to make a film about seven endangered habitats on the Akrotiri Peninsula. I learnt a huge amount on the shoot. How to conduct interviews, the amount of kit that is brought on each shoot which can amount to several airport trolley loads. My current record on airport trolleys was seven, carrying 32 cases back from Australia. But the most enjoyable encounter was with the Royal Air Force.

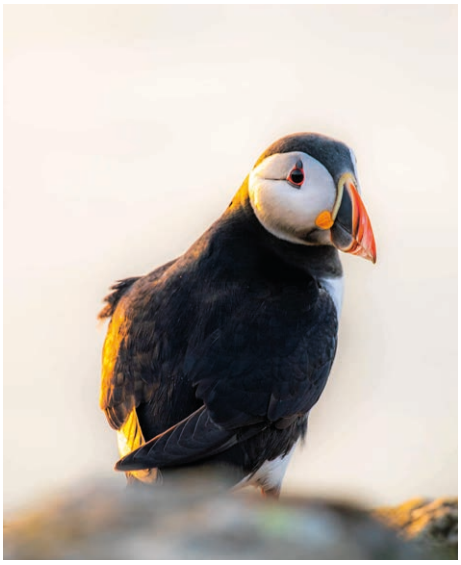
There is a British Military base on the Akrotiri Peninsula that was situated behind one of our filming locations, where we wanted to film with a drone. Remarkably the base agreed to our filming if we weren't flying the drone whilst aircraft were taking off or landing. But the only way for us to know what was happening was to have direct communication with air traffic control. So, there we were. Drone ready. We got the go ahead from the base – we could fly. The drone began to hover around the pond when suddenly we were told that a Typhoon plane was incoming, and we'd have to land the drone immediately. This happened a few times over the next few hours of filming. It was all very exhilarating and exciting stuff indeed. Another experience that stood out on that trip was when one morning I was tasked with filming flamingos on a salt lake. We had to leave early enough in the morning to catch them as they flew in at dawn. We reached location, unloaded and headed off to our hides on the edge of the lake. Without thinking, one of the team had forgotten to turn off the vehicle's lights! There we were stuck on the salt lake with the battery dead. My phone buzzed. I got an email containing my A Level results. Not the information I was expecting to receive at that moment. Every shoot has its surprises!



Mosquito emergence, Nightmares of Nature, Netflix

The aspect of wildlife filmmaking that particularly captured my eye early on was Macro cinematography. Showing the lives of the small guys. There are dramas happening under our noses all the time across the world that many of us never even notice. That enticed me. For instance, there is nothing quite like filming a mosquito emerging from pupa into an adult. They aren't everyone's favourite but watching the ecological process down the barrel of a macro lens is pretty extraordinary. This was one of my tasks when working on *Nightmares of Nature* for Netflix. I definitely felt a newfound appreciation for them. The only downside was that directly after the mosquitos were out and exploring, they realised that being so close by, I was the favoured choice for their first meal. I would say I was flattered if it wasn't for the several bites that accumulated after three days of filming them.

July 2024. With a few broadcast credits under the belt another advert pops up. A JCO role on *Hidden Planet*, a series championing the incredible and varied lives of insects. Like always, I applied – and to my utter disbelief, I had an invitation for an interview and got offered the job



Puffin on Skomer Island

later that month. Not to sound too cliché but sometimes dreams really do come true.

I've been on the series since November 2024 and although I can't divulge too much about it, what I can say is that it's been a very busy year. Whatever the insect story, no matter where in the world, the production team will go and find it. The job has taken me to the Kimberley in Australia, farm fields of Germany, the Amazon jungle in French Guiana, vast canyonlands in Utah and finishing off the year in the Fynbos, one of the world's seven floral kingdoms in Cape Town, South Africa. The series is due to broadcast in 2027.

SHAKESPEARE AT BEDALES

David Anson, Head of English Faculty, Bedales Senior

Thank you to **William Redman (1967-74)** who sent in this newspaper review (right) of a 1963 Bedales production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* which he came across while clearing the house of his parents (**Richard and Jane Redman** – see obituary on page 79). It would appear that **Gyles Brandreth (1961-66)** had been spotted as a future star whilst performing at Bedales! Here David Anson, current Head of English faculty, gives a more recent perspective on the Bard.



3—HAMPSHIRE TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1963

MALVOLIO STOLE THE SHOW IN BEDALES "TWELFTH NIGHT"

The great challenge presented by William Shakespeare is one taken up with brave regularity, and sometimes indifferent success, by schools for their Christmas dramatic productions.

Bedales School near Petersfield has chosen "Twelfth Night" this year for its annual production.

"Twelfth Night," or "What You Will," is, perhaps, the most fascinating of all Shakespeare's comedies and one which demands a great deal of skill from the actors.

Last week's performance of the play in the school's Lupton Hall was tackled in an imaginative way.

So often young school-actors are over-awed by Shakespeare's greatness, lose their personalities in the weighty brilliance of their lines, and become merely mouthpieces.

NATURAL EASE

The cast from Bedales Dramatic Society showed a keen understanding of the text and were obviously not afraid to interpret the words humorously and with a natural ease.

This led to an easier digestion of the play by the audience who laughed freely at many cleverly highlighted points of comedy.

Malvolio stole the show, Gyles Brandrett giving a superb performance as the ridiculous, self opinionated steward. The changes in mood and tone of voice added sparkle to the delivery of his lines and his understanding of the character was remarkable.

Hubert Murray as the bluff, but likeable rascal, Sir Toby Belch, soon made himself popular with the audience.

His humour bubbled out with every line, but occasionally he allowed himself to sacrifice the line for the sake of the humour.

Olivia was elegantly portrayed by Joanna Hordern. She was essentially a more serious character but this did not prevent her playing with warmth and sympathy.

DUAL ROLE

Felicity Sherwood gave a sincere performance in the demanding dual role of Viola-Cesario and John Robinson was her brother Sebastian.

An assured and convincing Orsino was played by Mark Kidel and Ann Barber was a light-hearted Maria.

Feste the Jester was Simon Laughlin, who carried his several songs well.

The cast was completed by Andrew Tourell, Martin Farrell, Andrew Seligman, Peter Farrell, John Cox, Jonathan Lubran, Piers Hartley, Rupert Coles, Mark Gilpin, Tim Whittome, Elizabeth Overton, Alan Buchanan, Louis Mackay, David Benjamin, and Hugo Phillips.

Producer was Rachel Field.

—G.E.

A duelling scene from "Twelfth Night," presented by Bedales Dramatic Society.

Shakespeare has long held a significant place in the heart of the Bedales community for both students and staff, academic and performer, reader and writer. His relevance to modern students has often been debated, was debated when I was at school a million years ago, and yet time and again his unmatched appreciation for the human condition speaks to us down the ages. Ben Jonson called him the 'star of poets' and that he was 'not of an age but for all time'; I nod sagely as I write. For me, his plays continue to be the most thrilling part of my teaching; I love nothing more than to be faced with a mob of Sixth Formers looking suspiciously at me, complaining that they 'don't get it' or that the 'language is too hard' or having a Block 4 ask me if Shakespeare 'really meant that' only for them to find themselves half a term later gleefully appalled by Iago's scheming or heart broken by the searing truth in Hamlet's soliloquies.



I hope that many of you reading this will be looking back fondly on your classroom experience of Shakespeare with **John Batstone (staff, 1968-93)**, **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)**, **Graham Banks (staff, 1980-2013)** and the many other members of the English and Drama departments who came before the bardolatry of the current team. I hope that a handful of you will remember my attempts to pass on the thrill I find in the language of *Richard II* and I know a few more will still be fascinated by Lear's madness and Othello's jealousy so piteously spurred on by his pride. Aside from studying the plays, Bedales has had a long history of performing Shakespeare or, indeed, hosting performances. Alastair wrote a wonderful article for the 2021 edition of the OB Newsletter (Century of Players Around Bedales) charting the history of Bedales' connection to various productions of Shakespeare.

The Quad had a *Macbeth* backcloth painted in about 1900 by Bedales parent Roger Fry, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is believed to have been performed in the Lupton Hall in 1911 and **Geoffrey Crump (staff, 1919-45)**, who became Head of English in 1922, was responsible for facilitating a number of early productions on the Steephurst Lawns and then latterly higher up the hangers at Ashford Chase. *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Much Ado About Nothing* to name the first three. In later years **Daniel Day Lewis (1970-75)** played in a production of *Twelfth Night* directed by **Rachel Cary Field (staff, 1941-75)**, **Jessica Boyd (1991-96, and current governor)** played Hamlet and Alastair himself arranged an annual Shakespeare production on Parents' Day mornings for Dunhurstians. More recently in 2016, **Jenni Brittain (staff, 2008-17)** and **Melissa Bagg (staff, 2014-17)** co-directed a production of *As You Like It* and two summers ago the Black Barn was transformed in to Ancient Rome for a production of *Julius Caesar* and Georgie Nugent (Head of Academic Drama) commandeered Butts Field for a VE Day inspired *Much Ado*.

In my time at the school (2012 to date) we have seen a number of excellent touring companies bring Shakespeare to life with real power and magic. I was blown away in my first term here by a production of *Henry V* performed by **Edward Hall (1980-85)**'s company, Propeller. The energy and dynamism of the all-male cast and the elasticity with which they handled Shakespeare's verse was incredible and, concerned as I was that I had moved away from the cultural riches of London, I was both deeply impressed and reassured by the quality of theatre and performance that our community has access to in the Bedales Olivier Theatre. I am also reminded of the wonderful production *I, Malvolio* by Tim Crouch, who Head of Drama **Phil Tattersall-King (staff, 2012-22)** had



seen perform this unsettling production at Edinburgh and had the foresight to bring it to us. Crouch's reading of Malvolio's treatment at the hands of the (usually implied) cruelty of the other characters turns a comedy into something deeply tragic. And that is the power of Shakespeare. His plays, wonderful to study in the classroom as they are, are meant to be seen and experienced as theatre. For me *Hamlet* is most electric when considering the theme of performance that runs throughout and it is thrilling to think of Iago addressing the groundlings to then insinuate us all in his plot to destroy Cassio, Desdemona and, eventually, Othello. A performance of Shakespeare should, if done well, demand its audience to question itself, to feel uncomfortable in its own skin.

The Autumn term of 2025 was particularly full of Shakespeare for all of the very good reasons I extol. The term began with the Duke's Theatre company performing a production of *Macbeth* to all of Blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4. Director of Dance and Drama Hayley Cole booked the company not only for their excellent reputation as an outdoor theatre company but also for their use of physical theatre. Directed by Robert Shaw Cameron and designed by Jessica Curtis, the piece made palpable the chemistry between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth and the Bedalian audience really enjoyed the ingenious use of space matched with fast paced physical action. I was particularly taken by Finnbar Hayman's rendition of 'Out, out brief candle…' which was delivered with much sensitivity.

The company followed their performance with a practical workshop the following day delivered to all of Blocks 1 and 3. It is always interesting to see the impact getting Shakespeare on its feet in the classroom has on students. Last year the English and Drama department had Inset delivered by the Royal Shakespeare Company. We were joined by teachers from Bohunt School to experience a range of practical tasks and activities. I have been using some of these with my students this year; physical work exploring status through various theatre games has enabled students to experience powerfully what Peter Brook says about the empty space; the classroom becomes theatre and that merging of the real student with the imagined Macbeth does help engagement with not only the intention of action but the intention of language too.

Our Sixth Form have also been exposed to both live performance and practical work in their study of *Hamlet*.

In October we took 6.1 to see Justin Audibert's Chichester production with Giles Terera in the lead. The intimate space of the Minerva Theatre lent itself well to the claustrophobia of Elsinore and Eve Ponsonby's Ophelia suffers a miscarriage which, though aware of the critical exploration surrounding this theme, I have never seen on stage. It is action such as this that truly helps students to appreciate the layers beneath the language, and in the case of Hamlet, the extent of the toxicity of the rot in Denmark.

At the end of the Autumn term the Block 5 BAC English Literature students went to see David Harewood in role as Othello in Tom Morris's very stylish production at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. The students are studying *Othello* as part of their course which includes a compulsory unit on Shakespeare. Students are assessed by viva for this, a mode of assessment we introduced last year. Though daunting, it may come as no surprise that Bedalians perform best when talking! Superb confidence in context and criticism is displayed together with great depth in their understanding of challenging



language and concepts. BAC Theatre Studies also finds significant space for Shakespeare having a site-specific Shakespeare unit in the Summer term where Block 4s perform 30-minute plays around the school.

Perhaps it is a given that a head of English should be so keen on Shakespeare and so thrilled that Bedales keeps its own traditions alight, passed from one generation to the next, evolving perfectly for each new era; it is, absolutely, an honour to do so. But those who question the relevance or who furrow a brow at the perceived complexity of the language will struggle to find another writer or practitioner who is able to get under the skin of what it means to regret, to grieve, to suffer, to hate, to laugh and to love as Shakespeare can. I find it hard to think of another writer who was studied in Bedales classrooms at its foundation who is still studied today and who can really teach young people so eloquently what it means to be human.



Sofia GM (2012-14)

It has been a huge joy and so much fun to be involved in the new Bedales Podcast. As an Old Bedalian, and being from a family that has attended Bedales for three generations, I was naturally keen to be part of a project that sought to explore its stories, strengths and successes.

Although my professional work is in local authority and charity settings with vulnerable families and young people, I have always had a strong interest in radio and audio. That interest began as a teenager and was heightened after hearing **Lucinda Sebag-Montefiore (1975-77)**, producer of *Woman's Hour*, speak at a Civics talk when I was in 6.1. I subsequently spent a day shadowing her, which led to my continued interest and involvement with SOAS university radio.

When I heard Bedales was thinking of setting up a Bedales podcast, I instantly offered my services. The first few months were spent in initial planning meetings exploring how we wanted the podcast to be. We invited experts in the field from the Bedales community to contribute to the planning, including **William Miller (1980-82)**, Producer and CEO of Raconteur; current parent Charlotte Melen, producer and founder of Almost Tangible; and lawyer and award-winning podcast creator **Kate Fairweather (née Day, 1975-85)**, *Dogs with Jobs* podcast. Each brought their valuable expertise – William advised on marketing and audience development, Kate shared practical guidance on producing a low-budget podcast, and Charlotte contributed creative ideas.

Together we had a great time exploring a wide range of ideas, from a fully student-led podcast and project, to rotating OB presenters from different generations, to one day developing audio and podcasting as a curricular subject. Eventually we decided it would be best to split the podcast into two strands. Firstly 'Beyond Bedales' which would focus on the stories and careers of our alumni community, led by myself and other Old Bedalians. And secondly, 'Life@Bedales', led by Rob Reynolds (External Relations Director) and 6.1 students as part of the Bedales Podcast Enrichment Programme, which would shine a light on life at Bedales through the students' own perspectives.



Esme Allman (2013-15) and Sofia

Each week since January 2025 Rob has met with the 6.1 students on the Bedales podcast enrichment programme, to plan and create episodes. Supported by training from Stephen Martin, founder of Petersfield's Shine Radio, the students have developed ideas from concept to finished piece – from interviewing much-loved Teacher of History and Houseparent Chris Bott, to discussing politics with Head of Humanities Abi Wharton, and creating the podcast jingle, they have learnt interview techniques, editing, and audio technology.



Sofia and Georgia Glynn Smith

Developing the Beyond Bedales episodes has been equally fun, and I have had the chance to grow my own skills while having wonderful conversations with Old Bedalians, ranging from food photographer **Georgia Glynn-Smith (1980-85)** to fashion designer **Charlotte Dellal (1996-99)**, as well as poets, conductors and scientists about their lives and journeys beyond Bedales. It has been great getting advice and working with skilled producer William Miller as well as podcast producer **Christy Callaway-Gale (2005-12)**. Learning alongside fellow OBs, current staff, students, and members of the wider community has been wonderful.

Thank you to everyone who has listened and supported the podcast.



Alexander Yetman (2007-15) and Charlotte Dellal

Please do continue to get in touch if you have ideas or would like to be interviewed – podcast@bedales.org.uk

BEDALES ASSESSED COURSES (BACs)

Bertie Cairns, Deputy Head (Academic), Bedales Senior

On an autumnal afternoon, watching hockey on the astro, I had a brief conversation with a parent about his son in Block 5. He said that his son was loving the BACs but GCSEs seemed pointless and he was struggling to find motivation for the grind. It is a sentiment often repeated that GCSEs extract the joy from learning. The impetus of the people who founded BACs was right: GCSEs don't inspire curiosity, a love of learning or independent thinking.

The recent UK Curriculum and Assessment Review by Becky Francis did little to give progressive educators much hope for system change. The discussion around assessment at 16 remains myopic and amnesiac. I was recently in dialogue with New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) which accredits schools internationally. I was expecting them to be surprised by what Bedales does, after all we have people visiting us from across the globe to see what we do with BACs. On the contrary, NEASC found what we do to be normal: the creation of school-directed courses is typical of practice in most of the world. The conversation is so myopic in the UK that discussion around global best practice seems limited to comparing outcomes of PISA tests.

This myopia stems from what we measure as educational success and the mechanisms of control that enforce conformity. We measure what is easy to measure. We measure a proxy for learning. We have created a system that reflects a factory. It feels like education is stuck in the Taylorist 'scientific management' approach created in the 1910s and applied to industry. Taylor assumed everything could be measured; that people were extrinsically motivated; that the individual was more important than the group; that people are inherently lazy; that uniformity leads to efficiency but forgot that it crushes creativity. It is interesting that he was working on these ideas at the same time as **John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)** was creating Bedales where, as we know, the Head, the Heart and the Hand are of equal importance. Government and Multi Academy trusts (MATs) see standardisation as a way to uphold standards just as Taylor saw production lines increasing efficiency. There are MATs where lessons are rolled out, synchronised with other classes and other schools. Bedales and the BACs stand as a working example where a different, more human approach to education can thrive and help young people be the best they can be. Education as a community activity rather than a factory process.



The UK is also suffering from amnesia. A few years ago, we invited **Keith Budge (Head, 2001-18)** and the team who created and developed BACs to discuss what they did. They reminded us that before the 1988 reforms, schools like Bedales created their own O Level courses. It was this that inspired them to do BACs. What we do is not new. Rather, it is an act of remembering. Remembering that there was once a freedom to do what was right in each setting. Remembering that teachers were skilled professionals who could create schemes of work and assessments. Remembering that students show their knowledge and wisdom in different ways.

About 2,000 Bedalians have done BACs since their inception. Bedales is still an outlier in the British education system. It is therefore more important than ever for Bedales to continue to demonstrate what is possible. The BACs are living proof that teachers can be trusted to create, teach, assess and standardise their own courses.

There have been some interesting innovations recently within the well-established courses: English Literature now assesses its Shakespeare unit with a viva. The students are given an extract and 30 minutes to prepare a response to a question. They then have a 1-1 discussion with a member of the English faculty. While all the students found this challenging, they also enjoyed the process. The English team have also introduced a compulsory element of re-creative writing where students write a piece inspired by an author. They then have to analyse their own writing in relation to that author.

The English Literature BAC has also been benchmarked against the GCSE by Ecctis, an organisation used by the UK government to benchmark international qualifications. They scrutinised the content, the administrative processes and the outcomes. They found (as we had hoped) that the course is more challenging than the GCSE. We also know that it is more fun because English Literature remains one of the most popular A Level choices at

Bedales, bucking the national trend. See the chart, right, for the national picture.

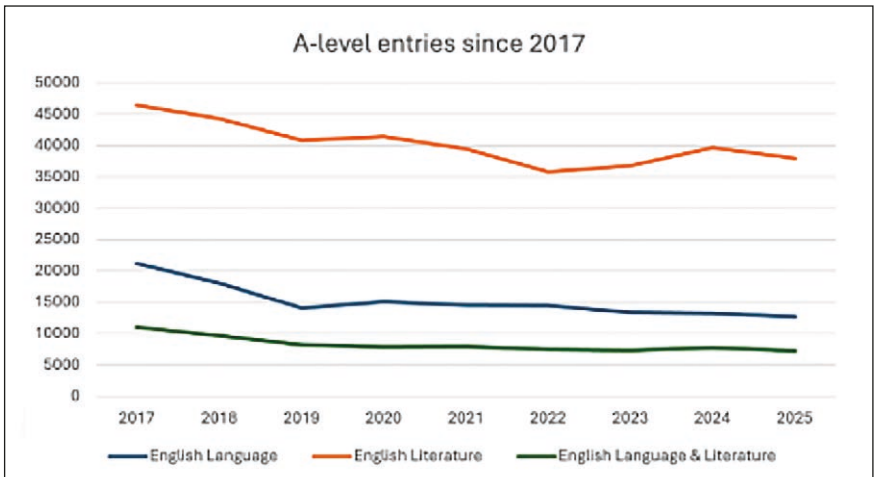
Geography has significantly revamped its curriculum. It now revolves around different spheres: the anthroposphere, the biosphere, the lithosphere and the hydrosphere.

Global Perspectives has been taught for almost a decade but has been evolving to the point where the students have a community service element in their assessment; links with the community are now wide enough to have different partnerships each year.

Japanese BAC has its first cohort of Block 4s this year and, while it is not intended to lead to A Level, its design is focused on expanding cultural knowledge and practical language skills. The Modern Foreign Languages department is running a very popular trip to Japan for the Sixth Form (see page 22) and are hoping to arrange a return visit from the Japanese school which hosts them.

The Science BAC is also under construction. The Science team has been asking universities and bodies like the Royal Society for Chemistry about what they think young people need in order to be scientists in the 21st Century. The change is driven by a belief that the GCSE does not help students become good scientists and that its syllabus is flawed. Any OBs who moved from GCSE to A Level Chemistry will probably remember that moment when the teacher explained that many of the facts they had learned about atomic structure were incorrect, and that a new model now had to be studied. The exciting addition to the curriculum is a course that focuses on research skills: students will create and work with real experimental data, use apparatus that is not currently used in the GCSE and learn about different ways to analyse the data.

BACs continue to be at the cutting edge of innovation in the UK. They have been a collaborative effort over two decades, with each head of department and all teachers curating and evolving their courses.



Source: English Studies in numbers: data on student enrolment and trends. The English Association



SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE

Andrew Martin, Head of Faculty: Outdoor Work

Outdoor Work (ODW) remains a distinctive part of school life and, as many of you tell us when you visit, continues to leave a lasting impression. Thanks to the dedication of our staff and students, we've enjoyed another successful year. The recent ISI inspection report noted: "The Outdoor Work curriculum contributes substantially to pupils' preparation for life after school and has a hugely beneficial impact on pupils. This is a significant strength of the school."

Only a small proportion of schools receive a judgement of 'significant strength', so we are all pretty delighted!

The report also goes on to say that students "develop a sophisticated understanding of crafts that support the natural world and of the need for sustainability…" so we thought we'd tell you a bit more about what this looks like on a day-to-day level.

Sustainability at Bedales

We start every year as we mean to go on, with a Whole School sustainability event in January. This takes the form of coppicing week, where all students, from Nursery to Sixth Form, clear a designated area in the Sand Quarry. We cut out invasive sycamore, and coppice hazel and chestnut to use for dead hedging, fence weaving and pole making.

Even the smallest students learn how to use secateurs and loppers. Together with their older peers and teachers, they cut, drag, shape, point and prepare the wood and poles for further use. Nothing goes to waste; poles too wonky for den-making or fencing get turned into charcoal, or woodchip for paths. We also introduce around 500 plants to supplement hedging and create more corridors for wildlife.

Throughout the year, we try to salvage some good from the reality of ash dieback on the estate by making charcoal from the dead wood and teaching students about the science behind carbonisation. We show students how to make both regular and artists' charcoal, and pass the latter to the Art department.

Other trees are put to use too. For example, the wood for the new tennis hut comes from an old oak, blown down in Storm Eunice in 2022. It has been milled on site and is now being made into a beautiful timber-framed building with **Gabriel Langlands (1977-90)**, our resident timber framer, and a crew of Block 5s and Sixth Formers.

Students are also working on a timber-framed wattle and daub field shelter in Lithcott, made from wood coppiced here at school. Block 5s are currently completing the panels, using clay harvested from Butt's Field, when it was temporarily turned into a car park during the construction of the new Art and Design Building.

They've had a bit of help from their friends in Pre-prep, who have been studying the Celts and sustainable building. Their enthusiasm for making the daub and getting it into the shelter walls is always a joy to watch!



Whole School Badley Day

A wider view of sustainability

These projects are the big, obvious ones, but there's another side to sustainability that elsewhere, is often overlooked – financial sustainability. Without it, even the best initiatives cannot endure. As the recent ISI report said, through involvement with ODW: "Pupils engage with real-world business scenarios from production to selling and reinvestment and from harvesting to packaging and the costs of materials."

The produce that students help to make, including food, woollen goods and charcoal, is sold through the farm shop, with all proceeds reinvested directly into the department.
This is not a token initiative but a commercially run enterprise, one that underwrites the farm's operations and secures ODW's ability to grow and prosper well into the future.

Our aim is to send students off into the world not believing that sustainability is a 'nice to have', but a fundamental part of any responsible business. We are constantly blending our love for nature with science, pragmatism and a clear sense of how



Coppicing in the Sand Quarry

our subject cuts across so many parts of life, not sitting neatly in just one.

Whether we're tempering steel, adding gluten to flour, discussing sheep genetics, or looking at tree cells within green woodworking, most lessons naturally lend themselves to cross-curricular learning.

We might not say we're doing Maths when we're squaring off a site or frame, measuring or marking out, or learning about Geography when we discuss prevailing winds, which way to turn a pig arc, and why trees grow and lean as they do… but this doesn't change the fact that this is exactly what we're doing!

Biodiversity in action

Land management continues to be a key theme, and provides many opportunities to learn about biodiversity and natural science. For example, through working with and observing our ponies, cows and sheep, students learn about cross-grazing and the ways in which different animals will eat the grass, the importance of resting and fallow periods for the land.

They also learn about the value of looking after the soil, and the link between it and the end product. For example, if our grass is of poor quality, then so are our sheep, and this, in turn, will affect the wool that students go on to spin and weave.

One of the least glamorous but most important jobs on the farm, is monitoring the worm burden. Led by Assistant Farm Manager Libby Wright, alongside Head of Biology Vikki Alderson-Smart, students analyse faecal egg count, taking samples and monitoring a variety of animal poo under our microscopes. This helps ensure that all animals are wormed appropriately, reducing the need for medical worming and helping keep the soil healthy too.

As a farm we take part in 'No Mow May', letting plants grow to provide early food sources for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and other insects. The aim is to enhance biodiversity and improve soil and plant health – we are not certified organic, but our use of chemicals is negligible. Students learn there is a balance to be struck, between letting things grow and stepping in to manage things when necessary. Hedge-laying is a great example of this. After thinning out deadwood and overgrowth, we lay the remaining hedge material almost parallel to the ground, which promotes new growth, thickening the hedgerow and letting enough light through to the soil to awaken wildflower seeds that have lain dormant for years. This in turn creates habitats and paths for small animals, such as mice, bugs and hedgehogs, and places for birds to nest and rear their young.

This may be my 12th year here, but getting to share and learn about work like this with our incredible students, ensures no two days – or hours – are ever the same.



ODW Pizza Shack

ACTIVITIES AT BEDALES

Chris Bott, Teacher of History and Houseparent

Activities at Bedales have always been something close to my heart. When I started at Bedales in 2005 I was immediately drafted into running three in my first term: basketball, bridge and mixed hockey. Basketball for me lasted just the one year, bridge about five and hockey ever since – 21 years and counting. In the meantime, I have also run a film club for several years in the Simon Lecture Theatre on a Tuesday evening as well as a purely selfish dog walking activity. As I got more involved in the community, the importance and centrality to the Bedalian experience of activity has become ever more real and central to my time at the school.

Activities for all Bedalians should be things that they choose to do. Whether running them or participating in them, activities have always thrived on the passion of those involved. When I started running Bridge Club, I had no idea how to play bridge, but **Jane Webster (staff, 1998-2013)** and the gang of 6.1 students loyal to her and the activity soon turned my ignorance into an appreciation of the dastardly strategy and biscuit consumption opportunities of a weekly commitment with bridge. It wasn't long before bridge became poker or whatever other card-based game took the fancy of the students signed up to it. Chat, banter and biscuits were always at the core. Over time more passionate game players and card players have arrived and left the school, and that activity has ebbed and flowed towards chess and board games, and more recently a very successful Dungeons & Dragons activity, started by **Paul Beauchamp (staff, 2020-23)** and probably a passing nod to *Stranger Things*, but continued after his departure by students of all ages motivated to spend time together.

Hockey was always a central part of my life at school and university and so it has proved to be at Bedales also. Initially on a Friday night and now on a Thursday, students of all ages have come to play sport for fun on the astro whatever the weather. I have always enjoyed the freedom to choose to play sport at Bedales, and the mix of genders and ages, and most importantly ability that has been a constant of this activity, has always maintained my determination to continue to run it. Watching Block 3 girls take out strutting 6.2 boys never gets boring, and neither does the pride of witnessing skills grow and thrive over five years turning participators into players. This was never truer than during lockdown, when the activity was reduced in the autumn of 2020 to me and one rather hockey-challenged Block 3 boy, **Jack Duff Gordon (2019-24)** who had signed up. There were no mixed ages or gender that term because of the pod system imposed on us to keep socially distanced. Over the course of that term one student became seven, and he learnt to hit and pass with unerring accuracy probably imposed by having to fetch each misplaced pass. The following term seven became fourteen, all his friends and those of a younger sibling and when it started up again the following autumn after the second lockdown, the activity had survived. By the Autumn term of 2025, 30 students took part each week, including my eldest who wasn't born when it started and has surpassed my ability with a stick already. My knees and ankles are increasingly weary, but I will continue to run this activity as long as I work here. I now have the youth of the rather athletic Nathan Honeycombe (Learning Support Teacher and Day Houseparent) who joins me to have a run around. The activity runs all year and hopefully will continue to do so.



My experience of activities has always been a positive one, especially the random ones that I have got to attend or supervise. Seasonal favourites like the Christmas pudding bake with **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** in the bakehouse, the niche student-led superhero film club during prime MCU (Marvel Creative Universe) times or Head of Photography and Deputy Houseparent Kate Thorne's Disco Zumba live long in my memory as I am sure many others will for you.

Cathy Baxandall (née Dwyer, 1965-76), Chair of Trustees, Bedales Grants Trust Fund

The Bedales Grants Trust Fund (BGTF) is a charitable trust founded by **John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)** and a group of friends and colleagues in 1927. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to meet, or contribute towards, the cost of attending Bedales. The Trust fund has grown, initially very gradually but in the past 15 years more significantly through generous lifetime giving and legacies, and the investment strategies adopted by the trustees.

Currently, the Fund's value stands at approximately £6.5m. This enables BGTF to make an annual grant to the school (just over £240,000 for the academic year 2024/25) which the school directs towards its provision of full or partial bursaries. As trustees, we work closely with the school to ensure that BGTF donations continue to be applied consistently with the Trust's founding criteria. As we approach our centenary year – a cause for celebration in 2027 – we recognise the importance of adapting to changing conditions affecting the way in which the school raises funds and provides bursary support. In 2025 we revised and updated the BGTF Trust Deed to ensure that our trustee responsibilities, and John Badley's original wishes as founder, remained aligned with the charitable policies of the school and the needs of potential beneficiaries.

The current trustees are myself as Chair, **Dennis Archer (staff, 1974-2008)**, **Stephen Davies (1989-94)**, **Josephine Jonathan (2006-08)**, **Lynn Pearcy (1969-77)** and **Jonnie Reed (1989-97)**. Between us, we bring a variety of skills and experience to BGTF, including investment management, financial, property, legal and governance skills and expertise. We aim for sustainability by aligning outgoing awards with the income generated by investment, but without compromising on ethics. In 2025 we continued to maintain our funding of awards at a fairly steady level despite fluctuations in investment performance. The Trustees' Investment Committee regularly reviews investment strategy and makes adjustments as necessary to protect the underlying value of the Fund.

Richard Lushington, Bedales Bursar, acts as BGTF's secretary, and BGTF is grateful to him and his administrative team for their practical support. Our deepest thanks go to all our past and future donors for their generosity. BGTF welcomes new donations, whether lifetime or by means of a legacy in a will. As trustees, we are responsible for ensuring that the donations and legacies so generously given are used in the most beneficial way and we are very proud to be associated with the BGTF's 100-year legacy. We look forward to the next century of giving!

Any enquiry about donations to BGTF or potential bursaries should be addressed to Richard Lushington or directly to the trustees.



JOHN BADLEY FOUNDATION

Kirsty Jackman (mother of Imani)

The John Badley Foundation is so much more than access to a private education. For my family, this bursary opened doors to opportunities and support for my daughter **(Imani, 2022-24)** to pursue her dreams and chosen field. It provided a safe space in which she could thrive and grow in confidence and character. It provided a broadening of friendship groups. She was surrounded by people who encouraged and supported her in every way imaginable. It helped her to see beyond the parameters in which she'd grown up in, to realise the possibilities available to her and not the limitations.

We love where we live in London, it's richly diverse and vibrant but it also has a lot of crime. Even the school run for pupils held potential risks. Imani's sister was accosted for her phone by an adult male whilst returning from Saturday school and witnessed a fatal stabbing when she was just 11. Imani and her friend had been attacked walking home from school and she lost a former school friend to a shooting at 17. As devastating as this is, it is a reality for many school-aged children in London and without Bedales, there were few other options available to us.

Imani has always been passionate about performing arts. She had been a child actor with an agent, but she'd never had any formal training. We knew of Bedales with its incredible reputation for the arts and knew this was where she needed to be to receive the training, experience and qualifications to pursue her chosen path.



Imani, 6.1 Theatre Studies

I cried when Bedales phoned to confirm that my daughter had been accepted to the school for her A Levels on a full bursary. The relief and excitement I felt for the opportunities that I knew awaited her with this acceptance were overwhelming.



Imani in Lungs

For me, as a parent, Bedales offered my daughter safety – an environment where she could thrive and grow without the distraction of violence, crime and harm. It gave her a freedom that she couldn't access in our local area, not to mention the educational benefits.

Imani immersed herself in the yearly performances, took singing lessons and accessed counselling whilst studying History, Theatre Studies and Psychology. She made incredible friendship groups, many of which she still maintains; participated in weekend activities; played for the basketball team several times; and chose to deliver an assembly for Black History Month to raise awareness and dispel misconceptions.

Furthermore, this incredibly generous offer of a place at the school where I knew my daughter was safe and thriving gave me critical breathing space for myself. My health deteriorated 10 years prior. I experienced debilitating fatigue and pain. I was dismissed and misdiagnosed. The exhaustion made daily life impossible for me. I had to walk away from my career and we struggled financially as a result. Despite the extreme exhaustion, I lost the ability to sleep and spent a year battling against suicidal thoughts which became increasingly difficult to conceal from my children. Just before my daughter was accepted to Bedales, I finally received the correct diagnosis. I have ME/CFS, a neurological disability.

The two years she was at Bedales was the first time Imani had lived away from home. It was a big adjustment, and we unfortunately lost my sister-in-law to cancer whilst Imani was at school. Staff rallied for Imani; gave her space; monitored her and ensured she knew she could open up should she need to; and stayed in contact with me throughout. Everyone made an incredibly painful loss more manageable for us all. Imani truly benefitted from caring houseparent support, wonderful teachers, a supportive medical team and an exceptional Head who encouraged her progression and future plans. She flourished in this environment. It was incredible to witness. As a family, we will be forever grateful to everyone's kindness and generosity. It has been life changing. ♻

Opening Doors: Why your support matters

Tanya Darlow, Director of Development

Imani's mother says that a full bursary at Bedales "changed her daughter's life". It's an easy phrase to write but is harder to unpack. What changes when a bursary is offered? And why does it matter now?

Start with the obvious: access to teaching, resources, and a community that prizes independence and creativity. But the real effect is often quieter and deeper than that. A bursary buys time without the daily calculation of risk on the way to school. It buys attention from adults who notice when a student is struggling, who call home, who keep an eye out after a bereavement. It provides opportunity – the chance to take singing lessons, to join a production, to deliver an assembly, to test a voice in public and find it holds.

In Imani's case, those options were not incidental. They were the architecture around which confidence was built. She studied History, Theatre Studies and Psychology, played basketball, performed, accessed counselling when needed, and was supported by houseparents and teachers who understood both adolescence and loss. The change was not simply academic; it was a change in trajectory.

There is also the unseen effect on family. For Imani's mother, the bursary created breathing space. Knowing her daughter was safe and thriving allowed her to focus on her own health for the first time in a decade.

If you strip away the rhetoric, social mobility is a practical matter: reducing the friction between potential and opportunity. A bursary removes some of that friction at a decisive moment and the gains compound, through friendships, confidence, qualifications, and the habit of aiming higher.

There's a cultural dividend too. When students arrive from different circumstances, they change the temperature of a classroom. They broaden what is discussed and challenge what is assumed. This is not about "doing good" at arm's length; it is about the kind of community we choose to build, and the kind of students we send into the world.

This year, your support also helped refurbish the recording studio – due to open as the newsletter lands. On paper, that's a building. In practice, for a bursary student walking into that space for the first time, it's a signal: you belong here; your ideas deserve to be heard. Infrastructure matters when it amplifies voices that might otherwise be ignored.

The hard part is demand. Each year, more families apply for full bursaries than Bedales can fund. Each "no" is not a failure of intent; it is a failure of resources. Regular gifts of any size turn theoretical support into actual places. They turn "we wish we could" into "we can".

If you've read this far, you don't need a pitch. You already know whether this aligns with your values and your experience of Bedales. If it does, and if you are able, please set up a regular gift to the John Badley Foundation today. It is a straightforward way to open the right doors at the right time and to change lives.

Set up a regular gift today

To find out more about the work of the John Badley Foundation, contact Tanya Darlow, Director of Development at **tdarlow@bedales.org.uk** or scan the QR code above.



Kirsty Jackman with daughter Imani

STAFF PROFILES

Simon Kingsley-Pallant (staff,1999-2025)



A jack of all trades during more than 26 years of service to Bedales Prep, latterly as Head of Drama and Dance, Simon Kingsley-Pallant has been master of a fair number as well. From houseparent to Jaw organiser and manga comic book enthusiast, Simon has turned his hand to more activities than most. Here, Simon talks to us about how he fell in love with the school and why he's swapping the charms of the Hampshire Beech Hangers for the equally captivating seaside beauty of Fowey in Cornwall.

More than a quarter of a century after he first laid eyes on the school, Simon Kingsley-Pallant has taken his leave of Bedales Prep for the last time as Head of Drama and Dance when the sun sets on the Christmas 2025 term. Simon, as he reminds me during our chat, is emphatically not retiring.

"When I leave, I shall be heading down to the Cornish coastal town of Fowey, which is where you can find Place, the house you could call our ancestral home," Simon explains. "My brother and I, together with our families, will be taking Place over, opening the house to the public for the first time and basically allowing it to pay for itself. It's a pretty big commitment, which will involve a lot of hard work, but this is a living, breathing home that lends itself perfectly to the great outdoors and we hope that people will enjoy discovering it as we try to preserve it for future generations."

There's no getting away from the fact that Simon will miss the world of Bedales Prep, however. "Oh gosh yes, it will be a great wrench; I've adored the school ever since I saw it, walked up the steps and determined that I simply had to work there," he says. "There is a magical quality to Bedales that is quite exceptional, an atmosphere that is naturally dynamic and allows children to be children. It's not hierarchical in any way. The most liberating thing about working here has been the holistic way in which the school looks after its students."

By his own admission, Simon had taken his time before deciding on a teaching career. "Academic discipline did not come too readily to me," he laughs. "I got my first job teaching English and Drama at Windlesham House, where I was subsequently put through a course at Brighton University and learned a fantastic amount. A later teaching role in Norfolk wasn't quite as positive an experience, but I was then extremely fortunate to see this advertisement for the job at Dunhurst and the rest is history..."

Simon has been far more than a classroom man during his years at Bedales Prep. Many of his students will especially remember the school's Jaw programme, which flourished under Simon's enthusiastic leadership. "Doing that has been such an immense privilege," he emphasises. "I love the story that Oscar Wilde (former parent) once spoke to **John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)** and told him that Jaw was the right name to give these talks. It's quite amazing how many interesting people have agreed to come along and speak to the children and the influence they've had on so many young minds."

As a houseparent, Simon has also played an active part in the pastoral side of school life. "One beautiful summer's afternoon, I was given about half an hour to decide whether to take on that role as well but I'm so glad I said yes," he observes. "It really allows you to see the school in all its amazing dimensions. There are great challenges involved but also huge rewards – you might not be able to solve absolutely every problem that is presented to you but being able to help someone of that age and let them know that they can count on you for support is a wonderful thing."

Culture in its widest sense has always remained at the core of Simon's life at Bedales. Influenced by a huge range of artists, from Emma Rice to Rabindranath Tagore, Philip Pullman

and Hergé of Tintin fame, Simon has in turn introduced his young charges to as eclectic a mix of artistic pursuits as one could find anywhere. From the light-hearted delights of the Moomins to the unbearably poignant setting of a World War II concentration camp, Simon, his colleagues and his students have been unafraid to tackle almost any subject.

"I strongly believe that any artistic endeavour comes from the soul," Simon says passionately. "Art and culture are universal – or they certainly should be – and the more you see of it, the more you know and understand it. If students have learned something from what I've tried to pass on to them, that's wonderful and it's also only fair – after all, I have also learned so much from them. Longevity has given me the privilege of seeing a number of people who have flourished as a result of their experiences of the performing arts and there's nothing better than seeing them get the bit between the teeth and express themselves."

How would Simon like to be remembered by the numerous people whose lives he has touched? "I hope they might say that I had time for my students and made them laugh from time to time," he begins. "It would be good to think they enjoyed being in my company. I shall certainly miss them enormously but I'm sure I shall be back from time to time to have a look round. Cornwall is a beautiful place, but it would be all too easy to become quite introspective and stuck down there, if one isn't careful. I shall always want to know what's going on in the wider world and that very definitely includes Bedales..."

OB PROFILES

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 extracts from his most recent interviews. Read more OB profiles on the Bedales website at bedales.org.uk/alumniprofiles

Richard Lewis (1980-85; governor and JBF trustee)



Musician, business leader, school governor – Richard Lewis is a man of many parts who enjoys life to the full. In this profile, he tells us how the Bedales culture of self-reliance, together with his own reluctance to be pigeon-holed into any one academic discipline, has laid the foundation for his successful career.

There were plenty of reasons why Bedales represented the ideal place for Richard Lewis to pursue his education as a teenage student. Richard had always been a musical child with a rare gift in that sphere; he was also an academic all-rounder who had a visceral dislike of playing sport and possessed a character which dictated that respect, even towards teachers, should be earned, rather than bestowed as a matter of course.

There was also a family connection of sorts. Richard's mother had been offered a place at Bedales years before him but because it was not on a scholarship, her family was unable to take up the offer. Her father, a convinced Communist, might have been expected to rejoice in such an outcome but Bedales was an exception to the general rule of state education being the most desirable option in the eyes of Richard's grandfather.

"The fact that **John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)** was a Fabian made the school an acceptable choice as far as he was concerned," Richard explains.

Richard's education began at a primary school in Barnet, North London, before he moved on to a prep school where he did well without feeling especially enthused by his surroundings. It was clear that he might benefit from a private school education but only at the right destination for a boy of his nature and abilities. "I did the Westminster and Bedales entrance exams," he recalls. "Fortunately for me, I managed to get a music scholarship as a boarder at Bedales and that sealed the decision very quickly."

Richard and Bedales proved to be a happy meeting of minds and temperaments. "From day one, I loved the camaraderie and, coming from a family where I was the youngest by nine years, I also found it refreshing to be among friends of my own age," he says. "As a music scholar, I was occasionally tapped on the shoulder and reminded of my responsibility to perform to a certain standard but in general, I found it easy to respect the teachers at Bedales – they were just so good."

Unsurprisingly, **Jonathan Willcocks (staff, 1978-89)**, the school's musical guru of the day, was one of the seminal influences on Richard at Bedales. "Jonathan was the main reason I got my scholarship, I think, and he was a demanding, talented and inspirational figure for me," Richard says. "He also got me more into singing in a chamber choir where the quality was always pretty high. But that was Bedales for you – music was front and centre and it was exceptionally good."

Academically, Richard was very much the polymath, refusing to be pigeon-holed either as an arts man or a scientist and selecting A Levels in Music, Maths, Further Maths and History (he later put the Further Maths to one side). Here, two more of Richard's major Bedales influences had their greatest effect on him. "**Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)** had a huge influence on me," he asserts. "She could be terrifying – you were expected to read, understand and critique large volumes of material and you knew you would be publicly quizzed by her – but her style suited me and I was keen to respond to the high standards that she set for all of us."

"On the Maths side, I must mention **Dennis Archer (staff, 1974-2008)**," Richard continues. "He had this brilliant ability of explaining complex concepts in a way you could easily absorb. To do that, you need complete mastery of your subject, which Dennis very much had. He was also such an interesting man, very fond of music, among other things, and nothing was ever too much trouble for him. When I came back briefly to Bedales as a seventh-term Oxbridge candidate, I stayed with Dennis at his home. He is someone else to whom I owe a great debt."

A place at Girton College, Cambridge to read History would be the reward for Richard's academic efforts. He was appointed Organ Scholar at Girton, thereby maintaining his interest in music. "Intellectually, I knew it was time for me to move on from Bedales but it was still quite an emotional wrench to leave somewhere that I had always found so comfortable and collegial," he says. "Luckily, Girton was another friendly, iconoclastic place and I felt right at home there as well. That was largely down to the college's origins as a pioneer for women's education – it had a very different atmosphere to some of the men's colleges that had been grudgingly forced to accept female students after many centuries of resisting the idea!"

Despite his musical talent, Richard was never persuaded by the possibility of a career as a musician. Instead, he has spent the past 35 years building up a formidable CV in the commercial world. Since 2000, he has been a leading light at Auction Technology Group (ATG), where he was appointed Chief Operating Officer in 2012, playing a major role in building the company's position in the online auction world via sites such as the-saleroom.com and LiveAuctioneers.com, and later taking ATG public on the London Stock Exchange.

"If you're going to be a professional musician, you need to practise for at least eight hours a day; I could never be bothered to do more than one," Richard cheerfully admits. "Bedales allowed me to work out my own career path in later years. The high level of autonomy at Bedales meant that I was well suited to working in a technology business where we created products that revolutionised the way our customers did business. Technology businesses typically generate huge volumes of both quantitative and qualitative data. The numerical and analytical skills that I honed at school gave me an excellent foundation for working in this environment. You could say that Bedales set me up for life – I responded so well to being treated like an adult and so I felt able to open the doors to all the opportunities that were around me. It was such a happy place for me."

The connection lives on to the present day. Richard will continue to serve as a Bedales Governor until 2032; meanwhile, he also heads the school's John Badley Foundation. "I'm so grateful for what I received from Bedales," he says. "Giving something back to a brilliant concept like The John Badley Foundation strikes me as the least I could do in return."

Tamsin Lonsdale (1983-96)

Although she has spent the past 15 years building a highly successful business in the United States, Tamsin Lonsdale retains much of the independent spirit that shaped her early years in Hampshire and at Bedales. She looks back on her time at the school with affection, recalling a free-spirited environment that suited both her rebellious streak and her capacity for self-discipline – qualities that would later underpin her entrepreneurial achievements.



Returning recently from her home in Miami to visit Bedales, Tamsin was struck by how familiar much of it felt. The surrounding countryside, she notes, remains unchanged, even if it now appears smaller through adult eyes. While the school itself has evolved, she reflects warmly on a Bedales education that encouraged independence, curiosity and initiative. Boarding as early as possible, she thrived in an environment where students were expected to take responsibility for their own choices and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Sport played a central role in her school life, alongside a love of being outdoors. While she describes herself as more enthusiastic than naturally gifted, she threw herself into a wide range of pursuits, from hockey and netball to long-distance running – even competing at county level. Social life and friendships were equally formative, shaping her confidence and sense of style, and reinforcing her instinct for bringing people together.

After a relatively relaxed approach to GCSEs, Tamsin applied herself more rigorously to her A Levels in English, History and Economics, driven by a clear ambition to work for herself. That entrepreneurial instinct was deeply ingrained. Inspired in part by her father's success as founder of The Jean Machine, she arrived at University of Edinburgh with a strong sense of direction. There, she combined academic focus – graduating with a First – with an increasingly ambitious programme of event organisation, hosting elaborate themed dinners and large-scale club nights that foreshadowed her future career.

Following university, Tamsin briefly explored corporate events and spent time living abroad before returning to London. A period working in fashion, including a spell as a stylist for *Vogue* Italia, proved creatively stimulating but ultimately clarified that her ambitions lay elsewhere. What she missed most was the intimacy and energy of the dinner parties she had loved hosting – and from that gap, The Supper Club was born.

Initially conceived as a personal project, The Supper Club quickly revealed itself to be something more. By curating members-only dinners that prioritised conversation, connection and atmosphere, Tamsin identified a market that had been largely overlooked. The concept gained rapid traction in London, and within two years she expanded to the United States, launching in New York before opening further chapters in Los Angeles, Miami and beyond.

Today, The Supper Club is recognised internationally for its distinctive approach to hospitality – a global, relationship-driven community built around carefully curated events in exceptional settings. Sustaining that growth required discipline as well as vision. As Tamsin reflects, hosting may come naturally, but running a business of this scale demands focus, resilience and an ability to balance creativity with commercial rigour.

In March 2025, after 15 years at the helm, Tamsin achieved a defining milestone with the sale of The Supper Club to Dorsia, marking a fitting culmination of the business she had built from the ground up. The acquisition represents both a validation of her original vision and a significant chapter in a career shaped by independence, instinct and an enduring belief in the power of bringing the right people together.

While Miami is now home, Tamsin remains deeply connected to the UK and to Bedales. The values she absorbed there – independence, self-expression and the confidence to forge her own path – continue to inform both her professional life and her sense of self. "Those years mattered," she reflects. "They stay with you."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welcome to this section of the OB Newsletter, featuring memories, thoughts, views and updates from the Bedalian community. Contributions are welcomed for the next edition: please send them by email (alumni@bedales.org.uk) or post to the Editor, Old Bedalian Newsletter, Bedales School, Church Road, Steep, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 2DG.



50 Golden Years

Saturday 1 February 2025 marked **Dennis (staff, 1974-2008)** and **Anne Archer (née Smith, staff, 1971-77; 1986-2008)**'s Golden Wedding Anniversary. As teachers and parents, Bedales was the backdrop for many of those years. But… the circumstances of their marriage are a real piece of Bedales folklore.

The pair met as young teachers at the school and pulled off the extraordinary trick of managing to keep their romance a secret from staff and students to avoid murmuring and pointing prior to the event. OBs who were at the school in 1975 might remember an announcement from **Patrick Nobes (Head, 1974-81)** in assembly: "You will never see Anne Smith again." General consternation followed by the explanation that she was now Anne Archer, and Dennis and Anne entered to the Archers theme tune (which has now been going successfully only a little more than they have!) and cheers.

I've known this story all my life but had to do some fact-checking as I was only seven weeks old at the time. So I turned to my sister who was in the middle school then, and subsequently to **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** who was there and confirms it all. No one had known! Although Alastair claims he suspected something was going on, as the pair were frequently to be found sitting together in the staff room doing the crossword.

Congratulations to Dennis and Anne, who have set us all a golden example, and we wish them every happiness.

Will Wollen (1985-92); Damaris Wollen (1973-80)

Science at Bedales

I enjoyed reading Mary Shotter's article on Science at Bedales and was surprised to see my name mentioned in relation to the famous letter I received from my father.

When I was at Bedales from 1948 to 1958, Science was definitely not cool. Despite that, I got a good grounding in both Science and Mathematics as well as being deeply infused with the joys of being creative – which I think of as Bedales' forte.

Instead of Art or Music, my creative medium was software. Somehow, I managed to be in the right place at the right time and helped create several important programs – some of which are in use at Bedales today (The Internet, Microsoft Windows and the Microsoft Word spellchecker).

Later, my creative urge led me to design several successful computer games – including one that was featured daily in *The Times* online for several years.

In 1990 I created a computer game with my daughter, Camberley, then aged 12, which was curiously named *Dudes with Attitude*. Although it didn't sell well, it seems to have become a cult classic to the point where someone just released a movie about it. youtube.com/watch?v=kM00ouKAy8U

I decided that my Bedales education had served me so well that I sent my son **Francis (1996-98)** there for two years – even though Bedales is 5,000 miles away. Unlike me, he was into acting and singing and had a wonderful time.



He also told me that Science is given more respect at Bedales these days – which is a good thing. People tend to forget that creativity is just as important in science as it is in the arts.

Michael Crick (1948-58)

Memories of Bedales and Steep in wartime

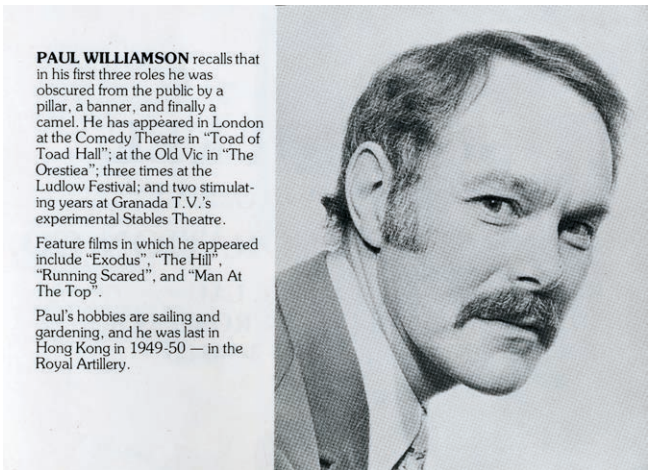
I was born in 1929 and a day boy at Dunhurst and Bedales from 1936-46 – so a very old Old Bedalian! I lived nearly opposite the school entrance. Bedales was then less than half the size, and pretty austere (cold bath and run before breakfast!) with the combination of the original ethos, and the War, which ruled so much. There was a lot of Outdoor Work and classroom cleaning.

A few German bombers, driven off from Portsmouth and Southampton, would cruise inland and jettison their bombs before returning to their bases. Of the ones near us, one landed in 'Pefe', a "stick" of three on the Hangers, east of Shoulder of Mutton Hill, I remember the big white craters, and one, I think, around Steep Marsh.

One tragedy was when I saw a burning Spitfire coming down and crashing in Harrow Lane, but the pilot bailed out too late, and his parachute didn't open in time. Later I saw his body being carried along Church Road on a hurdle – few vehicles available then.

I also saw, again from Church Road, a German bomber extremely low, flashing across between me and the church steeple – not possible now, with new buildings and trees. It was machine-gunning (I later heard) a man and a horse and cart in Buriton – hardly a military target.

Oh; the memories of those dramatic wartime years, starting with the constant anxiety in the early days, of an imminent German invasion; the Home Guard (a rifle and just five rounds), not funny like *Dad's Army*; the wailing air-raid sirens; the rigorous, ubiquitous blackout; stringent rationing of food and clothing; "Dig for Victory" – not easy





on our heavy clay; electricity blackouts and hurricane lamps; virtually no travel, and no private cars; helping out at a Services canteen, and making camouflage nets in Pefe; helping out on local farms, often wet and cold; all those Canadian soldiers camping in the school grounds just before D-Day; and always listening to the BBC Home Service for the latest vital War news.

So – here's to peace and goodwill to all!

Paul Williamson (1936-46)

Politicians and comedians?

Having just read the latest OB Newsletter it made me realise that I have reached an age (no not telling my age) when I look more at the obituaries than anything else.

The election in New York of Mamdani in the Democratic primaries for Mayor of New York brought back with force how we wrinklies need to move over and make place for the younger generation.

So here is my hope – that some of the present Bedalians and some not so old OBs will go into politics with enthusiasm and support. Or make us laugh out loud with their comments if they become comedians/actors/writers. We also need alternative thinkers and charitable volunteers.

Bedales has never lacked for the above and in this day of AI those attributes are more important than ever.



Serena Abrahams (née Pollak, 1952-54)

Odd moments overseas

My first journey overseas was at the age of 16 when **John Slater (staff, 1952-67)**, our History teacher, took a group of Block 5 students by train to Italy visiting Florence, Siena and Milan. Our first meal on the train started with a large helping of spaghetti which we devoured as though there was no tomorrow. However, we had not realised that other courses were to come!

Nothing too odd about that but a realisation that other countries have different habits!

Georgia (formerly a Russian state)

The Archbishop of Canterbury included Georgia on one of his visits to Anglicans around the world. At the end of it, he asked the patriarch if he could do anythng else to help with the work of the church. "Yes, we need a teacher of English in our seminary here in Tlibisi" "I'll see what I can do." Georgia was going through a dangerous time, so I offered to go there and come up with a solution, which I did by finding a local language school to take this on.

At the conclusion of my visit, I was given an official lunch in the bishops' palace. The table was laden with food and wine. The bishops of the church assembled and I was placed right next to the patriarch. Through his interpreter I was asked various questions, sotto voce." Will Charles be a good King?" "How is the marriage with Diana going?" Fortunately, there came the time for toasts, a feature of Georgian culture. "A toast for the Queen." The bishops then took another drink. "A toast for Mr Taylor and his family." By this time the toasts had become automatic as had the drinking.

While all this conviviality was going on, I noticed a television in the corner of the room showing a Mickey Mouse film. I asked the interpreter why this was on.



Teaching English at a Thai primary school

"Ah, that is because the government can make important announcements at any time and the patriarch needs to know what is happening." My lasting memory was of this amazing meal with bishops and Donald Duck!

The Island of San Andrés

San Andrés may not be on your maps but look for it midway between Nicaragua and Colombia. My task was to advise on the setting up of an English department in the new Christian University of San Andrés.

The island is peopled by two main ethnic groups: Colombians from the mainland, who speak Spanish as their mother tongue, and Creole speaking people, originally from the West Indies, many of whom took their surnames from former slave owners – for example, a Mr McDougal or a Mr Taylor. They speak Creole, English and Spanish.

The day after my arrival the vice principal took me round the island. We saw both wealth and poverty, but at some



Georgia, 1993 – Bishops at work



San Andres – first official lunch with University principal

point we passed a row of very splendid mansions. "Who lives there?" I asked. "The liars live there." I repeated this to myself. "The liars, the liars," I mused. "Don't you mean the lawyers?" "Yes, that's right, liars the lot of them." Somehow, my Received Pronunciation didn't really help.

Portugal

In 1985 the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made an official state visit to Portugal starting in Lisbon and then taking in Oporto. This part of the visit fell to me. The British Council decided to commemorate the visit by hiring in the services of a well-known British painter, Patrick Proctor. After we sorted out the hotel Patrick said: "Can you take me to a place near where I can get a good view of the event tomorrow?" So we drove along the Ribeiro and over the Ponte Dom Luis I. Patrick settled for a fine view over the river next to the state occasion. So back to the hotel for the night.

The day arrived so we set off early to get 'our' place. But fate intervened. Overnight the Portuguese Navy had bought up a frigate along the Douro which had anchored right across the chosen view!

Clive Taylor (1954-57)

Starting a Fashion archive

In the Summer term of 2025, I received an Enhancement Grant from the Bedales Parents' Association, on behalf of the Fashion department, to start a fashion archive. Our aim is to create a hands-on library of clothes with cultural significance or rarity; a collection to illuminate historical events and inspire future designing through the craft of dress making.

The archive has begun to take shape through the sourcing of five pieces from our visit to The Vintage Showroom. The garments have been chosen to support our new 6.1 project 'Gold Rush', and include a late 19th century mud-dyed Chinese workwear jacket, a mid-century Lee denim jacket, and an iteration of an original 1878 Levi's triple pleated blouse, all of which relate to events from the gold rush period of American history. To develop our archive further, we hope to receive donations from our wider community, parents and Old Bedalians, who may have clothing they wish to pass on, for example:

- Vintage men's and womenswear, late 19th century to early/mid 20th century
- Utilitarian clothing from WWI onwards, military garments, medical uniforms and accessories
- Workwear, vintage denim, overalls – the more worn, the better!
- Traditional dress from other cultures
- Clothes designed for specific purposes outside of the above descriptions, such as fisherman jackets, sportswear or biker jackets, where form follows function

As Head of Fashion Design Louise Fellingham goes on to explain: "What might seem like clothes too worn to wear or simply uniforms of the 'ordinary' person, just might be of huge value to this project. Pieces from the past speak of lives lived, garments worn out of simple necessity are



suddenly woven from magical threads that have stories to tell. The mechanic's overalls worn daily for 40 years become an ode to the importance of manual labour. Each handsewn repair patch and unfussy mending stitch, highlight areas of stress and strain which capture the individual and help tell their tale.

Working with an avant-garde approach, our students are encouraged to become visual storytellers themselves, creating meaningful work, not just 'pretty dresses'. Our compassionate and engaged Bedalians are brilliant at doing this but face the challenge of how to translate what they feel, think and observe into metaphorical, technically accurate stitching techniques. Mirroring industry methods of studying dress history, the Bedales Fashion Archive will add depth to research activities as students learn from the past to shape the future."

Please email us (alumni@bedales.org.uk) if you have items that you would like to donate. We are also looking for storage units, such as vintage haberdashery cabinet display drawers for pieces too fragile to hang. Thank you very much for your help.

Leo (6.1 student)

Memories and consequences

It goes without saying that I enjoy reading the annual newsletter. That I have never contributed to it, nor to my knowledge received a mention, reflects my long held belief that I am unrepresentative of those fortunate enough to have been educated at Bedales. Many Bedalians have gone on to great acclaim, particularly in the arts. Though I often remind myself how much I benefited from my Bedales education, I have done little in the 74 years since leaving that might acknowledge it.

In May 2024 I was delighted to qualify as an OB over 75 to receive an invitation from the current Head, Will Goldsmith, to lunch at his house. There I met **Andra Nelki (née Millington, 1945-52)**, the only person I recognised. I had always liked Andra, and we kept in touch for some years after school; she was a more than competent artist, as will appear later.

My adult career confirms my sense of lacking 'typical' Bedalian characteristics. After a family holiday to Brittany in 1951 – travel by car being something of a rarity with petrol rationing – school gave way to articles with a City firm of chartered accountants: a form of education, and of cheap labour. When I qualified, I left professional practice and became a grocer. One task in this 120 shop chain was managing its fleet of delivery vans. My contact with Andra Millington led to her designing a pink dancing pig, which I had emblazoned on the vans beside the slogan 'Birmingham's Best Bacon'.



I remained a grocer of sorts when I joined Marks and Spencer, asked to devise a logistics system enabling every store to receive daily supplies of fresh foods. When that was done and I was looking for a change, I was unexpectedly summoned by the Finance Director and offered a new role. I stayed, eventually taking charge of the financial affairs of M&S's growing overseas businesses. My only apparent qualification was being a senior accountant who spoke French – at last a connection with school.

My liking for French was undoubtedly inspired by **Denys John (staff, 1947-51)**, my French master and later Housemaster. He confirmed my belief that to enjoy and do



Standing, left to right: H E W Bennett (cricket coach and sports fields manager), Nick Pocock (1942-51), Jeremy Weeks (1946-50), Richard Mackilligin (1937-51), Andrew Christiansen (1943-50), Buster de Saxe (scorer, 1945-51), Ken Keast (Boys' Games Coach and German master)
Seated, left to right: Martin Brett (1947-52), Roy Guest (1947-52), Trevor Shaw (captain, 1943-51), David De Saxe, Martin Evans (1943-52)
On the ground, left to right: Roderick Bloomfield (1946-49), Martin Sykes (1947-52)

well in a subject one must like, or at least be engaged with, one's teacher. This was true earlier at Dunhurst under **Mary Messingham (née Cocker, staff, 1925-64)** and **M A "Toes" Tilley (staff, dates unknown)**, who taught me, among other things, how to hold a cricket bat. **Mr E A Messingham (staff, 1923-63)** taught carpentry; though I showed little aptitude then, much of what he taught resurfaced later in life as a DIYer.

At Dunhurst I was handed a violin. With no strings teacher available, Millicent Dolmetsch came weekly from Haslemere to instruct us. We began by holding the violin between our knees like a 'cello, its neck fitted with frets to ensure good intonation.

People often ask what I most enjoyed or benefited from at school. I always say that Bedales developed my love of classical music. Playing in the orchestras – even if progressing no further than the second desk of first fiddles – gave me a near ecstatic sense of being part of the harmonies of a Haydn symphony or a Bach or Mozart concerto. Later in life, taking up the flute allowed me to continue this joy. I am ever grateful to my inspirational violin teacher **Italo Parmagnani (staff, 1949-51)**, whose performance with **Margaret Davis (née McNamee, staff, 1948 85)** of the César Franck violin sonata opened my ears to music as a romantic experience.

Bedales inspired my passion for cricket. Though not a natural athlete, I had some aptitude with a bat, thanks first to "Toes" Tilley, then to **Ken Keast (staff, 1939-49)** and especially **H E W 'Benn' Bennett (staff, 1930-71)**. I played in the appropriate XI throughout school and later enjoyed club cricket into my mid 40s. As with playing in the orchestra, it was the sense of belonging to a team that gave me so much pleasure.

Now 93, I play bridge and maintain a 65-year old MG sports car. My achievements may be unremarkable beside those of many Old Bedalians, but my Bedales education was emphatically not wasted. Both my academic abilities and emotional sensibilities matured in ways unlikely to have occurred had I been sent to a more conventional school of the 1940s and '50s.

David A De Saxe (1939-51)

Remembering Guillermo

I don't know how many OBs will still remember **Guillermo Villalobos (1953-55)**. He arrived at Bedales in mid-term, with seven double-sized trunks – I mean twice the size of those of all other Bedalians. So he had about 14 times as much junk as the rest of us. His father was the Venezuelian Ambassador in Madrid. I can't think what concept he had of Bedales!

The housemaster, **Mr Musman (staff, 1952-64)** saw the impossibility of housing such impedimenta, and asked me to help Guillermo and him to sort what was more or less necessary from the obviously superfluous – for example there were 12 suits. Given that suits were only worn at Sunday evening Jaw, the rest of us had only one. Well, perhaps a couple of chaps had two. And 100 ties! We reduced this to two suits and 10 ties and the same with all the other stuff, from shirts to socks.

What struck me at the time was that Guillermo was perfectly willing, in fact I should say eager, to part with the six double trunk-loads which we sent back to Madrid!

That was the first occasion I had of appreciating Guillermo's character – wonderfully adaptable, never a complaint, never a hint of arrogance because of his father's important position, or his noble Spanish origins (or even his partly Indian descent!). At the time, there was only one tap (other than the bath taps) on the whole of Boys' Flat. This must have been rather different from his family's expectations, judging from his luggage. But I never heard Guillermo even mention this, let alone complain. His only ambition at Bedales was to be 'just one of the chaps' (to paraphrase Charles III while doing his National Service in the Royal Navy). His integration was almost perfect: the huge cultural difference of his native background was only apparent in his prolific use of men's cosmetics, which I don't remember any other chap using, beyond shaving cream.

Perhaps what most clearly exemplified his desire to be 'one of us' was the way that, as soon as three or four of us were together with not much to do, Guillermo would say, "Let's talk, let's talk." "What do you want to talk about, Guillermo?" "Oh life… you know." I hope his life after Bedales was as happy as it was back then, but I never had any news of him after he left.



André(w) Voilley (1952-58)

NEWS IN BRIEF

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



In September 2024, **Adrian Barrott (1971-76)** raised over £6,000 for the refugee charity, Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, by cycling over 100 kms in a day. The charity helps refugees, asylum seekers and those in indefinite detention at the removal centres at gatwick.gdwg.org.uk



Tilly Blyth (1987-89) has left her position as director of the Weald & Downland Living Museum in Sussex to join Imperial War Museums as Executive Director, Collections and Curatorial.



Whilst still at Bedales, **Bella Cutts (2019-23)** started a campaign in response to the tragic death of Sarah Everard, determined to raise awareness about sexual assault and harassment by encouraging people to wear red and stand together in solidarity. What began as a school initiative has grown into something much larger – a call to action across communities, schools, and individuals to confront the harsh realities so many face in silence. Since then, Bella has seen this movement grow, with schools and young people across the UK uniting each year to say, "Enough is enough." Through it all, one message has remained clear – awareness is vital, but support is lifesaving.



Quito Clothier (2011-17) has been offered a place at the prestigious Royal College of Music to complete his postgraduate studies in singing, with the main focus on opera. Since leaving Bedales, he has sung a number of operatic roles, including Ismaele in *Nabucco* and The Schoolmaster in *The Cunning Little Vixen*. Quito made his debut at The Grange Festival in Hampshire last summer as Gastone (cover) in *La Traviata* and joined the chorus in *Die Fledermaus*.

Tosh Denholm (1959-69) was nominated by the Royal London Hospital to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May 2025 for all the work she has done over the last 20+ years to keep the memory of Edith Cavell alive. Edith trained at the London (as it was then called) but was running her own hospital in Belgium in 1915 when she was captured and executed on 12 October by the Germans. Her body was repatriated in 1919 and given a state funeral (possibly the only non-royal woman to receive this honour). A statue was erected outside the National Portrait Gallery and Tosh organises a wreath-laying ceremony there every year on 12 October. Tosh invited her sister **Seona Ford (1953-62)** to join her (see photo on page 54 with Alastair Langlands).



Award winning, internationally renowned war artist and portrait painter, **Arabella Dorman (1991-93)** embarked on her latest expedition which began in November 2025. Following on from the Footsteps in the Sand, Sinia Expedition in 2023,

she joined an amazing team of women, including explorers Rosie Stancer and Pom Oliver, in the Incense Route Expedition – retracing the 2,500 km ancient trade route through the length of Saudi Arabia, untrodden in its entirety for some 2,000 years. Arabella took a break and returned home for Christmas before rejoining the expedition for the final leg of the journey from Tabuk to Neom.



Antonia Furlong (née Maule, 1988-96) ran in the Brighton Marathon (April 2025) in memory of **Cecily Eastwood (1991-96)** who was tragically killed in Zambia whilst on a gap year. Cecily was only 19 and about to go to the University of Cambridge. After attending her 25 year OB reunion, Antonia had the opportunity to reignite past friendships and to remember Cecily. By running in the marathon, she raised funds for a charity set up in Cecily's name, initially to help children who are orphaned by HIV and AIDS, and which now helps transform lives and changes futures for children in Zambia through access to education and training. cecilysfund.org

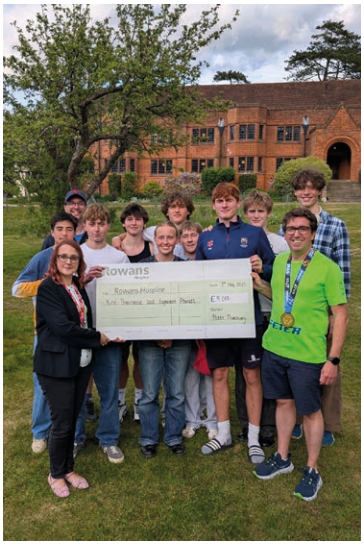
Charles Hattersley (1955-64) has the following message regarding his sister, **Peta (1956-67)**: Peta has been living in Malta for some years with her husband Peter. When Charles visited her in April 2024, they found that she was suffering from a form of early onset dementia. More recent contact has confirmed that it is progressive. For those who knew her this will be very sad news and may explain why they have received no response if trying to make contact.



Emily Headon (2013-18) has launched her own tailoring business with a particular focus on bridalwear. She also provides bespoke tailoring and general alterations. Emily would be delighted to offer her services to the Bedales community and is grateful to the Design department at Bedales who taught her so much – "I carry everything I learnt from you into my work every day," she says. Emily's studio is based at her home in Liphook, just a short distance from Petersfield. She'd love to connect with anyone in need of a seamstress or who is just keen to support a fellow Bedalian's venture! @bobbinandem



Zek Hoeben (1989–94) co founded shiftED, an educational charity that empowers young people through design and making. By bridging the gap between school and the real world, shiftED creates opportunities for all, with a focus on those underrepresented in creative industries. After a successful pilot in Camden, the charity has secured a three year partnership with Holborn Library to establish a makerspace – but they need support to deliver school and after school programmes. Zek explains: "After 20 years teaching art and design, I've seen the decline of visual arts in schools, with national bodies reporting a 50% drop in post 14 qualifications. Too few opportunities exist for young people to develop creative skills, especially after school where facilities are scarce. Bedales shaped my path by giving us space to explore and thrive creatively. We want to offer that same spirit of open ended learning today." zek@shifted.org.uk



Thank you to everyone who sponsored Deputy Head (Pastoral) Peter Thackrey's London Marathon fundraising efforts in memory of **Will Lithgow (staff, 2007-24)**. He completed the race and raised over £9,000 for the Rowans Hospice in recognition of the charity's invaluable support to Will and his family at the end of his life. rowanshospice.co.uk

Michael Kullman (2006-11) is now a winemaker and general manager at a winery in British Columbia. If anyone is interested in a career in wine production or viticulture, he would be very happy to have a chat and share some insights. Michael is now married with two children, living in Osoyoos, BC.



Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001) works for Music in Country Churches, a charity of which His Majesty is Patron. The King commanded the Lord Chamberlain to invite a representative from the charity to a Garden Party in May 2025, and Alastair asked his daughter **Cressida (1981-95)** to accompany him. **Matthew Rice (1975-80; Governor, 2008-22)** is chairman of the charity. musicincountrychurches.org.uk



Angie McLachlan (1968-74) has updated us on her news from 2025. She has been busy with her work on the teaching faculty of Postmortem Imaging at Anubix and has designed and constructed several specialist dummies for this groundbreaking course – training radiographers to work in Postmortem Imaging and Forensic Tomography – a wonderful opportunity and an honour to teach alongside world experts, as part of this inspirational organisation. anubix.co.uk/deadserious

Angie is now on the Board of Governors of The Independent Funeral Director's College and also plays a role in the teaching faculty. In her ministry, she has spent time on The Isle and Royal Manor of Portland serving as Mayor's Chaplain for two mayors and her own ministry continues to serve folk in the LGBTQIA+ community and those excluded from and marginalised by mainstream religion. She is part of 'Open Table' Weymouth. Angie is looking forward to giving a talk and displaying her artwork at The Shire Hall in Dorchester in 2026.



Toby Matimong (2007-13) left school to study music and has been working in London as a composer and classical producer for several years. Most recently, he worked in-house as a composer and sound designer for a documentary company where he scored shows for Apple TV+, Amazon/ Audible, Universal and Google. There have been some great successes over recent years, with a number of nominations and awards! But he has now decided to change tack and step out as a freelancer. He's on the hunt for opportunities to write music for screen and other visual projects. Watch Toby's demo reel youtube.com/watch?v=s8XmfnvI5cQ

Belinda Mead (née Davies,1945-56) has recently retired from her picture framing business after working in Wiltshire for 20 years. She has sold the materials to another farmer and a charity in London who are building a business for people who find it difficult to hold down a regular job. Belinda says: "I thoroughly enjoyed my third career but felt that it was time to retire now I'm in my 86th year!"

Hedy Mowinckel (2007-09) gained an MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology at the University of Wales and is living in Baja California where she carries out her Astrological practice.

Empathy advocate, **Mimi Nicklin (1996-99)**, is the founder of Empathy Everywhere, the widest reaching platform dedicated to organisational empathy. Her work centres on reconnecting workplaces and our world through elevated listening and connection. She is an international bestselling author of three books and a keynote speaker recognised for helping leaders, governments and organisations balance

humanism with capitalism. Mimi was recently ranked #1 Workplace Wellbeing Leader in Malaysia and the #12 female influencer on LinkedIn in the country, and has recently shared stages with Bill Gates, Steve Wozniak and Steven Bartlett, and appeared live on the BBC to 85 million viewers. empathyeverywhere.co





In 2025, **Andrew Penney (2007-15)** strengthened his position as one of Britain's top wheelchair tennis players, reaching a career-high world ranking of number 23 and maintaining a GB ranking of number 4. He competed in major ITF Super Series events, including the French Riviera Open and Iizuka Super Series, and he was bronze medalist at the World Team Cup, the wheelchair equivalent to the Davies and Billy Jean Cups. Andrew is continuing his progress toward future Paralympic ambitions.

Juliette Perry (2008-15) competed in the Rowing World Championships last year and came home with a bronze medal in the GB Women's Eight, after a gruelling 56-week season. She joined the national team in the wake of their Olympic success. With a blend of seasoned Olympians and newbies like her, it's been an extraordinary year of growth, challenge, and teamwork as they built towards the World Championships in Shanghai, and ultimately towards the goal of the Olympics in 2028. Earlier in the season, the crew brought home the gold at the World Cup and became European Champions. It was the first time the GB women's eight had won at Europeans since 2016 and was an epic start to the season. Juliette says: "If you had asked me back when I was leaving Bedales what I'd be doing now, I would never have guessed I'd become a professional athlete. But life has a remarkable way of opening doors when you stay curious and refuse to limit yourself on what's possible."





John Ridding (1976-83) stepped down in June last year after two decades as FT Chief Executive. He has remained with parent company Nikkei as a special adviser, reporting to its chairman and group CEO. He has also taken the title of honorary FT chairman, a non-executive role designed to support a smooth transition and encourage more collaboration between the newspaper group and Nikkei.



In November 2025 **Jenna Sajous (2009-14)** completed her PhD in maternal and fetal medicine, specifically in premature birth prevention. Her project investigated the structure and function of voltage-gated potassium channels called Kv7 channels that sit within the membrane of smooth muscle cells of the uterus (myometrial cells).

These channels appear to play an important role in regulating uterine relaxation during pregnancy, so a better understanding of how they function could support the development of medications to prevent premature labour. Jenna's work has helped to define the specific channel subtypes that are present in human myometrial tissue, and she has been able to show that activating these channels in human tissue with a novel pharmaceutical compound strongly inhibits contractions in an experimental setting. This data provides an exciting basis for lots of future projects, and hopefully some more interesting breakthroughs in the future! She hopes to continue to work in the field of preterm birth prevention by combining her experience of lab work with her midwifery background to help reduce the impact of this very common but often devastating pregnancy outcome.



Ava Sender Logan (2019-23) participated in the 2025 Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling Races in Gloucestershire which involves chasing a wheel of cheese down the hill – it has an average gradient of over 45 degrees and is 180m in length. As it is such a steep gradient the cheeses reach very high speeds at up to 70/80 mph. After coming first in the Double Gloucester cheese rolling women's race using the unusual tactic of tumbling down the hill holding her head, Ava told the BBC she couldn't remember much of her journey downhill and that she doesn't actually like cheese! She was raising money for the Refugee Community Kitchen in Calais which serves around 4,500 people each week. As displaced people arrive there, the need for hot, nutritious meals and human connection is growing all the time.

Former Bursar, **Mark Taylor (staff, 2002-10)** has been appointed Chair of the Independent Schools Council. He is the first non-teacher in the role. A former army officer, Mark began his career in independent schools in 1993, as Deputy Bursar at Cranbrook School. He left Bedales in 2010 to take up his current role as Bursar of King's School Canterbury.



Jonathan Taylor (1963-73) has recently joined the board of the Green Finance Institute as chair, which aims to facilitate private finance to support public policy outcomes in relation to the environment, nature and climate-related goals.

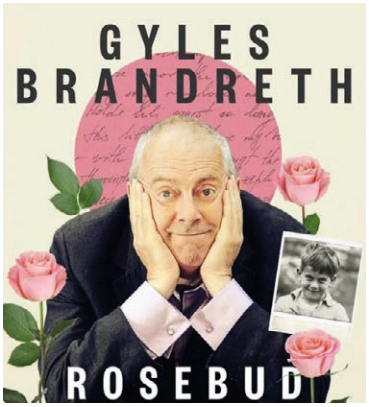


George Veys (2008–13) continues to return year after year to provide Bedales with live and broadcast audio package and live streaming of the legendary Bedales Rock Show. George has a strong background in audio, networking and live-event technology. He has worked extensively in the events sector and currently leads audio strategy and innovation at d&b solutions, a global provider of live-event and installation technologies.



Katy Worth (née Hanson, 1989-96) has been appointed Chair of the Criminal Law Solicitors Association, the national body for criminal solicitors in the UK.

HAVE YOU HEARD?



Writer, broadcaster, ex-MP and TV star **Gyles Brandreth (1961-66)**, hosts the podcast *Rosebud* in which he talks to famous and fascinating people about their first memories and first experiences. Expect laughter, nostalgia, memorable stories, revelations.

We were excited to see OBs appearing once again at Glastonbury with **Luca Caruso (2011-17)** performing with Beabadoobee, **Freddy Sheed (2002-12)** with Lewis Capaldi and **Richie Sweet (2011-18)** with Jorja Smith. **Abi Morris (2016-18)** and The Last Dinner Party also took to the stage at BST Hyde Park, at the end of June last year, as the penultimate act to perform before Olivia Rodrigo.

Soprano **Anna Dennis (1994-96)** studied at the Royal Academy of Music and was the recipient of the 2023 Royal Philharmonic Society's Singer award. She has appeared in major productions including *New Dark Age*, *The Fairy Queen*, *Rodelinda*, *Idomeneo*, *Dr Dee*, and all three Monteverdi operas on John Eliot Gardiner's world tour. She created Violet in Tom Coult's debut opera and performed in *Masque of Might*. She has sung with leading orchestras worldwide, recorded widely, and upcoming engagements include *The Magic Flute*, *Canti di Vita e d'Amore*, *Orlando*, and Mozart's *Mass in C minor*.



Having studied at Berkelee College of Music in Boston, drummer **Louis Giannamore (2010-15)** has worked extensively with Gang of Youths (an Australian alternative rock band) since 2022 and has established himself as a full-time musician. He has toured and recorded with many artists including Arlo Parks, Loreen, Loathe, and scored his first feature film *Topper* in 2023.

Carmody Grey (1989-2002) is a notable panellist on the BBC Radio 4 programme *Moral Maze*, also available as a podcast. The programme, hosted by Michael Buerk, features a panel of experts discussing various moral and ethical issues raised by recent news stories. Carmody, along with other panellists, contributes to the discussions, providing insights and perspectives on complex topics. The *Moral Maze* is known for its combative, provocative and engaging live debates, making it a significant platform for moral discourse.

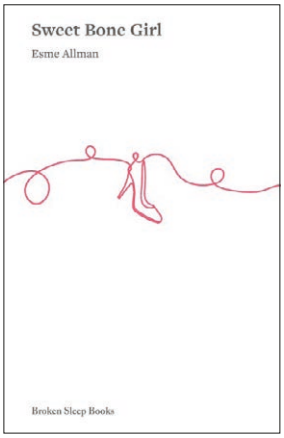


In February 2025 **Imo Mayhook-Walker (2017-19)** released her debut single *Rearview Mirror* and her debut EP *Heading West* followed in August. **Louis Howes (2009-14)** is her producer and co-writer. Imo has also started a live music night in London called 'The Long Acre Sessions' where up and coming female artists can showcase their talent.

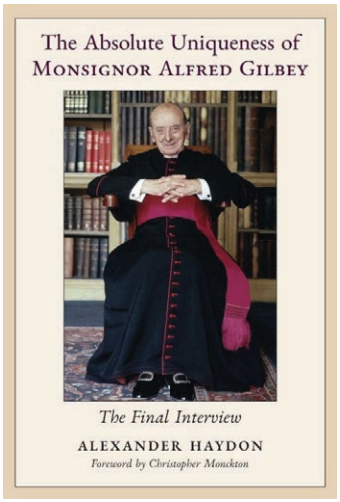


In May 2025 **Becky Saer (née Slack, 1973-88)** and her partner Ben launched a podcast, *Becky & Ben's Fertility Spotlight*. The show is a sensitive and informative look at infertility and IVF, based on their own IVF struggles. They won the Best Presenting Team award at the APAs (Audio Production Awards) in London last November, beating French & Saunders, Mel and Sue and Sky News, among others. After five difficult years Becky and Ben now have two daughters. They told the BBC: "It was amazing to win considering we were newcomers and we had strong competition." fertility-spotlight.com

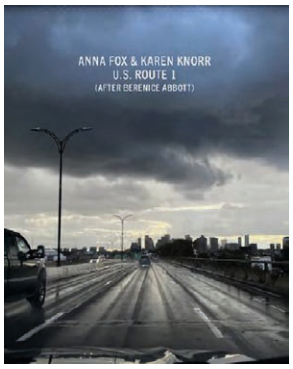
HAVE YOU READ?



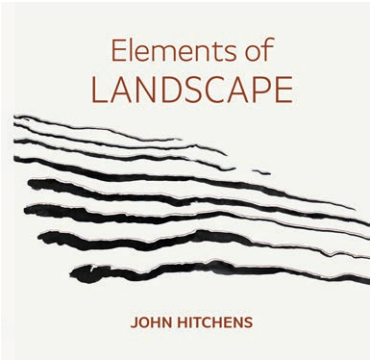
Esme Allman (2013-15) is a poet, writer and theatre director from South London. Her work explores history, imagined worlds and desire within the context of black femininity. She has been commissioned to write poems for the Barbican Centre, English Heritage, the Institute of Contemporary Art with BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio 6, NHS Arts and Heritage, Pace Gallery and Poetry Vs Colonialism in conjunction with the London Metropolitan Archives. *Sweet Bone Girl* is her debut collection of poetry and was released at the end of March 2025.



Alexander Haydon (1974-81)'s book *The Absolute Uniqueness of Monsignor Alfred Gilbey: The Final Interview* was published by Arouca Press last year in June. The celebrated priest Monsignor Alfred Gilbey (1901–98) was chaplain to the (male) Catholic undergraduates of Cambridge from 1933 to 1965, and from some time in 1965 to 1997 the sole resident member of the Travellers Club, Pall Mall, from where he pursued a unique apostolate.



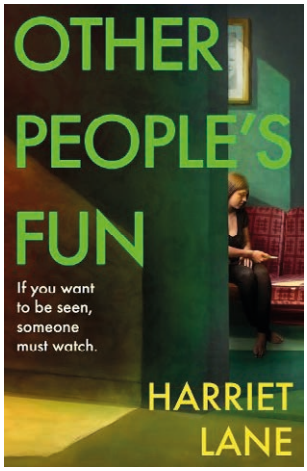
Photographer **Anna Fox (1972-77)** has collaborated with Karen Knorr publishing their book *U.S. Route 1 (after Berenice Abbott)* in July. Between July and September 1954, American photographer Berenice Abbott, drove back and forth along Route 1, the oldest road in the US, stretching from Fort Kent, Maine, at the Canadian border to the Florida Keys in the south. Anna and Karen chose this book to recall the significance of the work of Abbott as too many histories of women photographers are neglected.



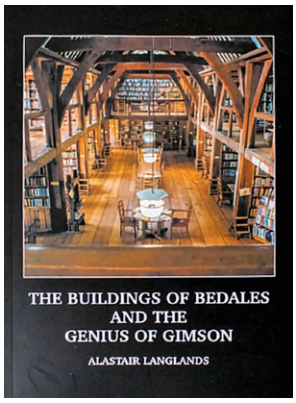
John Hitchens (1947-57)'s latest book *Elements of Landscape* was published by Sansom and Company in October 2025. This is the first book to look extensively at his extraordinary period of creativity and innovation over the past three decades, in which he has developed a radical engagement with the natural world. It follows five years after *Aspects of Landscape*, the first overview of his work which was compiled to mark his 80th birthday in 2020.



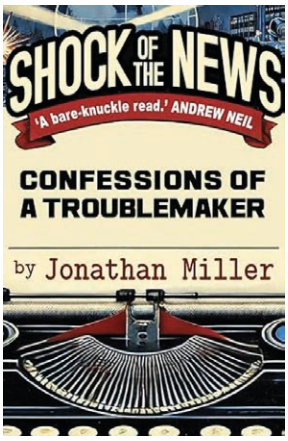
Nicola Harding (née Dudgeon, 1990-95) is a renowned British interior designer and founder of the London-based industry-leading design studio, Nicola Harding & Co. Her debut book, *Homing Instinct*, was published by Rizzoli New York in September 2025. Nicola takes the principles of English interior design – a decorating style beloved throughout the world for its embrace of colour, whimsy and true comfort – and deploys them with a universal appeal. It features a selection of her most celebrated projects.



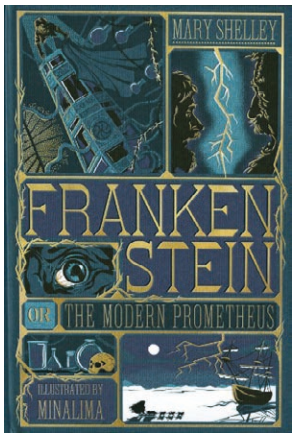
Harriet Lane (1981-88) has worked as an editor and staff writer at *Tatler* and *The Observer* and has also written for *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *Vogue* and *The New York Times*. Her third novel *Other People's Fun* was published in 2025: "Unputdownable, funny, spiky and subtle, *Other People's Fun* is a novel about modern life and the lies we tell our neighbours, friends, families and selves through the hall of mirrors that is social media." W&N Books



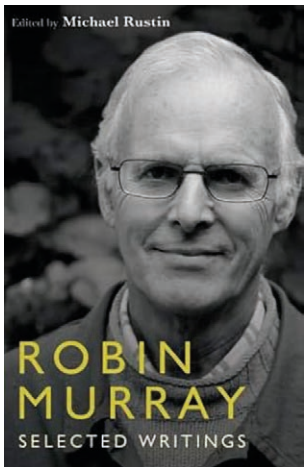
Copies of *The Buildings of Bedales and the Genius of Gimson* by **Alastair Langlands (staff, 1973-2001)** are still available. Alastair's long knowledge of the school dates from his arrival in 1973 and the book tells the story of Bedales, Ernest Gimson, Edward Barnsley and **Oswald Powell (co-founder, 1893-1933)**. They are the thinkers and architects who made the physical place of Bedales. To order a copy email development@bedales.org.uk Cost £20 with all proceeds to the John Badley Foundation.



Jonathan Miller (1965-68)'s memoir *Shock of the News – Confessions of a Troublemaker* is a razor-sharp and witty account of his experiences working for Rupert Murdoch and navigating the media landscape. The book is filled with personal anecdotes and insights into the tech revolution, the erosion of free speech, and the challenges of the AI era. His candid revelations and commentary on various topics, including the media's role in society and the impact of technology, make it a compelling read for those interested in the intersection of media, technology and the future of journalism. See obituary on page 70.

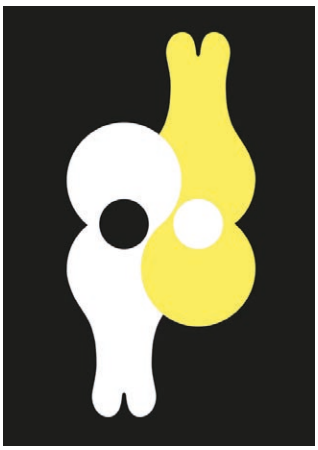


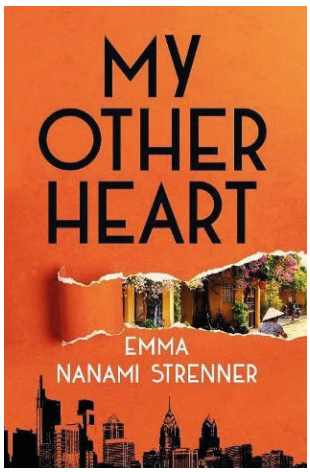
Immerse yourself in the dark world of *Frankenstein: or, the Modern Prometheus* with a richly illustrated adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic horror. Illustrated by MinaLima (**Miraphora Mina 1976-85**), with seven interactive paper-engineered elements, and enthralling design details on every page. "Brimming with monstrous characters and atmospheric scenes, this deluxe edition will capture the imaginations of readers and become a striking addition to any bookshelf." The book was released in October 2025.



Robin Murray (1953–59), economist: A thinker at the heart of political debate from the late 1960s, Robin's pioneering intellectual and practical work centred on finding new ways of organising the economy and society. In *Selected Writings* (2018), his reflections on diverse areas – including Fair Trade, Zero Waste, the circular economy, energy, cooperatives, the platform economy, Slow Food, and the regeneration of London at the GLC in the 1980s – have striking contemporary relevance for anyone interested in radical social transformation. Robin Murray was posthumously awarded the RSA Medal for Social Innovation in 2018. robinmurray.co.uk

Lucy Roeber (1989-94) is editor and director of the relaunched *Erotic Review* which was nominated in December 2024 by *The Guardian* as a design highlight of the year, the only printed object to make the grade for managing "to take erotica out of smutty computer rooms and back into a more artful, contemplative and joyful place".





In July last year, Hutchison Heinemann published **Emma Nanami Strenner (née Smith, 1988-96)**'s "gorgeous" debut novel *My Other Heart*. Emma said: "I wanted to write a novel that examined love and belonging. Maternal love, love between friends, romantic love, unrequited love, loving from afar. *My Other Heart* is really about the yearning to belong in spite of how our environment might have shaped us. It is a coming of age story that looks at how home can sometimes be found in the least expected of places."

HAVE YOU SEEN?

Willow Bidwell (2006-16) has been signed by Vision Artists Agency as a member of their emerging artists roster. Back in London after graduating from The American Film Institute in LA, Willow brings fresh ideas and beautifully crafted visual storytelling to commercials, film and TV. Please do forward this to anyone in your network who may be looking for the next generation of talent in cinematography and film-making.



Minnie Driver (1976-86) performed in *Every Brilliant Thing* in the West End (Soho Place Theatre) in October/November 2025. "Minnie Driver is exceptionally good as the unnamed narrator telling her story. She has a tenderness and humanity that makes the role touching and believable. She gently guides the audience through the emotional highs and lows, taking a breath (literally and metaphorically) when needed, and allowing just the right amount of laughter amidst the emotion." Artshub. Minnie also stars alongside James Nesbitt and Ruth Jones in the miniseries *Run Away*, adapted from a novel by Harlen Coben which was released on Netflix in January.

Freya Hannan-Mills (2017-22) is currently at Bennington College in Vermont, and has made a film in Greece which is based on Deborah Levy's novel *Swimming Home*. It opened in cinemas in April 2025 and premiered at TriBeCa, New York. Her other film, *Here After*, with Connie Britton has been released on Amazon.



The Moncrieff Bray Gallery, Petworth, will be holding an exhibition of artist **John Hitchens (1947-57)**'s work from 28 March – 18 April. A further exhibition of his work will be held at Gilbert White's House, Selborne from 14 April – 28 June. This will include some of John's work which is featured in his latest book *Elements of Landscape*.



Frieda Hughes (1973-78) held an exhibition of her paintings and drawings in October 2025 at The Chris Beetles Gallery in London. A further exhibition took place at her private gallery (The Fairdene Gallery) in Mid Wales in November. friedahughes.com



Clara Lacy (née Hodge, 1994-2002) is an artist and illustrator and has worked in London, New York, Hong Kong and Sydney. Her practice is rooted in a deep reverence for the natural world. Her recent exhibition, *The World Has Dropped its Petals* (James Gorst Architects, 2025), originated during lockdown. Using photographs taken while observing how nature flourished in the absence of human interference, across parks and unmown verges near her home in East London, she began a sustained period of deep looking. The resulting series of eight large-scale drawings took four years to complete, each requiring approximately four months of focused work. The project became a true labour of love, shaped by patience, sustained observation, and a lifelong passion for the natural world. Clara is currently developing a new body of work that reflects on time, ageing, and the fleeting nature of human existence – despite our profound impact as a species – while expanding her practice through larger-scale works and the exploration of painting with graphite. claralacy.com



Julian Lowenfeld (1980-81)'s play *Kafka for Beginners* premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival last year. It is a fiercely stylised descent into the machinery of state-sanctioned madness and is no mere play, but a fevered cry from the belly of an

empire rotten with its own myth-making. Power has calcified into ritual, and truth is a currency long outlawed, hence there are declarations like: "Everything not forbidden is compulsory! Everything not compulsory is forbidden! 2 + 2 = 5!"

Also at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, **Gus McQuillin (2016-21)** felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to perform there last summer. The show, *A Play About Feet*, was an original piece written by a fellow Royal Holloway University student and directed by another. A dark comedy with a striking climax, it was an exciting project to be a part of. Gus was thrilled to perform at one of the world's most prestigious theatre festivals and wanted to thank Bedales for the support he received in the Theatre department and for helping guide him onto the path he's now following. Gus is delighted to report that the play received some great reviews from several professional critics and very much hopes to have the opportunity to perform in Edinburgh again this year.



Gus pictured back row, second from right

Goodbye June was released in select theatres in the UK and US last December, as well as on Netflix. It is a Christmas drama film with much Bedalian involvement… A directorial debut for Kate Winslet, from a screenplay by **Joe Mendes (2012-22)**, known as Joe Anders, the film stars an ensemble cast including **Johnny Flynn (1996-2001)**, Helen Mirren and Kate Winslet. **Olivia Grant (2005-07)** was the casting director, and the music was composed by former Director of Music at Bedales Prep, **Ben Harlan (staff, 2012-22)**. An unexpected turn in their mother's health thrusts four adult siblings and their exasperating father into chaos as they navigate messy family dynamics in the face of potential loss. But their quick-witted mother, June, orchestrates her decline on her own terms – with biting humour, blunt honesty, and a lot of love.

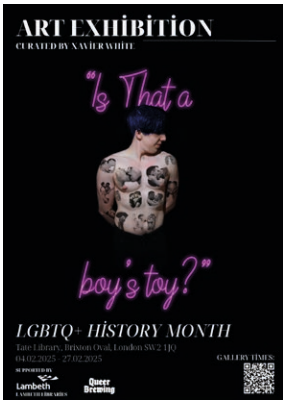


Karole Vail (1974-76) has been the director of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice since June 2017, and before that was a curator at the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York for 20 years. In 2024 the Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery held an exhibition with the aim to explore the multitude of literary, artistic and intellectual figures of the period with whom Guggenheim interacted and reveal the untold story of her life in the town and neighbouring West Sussex through her family, friends and lovers. In April 2026 there will be an exhibition in Venice dedicated to Peggy Guggenheim's first gallery, named Guggenheim Jeune, in London. This will then follow at the Royal Academy in London.

Fred Voilley (1950-55) studied design at the London School of Printing and Graphic Arts. After completing his National (military) Service in Algeria, he gave up a career as a designer in London, and went to France, where he initially worked in various professions, before creating a ceramic workshop in Antibes, which flourished from 1971 to 1981. The following decade he worked as literary critic, translator, and researcher in visual arts, and then as a teacher. Since 2005, he has been actively involved in the development of the associative art gallery, Transartcafé, in Antibes. In 2017 he was elected president of the association, which organises numerous exhibitions of paintings, ceramics, and other work, by Fred himself and many other artists. transartcafe.org



Xavier White (2008-12) is a Lambeth-based artist and his work blends activism with a sharp socio-political lens. By harnessing the semiotic power of childhood toys, Xavier addresses complex topics like queer identity, toxic masculinity, and the male gaze. His art playfully transforms nostalgia into a platform for critical reflection on the past and present. In February 2025 Xavier was curator for a group show, "Is that a boy's toy?" at Brixton Tate Library, celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month which featured a vibrant and diverse line-up of artists from Lambeth and beyond.



William Agnew (staff, 1967-78)



Can there be any pupil from William's years as Director of Music who does not look back with admiration for his outstanding contribution to the musical life of the school?

From the moment he arrived, William's unique mixture of creativity and encouragement drew in pupils and staff alike. Music-making moved rapidly from the side-lines to a positive and inclusive pastime. Formerly hidden away in the dry atmosphere of the Lupton Hall and only for the musical elite, William's masterstroke was to move the Parents' Day concert into the Quad, and joining in became a magnet for anyone who wanted to have a go. Add to the mix William's trendy sideburns, yellow corduroy trousers, motorbike, and his ingenious choice of repertoire, and the choir became a cool, fun thing to do which even some of the most hardened cynics couldn't resist.

Every summer, the Parents' Day concert became a much-anticipated event and the Quad rang with an eclectic mix of orchestral and choral works: Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Vaughan Williams' *Mass in G Minor*, *The Shepherd's Calendar*, Carl Orff's joyful *Carmina Burana* (who can forget the drinking song, roared with relish by dozens of teenagers and adults?), a jubilant *Rio Grande* showcasing William's outstanding jazz piano playing, and notably, William's own hugely successful musical, *Phineas Finn*. Highlights elsewhere included a stunning performance of *The War Requiem* in collaboration with Winchester College in Winchester Cathedral, and an exciting production of *Noye's Fludde* in Petersfield church.

In 1971 and 1978 staff and pupils produced thrilling performances of Verdi's *Requiem* in which, with his innate sense of drama, William placed the trumpets in the four corners of the upper storey of the Quad, producing an electrifying fanfare in the *Tuba Mirum* section of the *Dies Irae*. Every one of these varied and memorable concerts was rigorously rehearsed by him with his trademark expectation of commitment and high achievement, peppered with beautifully timed dry wit.

William facilitated informal concerts for chamber groups and choirs in venues as diverse as Steep Church and the Royal Albert Hall. Naturally adventurous, he organised an action-packed tour of France conducting singers and instrumentalists from the Loire Valley to Aix-en-Provence; and, one extraordinarily memorable year, took a wind quintet to St Petersburg and Moscow – prompting a return visit by Russian musicians to Bedales.

The Music School always felt welcoming. William was a wonderful piano teacher, endlessly patient, treading a fine line between encouraging and insisting with a firm but humorous touch. Even when absent the door to his room was open, his piano available for practice. Ever resourceful, during the miners' strike in 1972, he set up a quiz in the rehearsal room in near darkness, with **Vaughan Moon (staff, 1965-84)** and **Philip Young (staff, 1971-74; 1977-2007)** playing Baroque and classical medleys by candlelight.

William's considerable thespian skills came in handy when treading the boards in staff plays. A born entertainer, he relished his roles in such gems as *The Real Inspector Hound*, *Hotel Paradiso* (looking suspiciously like Groucho Marx), and *Hay Fever*.

With his beloved wife Gill (greatly valued piano teacher) and their children, **Edward (1972-77)**, **Katharine (1967-68; 1971-78)** and **Caroline (1970-78)**, the Agnew home was always a place of welcome. Just when the family needed a break, a bunch of unruly sixth formers would rock up (uninvited) on bikes at Cobblers, or (invited) for string quartets. Either way, there was guaranteed tea, gossip, and Gill's notoriously delicious flapjacks.

In 1972 Bedales hosted the Music Masters' Conference involving two days of concerts, recitals and lectures – a huge achievement organised by William and the music staff. Entertainments included a 'Serenade Concert of Words and Music' requiring a piano in the library (thank you **Gonda Stamford, staff 1954-73**!) for the glorious Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzer*, madrigals and a 'Choral and Orchestral Concert'. The following day William took the time and trouble to write this note, beautifully encapsulating the essence of William himself: "Well done yesterday. A real triumph, a total success. It was marvellous to see such an accomplished and consistent performance. What a superb atmosphere was generated. The sheer enjoyment that you all exuded – that was what was so marvellous… and refreshing. That kind of thing seems to give a centre to the school, draws us all together."

Throughout their time at Repton, Bedales, in France and Bristol, William and Gill's gift for friendship touched everyone, especially those who owe so much to William for his outstanding ability to make music a collaborative, richly memorable experience.

On behalf of all who knew and loved him – thank you.

Susie Carpenter-Jacobs (1966-72)

One of William's musical initiatives was to form the Bedales Wind Quintet in about 1974. I joined in1976 when it then comprised: myself on the flute, **Julia Shaw (1972-77)** on oboe, **Damaris Wollen (1973-80)** on clarinet, **Rachel Cobb (née Hudson, 1970-77)** on horn and **Lynn Pearcy (1969-77)** on bassoon. William trained us and supported us so well that we were runners-up in the BBC Two *Settle the Score* competition and then were in the School's Prom in a very noisy, full Albert Hall in November 1976 (which was absolutely nerve-wracking). A Soviet Government Representative in the audience chose us, plus two other groups, to perform four concerts the following July in Moscow and Leningrad (as it was called back then). Our venues included two which were named 'House of Friendship' and strikingly one called the 'Palace of Culture of the Kirov Tractor Plant'. The 10 days we had in the Soviet Union provided an amazing, unforgettable experience for all of us. A full description of this visit is in a long article in the Autumn 1977 Bedales Chronicle, easily found online, written by Damaris and me. bedalesschools.daisy.websds.net/Authenticated/Browse.aspx

We played in many local and school concerts, and a special treat was the Poulenc *Sextet* for wind quintet and piano which we played in the 1977 Parents' Day concert. Our pianist was technically brilliant and a great musician: it was William of course.

William's energetic musical guidance therefore utterly changed my life and helped determine many of my closest relationships, which have been with people I met through becoming a musician; most importantly my wife Serena (violinist) and her musical family which included several members of the Robinson family: **Jennifer (1931-37)**, **Oswald (1938-44)** and **Victor (1936-42)**. And because of this, many of our three children's most important relationships have been formed through playing in orchestras, bands and other musical groups.

What a happy chance it was when, having moved near Exeter, Devon in 1990, William and Gill lived only 45 minutes' drive away in north Devon. Over the years we played music with William at each other's houses. There were many memorable occasions including in 2003, *The Carnival of the Animals* with a small orchestra, squeezed into a room in my house, with William and my sister **Emma (1969-74)**, William's pupil, on the pianos. He also played here a Mozart piano concerto, K503 and conducted too on other occasions. Serena and I kept visiting William and Gill when they moved to their beautiful house in Wedmore, Somerset.

William and I last played together only three years ago when he was 90. I played Debussy's *Syrinx* at his funeral in August and felt honoured to have been able to do so.

Robert Stephenson (1972-77)

"If I ever die," said William, aged about 38, "which I don't suppose I will, I like to imagine the angels accompanying me to heaven with this." "This" was the *In Paradisum* from Fauré's *Requiem* which the choir were rehearsing for a performance in Steep Church.

William was rare in being both a 'character' – someone you tell stories about – and a fully human and humane person. For a non-instrumentalist, I was very lucky that one of William's special gifts was directing and inspiring group singing; as much as anything else, this was a gift for friendship. What fun we had in madrigal groups, with the Brahms *Liebeslieder Walzer* and, of course, in the choir where two other Requiems also stand out in my mind: the Mozart, during a rehearsal of which, dissatisfied with our rendition of that first, stern "Rex!" he stopped us and said crossly, "You're not calling your dog!" and we all fell about laughing; and the Verdi, sung in the Quad – surely one of the most intense musical experiences of my life. I have sung it since with much grander choirs but never with the fervour William drew from us.

I remember his way, during rehearsals in the Lupton Hall, of walking backwards up the aisle conducting us with his right hand while trying desperately with his left to tuck his shirt tails into his bright yellow trousers in order to stop them falling down even further and, with no spare hands, to keep a rebellious lock of hair out of his eyes and look serious at the same time.

I remember his kindness as he opened his doors to musical groups – so many friends, really – when Gill, discreet, warm-hearted (no doubt, infinitely patient!) would rustle up food and drink and join in the conversation.

And to me, in particular, the way he gently bullied and cajoled me, late in my school career, into taking up the cello.

Adam Stephenson (1967-72)



Alison Allwright (née Kerlogue, 1963-68)



My sister Alison won an exhibition to Bedales, where she made lifelong friends and started her journey towards becoming an accomplished linguist. Her connection with France began with a Summer term placement at a school in Avignon. She was initially very homesick and wrote home begging to be rescued – our father travelled down to bring her back. On arrival, however, he discovered that in the interim she had been invited to join some teenagers at the swimming pool. I believe some of them may have been boys – certainly she no longer wanted to be rescued. I believe she had also discovered the patisserie. She returned a more confident, slightly less slender Francophile.

Although Alison was generally not a rule-breaker, on one occasion she was sent home early having been caught drinking in a tree house with some friends. I clearly remember our father greeting her warmly at the station and then taking us both to a bar to celebrate. Alison and I didn't mix at Bedales after I joined her there, but we had several summer holiday jobs together, one at a territorial army summer camp where Alison gained a certificate for parascending. I was too cowardly, but she was as always game for a challenge and shot up into the air, light as a feather. At home we were also regulars at the local disco in Derbyshire and saw bands like the Crazy World of Arthur Brown, The Who and The Yardbirds – in those days bands would play at quite small venues all over the country. One summer Alison went on her own to work at Ardfern on the west coast of Scotland. She had a wonderful time working at the inn with a whole lot of other young people. Those were the days of alternative communities: peace, freedom and love.

Alison was definitely one of the clever ones. She got good grades at A Level which took her to University of Sussex to read languages. She spent her year abroad in Brittany, honing her French and making lifelong friends. In 1969 we went to the Isle of Wight Festival to see Bob Dylan. The following year we hitch-hiked to Watergate Bay in Cornwall to meet up with a surfing friend, which later led her to Australia, where she stayed for two years. On her return, she took a postgraduate qualification in education at University of Bristol, and though she didn't in the end pursue teaching as a career, she met her husband Jack when they were both teaching English as a foreign language in Austria.

After she got married and had children we saw less of each other, but continued to share a great deal, especially our concern for the environment, human rights and internationalism. We marched together for the UK to remain in the EU, and later for rejoining.

Alison kept in touch with old friends from Bedales, Sussex and France throughout her life, and kept them in touch with each other. She had a strong sense of family. She was the custodian of family history and was always at its heart, not just with her husband Jack and their two sons Michael and Richard, but also helping to care for our father as he got older, and later our mother.

After she retired, she helped to save and then run the local library in Corfe Castle in her beloved Dorset, a role she was still performing when illness struck. She never lost the values she had grown up with, of caring for others and the community. Bedales surely played a large part in forming those foundations. ✪



Alison in 2013 at the opening of Corfe Castle Community Library, of which Alison was chair

Fiona Kerlogue (1964-68), sister

(John) Quentin Henderson (1961-64)



Quentin 'Beeman' Henderson, who has died aged 67, was an expert on bees, and for much of his life was an integral part of the community on the island of Nevis in the Caribbean; the idyllic island is famous as the birthplace of Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the United States of America and the place where in 1787 Admiral Nelson married Fanny Nisbet.

Nevis was once the world's biggest exporter of sugar. Bees were introduced from South America during the sugar plantation era and thrived because of the prolific Coralita or "bee bush" blossoms. A beekeeping industry became an important part of the fragile economy, but this went into decline, and in 1987 Henderson was sent to Nevis on a Voluntary Service Overseas scheme to help resurrect it.

At the end of his posting, in September 1989 Hurricane Hugo devastated much of the island and destroyed the infrastructure which he had helped establish, along with much of the economy. The Premier, Simeon Daniel, asked him to stay and gave him a job as adviser to the Department of Agriculture; he stayed in the post until his retirement.

Henderson helped to modernise the industry and placed honey on every supermarket shelf in Nevis and the surrounding islands. He also helped neighbours such as St Kitts, Montserrat, Anguilla and Antigua to set up their own industries.

He recruited women to collect the wax from hives and turn it into candles, which also helped the economy. He founded a beekeepers' cooperative which has its headquarters in the Beehouse which he helped to construct in Gingerland.

It is common in the Caribbean for people to have a nickname and not surprisingly Henderson's was Beeman; few people on the island knew his real name. His tall loping figure was easily recognisable and would often be seen either at Café des Arts in Charlestown drinking coffee, guiding tourists on walks in the tropical forest or taking them up the extinct volcano, Nevis Peak.

Henderson, who featured on a Nevis postage stamp, was a strong supporter of the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society and a patron of the ruined Cottle Church, built in 1822 and thought to be the first in the Caribbean to be built for both whites and slaves.



Quentin on the Nevis stamp (2nd from right)

Quentin John Henderson was born on December 6 1952, the eldest of six, and brought up on a farm at Elmstone in Kent.

His father John was a fruit farmer, and Quentin became aware of the importance of bees – essential for the pollination of the apples and pears – from an early age. His mother Rachel (née Walton) was a children's nurse turned social worker from Scotland, where the family returned regularly for holidays, but she died when he was 18.

He was sent to board at Royal School Cavan in Ireland, after which he attended Hadlow College in Kent to study agriculture. The family had long had connections to Iona, and Quentin spent regular periods on the island while still at school and college. Iona hugely influenced his life; he was an associate member of the community and often visited.

He joined the International Agricultural Exchange Association, which took him to Australia and Sweden, and to Alberta, Canada, where he first came across the bee industry. He was accepted by VSO for a project in Nevis and they sent him on a course in Cardiff which led to a diploma in beekeeping.

One of his interests was the numerology of car registrations. He had always been fascinated by the motor car, and on childhood holidays to Ballater in Scotland he would sit at

a crossroads and spend weeks noting down the makes of cars and their number plates.

Later, one of his first acquisitions was "USA3" – "SA" being an Aberdeen designation. He was a founder member of Europlate, the European Registration Plate Association, for those with an interest in vehicle registration plates, and he liked to time his trips back home to coincide with their annual conventions. He amassed a huge collection of plates, which he stored in Nevis and in the houses of friends and relatives in the UK.



He loved the countryside and walking, travelling wherever possible by hitchhiking in his kilt – the easiest way to guarantee a lift, he said. He would camp in a small tent and had a penchant for graveyards, once arriving in Orkney from Aberdeen and taking up residence next to a gravestone with the Henderson name on it.

He walked the 2,200-mile Appalachian trail from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine, and he was proud of his feat in 2015 of climbing Nevis Peak on his adopted island home and 48 hours later standing on the top of Ben Nevis in Scotland.

With his ginger hair and beard, Beeman was an authentic, greatly loved eccentric… Softly spoken, with a faint Scottish accent, he could talk to anyone. He would also help anyone and was a frequent volunteer at charitable events.

His pick-up truck, which he bought new, was also instantly recognisable and was his pride and joy. Although he had a paid job, and latterly a pension, he lived his life on a barter system of doing jobs for favours, a system which was perfectly acceptable to both locals and expatriates on the Island. He was very money-conscious and loved a bargain. He was thoughtful and generous in the postcards which he sent from his travels, and he always remembered the birthdays of his large family, giving gifts of honey. He is survived by two brothers and three sisters.

In 2019 he became unwell and initially returned to stay with his sister in York, but insisted on returning to Nevis. When his condition worsened he could not be persuaded to travel to Britain for treatment, saying: "Nevis is my home and this is where I will die."

Quentin Henderson, born December 6 1952, died May 30 2020. ✪

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Quentin Henderson attended Dunhurst from 1960-64 before moving to the Royal School in Ireland from 1964-69.

Mary Henderson (née Elder, 1926-39)



Mary ('M') Henderson, died at home in London, on 11 January 2025, aged 103. M was born in 1921 and went to Dunhurst, aged four, where her aunt, **Mary Messingham (née Cocker, staff, 1925-64)**, was a classroom teacher, married to **'Chips' Messingham (staff, 1923-63)**, the school's woodwork teacher. All of M's siblings attended the school: her older siblings, **Peter (1927-34)**, **Jean (1926-36)** and **John (1926-36)**; and her younger sister, **Cate (1930-41)**, who, in those days, apparently, as the fifth child, was educated at no cost.

M went on to Bedales where she excelled academically and at sport (but not musically – she was deemed a 'non-singer'!). Her memories of her time at the school were overwhelmingly positive; she always waxed lyrical about Bedales' ethos and pedagogy, its tolerance of a broad range of abilities and backgrounds,

and the way it encouraged a hands-on approach to learning. She particularly loved the school Library, but equally she enjoyed all the outdoor activities, especially lacrosse and swimming, even in the freezing cold outdoor pool.

She won a place at University of Cambridge to read Geography. However, having fallen in love with **James (Jim) Henderson (staff, 1934-40)**, a History teacher at Bedales, instead of going to university, she got married, aged 18. For a while, Jim continued to teach at Bedales, and they lived in a cottage at the top of Stoner Hill, belonging to the Barnsleys.

During the War, they moved around a lot, due to the fact that Jim was a conscientious objector and had to go where he was told to go. By the end of the 1940s, they had three children, and Jim was working at London University's Institute of Education. In the mid-50s M went to the London School of Economics to study Social Sciences. Two more children were born.

In the early '60s, M trained as a History teacher at Whitelands College. She went on to teach at Brentford Secondary Modern Girls' School, then Hounslow Manor Comprehensive School, then at the Yehudi Menuhin Music School in Cobham, Surrey. When Jim died in 1986, she was asked to step in as the head of the Yehudi Menuhin school for a year. She ended up being the head of the school for three years. She also became a governor of Froebel College, Roehampton, including a stint as Chair of the Governors.

Throughout her life, M built on many of the things she had learnt at Bedales; she became a skilled craftswoman, able to turn her hand to a range of practical matters (sewing, tapestry, upholstery, knitting, canework, carpentry); she also became a keen gardener and painter;





she sailed; she walked, she had an enormous circle of friends; above all, she offered help, support and guidance to her many grandchildren, ex-pupils and the offspring of friends of friends from all over the world (including not infrequently free bed and board, English Language lessons as required, coaching in History, Maths and other subjects at A Level and beyond). M touched many, many people's lives; she had a unique gift for being able to relate to people from all walks of life: she never hesitated to call a spade a spade, but she invariably did so with a great sense of humour.

She is survived by four of her children – Tania, Paul, William and Emma – 12 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Shelagh Mary Henderson, teacher, born 27 August 1921, died 11 January 2025.

Tania Brett (née Henderson, 1954-59), daughter

Brian Lawrence (1954-55)



Brian was born in Greenwich, in a vegetarian nursing home, and was a vegetarian all his life, even when doing his National Service (at Catterick, north Yorkshire) where he joined the Signals – a natural place for him, as he always had an engineer's mind.

After that he managed to get a place at McGill University in Montreal, for a five-year engineering course. He worked to earn some money in the long vacations to put into his bank account and usually took a job as a sailing instructor at a children's holiday camp. He was always fond of children and liked to meet them at their level.

When it was time to get a proper job, he signed on with Foxboro, scientific instrument makers, and was able to take advantage of their course for learning proper French in Paris. People spoke a sort-of Canadian French in Montreal. He also got along well enough in Spanish.

He wanted to 'see the world', so he first went to India, where he told me a rather amazing story of seeing the Taj Mahal by moonlight. He worked out when the moon would be full in the early hours, hired a bicycle, and knocked on the keeper's little door. He explained why he had come and he was allowed in. He knew enough of Indian ways to know that he must wait patiently: and then after a little chat he was given a nod meaning that he could go out into the moonlit garden. There it was… the pale delicate towers and domes in the moonlight... after wandering at will the whole garden to himself for maybe an hour, he returned and retrieved his bike and was gone.

He used his qualifications from McGill to get a job designing the arrangements of oil pipes in Saudi Arabia. It was too hot to work in the daytime except in early mornings and evenings; and at night, when there would be a huge dome of bright stars (no wonder the Arabs were good astronomers). But it was dangerously hot, and he decided, when a colleague died of the heat, not to stay after the first contract was finished.

Another adventure that he told me about was the long expedition upstream on the Amazon. This was on a small steamer where he learned how the steering worked in the faster and slower currents in different places. In the night this steamer could continue, while the big steamers had to moor up and wait for dawn as the shifting currents were too dangerous for them.



He liked inventing things – everything from a neater electric plug to fit conveniently into a wainscot – to a really small car. The prototype he used was a Fiat 500, cut down in all three dimensions.

In between many other adventures, Brian lived in his flat in Kentish Town, with various flatmates, He was also responsible for 43 Church Road, and for buying a piece of land from the farmer who was cutting down the trees in a central refuge for wildlife. He bought a part of this field to the north of no 43, and his neighbours were able to extend their gardens by buying some of it from him. His neighbour in Steep village helped look after the acre he kept for Blenheim Cottage.

Brian enjoyed the notice outside the doctor's teepee in a teepee village he was once encouraged to join. It said, 'chop wood while you wait'.

As he gradually lost his vigour an old friend from London helped to get him into a retirement home – Downs House, very near Steep – where he lived until June 2024. He loved the area and said that he wanted to be buried in Steep Churchyard, which we managed to arrange.

Brenda Tyler (1955-57), sister

Peter David Tangye Lean (1944-47)

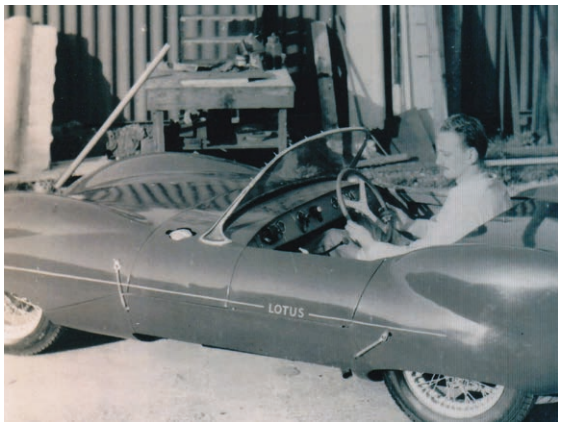


Peter was born in 1930 in London to David Lean (the film director). After his parents separated, and with World War II making London dangerous, he moved with his mother to live with his maternal grandparents in Haywards Heath, Sussex. He went to a local prep school, then to Bedales, where he became great friends with **Christopher** and **David Warwick (1940-47).**

He did his national service in the RAF serving in Benson, Milford Haven and Germany where he fitted cameras to Sunderland flying boats and spitfires. He then took a service course in the École hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland and worked in several hotels back in the UK, meeting his wife June in one of them.

While at a hotel in Guildford he met engineers who worked at Connaught Cars, and got David Warwick an interview and job there. David then returned the favour a few years later and got Peter a job at Lotus with Colin Chapman and Graham Hill. He remembered trips to Coventry to collect engines for the cars, working on the Lotus 7 and attending the Earls Court Motor Show.

In 1956 his son Nick was born and in 1960 a daughter Tracy. By this time he was working behind the parts counter of garages in north London. In 1973 they moved to Berkshire where he worked in A C Barnes garage until he retired.





He enjoyed his retirement spending time in his garden with June, taking photographs, and with his subsequent grandchildren.

In 2023, after June's death and suffering from Alzheimer's, he moved to a care home in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. The staff surprised him one day with a visit by a Lotus, which he thoroughly enjoyed looking around. Once he had Alzheimer's his main memories were of his friends at Bedales – enjoying finding their autographs in his hymn book, his time in the RAF and at Lotus. He died in June 2025. ✪

Tracy Lean, daughter

Jean Loudon (née Norman, 1937-40)



Jean was born in Highgate London in 1926. Her mother was a clinical child psychologist, her father a university professor and SoE operative (now called an MI6 agent).

She arrived at Bedales in 1937 and was happy there, but at the outbreak of the Second World War, she was evacuated to Canada.

Upon her return to England, she studied at University College, London, before moving to Oxford, where she met Irvine Loudon, who would become her husband and a Wantage (Oxfordshire) GP.

Her life was astonishingly busy. She had six children, and also had to play an active part in supporting Irvine's work. In the 1950s there was no formal out-of-hours provision: patient calls were relocated from the surgery to GPs' homes, where their

wives were expected to answer them. Several times a week, while Irvine was on home visits or night duty, Jean remained strictly within earshot of the phone: messages she relayed immediately, using a long-range, military-style walkie-talkie.

A keen reader with a near flawless memory and a strong sense of social justice, Jean would have enjoyed a career in medicine or aid-relief, but instead she devoted herself to public service. In 1954 she co-founded the Wantage Blind Club (which offered support to users before most sight-correcting operations had developed), attending her last meeting in 2024, aged 98.

Strongly committed to education, she was a trustee and Chair of Wantage's King Alfred's School Educational charity and governing body. She was, simultaneously, a district councillor, chairman of the local CPRE, a magistrate, and a member of Wantage Town Council's planning committee.

A conservationist, she was jointly active in saving large portions of Wantage's green spaces, plus an entire row of 19th century cottages.

Once her children were older, she worked as an editor and researcher at Oxford's Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, moving on to serve as an assistant to two Directors of Oxfam International, where she formed deep friendships with several staff members. After retirement she volunteered at Wantage's Oxfam shop and joined a French conversation class, in part to keep up with her oldest daughter, Sally, who lived in Provence.



Jean and Irvine, with their twins, in 1951. Image: Mary Loudon

Jean's own magnum opus was a collation of 10,000 doctors' biographies from the mid-17th to the mid-19th centuries. She spent years in the Bodleian Library, her early research written on notecards kept in shoeboxes, until she taught herself to design a database on an early IBM computer.

Her work is part of Oxford's History of Medicine archive, widely used by researchers worldwide.

Two daughters, Sally and Catherine, predeceased her, but her vitality remained intact: she read voraciously, met up with a wide range of friends, and closely followed international politics until her very final days.

Jean's OB children **(Michael, 1965-70; Elizabeth, 1970-75)** and daughter-in-law **(Mary Loudon, née Rankin, 1969-71)**.

Elizabeth Loudon (1970-75), daughter

Jonathan Miller (1965-68)

'When I was at Bedales School, my history teacher **Ruth Whiting (staff, 1963-2000)**, in her signature green ink, scrawled on the bottom of one of my essays the single word: 'journalese'. She meant it as an insult. I took it as career advice. I didn't learn much else there. Pace Mark Twain, I never let schooling interfere with my education."

So wrote my father, Jonathan Miller, in his posthumous memoir *Shock of the News: Confessions of a Troublemaker*, published after his sudden death in France last year. By the time I arrived at Bedales, some 30 years later, my father was working as a reporter, columnist and editor for *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, Ruth's prediction having been proved accurate. On some level I must have internalised her critique and its implied, if unintended, compliment as I would often try to provoke Ruth (then still teaching and onto her second generation of recalcitrant Millers) into writing the same comment on my essays. I don't recall if I ever succeeded in attracting the epithet, but perhaps she did not want to encourage me to spend even less time studying for my History A Level and even more time writing for and editing the B-Daily.

It is not quite true that my father didn't learn much else at Bedales. Later in his book he admits that he

honed his craft in the wonderful Bedales Library: "There I discovered the best book ever written about journalism: *Scoop*, by Evelyn Waugh, about the adventures of the accidental war correspondent William Boot," he wrote. "Waugh based the story on his own experiences as a *Daily Mail* correspondent in 1935, during the Italian-Abyssinian war. When I went to Kosovo as a mid-life debutant war reporter, after my misadventures with Rupert Murdoch, keen to cross the Boot of the Beast fantasy off my bucket list, I discovered the novel was essentially true."

My father's other inspiration, after Waugh and Whiting, was Tintin. This was because, he explained, Tintin never had to file a story and always got to take his dog to work. Two decades ago my father settled in a small village in France. Ensconced between Montpellier, the progressive university city, and the old Cathar stronghold of Beziers, he served as *The Spectator*'s French political correspondent, writing for the magazine and website. It was here in rural France, in his last act in a career that had taken him from Detroit, Cincinnati and Dayton to Washington, DC and London, that he finally got to cross this last Tintinian fantasy off his bucket list: When the Gilets Jaunes movement started in France in late 2018 as a grassroots protest against fuel tax hikes and the rising cost of living, he was able to get stuck in because the demonstrators, in their high visibility gilets, were his neighbours. While journalists in Paris were demonising the demonstrators, he was able to build a rapport with them on the roundabouts where they'd set up their camps – accompanied, at all times, by his Labrador-cross, Ringo.

If Bedales is where the seeds of my father's career in journalism were planted, it is also where he learnt to be a troublemaker. He is immortalised in Bedales lore for attempting to flood the Quad for Deeves (the still-visible watermark attesting that the hoped-for deluge never got above two inches). In another misadventure, he once finished a cross-country race in a taxi that he had summoned to pick him up along the route, complete with top hat. In *Shock of the News*, he wrote of his time at Bedales that he was "noisy and not a great student. I subscribed to *The Economist* on the school's rate, hid in the library, wrote a few pieces for The Chronicle, sneaked off to the Good Intent public house in Petersfield, where they were not fussy about age, and tried to stay awake in lessons. I recently wrote a rude piece about the school for *The Spectator* and suspect I am now *persona non grata* there". Ever the troublemaker.



My father was part of that cohort of journalists that was the last to work with hot type and the first to work with Atex. In what would turn out to be the last year of his life, he spent much of his time working on his memoir. If you are minded to read it, you will find a love letter to the rolled-up sleeves and pencil stubs era of journalism, when the clacking of typewriters and hollers of "Copy!" filled newsrooms. It's a story about making trouble when it matters, and never taking no for an answer. It's also a story that would not have been possible had he not received an education – formal or otherwise – at Bedales. At the risk of *encourage les autres*, perhaps Bedales will see fit to put a copy in the library.

Alysen Miller (1989–99), daughter



David W Morris (1943-47, former governor 1967-75)

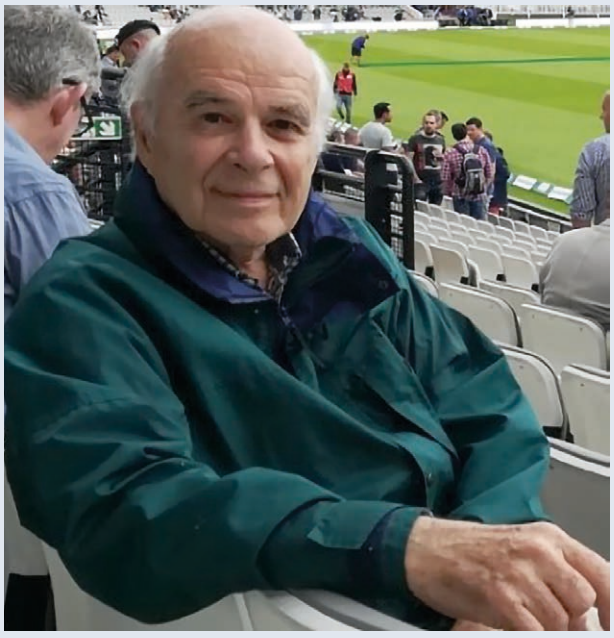
David Morris died aged 94 on 30 June 2024 in London. His mother **Gwynneth (staff, exact dates not known)** taught at Dunhurst and Bedales in the early 1920s and David was the first of 13 family members to go to Bedales.

His fond memories of Bedales during and just after the War included a relaxed feeling towards exams, hot summers playing cricket, cold winters for tobogganing and ice hockey on a frozen Petersfield Lake. David enjoyed playing the violin in the school orchestra in the Lupton Hall and participated in plays under the direction of **Rachel Cary Field (staff, 1941-75)**.

David studied Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University. In his first year he formed a string quartet and gave recitals at other halls of residence. After Loughborough and in the middle of a two-year commission into the REME for National Service, David returned to Bedales for an OB weekend. **Annzella Morris (née Wilson, 1945-46)** also attended the OB reunion, and they were married in September 1953. Together they enjoyed a long and happy marriage and celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2023.



David was a Bedales governor from 1967-75, at the time when **Tim Slack (Head, 1962-74)** was headmaster. New classrooms were constructed in the orchard and a separate boys' accommodation was built. Pupil numbers were increased from 250 to 350 and this helped to make the school financially viable. The cold and often iced swimming pool was unpopular, and with limited funds available, David designed and purchased a heating system. He used the school central heating boilers located in the bike sheds and helped to dig and install the pipework with an outdoor work party, and the Estate staff. The project was achieved using a £900 gift.



An active parent with three children (**Jonathan, 1968-75**; **Melanie, 1968-73**; and **Fiona, 1969-75**) and later two grandchildren (**Jesse, 2005-11** and **Samuel, 2005-10**) at Bedales, David was chairman of the appeal for funds to build the new sports hall, opened on completion with a celebratory basketball match moved from the old gymnasium.

David worked as an engineer in the Steel Company of Wales and moved to become Chief Project Manager at Air Products Limited in London and then Director at Dorr-Oliver Limited until 1991. He was responsible for the building and maintenance of machinery and equipment and ensured that each of his plants and systems functioned properly and effectively.

Bedales provided many hobbies for retirement, and he retained an interest in music and art and everything outdoors, including sport, hiking in the Alps and gardening. David liked nothing better than to dismantle and repair temperamental lawnmowers and household appliances, for which there were no longer spare parts. He always had a way of making everything work again, with repairs carried out in his own unique style, making us smile. Above all, David was a true family man. ✪

Annzella Morris (1945-46) and family

Sylvia Nathan (née Galloway, 1943-49; former BGTF trustee)

Sylvia Nathan, who has died aged 94, enjoyed a very rich and varied life. Some of her happiest moments were at Bedales and she maintained that connection as a trustee of the Bedales Grants Trust Fund in later life.

She was born in Manchester, to Peggy and Leslie Galloway, where he was working as a microbiologist; and at only three moved with his work to India, where she had a pony, a monkey, rabbits and 10 servants, before the family returned home and settled in Wimbledon just prior to the War.

Her father was concerned that her ambition in those days to be a stable hand sold that intelligence short and arranged for her to have vocational guidance to raise her sights.

So began a chain of events which saw her win a scholarship from Wimbledon High School to Bedales. According to the life synopsis which she wrote, her first impressions were that there was much more freedom, a better relationship between pupils and staff, and sensible rules. She recalled enjoying handicrafts, Saturday evening lectures, reading, cinema and nature, and also acted in a number of plays, as well as making lasting friendships. Increasingly though it was at Bedales where her lifelong love of music was really nurtured.

At the second time of asking, in 1949 she was accepted to read Modern Languages at St Hugh's College, Oxford. She spent large parts of her 20s working abroad, in Germany, Switzerland and Belgium. Mixing work and interests, her main role was working for nature conservation and animal welfare charities, and she was proud of being the last surviving member of the meeting that established a new organisation called the World Wildlife Fund.

Returning to London and working as a technical translator for a pharmaceutical company, she met Bruce Nathan, at the Royal Overseas League in London and they were married in 1964, settling first in Putney, then New Malden, and had two boys, Andrew and Paul.



Sylvia gave up work to focus on family, although she remained extremely busy with music and charity work. This included being appointed a trustee of the Bedales Grants Fund in 1970, beginning a further association of over 30 years with her alma mater. She would also contrast her progressive upbringing with the public school her sons attended, which was more traditional and disciplinarian even well into the 80s.

By the mid-70s the family had moved to Crowthorne in Berkshire, where she was to stay for nearly 50 years. She started a new phase of her career, receiving a teaching certificate. She taught several different modern languages in local evening classes, and after setting up a successful after-school club and recorder group at her boys' prep school, then taught violin and piano at local schools for over 25 years, with knowledge, enthusiasm and patient good humour.

Even when she belatedly retired, she kept up an exhausting schedule, including holidays with Bruce; a sports club for older people; and continued to be a loyal and valued violin or viola player with numerous symphony orchestras and chamber music quartets, as well as playing the piano for fun. She also discovered the University of the Third Age and belonged to an impressive array of groups.

Though she withdrew gradually from a lot of her external activities in later years, she enjoyed looking back on her past and keeping in touch with Bedales activities. A couple of years back, she was delighted to read a letter in the annual newsletter enclosing pictures from the Snowdonia summer camp 1949 and instantly recognised herself.

Bruce passed away in 2020, and Andrew and Paul and her two grandchildren survive her.

Andrew Nathan, son



Joan New (née Meier, 1936-49)



Born in Rugby in 1931, Joan arrived at Bedales in September 1935 when her father, **Frederic Meier (Head, 1935-46)**, took up his post as Head after the retirement of **John Badley (Headmaster, 1893-1935)**.

She began her school life at Dunhurst the following year, moving up to Bedales in 1942. Although the family home was on the premises, Joan boarded along with other pupils to fully immerse herself in school life, playing in the school orchestra and singing in the choir as well as captaining the girls' tennis team. A talent for Maths showed in her school certificate results but was not to be revisited until later in life. Instead, Joan chose languages in the Sixth Form. Friends and family were always in awe of Joan's extraordinary abilities, her quick mind and her love of learning and have never been able to explain why she failed to get an Oxbridge place. Instead, she studied French and German at University of Exeter, then University College of the Southwest, and nobody was the least surprised when she graduated with a rare-at-the-time first class degree. Despite a letter from the head of department encouraging her to continue to PhD, Joan left academia and began working life in London, living with her older sister **Daphne (1935-43)**, also an Old Bedalian.



Frederic, (Frieda) Daphne and Joan; haymaking on the lax pitch in front of The Wing, August 1940

As a young graduate in London, Joan joined the Inter Varsity Club, finding new friends with similar interests – tennis, jazz, writing and acting in cabaret sketches and musicals. By 1958 she was working at the recently launched *Which?* magazine, becoming eventually their writer of car reports. Outside work, Joan joined the Hampstead Choral Society, the Labour Party and CND where she was on several of the historic Aldermaston marches. Drawn back to her best school subject, Joan began teaching herself Maths via correspondence courses, taking O and A Level exams in Pure and Applied Maths, and eventually enrolling at Birkbeck to pursue a second degree. As part of her Maths degree, she took a single module in, then-embryonic, computing which was to prove significant.

After graduating, Joan took a job at Philips Electrologica which was developing forerunners to personal computers. From there she went to North London Poly as chief programmer of their brand-new

computing service. Here she stayed until retirement, after which she programmed freelance for a few years, working on government contracts.

Joan married twice – once to Mick Farmer, a fellow student at Birkbeck, and latterly to George New, brother of her old Exeter friend Anne. With no near surviving relatives, the New family were to become Joan's closest family over the next decades. She became a much-loved stepmother to George's son, William, a grandmother to his children, Evie and Luca, and a wonderful aunt to Kitty and Helen. George and Joan shared many interests and developed several new hobbies together – sailing, recorder playing, cycling, golf. In retirement they moved from Fulham to Salisbury. Far from idle, Joan continued learning, adding Spanish and Ancient Greek to her languages. Birdwatching, a hobby begun in young adulthood, was properly indulged in retirement when she enjoyed several ornithological holidays and sponsored the local population of bustards.

A delight in puzzles was right at the core of Joan's being. In fact, she regularly complained that she needed to cut down on the time spent daily on various puzzles. *The Times* 'Cryptic Crossword' was usually completed before breakfast. Letters and cards from her were home-made with a complicated origami design. An avid Agatha Christie fan (solving the puzzle before the denouement was just her sort of challenge), the last book Joan read was, unsurprisingly, a Poirot story – but in a Spanish translation. Her curious mind and joyous approach to problem solving was infectious and she, in turn, loved working with others. At Christmas every year she arrived with a quiz which she had devised herself and shared enthusiastically. She also brought the Christmas jigsaw, a group project completed under Joan's rules; looking at the picture wasn't allowed, making the task more challenging, more collaborative and a lot more fun!



Her joy both in problem solving and in collaboration with others was what made her a keen and much-appreciated teacher in several disciplines. In Salisbury, she taught computer skills at the local college but also ran U3A recorder groups and origami classes until the end of her life – for which she was widely appreciated and admired locally as evidenced by the numbers that attended her funeral in October 2025.

Kitty Bocking (niece), William New (stepson), Helen Saunders (niece)



Stephen Plaistow (1948-55)

Remembering Stephen Plaistow, writer and Broadcaster

Peter Quantrill recalls a figure who communicated complex ideas and techniques to wide audiences with insight, eloquence and generosity



Writing about music was what Stephen Plaistow did as well as anyone in English for 60 years, in countless *Gramophone* reviews above all. It was, all the same, only one part of his working life, and not a dominant one. As a producer at the BBC, firstly under William Glock, then Robert Ponsonby and John Drummond as successive Controllers of Radio 3, Stephen made 100s of recordings and broadcasts of the music he believed in, and of the musicians who believed in it too. 'The most trusted of all my colleagues,' recalled Drummond of Plaistow, as Editor of Contemporary Music at Radio 3, 'an excellent pianist and a fine all-round musician… I depended greatly upon his judgement.'

Those musicians included the Melos Quartet playing Beethoven and Schubert, Pierre Boulez conducting Debussy and Boulez, Michael Gielen conducting Webern and Gielen; and many others, searchable on the BBC Genome site, who took their craft as seriously as he did. When, back in 1971, Stephen gave a broadcast talk on 'The Musician as Music Critic', he could do so with comfortably worn authority. As a pianist-critic, he had the literature under his fingers. At a Chopin festival in a London church, I saw him play the *Polonaise-Fantaisie* with an articulate command enviable by any standards, let alone for a pianist in his late 70s.

To present *Building a Library* programmes on the *Années de pèlerinage* one month, and on Elliott Carter another, did not tax the store of Stephen's musical insights, or his ability to translate complex ideas and techniques into down-to-earth English. For him, Liszt and Carter belonged to a canon of art music that will always reward our ears and our minds, and in working according to that belief he exercised a profound influence upon me and (I hope) upon everyone else who heard and read and met him.

At piano master-classes in Cambridge and elsewhere, he was invited to share some of those insights. He did this with the generosity, the wisdom and the exact, sometimes sharp turn of phrase familiar to his readers, his listeners and his friends alike. Stephen could count Boulez and Brendel as friends, and his profiles of them in *Gramophone* are accordingly all the richer for it, not in terms of gossipy familiarity, but in drawing on an affinity of values as well as a mutual warmth which illuminate their conversations in print. His words were always considered, and he held himself to the highest standards when writing them down. A piece by Stephen said no more and no less than it needed to.

When he met personal tragedy, and latterly affliction, Stephen bore it stoically. Beyond music, he took particular pleasure in good food, and wines from the Loire. A long-shuttered establishment behind the South Bank offered both. After a Henze opera at the Young Vic or the Takács Quartet playing Beethoven at the QEH, we would dine there, and I tried (and failed) to do more listening than talking. As a producer, a writer and a complete musician, he set an example for closer listening and deeper thinking, and everything he did invited others to follow that example. ✪

Peter Quantrill

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I got to know Stephen at Bedales School. We played quite a lot of the clarinet and piano repertoire, and decided to go with **Bill Salaman (1951-58)** for a trip to Salzburg.

We stayed with Olga Zweig in Winzergasse; the staircase smelling strongly of onions and garlic! Olga was quite a character, walked around with her boot laces loose, saying 'hello' to many people in the street. She was related to Stephan Zweig, the writer.

We went to some fantastic concerts in Salzburg before travelling to visit Bill's uncle in Vienna. ✪

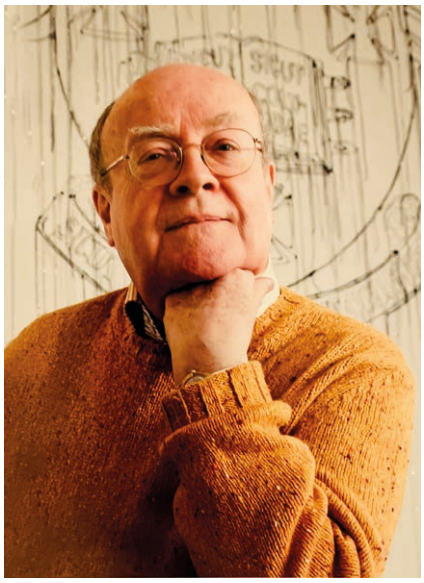
Julia von Hauenschild (née Rayson, 1950-56)

Not only musician but also train buff!

When Stephen was in Block 1, aged about 11, he decided that boarding school was not for him. So he walked down to Peef (Petersfield) train station and… took the train home, to Welwyn Garden City I think at the time. He must have had sufficient pocket money to buy the ticket, and he was already such an accomplished train buff that he knew by heart the train schedule from Petersfield to home, with two changes. He reached home safely, but his parents were out! He rang at the neighbours, who took him in until his parents returned.

His parents were very kind and understanding, but nevertheless, after a couple of days at home to recover from his adventure, they decided after a phone call to **Hector Jacks (Head, 1946-62)** to take him back to Bedales. Stephen remembered that this time, and thanks to the kindness of Hector who took him under his wing, he managed to settle in. When I arrived at Bedales in Block 2 in 1952, Stephen was in Block 4 and thanks to his piano playing (not his knowledge of trains!) was already quite an important Bedalian figure.

André(w) Voilley (1952-58)



Thalia Brenda Polak (née Salaman, 1944-49)

Thalia was born in London in 1932. A gifted sculptor, she was the second child of Esther Polianowsky, a physicist and writer, and **Myer Salaman (1918-20)**, a pathologist. Authors and scientists frequented their home. Holidays were often spent at the large Cambridgeshire home of Myer's father, physician Redcliffe Salaman, a noted figure in the Anglo-Jewish community.

With the start of WW2, the family was invited to share the home of Frances and Francis Cornford in Cambridge. Thalia recalled a sense of freedom, exploring with her older sister **Nina (1942-44)** as the adults were too preoccupied to pay attention (Myer was with the RAMC tending to wounded soldiers, Esther was translating Russian poetry). But the strictness of the Perse School did not suit her, and in 1944 (thanks to funds from her great aunt Brenda Seligman) she was sent to Bedales, the progressive boarding school in Hampshire that Myer and his siblings had attended a generation before. At Bedales, Thalia painted scenes of war, sang and played the cello.



When the family returned to London, Thalia was sent to St Paul's School and got a place at University of Cambridge to read Mathematics, but she spent her gap months attending art school in Newcastle, where she discovered her gift for sculpture. Following sister Nina (and their mother before them) to Cambridge's Newnham College, she found that she could continue her work in sculpture by taking evening classes at the tech (now ARU). Soon she was making terracotta portrait heads of live models. One was included in an exhibition and won a prize. Thalia delighted in this recognition, recalling that suddenly people of some significance wanted to talk with her.

During this time Thalia was given great encouragement by Gwen Raverat, a noted artist and sister of Frances Cornford, who she knew from the wartime years in Cambridge. She explored Cambridge's many stone masons' yards, collecting offcuts, and during the summer of 1953 Gwen allowed her to carve a stone figure in her garden on the banks of the Cam.

She later described her struggle to get the heavy carving onto the train to London along with all her luggage at the end of her Cambridge term.

Thalia met **Dolf Polak (1938-42)**, a doctor and violinist, at a Bedales reunion concert in 1953. Although their time at Bedales had not coincided, she knew of him from music circles. He was to conduct *Dido and Aeneas*, and she was supposed to sing the part of a witch, but she lost her voice. To cheer her up, a friend suggested they walk over to the house of beloved teachers **Barbara (staff, 1923-58)** and **Geoffrey Crump (staff, 1919-45)**: as they started through the garden the door opened and there was Dolf. He too loved the Crumps and played music with their oboist son.

Thalia and Dolf were married in 1954 and set up home in London, where three of their four children – **Louisa**, **Jenny** and **Ben** were born, with **Kate** arriving during a stint in Boston, USA. All later attended Bedales. In 1964 Dolf got a job in Portsmouth setting up a pioneering renal unit, and the family moved to Bedhampton. They renovated an old rectory, creating a large music room: they lived there for 40 years, hosting many musician friends and neighbours whom Thalia would welcome with food and warmth.



In Bedhampton, Thalia had space for her work: she made a workshop in an old hayloft where she carved wood sculptures and made plaster figures for casting. Eager to share her love of art making with her children and others, she ran weekly sessions during which she led art projects in all sorts of media. Thalia worked hard at motherhood and homemaking, putting in extra time to support daughter Jenny who in 1965 became very ill. She grew vegetables and made jam and chutney. An excellent seamstress with a degree in Maths, she taught her children to sew – and also to solve equations.

After treatment for breast cancer in the 80s, Thalia needed a new project. Her uncle **Raphael Salaman (1918-25)**, an expert in industrial archaeology, asked her to assist with research for his new *Dictionary of Leather-Working Tools 1700-1950* (published in 1986). She was given access to the archives at the museum of the 17th century naval flagship Victory in Portsmouth and threw herself into documenting a plethora of tools there. She continued to carve, exhibiting alongside Jenny in 1993 at the Bedales Gallery.



In 2006 Thalia and Dolf moved to Fulbourn in Cambridgeshire, where they were warmly welcomed by local chamber music players, and Thalia began carving her long running series of 'Couples', semi-abstract pairs of figures, often giving them as gifts to friends and family on special occasions. Her solo show at Broughton House Gallery in Cambridge in 2007 brought together a series of these works. When Dolf died in 2022, they had been married for 68 years.



Thalia leaves four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Thalia's children: Louisa Steel (née Polak, 1972); Jenny Polak (1974-76); Kate Polak (1976-78) and Ben Polak (1975-80)

Richard Redman (1935-44; former governor)
Jane Redman (née Chapman, 1941-48)



Richard Redman was born in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire in 1926, the only child of Frank and Kath Redman. Frank, a First World War veteran and mill owner, was a practical man with a curious mind. Having missed out on a progressive education himself, he was instantly taken by Bedales when they visited in 1935. He declared: "This is where I'd have liked to go to school." Richard arrived at Dunhurst that autumn, moving up to Bedales in 1938 as war clouds gathered.

Richard thrived on practical work and science and was inspired by fellow Bedalian **Rendal Sebastian 'Bassy' Pease (1934-40)**, later head of the UK Atomic Energy Authority. Richard's own academic career was complicated by what would now be recognised as dyslexia, but his enthusiasm for making and fixing things was boundless. He was a stagehand and stage manager for the young **Rachel Cary Field (staff, 1941-75)**, second clarinet to **Gervase de Peyer (1939-43)** which he played into his '90s and in 1943 was made head boy, an honour that delayed his call-up until the end of the school year.

Expecting to join the RAF, being an Air Cadet, he was instead sent as a 'Bevin Boy' to Woolley Colliery in Barnsley, he later called it his "finishing school". He emerged in 1948 as an inspector, still coughing up coal dust two years later, and with a lifelong respect for miners. While at the pit, he attended Manchester Technical College (later UMIST) where he met another young manufacturer, Jo Gregson, later Lord Gregson, who was a lifelong friend. Both men were keen sailors, skiers, climbers, and Labour Party members, and were often accompanied in their adventures by **Wendy Brownsort (née Melville, 1930-43)** and her family.

Richard joined the family firm, Redman Brothers, in the late 1940s and was soon sent on a US-sponsored tour to study manufacturing efficiency. From that point on, "efficiency" became a personal creed, which he took into the role of a Bedales Governor in 1967, soon after which the school expanded significantly. He introduced one of the first ticker-tape Burroughs computers in the clothing industry around 1970, taught himself to program, and designed his own systems when he decided the supplied software was "too simple." His computer use was well ahead of its time.



Unfortunately, his focus on production overlooked the coming global shift to Far Eastern manufacture, and the family firm fell victim to economic changes and a Lloyds Bank loan recall after the Falklands War. Five hundred jobs were lost – a blow he felt deeply. However, never one to dwell on setbacks, Richard bought the company's IT equipment and set up a small software business, selling his systems to other clothing manufacturers until his retirement in 1991.

Sailing remained a lifelong passion. In the 1950s he built his own Enterprise dinghy and sailed most weekends. Finding the drive to Lee Sailing Club in Lancashire too long, he founded Halifax Sailing Club in 1959.

The club still thrives today, with his eldest son ***William (1967-74)*** currently serving as Commodore. Richard was a man of (not always) quiet determination, fond of gadgets, good design and a well-sharpened chisel, still tinkering in his workshop well into his 90s, only frustrated by his failing eyesight. He died in bed at home aged 98, in May 2024.

Jane Redman (née Chapman) was born in Sheffield in 1929 to Dr Dora and Dr Arthur William (David) Chapman, a physician and research chemist respectively. Jane was practical, quick-witted and full of "nous". She moved to Bedales during the War, where she discovered her love of acting and formed friendships that lasted a lifetime, especially with **Eileen Woodburn (née Smart, 1940-47)**. Not bookish, as she'd say, but immensely capable to the extent that she was given the honour of being appointed head girl.



After the War, much to the delight of **Rachel Cary Field (staff, 1941-75)**, she trained as an actress at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, followed a generation later by **Daniel Day Lewis (1970-75)** before working on stage in London and Sheffield. She met Richard at an Old Bedalian reunion, he had a car and a stash of dried bananas, and the rest was history. They married in 1953 at the Sheffield Registry Office, firm in their shared atheism, and spent their honeymoon on a ski trip that Jane later described as "character-building". This was Jane's introduction to the sport and involved walking up the mountains to ski down. They shared a tiny bed where Jane dreamt of their skis getting tangled. The marriage, happily, survived, and they continued to ski well into their 80s.

The couple built their home, Underwood, and within five years had four sons: **William (1967-74)**, **Daniel (1968-75)**, **Tobias (1968-75)** and **Martin (1971-78)**, all of whom later attended Bedales. Ever resourceful, when twins arrived unexpectedly Jane put one in a drawer for a cot, remarking only that "it worked perfectly well".

When the boys started going to school, Jane turned to teaching and spent many years at Midgley School where she was remembered for her warmth and humour. She also threw herself into the WI, helping fund the purchase of a Yorkshire HQ in York, only to see London HQ later sell it and pocket the proceeds. "They stole our HQ!" she declared, helping to form the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association in protest. Jane remained a proud member until the end.

She was a talented cook, knitter, cross-stitcher and gardener, her daffodils still appear in unlikely corners, and an unflappable crew for Richard's many sailing adventures. He was a notoriously "shouty helm", and once, mid-race, despite being very tolerant, to make her point that he was really being too loud, mid water, Jane simply got out of the boat. She much preferred the calmer waters of domestic entertaining, where she excelled.

Jane and Richard's hospitality was legendary. Turn up unannounced and there would be no apologies - "sorry the house is such a mess" - just "would you like a sherry?" Sixteen for supper was no bother for Jane. She did have a habit of underestimating quantities though, but when the table was bare, she'd beam and say, "Just guessed". There would always be plenty of pudding however, as well as laughter, stories and booze. She died after a short hospital stay in May 2025 aged 96, a year after Richard.

Together, Jane and Richard shared more than 70 years of marriage, a partnership built on mutual respect, curiosity, and a practical Yorkshire sense of humour. They travelled, sailed far, built their own home, raised four sons, saw all of them educated at the school that had shaped their own lives, and opened their home to family and friends with unstinting warmth.

Both were fiercely independent and lived at Underwood until the end of their lives, still tending the garden, mending, making and welcoming visitors; surrounded by the things they built and the people they loved.

They shared an unpretentious love of life. Practical, humorous, and somewhat stubborn, they embodied the Bedales spirit of curiosity and self-reliance.

William Redman (1967-74), son

Margaret Jill Trubshawe (1936-46)



Jill was one of those rare people who seemed genuinely interested in most things and pursued knowledge for its own sake, driven by inexhaustible curiosity and enthusiasm which could be both infectious and inspiring. Unconventional yet well-informed, with few topics off limits, she relished discussion and fulfilled the role of mentor for receptive young minds. She was a caring friend and devoted to her extended family, travelling widely to keep in touch in person, not only within the UK but also to Malta, Libya, Canada, Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

Born on 22 May 1929, Jill was the third and youngest child of **Vyvyan 'Vyv' Trubshawe (1905-12)** and **Pamela 'Pam' (née Clerke, 1916-18)**. Her father was an architect, and early childhood was spent in Hampstead and Sussex. In 1936, due to her mother's ill health, Jill was sent to Dunhurst aged seven, while her beloved elder brother and sister, **Peter (1936-42)** and **Biddy (1937-44)**, became pupils at Bedales. She began school life by boarding with the Gimsons at Five Oaks; **Basil Gimson (1896-1904; staff, 1911-47)**, was Bedales' Second Master, and he and 'Mrs Gimmy' had been good friends since Vyv's school days. Jill showed promise in many subjects and especially drawing and painting. She was a good swimmer and diver, and enjoyed singing and playing the cello. Holidays were always particularly happy times when sailing, fishing, hiking and music making were very much part of family life.[1]

On leaving Bedales Jill studied painting at Camberwell Art School before reading Architecture at the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London. Subsequently she moved to Trinity College, Dublin, where she graduated with an Honours degree in History in 1955. Devastatingly, that same year her mother died from an asthma attack on holiday with the family in Wales. Jill returned to London to live at home in St John's Wood and, having trained as a secretary, became a scientific editorial assistant with the publishing firm of Hutchinson & Co. Later she decided to resume studying painting and attained the National Diploma in Design from the Byam Shaw School of Art. By now, she was living on Chiswick Mall in Homefield House which her father had purchased together with Pam's brother-in-law and sister, Robin and Barbara (Bar) Fisher. Here Biddy and Jill shared the self-contained top floor flat overlooking the Thames, which she never tired of painting.



Jill in St. Vincent

It was at the Byam Shaw that Jill met her future husband, Owen (Sap) Coombs, who she married in 1969. A Vincentian by birth, he had first arrived in Cardiff from the West Indies to run as a quarter miler in the British Empire and Commonwealth Games. In 1973 they moved to the Caribbean and built a house in a rural valley on St Vincent. Here they set up a successful business – screen-printing textiles chiefly for the tourist market, but also undertaking commissions locally. Sadly, by the end of the decade the marriage had failed and Jill returned home to England in 1980 to live in Putney, not far from her sister's family in Richmond.

She had acquired 69 Galveston Road prior to departing for St Vincent, and now the Victorian property

became her refuge for nearly two decades, enabling her to accommodate lodgers as well as providing plenty of scope for her DIY skills. In addition to helping with costs, her academic students were a welcome source of interesting company, and several became lifelong friends. Meanwhile Jill took various jobs such as working part-time in the office of a Savile Row tailor, and later taking on pre-school childcare for a neighbour. She continued to paint and exhibited occasionally at the Mall Galleries with The Royal Society of British Artists and The Royal Institute of Oil Painters, displaying her work in frames she constructed herself. An avid visitor to museums and art galleries she always tried to keep up to date with the latest exhibitions. She also joined various classes including pottery where she enjoyed experimenting with glazes on her well-thrown domestic ware, and geology which had implications for her interest in both botany and architectural materials. A course on computing and IT skills helped her to keep in contact with family and friends and satisfied her thirst for information.

In 1998 Jill moved to 30 Broad Street, Portsmouth, delighting in her modern, light and sunny home with its expansive views of the Solent from her top-floor studio. The sea breezes were beneficial for her health, and she was comfortingly close to her brother's family in Bosham and to where she had spent her formative years, with Bedales as her touchstone. She continued to pot, paint and exhibit and also became increasingly interested in ancestry, tracing detailed family trees and cataloguing and indexing her father's correspondence from World War I which she presented to the archive at Bedales.[2] Jill died in Rowans Hospice on 20 July 2025, aged 96, to the end retaining complete clarity of mind and touchingly appreciative of how her younger relations and friends rallied to support her in her final months. ✪

Barley Roscoe (family friend); Pamela Beaugié (née Petersen, 1983-88), niece

[1] For more background regarding childhood, school days and holidays see the respective obituaries for Bridget (Biddy) Parba Petersen (née Trubshawe), OB Newsletter 2025, and Peter Oswald Eric Trubshawe, OB Newsletter 2014

[2] These may be accessed in the Bedales archive under 'Trubshawe Papers'

James Woodward-Nutt (1947-53)

My father, known as Jim, died in April 2025 aged 90. He was a television engineer who began his career at the BBC. He went on to set up the first colour television service at a British university, and joined Racecourse Technical Services as head television engineer, working on its coverage of horse race meetings all over the UK.

Alongside his TV work Jim was a busy local politician with the Liberal and then Liberal Democrat parties, serving as a councillor in Aberdeen for five years in the 1980s, and was a champion of consumers, including as a member of the Scottish Consumer Council.

He was born in London, the only child of Dorothy (née Linzell), an artist, and Arthur, a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Aviation.

After attending Bedales, he gained an electrical engineering degree from the University of Southampton before joining the BBC in 1957 as an apprentice television engineer in London, rising to become a studio engineer by 1964, and later spending a number of years in charge of the technical aspects of the BBC Television Theatre.



Jim left the BBC in 1971 to work as a senior television engineer at the University of Aberdeen, where he designed and installed their colour television service – the first of its kind in a UK university. In 1985 he moved to Racecourse Technical Services, where he was eventually in charge of 26 engineers and six outside broadcast units, before retiring in 1995.

Jim was an active campaigner for the Liberal party, and was part of the election team that helped to secure an

unexpected victory for Eric Lubbock, later Lord Avebury, at the 1962 Orpington by-election in Kent.



Jim as an engineering student at University of Southampton (middle of middle row)

He was elected as a Liberal councillor to Aberdeen City Council in 1980 and served until 1985, relishing any opportunity to use his campaigning skills. While giving evidence at a planning inquiry into the extension of Aberdeen Airport, he illustrated the potential impact of noise by setting off an alarm clock, resulting in a reproach from the chair of the inquiry and a front-page photograph in the *Evening Express* in Aberdeen.

Jim had an interest in consumer affairs, co-founding the Aberdeen Consumer Group in the early '70s before becoming a member of the Scottish Consumer Council and a member of the National Federation of Consumer Groups, of which he was chair from 1990-93.

He had a passion for wind and water mills, and in retirement managed the Shipley and Outwood windmills in Surrey on a part-time voluntary basis, milling wheat to produce flour for sale to visitors. Between 2008 and 2010 he was chair of the mills section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

He married Anne King in 1959 after they met at a Liberal party meeting. They separated in the mid-1980s but never divorced. He is survived by their four children, Jo, Kate, Ian and me; three grandchildren, Calum, Clare and Elsie; and a great-granddaughter, Lily.

His daughter Jo brought Jim to attend an OB reunion held in October 2024 – he was so pleased to have been able to visit Bedales one last time before he died.

Claire Woodward-Nutt, daughter



We are very grateful to all the family and friends for their contributions to 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



25 years' service

The following members of staff reached a milestone in their Bedales service last summer: Caz Hulbert (6.2 House Assistant and Lets Manager), Jayne Rundell (Finance) and Rosie Nash (Dance) have worked at the school for 25 years, and we thank them for their dedicated service to generations of Bedalians.

Birthdays

Joan Dannatt (1934-42) celebrated her 100th birthday in January 2025. Joan was Head Girl at Bedales, and her birthday coincided with the opening of her second solo exhibition of prints and paintings, hosted in a café at the end of the road in Canonbury, London where she has lived since 1955.

Hugh Main (1939-40) turned 100 on 13 July 2025. He now lives in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and remains an avid reader of the OB Newsletter. Hugh was born in Shanghai, China and was evacuated during the first Japanese military action there in 1937. He attended Bedales until his parents moved him to Aberdeen Grammar School for safety during The Blitz in 1940. He flew a full tour of 30 missions with Bomber Command, all before his 20th birthday. After the War he studied engineering at Imperial College London, and joined British Thompson Hughston at Rugby. They sent him to Canada to supervise the installation of their hydroelectric generators. He always intended to return to England, but marriage and family life kept him – quite happily – in Canada.

Births

George Alldridge (1998-2006) and Becky, a daughter, Etta Rose, on 27 November 2024

Philip Angell (1993-98) and Elham, a son, Kayhan Fredi, on 3 March 2025

Oscar Braun-White (2008-15) and Georgia, a son, Malcolm, on 6 January 2025

Stephen Davidson (2000-05) and Lauren, a son, Forrest, on 13 March 2025

Emily Headon (2013-18) and Myron Batten, a son, Artemis, on 15 June 2023

Tegen Lambert (née Evans, 2007–12) and Tom, a son, Silas Franklin, on 29 March 2025

Amy Lock (2011-16) and Colin Sisk, a daughter, Ruby Lucy, on 11 November 2025

Lucy McCallum (2004-09) and Julian Longbottom, twins, a son, Robin, and a daughter, Saskia, on 1 December 2025

Rob Merrix (1997-05) and Katherine, a daughter, Hazel Robyn, on 11 March 2025

Matt Naylor (2003-08) and Juliet, a daughter, Samantha Rose, on 2 February 2025

Tabby Taylor (2009-14) and Tommy Carter, a son, Archie, on 13 September 2024

Jonny Vale (1988-95) and Georgia McCall, a son, Oscar Alexander, on 11 July 2024

Liberty Wilson (2001-06) and Henry Peacock, a daughter, Juliette, on 19 February 2025

Engagements

Emily Headon (2013-18) and Myron Batten, on 21 April 2023

Dora Houghton (2011-18) and Captain Joe Richards, on 24 December 2024

George Veys (2008-13) and **Georgie Gulliver (2006-13)**, on 9 June 2025

Marriages

Sophie Barnsley (1998-2000) and Oliver Fortescue, on 24 August 2024

Emily Blackley (2007-15) and **James Sweet (2013-15)**, on 9 August 2025

Oliver Bradley (1997-2012) and Kelly Dudley, on 29 March 2025

Peter Cabrera (1995-2002) and Juliette Chrisman, on 9 August 2025

Georgia Dixon (2011-16) and Tom Rees, on 6 September 2025

Victoria Knight (2003-06) and Thomas Horwood, on 29 June 2024

Polly Morgan (2005-08) and **Cameron McIvor (2002-10)**, on 21 June 2025

Carlos Schuster (1996-2007) and Sarah Adams, on 27 September 2025 (with **Tristan Marmont, 2002-07**, as best man and **Josh Price, 2002-07**, as groomsman)

Deaths

William Agnew (staff, 1967-78), on 2 August 2025

Alison Allwright (née Kerlogue, 1963-68), on 9 July 2025

Hugh Ashton (1995-2002), in April 2025

Stephen Boyd (1956-61), on 8 September 2025

John Bush (1936-46), on 31 May 2025

Peter H Davies (1934-43), date unknown

(David E) Buster de Saxe (1945-51), on 9 January 2022

Christopher Fleming (1955-61), on 6 December 2025

Anthony (Tony) Frisby (1968-70), on 25 May 2025

Sylvia Nathan (née Galloway, 1943-49), on 12 November 2025

Jeremy Hart (1952-57), on 30 October 2024

Anne Hagyard (née Whittaker, 1971-76), in 2021

(John) Quentin Henderson (1961-64), on 30 May 2020

Mary Henderson (née Elder, 1926-39), on 11 January 2025

Julian Langinger (1957-63), on 11 June 2025

Peter Lean (1944-47), on 5 June 2025

Jean Loudon (née Norman, 1937-40), on 15 November 2025

(Mary) Mitzi Martin-Quirk (née Quirk, 1956-64), in November 2025

Janet Middleton (née Bradshaw, 1942-47), on 18 October 2025

Jonathan Miller (1965-68), on 5 July 2025

David W Morris (1943-47), on 30 June 2024

Joan New (née Meier, 1936-49), on 8 September 2025

Thalia Polak (née Salaman, 1944-49), on 3 November 2025

Bridget Petersen (née Trubshawe, 1937-44), on 7 January 2025

Stephen Plaistow (1948-55), on 31 January 2025

Jane Redman (née Chapman, 1941-48), on 7 May 2025

Richard Redman (1938-44), on 9 May 2024

Brian Sack (1985-98), in December 2024

David Saunders (1944-49), on 3 January 2021

Sylvia Staines (née Tankard, 1949-57), on 29 September 2024

Sian Tankard (née Bennett, 1958-65), in October 2023

Christopher Tomlinson (1961-66), on 27 September 2024

Jill Trubshawe (1936-46), on 20 July 2025

Pippa Wallis (née Harris, 1973-78), on 28 January 2025

John Wickham (1941-52), on 8 December 2024

James Woodward-Nutt (1947-53), on 3 April 2025

DESTINATIONS 2025

Class of 2025

Name	Destination	Course
Bay Andersen	Glasgow School of Art	Product and Furniture Design
Blake Anstruther Tanner	London Interdisciplinary School of Art	Interdisciplinary Problems and Methods
Cara Boulsien	University of the Arts London	Art Foundation
Jack Bowdery	Lancaster University	Biology
Poppy Brough	University of Edinburgh	Cognitive Science (Humanities)
Charles Clarke	University of Bath	Politics and International Relations
Charles Cobb	Kingston University	Product and Furniture Design
Frederick Cole	University of Manchester	Architecture
Grace Cooper	Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	Theatre and Production Technology
Angelica Clarke	King's College London	Neuroscience
Toby Dixon	University of the Arts London	Fashion Design Technology: Menswear
Evie Donovan	Kingston University	Art Foundation
Charles Dove	Northumbria University	Computer Science
Nathaniel Edgar	University of Western Australia	Business and Commerce
Chloe Fagundo	Universidad de Navarra	Chemistry
Eliza Fisher	University of Manchester	Religions, Theology and Ethics
Oscar Forster	University of Southampton	Mathematics with Statistics
Hadyn Gillmore	Cardiff University	International Relations and Politics
Caspar Greef	University of Exeter	Computer Science
Bryn Griffiths	Cardiff University	History
Ege Habip	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama	BA Acting
Helena Haque-Bousquet	Kingston School of Art	Art Foundation
Eliza Hayward	University of Manchester	Drama and Film Studies
Anna Heining-Farmiloe	University of Bristol	Physics with International Experience
Jake Heslop	Durham University	History
Niko Hitchens	University for the Creative Arts	Illustration
Jonah Hughes	Leeds Conservatoire	Music (Film Music)
Megan Hui	University of British Columbia	Biology
Nikita Kadhim	KLC School of Design	Interior Design
Georgina Kaye	University of Edinburgh	Religious Studies and English Literature
Miranda Kennedy	Queen's University Belfast	Biochemistry

Class of 2025

Name	Destination	Course
Rosanna Kingsley-Pallant	University of York	English
Edward Lee	University of Bristol	Neuroscience
Jago Levine	Ballymaloe Cookery School, Cork	Chef course
Mila Lloyd-Stevens	Various short courses	Business
Ben Lobbenberg	University of Leeds	International History and Politics
Ciara Lord	University of St Andrews	Management
Nicholas Magrin	University of Southampton	Marine Biology with Oceanography
Neve Mayall	Universidad de Europea de Madrid	Design Management
Pandora Meredith-Hardy	University of Manchester	Aerospace Engineering
Milo Morland	Kingston School of Art	Art Foundation
Esme Murray	University of Reading	Psychology
Jowan Parnwell	University of Exeter	Flexible Combined Honours
Joss Pocock	University of Edinburgh	Interdisciplinary Futures
Florence Pohlschmidt	University of Oxford	History of Art
Kathleen Popplewell	Durham University	Geography
Maria Quental	University of Bristol	Law
Monty Reeve-Gray	University of Oxford	Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)
Katie Reynolds	Norland	Early Childhood Education and Care
Rosy Riley	Trinity Laban	Dance
Sianna Roberts	University of East London	Dance
Harry Robinson	Oxford Brookes University	Criminology and Sociology
Dominic Rowell	Oxford Brookes University	Economics
Lola Sánchez Farmar	University of Bristol	Liberal Arts
Otto Scarlett	University of Manchester	Adult Nursing
Gabrielle Schuiteman	King's College London	Liberal Arts
Jeremy Skulsky	Ithaca College, New York	Biology
Sophie Spencer	University of Oxford	Biology
Lucy Standish	SOAS	Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities
Clara Stannah	Newcastle University	Data Science
Sebastian Stewart	University of the Arts London	Art Foundation
Imogen Israel	King's College London	Culture, Media and Creative Industries

Class of 2025

Name	Destination	Course
Zeki Timimi	Singapore	National Service
Amelia Trench	Liverpool John Moores University	Events Management
Tessa Vafai	Canada	Drama
Matilda Wall	University of Bristol	Modern Languages
Molly White	University of the Arts London	Fashion Styling and Production

Class of 2024

Name	Destination	Course
Elysée Ahsani	Durham University	Modern Languages and Cultures (with year abroad)
Esme Azario	Goldsmiths, University of London	Anthropology
Saffaya Battle	Leeds Conservatoire	Music (Popular) with foundation year
Margot Birtwistle	UCL, University College London	Comparative Literature (with year abroad)
Katharine Cecil	University of Edinburgh	History of Art and English Literature
Oliver Dodd	University of Edinburgh	Social Anthropology and Politics
Jack Duff Gordon	Durham University	Business Management
Sam Gibbon	Newcastle University	Politics and Sociology
Patrick Lewis	Goldsmiths, University of London	History with Politics
Elliot Miles-Booy	Leeds Beckett University	Creative Writing
Louis Pattison	University of Westminster	Finance and Business Management
Teddy Peattie	Leeds Beckett University	Psychology
Rose Purves	University of Liverpool	International Relations
Eric Rye Lees	Goldsmiths, University of London	Popular Music
Greta Stilwell	Glasgow School of Art	Fashion Design

Class of 2023

Name	Destination	Course
Giselle Hayes	Falmouth University	English and Creative Writing
Danil Levchenko	Le Cordon Bleu	Chef course
Guy Martin	University of Southampton	Chemistry
Barbara White Pereira	University of the Arts London	Costume for Theatre and Screen


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