

SHARED MEMORIES AND CONTINUED SUPPORT

# BOLTON SCHOOL

## OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2025

*Issue Number 43*



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## Bolton School Merchandise

A range of three Bolton School branded umbrellas is now available from the School's online merchandise store. The clear golf (£25 plus P&P) is perfect for the side-lines, the black auto golf (£20 plus P&P) offers great coverage for two and the black folding (auto open and close) (£18 plus P&P) is a great size for all. Each umbrella has the Bolton School crest, so makes the perfect gift for students, parents, Alumni or Friends.

Please use the QR code to see the full range of Bolton School merchandise and details of how to order.



## Development Team

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## Stay Connected

We hope you enjoy being kept up-to-date with what is happening at School and within the Old Girl community as much as we value the opportunity to stay connected with you. If your contact details have changed, or if you have not yet let us know your communication preferences and wish to continue hearing from School, then please contact the Development Office as soon as possible, or complete the Alumni Communications Update form found in the 'Alumni and Giving Back' section of the School website, [www.boltonschool.org](http://www.boltonschool.org) or by scanning the QR code below.

## Stay In Touch

	<a href="http://www.boltonalumninetwork.com">www.boltonalumninetwork.com</a>
	Old Boys and Old Girls (Official)
	Bolton School Alumni
	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/boltonschoolalumni">boltonschoolalumni</a>
	Bolton School Alumni
	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/boltonsch">boltonsch</a>
	<a href="http://boltonschool.me/">boltonschool.me/</a>
	<a href="https://bsalumni/albums">bsalumni/albums</a>
	<a href="http://www.boltonschool.org">www.boltonschool.org</a>



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# WELCOME

## From the Chair of the Old Girls' Association

You may be a very keen and active member of the Old Girls' Association, quick to read all the fascinating stories of School as it is now, and happy to see that it is clearly flourishing under the kind and careful leadership of the Head of Girls' Division and the Head of Foundation. Or you may be more of a 'dip in and out' person, rushing first to the memories and the 'matches, hatches and dispatches' stories at the back then flicking through the rest of this magazine, playing 'spot the difference'. All of us have our own lives, and our own stories to tell, and we are all part of the patchwork quilt that is the Old Girls' Association.

I am no special part of this quilt, simply someone who has volunteered to steer us for the coming year. I suppose that I have an unusually close connection, with my grandfather (Harold 'Bill' Brookes) and my father (Dave Allen) having been long-running staff members of the Boys' Division; and with my mother (Margaret Allen, née Brookes, Class of 1957, and long-term OGA Committee member) and my children (Georgi Crompton, Class of 2016, and Marcus Crompton, Class of 2020) also having been to School in their time.

My family has always had a foothold in Bolton, and I find it relatively easy to negotiate time away from work to attend mid-week events at School. Many Old Girls can't do that, and I am pleased to see the use of video conferencing by Zoom in our meetings, enabling access from around the country and the wider world to Alumni events and to student support activities.

In my working life, I am a chartered civil engineer with a long period of service in the public sector. Whilst I started as a highway engineer who built and maintained roads and bridges, I now work in flood risk management and all that means in terms of understanding and responding to human and physical geography, climate change and biodiversity, community engagement and partnership working with other agencies. My career has certainly taken me a long way away from the Maths, Physics and Chemistry A Levels that I took at School. However, I still rely on and deeply respect all the solid building blocks that I gained here of cooperation, respecting difference and applying knowledge in new and unusual ways.

I am sure that whatever your commitment to School since you left, you will share my satisfaction in seeing that these building blocks are still taught and fostered there, vitally underpinning the education and experiences of the current students. I look forward to helping all Old Girls to contribute whatever they can and want to, in support of the current students as they prepare for and relish all that the outside world is offering them.

I also look forward to meeting as many of you as I can at Alumni events – please introduce yourself to me!

**Rachel Crompton (née Allen, Class of 1983)**  
Chair of the Old Girls' Association



## From the Head of Girls' Division

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the *Old Girls' Association Newsletter*. It is a privilege to share with you some of the many highlights from an inspiring year in the Girls' Division and across the wider Foundation.

We have enjoyed some particularly special moments this year. We commemorated the centenary of Lord Leverhulme's death with the launch of the Open Futures Bursary Campaign, which has already gathered tremendous support from our community, and were delighted to have our commitment to social mobility recognised with not one, but two national awards.

As you flick through the pages that follow, you will also see a selection of our pupils' wide-ranging accomplishments. Whether representing the School on the sports field, performing on stage, volunteering in the community or excelling academically, the girls consistently demonstrate the determination, kindness and creativity that are the hallmarks of a Bolton School education.

You will also see articles on the retirements of two long-standing members of the Girls' Division staff – Ms Beresford and Ms Donaghy – both of whom gave tremendous service to the School.

Our largest ever Year 7 started in September and School is fuller now than ever been before. Part of the reason for such strong recruitment is that potential parents very much recognise the benefits of a strong Alumni network. The number of Old Girls who give up their time to motivate current pupils and young Alumnae is exceptional. Whether through talks, interviews, mentoring or philanthropy, your contributions mean a great deal, and we remain deeply grateful for your continued engagement.

It was an honour to welcome acclaimed author Monica Ali to preside over this year's Presentation Evening. Her reflections on embracing uncertainty, working hard, taking risks and believing that confidence and clarity come with time and effort resonated with the audience, particularly our recent leavers who are now embarking on the next stage of their journeys.

As always, the *News of Old Girls* section makes fascinating reading. I always enjoy hearing about the diverse paths former pupils have followed – continuing their studies, developing careers, volunteering and making a difference in so many fields around the world. Whatever direction life takes, it is clear that the values of hard work, kindness and service learned at Bolton School abound.

Attendance at the various Alumni events is growing and it is encouraging to see so many of you returning to School. Of particular note was this year's Decade Reunion for the '5' Classes; it may have been a wet day, but we did not allow that to dampen our spirits!

Thank you to all Old Girls who continue to keep in touch and support the School. Your involvement makes a real and lasting difference to our pupils and staff. I look forward to welcoming many of you back to Bolton soon – whether for a reunion, a concert or simply a walk down memory lane.

**Lynne Kyle**  
Head of Girls' Division





# FOUNDATION NEWS

## A Message from the Head of Foundation

The Autumn Term is a moment to reflect on the enormous amount of activity and endeavour that characterises our School. All of it is showcasing the lives and talents of the boys and girls, being nurtured by a great group of colleagues, to grow into young adults who will make a difference for good as so many of you have before them.

A real highlight of 2025 for me has been the celebration events recognising the life of Lord Leverhulme on the centenary of his death. Since the dinner in School in May, which was focused on philanthropy and where we launched the Open Futures giving campaign, over half a million pounds have been raised of new money and pledges across Alumni, current staff and current parents, as well as many other friends of the School. For me, the way in which this message has resonated shows how sure we are as a community of what we wish to be. It was also a pleasure to join three generations of the Leverhulme family at their own event in Lancaster House and the Leverhulme Trust at their centenary dinner.



Gwynneth, the proud recipient of this year's Award for Distinguished Service to the Old Girls' Association, pictured here with her children, L-R: Rebecca Rotherham (1984), Alison (1978), Zandra Puddephatt (1987) and Clive (1983)

It has also been wonderful to present more Distinguished Service Awards to Alumni, this time recognising the work of Martin Wadsworth (Boys' Division Staff, 1974-2006), Gwynneth Nightingale (née Kirk, Class of 1953) and Jean Howarth (née Lever, Class of 1961). Jean's award was collected posthumously by her sons, but she had known about it in her final weeks and it had given her pleasure.

For 2025-26 I am Chair of HMC, the independent schools' group that represents the major independent schools of the UK and abroad. As I do this work it is a matter of pride that Bolton School and what we stand for and do is so well recognised by so many people nationally. Mr Baggle (Headmaster, 1966-1983) was Chair of HMC in the late 1970s when Direct Grants had been withdrawn. Dr Spurr (Headmistress, 1979-1994) and Miss Hincks (Headmistress, 2011-2021) both were President of the Girls' School Association at critical periods. Perhaps a leader from Bolton is always destined to do their best to help the sector through difficult times.

Finally, I am proud to say our commitment to Social Mobility was recognised by the award of the SOMO award (described as the Oscars of social mobility) for work in schools and colleges. This is a national award and in other categories the winners were companies and organisations who are household names. We also won the Independent School of the Year Award for social mobility. One aspect of the citation was the launch into life beyond school provided by the mentoring scheme. For that, and all else you do for the School, many thanks.

**Philip Britton, MBE**  
Head of Foundation



### Join the Bolton School Alumni Network

**CONNECT**

Explore ways to connect

**LEARN & GROW**

Develop relationships

**VOLUNTEER**

Offer your time and experience

**ATTEND AN EVENT**

Keep up to date with events

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

Share your contact details

Scan Me

### DID YOU KNOW

The **FREE** Business Directory offers self-employed Alumni the opportunity to promote their business and services and presents a networking community which spans the globe.

3,110

Registered users, spanning the UK, the USA, Australia, Canada, the Asia and Europe – offering a truly global community of Old Boys and Old Girls across a wide variety of sectors

1,648

Are willing to offer advice

1,271

Have offered to help review CVs

68%

Are willing to help

1,806

Are willing to answer industry specific questions

1,512

Are willing to introduce other Alumni to their connections

Bolton Alumni Business Directory – over the previous six months 35% of those who have visited the Business Directory page, have gone on to click on the offer page, while 19% of those have gone on to interact with the offer.



# CONTINUING SUPPORT

*For over a century, Bolton School has driven social mobility amongst families in Bolton and beyond. The continuation of that ethos will undoubtedly be fundamental to the School's future success.*

During that time, through the Direct Grant and Assisted Places schemes and then subsequently through its bursary programme, the School has built a ladder of social mobility which has benefited young people and their families in Bolton and beyond.

As a result, successive generations of pupils have enjoyed every opportunity a Bolton School education provides; thousands of whom received a funded place to do so. That socially diverse pupil body – with its mix of fee payers and funded pupils – has always been key to what makes the School so special.

Until the addition of VAT on independent school fees, the School was well on track to achieve its long-standing ambition to grow its bursary programme from the one in five students currently supported, to begin to offer funded places to one in three pupils by the end of this decade. Instead, because of the choices required to ensure the School remains affordable for all following that policy change, by 2030, 100 children who otherwise would have joined the School will be denied the opportunity that would – and should – have been available to them.

The School is intent that the growth of its bursary scheme must continue towards supporting one in three pupils throughout the senior schools – changing the lives of up to 250 more bursary children than are in the School presently – with as little delay as possible.

In May this year, the School proudly launched the Open Futures Bursary Campaign, inviting the entire School community to join together to safeguard the future growth of the bursary scheme, which benefits so many students and families across the Foundation.

## The Open Futures Bursary Campaign – A Transformational Start

Since May, the philanthropic support of Old Boys, Old Girls, Parents, Staff and others has ensured that the Campaign has made a tremendously successful start, with just under £520,000 donated or pledged between May and August.

We are honoured that so many people share our belief in the transformational power of a Bolton School education, and have chosen to offer their support to the Campaign at this vital moment in the School's history. Their generosity, alongside the sustained support of many other donors, meant that, during the 2024-25 academic year, the School was able to spend £3.74m providing bursary support for 359 children in the two Senior Schools.

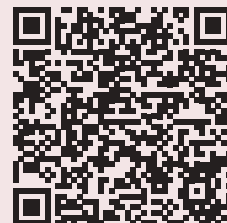
*To be educated at Bolton School is a privilege that should be open to all. Every gift to the Open Futures Campaign, of any size, will help ensure that can be the case, and we hope that the entire School community will join us in our mission and support the campaign however they can.*

If every member of the Bolton School community established a monthly donation of £30, with Gift Aid, our bursary scheme would expand to support one in three pupils within the next decade, changing the lives of up to 250 more bursary children than are in the School presently.

To learn more about the Open Futures Bursary Campaign, and to pledge your support, simply scan the QR code on the right.

Whether you are considering making a one-off donation, establishing a regular gift or remembering the School in your will, your support will make a real difference to the success of the Open Futures Campaign.

If you would like to discuss your intentions in more detail, please contact the Development Office, by calling **01204 434718** or by emailing [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org).



## Bolton School Wins Two National Awards for Social Mobility

*Bolton School's commitment to social mobility has been recognised with two national awards.*

In October it was named School/College of the Year at the 2025 UK Social Mobility Awards (SOMOs). The SOMOs celebrate organisations and individuals who go above and beyond to create opportunities for people from less advantaged backgrounds. Bolton School was shortlisted earlier this year in recognition of its sustained and systematic work to promote social mobility in Bolton and beyond.

Building on this success, the School has also been named Independent School of the Year for Contribution to Social Mobility at the 2025 *Independent School Parent* magazine's Independent Schools of the Year Awards. This latest honour highlights the School's comprehensive commitment to remaining open to all who would thrive here, regardless of family background.

From extensive outreach and partnership programmes to a nationally leading bursary scheme, Bolton School's initiatives continue to transform lives. The scale of this work is made possible through the generosity of Alumni, parents, staff and supporters of the Open Futures campaign.

These prestigious awards acknowledge the transformative opportunities the School has given – and continues to give – to so many young people, and the extraordinary generosity of those who make this possible.





# SCHOOL NEWS



## Leverhulme Woodlands Opening

May saw the grand opening of the Leverhulme Woodlands.

Located at the perimeter of the School site, towards the top of Tudor Avenue, the redevelopment of the Woodlands was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust and the Friends of Bolton School.

The new facilities will ensure that Primary Division pupils are able to explore and work in the outdoors in all weathers. Mr George Apsion, current Governor and great-great-grandson of Lord Leverhulme who founded Bolton School, cut the ribbon to declare the woodlands open. He shared tales of his great-great-grandfather's love for the outdoors, including his outdoor bedroom and how thrilled he would be to see the area which the School has developed for the Primary Division children to enjoy.

## Centenary Dinner

On Friday 2nd May over 130 distinguished guests, including former pupils, Governors past and present, former Heads, civic dignitaries and members of the Leverhulme family, gathered at Bolton School to commemorate the life and legacy of William Hesketh Lever, the first Lord Leverhulme, ahead of the centenary anniversary of his death on 7th May.



Ian Riley and George Apsion lead the guests in to Dinner

After perusing an exhibition celebrating Lord Leverhulme's lifetime achievements and enduring impact, guests enjoyed dinner in the Boys' Division Great Hall. After a formal welcome by the School's Chair of Governors, **Ian Riley (Class of 1981)**, George Apsion, the great-great-grandson of Lord Leverhulme and a current Governor of the School, gave an address, following which Head of Foundation, Philip Britton, launched the School's Open Futures Campaign which aims to secure the growth of the School's bursary scheme to support one in three pupils at the School.



## Inaugural Girls' Cricket Festival

*The Girls' Division PE department proudly hosted its first Girls' Cricket Festival in June, a milestone for local girls' sport.*



Five secondary schools participated in a lively, round-robin tournament, giving Under 13 and Under 15 teams a chance to experience competitive cricket in a friendly and supportive environment, learning the value of teamwork, strategy and sportsmanship. PE teacher and organiser Ms Farrimond-Goff said, "It's fantastic to see so many girls enjoying cricket. We hope this becomes an annual event and that girls' cricket continues to grow both at Bolton School and across the local community."

## AO Scores for Netball

*Bolton School is delighted to announce that AO is sponsoring the Girls' Division Netball team kits.*

AO Founder and CEO **John Roberts (Boys' Division, Class of 1992)** said: "Sport has a hugely positive effect on young people in building their self-confidence, team work and overall aspirations which is why we continue to invest in our grass roots sports kit sponsorship programme."

Students will proudly wear the kit, which features the AO logo alongside the School colours, in all matches throughout the three-year term of the sponsorship.



## Sixth Formers Secure Degree Apprenticeships

Bolton School has seen an increasing demand for degree apprenticeships, and this year has been the most successful year yet, with six Girls' Division students securing placements in the Commercial, Engineering and Finance sectors at some of the most prestigious UK institutions and leading international firms.

Their success marks an inspiring step forward for Bolton School's commitment to supporting diverse career pathways, and the girls' achievements reflect the skills, confidence and professionalism nurtured throughout their time at Bolton School.



## Lacrosse Team wins Northern Schools' Championships for Seventh Year Running

The Girls' Division Senior Lacrosse Squad has secured victory in the Northern Schools' Championships. This is the seventh year in a row that these Year 13 girls have won this tournament, meaning that they have won the title of Northern Schools' Champions every year since they started playing lacrosse in Year 7!

Their victory marks the first time that Bolton School has achieved such an extraordinary run of success over consecutive years.

PE Teacher Miss Andrea Donaghy, who coaches the team, said: "The team's perseverance and focus under pressure paid off, making their exceptional seven-year achievement even more special. Their consistent dominance in the Northern Schools' Championships is testament to the team's dedication and skill, setting a new standard for future squads. Congratulations to everyone involved in the squad!"



## Bolton School Welcomes New Head of Futures

In September Mrs Amanda Potts joined Bolton School as the Foundation's first Head of Futures, a role created to support pupils as they prepare for life beyond A Levels, Higher Education and the workplace.



Mrs Potts studied History at the University of Cambridge and holds an MA in Career Education and Guidance from Warwick. She began her career in national charities, including managing Student Volunteering Week, before spending 15 years in university careers services at SOAS, Reading and Lancaster, where she specialised in supporting medical students. Most recently, she worked as an Associate Tutor at Warwick's Career Studies Unit and is an Associate Fellow of Advance HE.

At Bolton School, she will lead the new Futures Department, delivering tailored careers guidance across the Girls' and Boys' Divisions. She is passionate about helping young people unlock their potential, explore opportunities and make informed choices.

## Bolton School Hosts First Community Iftar

In March Bolton School hosted its first Iftar event to mark the holy month of Ramadan, bringing together students, staff and families to break fast together.



The evening featured Quran recitations, stories of the Prophets and speeches by the Head Girl and School Captain. The Boys' Division Dining Hall was beautifully decorated, and charity leaflets from the Global Rahmah Foundation set the tone for reflection and giving. After prayer in the Great Halls, guests returned to enjoy traditional dishes, including biriyani, samosas and daal. Mr Britton, Head of Foundation, closed the event with words of praise, marking what promises to be the beginning of a valued annual tradition.



## Outdoor Learning Championed in Parliament

In April, Tim Taylor, Director of Patterdale Hall and Chair of the Northern Region of the Association of Heads of Outdoor Learning Centres (AHOEC), attended a Westminster drop-in session organised by MP Tim Farron to advocate for Outdoor Learning.

Nearly 30 MPs engaged with the session, which aimed to reform the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Outdoor Learning and to promote an Early Day Motion highlighting the educational, emotional and societal benefits of learning outdoors. **Phil Brickell MP (Class of 2004)** and local MP **Kirith Entwhistle** also attended in support. Tim highlighted the transformative impact of Outdoor Learning and the need for broader access. Head of Foundation, Philip Britton, reaffirmed the School's commitment, celebrating 30 years of Outdoor Learning at Patterdale Hall.



L-R: Tim Farron MP, Phil Brickell MP and Tim Taylor

## Head of Foundation Elected HMC Chair and Deputy Lieutenant



After a year as Chair Elect, Head of Foundation Philip Britton has taken over as Chair of HMC, the professional organisation for heads of leading independent schools in the UK and internationally.

The organisation supported the Independent Schools Council in its recent High Court challenge of VAT on school fees. It is also strongly focused on building strong partnerships across the educational landscape.

Mr Britton said of his appointment: "It is a professional honour to be elected to chair HMC and it is a privilege to do so. It is also good for Bolton School to be present on the national stage through my involvement."

Mr Britton has also been named as one of 12 new Deputy Lieutenants of Greater Manchester in recognition of his long-standing contributions to education and the wider community. In this role he will support the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Diane Hawkins, in her duties as the King's representative in Greater Manchester.

## Celebrating 30 Years of Patterdale Hall!

On Saturday 17th May Old Boys, Old Girls, former staff and current pupils and their families gathered to mark 30 years since Bolton School began its Outdoor Learning journey at Patterdale Hall.

Guests took part in orienteering, archery, a scavenger hunt and a charity duck race, and enjoyed tea and cake in the sunshine. **Deborah Done (née Lyon, Class of 1989)** officially opened the new archery range.



Tim Taylor, Debbie Done, Philip Britton

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Back in April pupils were presented with their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards by guest speaker **Terance Li (Class of 2000)**.



L-R: William Martin (Gold), Nathan Pierson (Silver), Terance Li, Erin Turner (Gold), Molly Grimshaw (Gold), Danielle Alalade (Silver), Anamika Vardhan (Silver)

During his time at School, Terance participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and was introduced to rock climbing, a passion that has continued throughout his life. Since leaving School, Terance has travelled the world, working in the finance and banking sector while having many adventures along the way!

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is widely recognised as the world's leading youth achievement award and provides the opportunity for young people to attain standards of achievement and endeavour in a wide variety of active interests, serving their community, experiencing adventure and encourages personal discovery, self-reliance and responsibility.

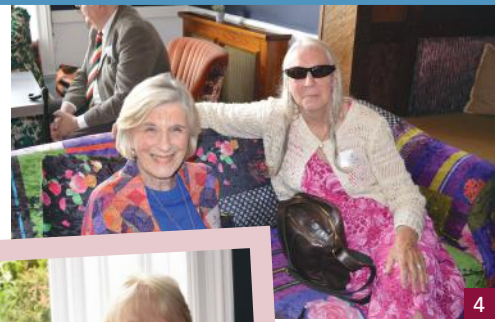
## Lights, Camera, Bursaries!

*Bolton School  
looks great in the  
sunshine in the  
new Costa  
Coffee advert.*



The stunning buildings offer a unique filming location for TV, film and adverts, and the income generated supports the School's bursary scheme – it's a win/win!





## Cumbria Lunch

**The Lindeth Howe Hotel, Windermere,  
Friday 6th June 2025**

*There was a super turnout for this year's Cumbria Lunch which was held as usual at the idyllic Lindeth Howe Hotel where guests enjoyed fine dining and plenty of sunshine.*

- <sup>1</sup> Sheila Tonge (née Baird, 1963), Richard Morris (1986), Mel Morris, Harry Lane (1964), Christine Lane, Peter Tonge (1952)
- <sup>2</sup> Gwynneth Nightingale (née Kirk, 1953), Barry Nightingale (1974; OBA President 2025-26)
- <sup>3</sup> Georgina Crompton (2016), Margaret Allen (née Brookes, 1957), Rachel Crompton (née Allen, 1983; OGA Chairman 2025-26)
- <sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Mullenger (1964), Christine Cottam (1967)
- <sup>5</sup> Yvonne Lowe (née Conroy, 1955), Judy Lowe



## Old Girls' Association Lunch and AGM

**Bolton School, Thursday 12th June 2025**

*Chairman of the Old Girls' Association for 2024-25 Judith Hibbert (Class of 1979) handed over the reins to Rachel Crompton (née Allen, 1983), who will be Chairman for 2025-26.*



- <sup>1</sup> Rachel Crompton, Margaret Allen (née Brookes, 1957)
- <sup>2</sup> Anne Galloway (1979), Rachel Crompton, Rachael Walker (2001)
- <sup>3</sup> Outgoing President Judith Hibbert with incoming President Rachel Crompton
- <sup>4</sup> Jane Mees (née Davies, 1987; current Foundation Staff), Zandra Puddephatt (née Nightingale, 1987)





## Recent Leavers' Reunion

### Bolton School, Monday 23rd June 2025

The Class of 2024 returned to the School to share insights and advice on university life and the world of work with current Year 12 students, before enjoying the chance to reconnect with one another and their former teachers.



<sup>1</sup> Krupa Patel, Fletcher Mellor-Brook, Felicity Field, Liv Hextall, David Chow, Loni Mayoua, Eve Blackmore, Jayden Luhar, Raoul Saxena <sup>2</sup> Eimaan Yaqoob, Adithi Prasad, Nithu Loganathan  
<sup>3</sup> Anna Medvid, Grace Northcott, Cameron Weatherley, Peter Craig, Jacob Simmonite <sup>4</sup> Rianna Latchford, Charlotte Reece, Elliot Rigby, Blythe Cordwell <sup>5</sup> Phoebe Chuck, Ruby Hurt, Ella Brophy, Jess Croston, Lynne Kyle <sup>6</sup> Mr Boyle, Charlotte Reece, Charlotte Hothersall, Rianna Latchford, Blythe Cordwell <sup>7</sup> Miss Langley, Krupa Patel, Loni Mayoua, Mr Ickringill

## Farewell to Year 13 Students and Parents

**Bolton School, Wednesday 25th June 2025**

Year 13 students from both Divisions, joined by their proud and emotional parents, bid 'Au revoir' – but not 'Goodbye' – to Bolton School as they set off on the next stage of their life journeys.



<sup>1</sup> Mia Walters, Freya Wood, Sally Fielding, Erin Turner, Alexia Howarth, Zahara Muhammad <sup>2</sup> Ritti Ma, Parveen Patel, Isabelle Worth <sup>3</sup> Caitlin Hurt, Anna Brennand, Sophie Cutler, Annika Bullen, Coco Jones, Zara Kadva, Emilia Nuttall, Aisling McCabe <sup>4</sup> Caitlin Hurt, Zahara Muhammad  
<sup>5</sup> Vivienne Hall, Emma Taylor-Beardsworth, Nyah Pomian, Karishma Ladha, Maya Guhathakurta



# Foundation Former Staff Lunch

Bolton School, Friday 27th June 2025



There was an excellent turnout at the annual lunch for former staff, where colleagues from across the Foundation enjoyed returning to the School to reconnect with one another and with current staff members.

<sup>1</sup> Helen Beresford (GD Staff, 1987-2025), Julie Stone (GD Staff, 1990-2015), Mary Appleyard (GD Staff, 1999-2009), Sue O'Kelly (GD Staff, 2012-2019), Dan Boyle (current GD Staff)

<sup>2</sup> Elaine Hayes (GD Staff, 1985-2016), Grant Heppleston (GD Staff, 2008-2025), Janet Gilding (née Briddon, Class of 1981; GD Staff, 2008-2018), Julie Derbyshire (née Jackson, GD Staff, 2001-2013), Helen Kelly (current GD Staff) <sup>3</sup> Matt Johnson (current BD Staff), Paul Fernside (BD Staff, 1992-2023), Laura Farrimond-Goff (current GD Staff), Kath Heatherington (GD Staff, 1994-2003), Andrea Donaghy (GD Staff, 1994-2025), Trevor Pledger (BD Staff, 1986-2017), Fiona Dunn (former GD Staff), Rachel Hetherington (current GD Staff), Susi Walters (current GD Staff), Natalie James (née Whittle, Class of 1999; current GD Staff), Sophie Heaton (current GD Staff) <sup>4</sup> Angela Shafiq (GD Staff, 1981-2021), Emma Warburton (GD Staff, 2009-2016), Samantha Neil (current GD Staff), Susan Morrison (GD Staff, 2010-2020) <sup>5</sup> Ann Bradbury (GD Staff, 1999-2008), Barbara Tatlock (GD Staff, 1998-2017), Ruth Brierley (GD Staff, 2015-2021)

<sup>6</sup> Julie Derbyshire (GD Staff, 2001-2013), Tess Felton (GD Staff, 1983-2021) <sup>7</sup> Sandra Kolot (GD Staff, 1985-2010), Judith Naughton (current GD Staff), Georgina Irvine (Class of 1989; GD Staff, 2008-2018) <sup>8</sup> Viv Carter (GD Staff, 2002-2014), Marie Birch (née Pritchard GD Staff, 2002-2014), Sarah Waters (GD Staff, 2007-2019), Kate McLellan (GD Staff, 1996-2025)



## '5' Class Reunion

Bolton School, Saturday 20th September 2025

Torrential rain did not dampen the spirits of Old Girls and Old Boys thoroughly enjoying their decade reunion.

<sup>1</sup> Natasha Khan (2015), Kalina Marsh (2015), Mary Rose Walsh (GD Staff, 2005-2019), Kath Heatherington (GD Staff, 1994-2023) <sup>2</sup> Viv Rink (née Appleyard), Stephen Lewis, Catherine Banks (née Chadwick) (all 1960) <sup>3</sup> Kath Pickering (née Whitelegge), Kathryn Barker (née Mills), Sue Openshaw (all 1975) <sup>4</sup> Vicki Fritzsche-Hurst (née Hurst), Julie Falsner (née Dobson), Anne Lucy (née Armstrong), Kath Pickering (née Whitelegge) (all 1975) <sup>5</sup> Susan Glass, Janet Bianchi (née Strong), Joanna Bradley (née Lawton), Pamela Thompson (all 1985) <sup>6</sup> Michelle Angus (née Lever), Jacque Smethurst (née Mortimer), Susan Featherston (née Mottershead), Eileen Seal (née Sayles) (all 1965) <sup>7</sup> Vidya Jagannath, Justine Steele, Diana Malkin (née Watts), Maxine Robbins (née Raffle), Alison Woolcock (née Woodward), Sarah Cowley (née Kernohan) (all 1985) <sup>8</sup> Anne-Marie Daw (née Mortimer), Kim Carmyllie (née Gardner), Wendy Middleton, Lorraine Chapman (née Rushton), Michelle Hughes (all 1985) <sup>9</sup> Joanne Chadwick, Lucy Georgiou (née Edwards), Philippa Richardson (née Blount) (all 1995) <sup>10</sup> Ying Chan, Elena Menezes, Emily Harrison (née Freem), Charlotte Wrigley, Melanie Bosworth-Lowe (née Lowe) (all 2005) <sup>11</sup> Yusra Razzaq, Melanie Bosworth-Lowe (née Lowe), Sue Lewis, Sean McAllister, Avi Mehra (né Loomba), Emily Harrison (née Freem), Ying Chan, Elena Menezes (all 2005) <sup>12</sup> Jake Mannion, Lisa Quinn, Kate Potts, Ellie McGivern, Grace MacLennan, Oliver Norris (all 2015) <sup>13</sup> Ellie McGivern, Grace MacLennan, Polly Adams (all 2015) <sup>14</sup> Abby Green (née Collins, 1995; Girls' Division Staff), Anna Herko (1995)





# Alumni Events Calendar

To reserve your place for any of our Alumni events, please call the Development Office on **01204 434718**, email [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org) or scan the QR code to visit the 'Alumni and Giving Back' section of the School website ([www.boltonschool.org](http://www.boltonschool.org)) where you can book online.



## 2025

Thursday 18th December	Ceremony of Carols	Girls' Division Great Hall, 7.30pm
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## 2026

Tuesday 13th January	North and South America Zoom Catch-Up	5-6pm UK time
Friday 6th February	Cambridge Dinner	St Catharine's College, 7pm
Friday 13th February	Joint Old Girls and Old Boys' Lunch	Bolton School, 12 noon-2pm
Friday 6th March	London Dinner	HMS Belfast, 6.45pm
Wednesday 25th March	European Zoom Catch-Up	4-6pm UK time
Tuesday 28th April	May Serenade	Girls' Division Great Hall, 7.30
Friday 15th May	Northern Dinner	Science and Industry Museum, Manchester, 6.30pm
Tuesday 9th June	Middle East Zoom Catch-Up	3-4pm UK time TBC
Friday 12th June	Cumbria Lunch	Lindeth Howe Hotel, 12 noon
Thursday 18th June	Old Girls' Lunch and AGM	Arts Centre (new venue); AGM 11am, lunch 12 noon
Monday 22nd June	Recent Leavers' Reunion: 'Class of 2025'	Bolton School, 2.30pm-5pm
Friday 26th June	Foundation Former Staff Lunch	Bolton School, 12 noon
Saturday 19th September	'6' Class Reunion	Bolton School, 11am-4.30pm

## Zoom In for a Catch-Up!

*We are enjoying our overseas Zoom events and the ability to engage with Alumni from all corners of the world!*

Further Zoom calls are planned for North and South America (January), the Middle East (June), Australasia and Oceania (October), the Far East and Asia (October) and a new event for Europe (March). All Old Girls and Old Boys across the time zones are welcome to join, regardless of where they live, so look out for further details!

## Alumni Ambassadors

*Are you an Old Girl with a passion for staying connected to School and engaging with others?*

Our Alumni Ambassador role is perfect for those who want to volunteer to make a difference without a regular time commitment. From time to time you will be required to make contact with your classmates and peers and to encourage them to attend our wide range of engagement activities, thus ensuring that our vibrant Alumni community remains strong and connected.

If you would like to get involved, please contact the Development Office.

## Save the Date!

*The inaugural Alumni Northern Dinner will take place on the evening of **Friday 15th May 2026** at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester. Invitations to this event will follow in due course. For further information, please contact the Development Office.*

## Ceremony of Carols

*The annual Girls' Division Ceremony of Carols will take place on **Thursday 18th December** in the Girls' Division Great Hall. All Old Girls are welcome to attend this traditional School event which will, as usual, feature a variety of musical performances – and, of course, an opportunity for all to join in singing a selection of much-loved Christmas carols.*



# Inspiring the Next Generation

## "Confidence is not a down payment; it is a receipt"

Prize-winning author **Monica Ali CBE (Class of 1986)** was the guest speaker at this year's Presentation Evening; an annual event that celebrates GCSE and A Level achievements, along with mid-stream prize-winners. It was an inspiration to students, many of whom were on the brink of their next chapter in life, to hear about her life and experiences since leaving Bolton School Girls' Division.



Year 13 students **Abigail Leaper** and **Stella Rojek** interviewed Monica about her journey before and after leaving School.

At three years old, Monica and her family moved from Bangladesh to Bolton. At 11, she joined Bolton School where in the Sixth Form she studied Economics, English Literature and History A Levels. Later, she attended Wadham College, Oxford, to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE). Whilst she enjoyed studying, she had no set career in mind.

Upon leaving university, Monica began to work for a publishing company where she acquired knowledge about books, and the publishing process. She didn't know at the time how useful this knowledge would become. After this, she also worked for a design company where she started to understand that 'form shapes meaning', and learnt about different audiences and deadlines ... an unpopular but necessary evil of the writing world!

After the birth of her first child, and the sleepless nights that followed, Monica began to utilise the time awake to begin writing her first novel: *Brick Lane*. She took inspiration from *The Power to Choose*, a social study focusing on the lives of Bangladeshi garment workers, written by friend Naila Kabeer. This formed the basis of her novel, along with the stories her father would relay about his early life and the village in which he grew up.



L-R: Stella Rojek (Deputy Head Girl), Amanda Valentine (1985; Governor), Philip Britton, Lynne Kyle, Monica Ali, Madeleine Eccleshare Hornby (Head Girl), Helen Huang (Deputy Head Girl)

*Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, Brick Lane has now been translated into 26 languages, and it has also been adapted into a film. Since then, Monica has published four further bestselling books, one of which is being adapted into a television series.*

Monica also reflected on how the expectations placed on authors had evolved over time, especially regarding publicity. As an avid

reader in her childhood, Monica mentioned that it never would have crossed her mind to watch an author reading their own book or to attend a book signing. She now enjoys regularly hosting book signings, book festivals, live events and talks. Everyone involved works hard to make these events a success, particularly Monica, who has refined her public speaking skills and now views reading passages from her book as a form of performance.

Although it was wonderful to hear of Monica's successes, it was inspirational for students to consider how she had overcome self-doubt and adversity. Despite her successes as an author, as a student, Monica did not have a straightforward vision of her future and career. Monica reflected with honesty about the difficulties of forging a path without a vocational degree. She commented that she felt left behind when "friends from university walked into careers in law and medicine and the media, and everyone seemed to know what they wanted to be ... and I really did not."

Describing her time at School as enjoyable, she said that Bolton School helped her to learn the value of "hard work over last minute genius". Monica advised that having a little uncertainty balanced with an attitude of "... I'm going to do it anyway!" paves the way for success. "The world is full of too much certainty ... If you don't try, you don't fail, and you have to be prepared to fail."

In her speech, Monica spoke again about finding her calling, despite being unsure of what direction to take after graduating. She shared her "purpose formula", which had helped her find her footing. This advice will no doubt prove valuable to the recent Year 13 leavers as they step out into the world, as well as to the new Year 12s just beginning their A Level journey.

*Monica also emphasised the importance of hard work over mere talent, and of building confidence through effort rather than waiting for it as motivation. She summed it up perfectly: "Confidence is not a down payment; it is a receipt." In other words, don't wait for confidence to arrive: it grows with experience and practice.*

Through sharing her journey to success, Monica offered valuable insights, reminding her audience that uncertainty about one's path is entirely natural, and that with time, clarity will come. Most importantly, she has a career that she loves and finds genuine fulfilment in her work; her favourite moments are those spent at her desk, fully absorbed as the hours pass and the words pour onto the page.



# Steps to Success

Established in 2022, the Steps to Success scheme has already supported over 30 Alumnae navigate the world of work.

Mentees have sought the support of Old Girls from a range of sectors, who have walked the same path and are able to offer impartial guidance on transitioning from education to employment or advice on climbing the career ladder. Each mentee has received tailored assistance, with the mentors drawing on their own network of professional contacts to provide value-added insights.

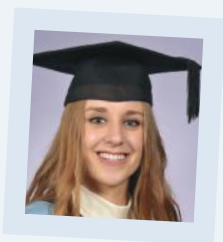
Here, four Old Girls who have benefited from Steps to Success share their thoughts on how the mentoring scheme has helped them.

## Ellen Bate

(Class of 2019)

**Ellen is a Business Services Assistant.**

"I first saw the mentoring scheme advertised on the Bolton School Alumni LinkedIn page. I thought that the testimonials attached were interesting and very positive, so I decided to sign up to the online discussion to hear other people's experiences. I really enjoyed this session and found that this was definitely something that I wanted to do.



"After signing up and filling out a short form on what my career goals are and what I was looking to gain, I was paired with Cherie, a channel director for Dave UK based in London. At the time, I was studying an MA Film and Television: Research and Production, and was keen to learn more about the working environment and to make some good connections.

"I lived in Birmingham at the time and spoke with Cherie mainly over Zoom, which worked well for both of us. I also visited London to meet Cherie in person for a Bolton School Alumni event. I found the whole mentoring scheme to be an amazing experience as I gained lots of valuable knowledge about how to best get my career started.

"I would definitely recommend the mentoring scheme to all young Old Girls because it gives you the opportunity to ask the questions you wouldn't usually ask in a classroom or lecture hall. By having someone who is able to advise you based on their own experiences, you will learn more about the reality of your chosen career path and how to best pursue it."

## Jess Myers

(Class of 2013)

**Jess is a Senior Policy Manager for the Department of Health and Social Care.**



"I heard about the Steps to Success mentoring programme at a time when I was looking to make a career change and feeling overwhelmed with the process of both job searching and applications, and was out of practice – and lacking confidence – with interviews! Emma and Rebecca (from the Development Office) spoke with me over the phone so I could give them a better idea of what I was hoping to gain from the mentoring process, as well as helping them to match me to the most suitable mentor; this was a really useful step as they took time to think what my priorities were for the process.

"My mentoring experience with Elizabeth was really positive. We met over Zoom, and she helped me to organise my thoughts for job search and application processes so it was more time efficient and effective. As part of this she helped me to think through my interests and skills – I made sure I was giving the right job ads my attention. She gave me great advice for interviews which I implemented and practised, and she also helped me to work through some job-related decisions. I managed to secure a great job which fits my skills and interests well, and the support of my mentor was really beneficial to get to this point.

"I am now almost two years into this job and have recently completed a one-year development programme offered by the organisation which included coaching sessions. My positive experience with Steps to Success assured me that I would benefit from this kind of process and gave me the confidence to apply."

"I'm really grateful to Elizabeth and to the Development Team for the support."

## Emily Varley

(Class of 2012)

**Emily is a Digital Manager.**

"I was interested in joining the mentoring scheme because, despite being nearly 30, I'm still figuring out what I want to do 'when I grow up'. My mentoring with Elizabeth began around the same time I started a new job in a new sector, and her support during this turbulent period was invaluable.



"Elizabeth provided insight on how to make the most of the new opportunities as well as navigate challenges. It was helpful to have a consistent voice of support that suggested ways I could develop in the role and make it my own, as well as give me confidence when working with a new manager and new team.

"Our monthly calls gave me a sense of structure, with clear goals to work towards before each session. This was especially helpful in creating stability and helping me stay focused during the transition into my new job.

"Beyond work-related advice, Elizabeth has also been great at picking up on personal challenges and offering guidance. Her support has helped me adopt a more positive and proactive outlook."

## Zoe Howell

(Class of 2018)

**Zoe is a Human Rights Paralegal.**



"After graduating from the University of Edinburgh with a History degree, I was keen to further my knowledge about pursuing a career in Law. When I received an email about Bolton School's 'Steps to Success' scheme I immediately signed up and I was paired with Magdalen who works as a Circuit Judge at the Manchester Civil Justice Centre. I met Magdalen on various occasions, sitting beside her in court as she heard a range of complex family matters. She provided me with some great advice for my Law Conversion course which I subsequently completed and graduated with Distinction.

"My experience with Magdalen confirmed the type of law I wished to pursue, which was making a real difference to the lives of ordinary people. I am very much on the path to achieving this, as I now live in London and work within the Human Rights department of a *Times* Top 100 Law Firm focusing on judicial review, inquests, human rights abuses and negligence claims."

The Steps to Success scheme welcomes applications from young Old Girls considering their next steps, who will benefit from the breadth of experience the mentors have to offer. Please email [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org) to find out more.



Hannah with Sue Faulkner, Head of Primary Division, and pupils from Park Road and Hesketh House



## Inspiring Reflections at the Third Annual Hulton Lecture

The third annual Hulton Lecture took place at the end of April. This year's keynote speaker was **Hannah Barlow (née Mathew, Class of 2002)**, Managing Director of Bury-based food wholesaler Dunsters Farm, who shared her journey from student to business leader.

On leaving School, Hannah gained a BSc in Management from the University of Manchester before joining the family business. She and her brother, **Tom (Class of 2005)**, have guided Dunsters Farm through a period of significant modernisation. Under their leadership, the business has embraced new technology, expanded its product range and set out a long-term vision for growth and sustainability – ensuring its success for generations to come.



Bolton School's Primary Division lecture series is named in recognition of the Hulton Charity Trust, which has a longstanding history with education in Bolton and with Bolton School, dating back to the 17th Century. The School was delighted that members of the historic Bank Street Chapel, another strong local connection, were able to attend on the night.

Hannah discussed the challenges and rewards of leading a family business, the value of innovation and the importance of maintaining strong relationships with both customers and colleagues. Following her fascinating insight into life at 'the farm', there was a lively Q&A session.

## Women of Work

The Women of Work talks aim to introduce pupils to the variety of career opportunities available to them, and to a range of inspiring Old Girls. These short Zoom sessions take place during Form period and incorporate a brief presentation followed by a Q&A session.

### Raihaanah Rhind-Mohammed (Class of 2014)

Raihaanah serves as a Senior Associate in the Business Intelligence Unit at Alvarez & Marsal, where she specialises in data analytics and digital consulting.

Recently, she has taken on the responsibility of managing her own team. In her daily work, Raihaanah consults internally with the firm to improve digital automation and deliver enhanced value. She is also pursuing a project management qualification. Although she studied Law at university, Raihaanah chose not to follow a legal career path. Initially, a career in data analytics was not on her radar when she considered her future, but sometimes life leads you to unexpected and rewarding opportunities!



### Helen Bunker

(née Nesbitt, Class of 1998)

Helen did A Levels in Maths, Physics and Music and went on to study Physics and Astronomy at Durham University.

On graduating she started working at Framestore in London as a Trainee Compositor. Framestore is now one of the world's leading visual effects houses, but back then it was much smaller. Helen has worked on too many films to list, but they include several *Harry Potters*, *The Golden Compass*, *X Men* and *Gravity* for which Framestore won the VFX Oscar. In 2012 Helen left Framestore and moved to Sydney where she worked in film, then in TV commercials, before moving to Edinburgh in 2014 to work freelance. Clients include Netflix, Lucasfilm, Apple TV and Universal. Recently she worked on *How To Train Your Dragon*, *The Acolyte (Star Wars)* and *Masters of the Air* for Apple TV. She is currently working on *Peaky Blinders* for Netflix.



## Thank You!

We are very grateful to all Old Girls who have given their time to support current pupils through a variety of careers and enrichment events and opportunities.

**Viki Edmondson (née Anderson, Class of 1987)** spoke about her career as a Vet as part of the A to Z series.

**Alicia Barlow (née Fleming, Class of 2004)** presented at the Junior Careers Carousel alongside four other Primary Division parents.

**Than Dar (Class of 2015)** spoke to MedSoc.

**Summer Kay (Class of 2022)** spoke about her Year Abroad as part of the A to Z series.

**Amaani Adam (Class of 2023)** spoke to DentSoc.

**Amanda Nuttall (née Pinkerton, Class of 1991)**, **Claire Melbourne (Class of 1993)**, **Samantha Williams (Class of 1995)**, **Hazel Youens (née Wolstenholme, Class of 1998)**, **Raisa Saley (Class of 2004)**, **Amy Managh (Class of 2006)**, **Megan Bowden (Class of 2011)**, **Rachel Baldwin (née Metcalfe, Class of 2017)** and **Fiza Ahmed (Class of 2020)** all conducted mock interviews with Sixth Formers as part of the annual Interview Skills evening.



## Remembering Resilience: Bolton School During the Second World War

The recent Girls' Division Armistice Assembly naturally remembered all those who gave their lives in war: on the front lines, in the emergency services and in civilian life.



Eighty years on from the end of the Second World War, the girls sitting in the Great Hall were also invited to consider how their predecessors' lives were shaped by the tumultuous events in Europe and beyond. To understand what was endured by Bolton School, a look back to 1933 – six years before war broke out – is required. Across Europe, democracy was being threatened. Life in Bolton may have seemed distant from the rising tensions of the continent, but the atmosphere was changing.

*Words familiar to generations of Girls' Division pupils – "Hold fast to that which is good" – would soon take on a new and solemn meaning.*

By September 1938, pupils were fitted for gas masks in the Great Hall. By the end of the Summer term in 1939, as war clouds gathered, new building plans were drawn – not for classrooms or libraries, but for air-raid shelters. Without them, the School would not be permitted to open in the Autumn term.

When war was declared on 3rd September 1939, School life changed overnight. The new academic year was delayed. Home learning schemes were hurriedly created – proof that ‘working from home’ was not unique to the Covid pandemic. School reopened on 11th October, after the cellars in the old Beech House were limewashed and declared safe as an air-raid shelter.

As the early days of war progressed into weeks and months, lessons were interrupted by sirens. Trams along Chorley New Road ground to a halt whenever a plane was sighted over Liverpool Bay. The ordinary act of 'getting to School' had become something extraordinary.

Soon, shelters were dug in the grounds — one in the Boys' Quad, two beside the main building, and one beneath the North Wing. A Gas Decontamination Centre was created beside the swimming baths. Fighting squads, first aid posts and even an observation point at the main gates were planned and staffed by teachers and volunteers.

And yet, through all these changes, normal life quietly persisted. Games continued. Scouts met. Agricultural work began in the meadows at Beech House and Gilnow Lodge. Girls and boys alike helped craft benches for the shelters. For a while, the danger of war gave way to boredom. Air-raid drills felt unnecessary; blackouts caused more anxiety than bombs. But through it all, the School endured.

However, the war years brought not just fear, but remarkable community spirit.

The girls responded to the national call with enthusiasm and generosity. In 'War Weapons Week' they raised £188, a considerable sum for the time. The following year, the 'Save Our Airmen' campaign saw them raise over £240, enough to fund six parachutes. By 1943, they had collected over £400 for the Red Cross, sending 830 parcels to prisoners of war. In 'Wings for Victory Week' they aimed for £750 to fund an ambulance – and raised £2,230, equivalent to £100,000 today. Their efforts spoke not only of patriotism, but of compassion – a will to serve in any way they could.

Bolton itself was declared a 'neutral' zone – neither an evacuation area nor a known target – and yet it was not spared the fear or discipline of war. Rigid blackouts and curfews prevailed. Friday prayers at School became open to the public, a moment of comfort for families whose sons and brothers were serving abroad. At Christmas, the choir sang carols for the BBC from Victoria Hall – continuing even as air-raid sirens wailed above.

This spirit of service was not new. During the First World War, Bolton School girls had already shown extraordinary commitment. Miss Dymond's log book records sewing meetings held twice weekly in 1914 to make and mend clothes for Belgian refugees. From the earliest days of the War the girls were also extremely active knitting, sending socks, mittens, mufflers, vests and body belts to soldiers through various funds, alongside hundreds of knitted squares for blankets for Serbian soldiers and British prisoners. There were also monetary collections and fundraising activities, with donations sent to (amongst others) the Belgian Refugees Fund, Croix Rouge Français, Scottish Women's Hospitals and St Dunstan's Hostel for blinded soldiers and sailors.

These efforts were mirrored decades later during WWII, proving that the ethos of service was deeply rooted in the School's culture. House activities had to be somewhat curtailed and the spare time was used to make more garments: scarves, mittens, gloves for troops and face-cloths for hospitals. Funds from a planned seaside trip were redirected to buy materials for clothes for children of servicemen. The School began to collect for the 'Penny-a-Week Fund' in 1942 and in the first year they raised £416, which was sufficient to send about 830 parcels for prisoners of war. Staff and pupils participated in national savings campaigns such as 'Warship Week' and 'Wings for Victory'. Over £3,000 was raised for 'Salute the Soldier', the highest total to date, while £186 was contributed to the Red Cross Fund.

As the winters grew colder, so too did the anxieties. Staff were called up to serve. Others spent their nights on fire-watch duty across the School rooftops. One of them, Miss Phyllis Gent, a mathematics teacher in the Boys' Division, had already fought fires in the East End during the Blitz. Those who worked with her recalled how she walked along the roof catwalks with absolute composure, 'without an inch of hesitance.'

Many Old Girls answered the call to serve directly. During WWI, they became Red Cross nurses, worked in hospitals and joined local banks to replace men at the front.

In WWII, their roles expanded dramatically. They joined the WRNS (Women's Royal Naval Service), the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) and the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force). Some worked in nursing, others in the Land Army, teaching, munitions, laboratory work and civil service – for the latter, **Dorothy Hands** is listed as working at Bletchley Park.

**Enid Standing**, who attended Bolton School from 1925 to 1932, acted as a censor during the war, later joining the WRNS special service as a translator and working at the Nuremberg Trials.

*Inside, routines continued. Classrooms felt emptier, the corridors quieter, but the spirit of the School endured.*



However, loss touched the School deeply. By the Autumn of 1940, two Old Boys had already fallen – one on the *RMS Lancastria*, another in an air accident. More would follow. Some died at sea, others in the air, or in faraway places whose names had barely been known before the war. Among them were men like **Wing Commander John Braham**, described by *The Times* as “the greatest night-fighter pilot of the Second World War”, **Commander Donald Bradford**, who earned the DSO (Distinguished Service Order) and DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) with two bars, **Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Greenhalgh**, commanding the Bolton Artillery, who was awarded the DSO and MBE, and **Christopher Worsley**, who won the DSC for his bravery in the raid on St Nazaire.

Others never returned: **A H Lawson** and **W J Howard**, both lost in Singapore; **Colin Bradley**, lost at sea; and **Freddie Scholes**, a gifted linguist, killed by a stray bullet in Normandy.

Each name is more than a line in the archive. Each name represents a story: of youth, of courage and of sacrifice. When peace finally came in September 1945, the School reopened to a changed world. An editorial in *The Boltonian* (the annual Boys' Division magazine) reflected the mood thus: “It cannot be said that the world is particularly at peace. There are many present discontents, national and social. The release of atomic energy has changed our whole conception of warfare; it is an event of tremendous moment for mankind, carrying with it the possibility of extermination. But let us hope that we are at the beginning of an era of peace.”

**When the First World War broke out many girls answered the call to become Red Cross nurses and a number of Old Girls began helping at Bolton Infirmary. The following are named in the *Girls' Division Magazine* of 1916: J Ainsworth, A Bolton, C Bradley, A Bradshaw, P and D Cooper, M Greenhalgh, I Heaton, M Lees, Mrs Musgrave, M Taylor, D Walmsley, M Ward, A Sheppard, D Swift and L Whittingham.**

Old Girls known to have joined local banks so as to take the places of men at the front were: A Constantine, E Green, E Haughton, A Huck, G Jauncey, A Mudie, M Pantom, C Rigby, M Roberts and D Robinson.

The 1944 *Magazine* also lists the names of many of those known to be doing 'War work' as follows:

**WRNS:** Mary Bromiley (at Casablanca with Churchill), Aileen Ainscow, Dorothy Brownhill, Barbara Cleworth, Beryl Ellis, Marjorie Hope, Dorothy Jackson, Marie Jackson, Audrey Kempson (née Read), Kathleen Marsden, Margaret Pride (née Cheetham), Betty Ree and Audrey Shorrock.

**ATS:** Dorothy Rosbottom (Junior Commander, Specialist Messing Officer to a Signals Group), Margaret Adamson, Hilda Beswick (in charge of cooking at Officers' Training Centre, Scarborough), Pat Cochrane, Mary Cocker, Margaret Cole, Margaret Collier, Gertrude Duckworth, Joyce Hampson, Olive Ince, Vivian Kirkham, Constance Lomax, Joan Proctor, Joyce Rothwell and Audrey Gilberg (née Vizard).

**WAAF:** Peggy Ainsworth, Marjorie Charnley, Edith Clayton, Yvonne Harris, Joyce Hill, Betty Johnston, Betty Lowe, Jean Mitchell, Joan Pogson, Norma Price, Margery Smith and Ivy Taylor.

**Nursing, or training for Nursing:** Mary Greenwood, Elsie Martin, Lois Monks, Catherine Bebbington, Hazel Caren, Betty Hall, Marie Hartley, Jenny Hope, Kathleen Markland, Elaine Malpas, Jean Miller, Margaret Scowcroft, Eva Thomasson, Mary Thornley, Audrey Tyler, Cynthia Walsh and Mary Williams.

**Land Work** (farming or market gardening, some in the Land Army, some at home): Marjorie Bithell, Peggy Carter,

Philippa Charnley, Pauline Fairclough, Barbara Greenwood, Barbara Hope, Catherine Johnston, Gwen Nuttall, Irene Nuttall, Peggy Routledge, Paula Sayer and Barbara Underwood.

**Civil Service:** Hilda Bentley, Dorothy Hands and Kathleen Hughes,

**Teaching:** Mary Calet, Ida Crompton, Margaret Dawson, Dorothy Fawell, June Grisdale, Amy Haddock, Frances McAllister, Connie Malpas, Dorothy Parr, Gwen Pilling, Marjorie Roscoe, Barbara Scott, Nancy Street, Betty Vickers and Dorothy Ward.

**Munitions** (some in offices, some inspecting): Joan Adamson, Monica Bond, Irene Cowburn, Nancy Dickinson, Betty Fairer (also doing voluntary work for the American Red Cross), Gladys Hamer, Margery Rothwell, Eunice Taylor, Audrey Warren and Miss Willis (Staff).

**Laboratory Work** (some in offices): Vera Boardman, Constance Halliday, Doreen Miller and Jean Parker.

**Canteens:** Mary Williamson (supervisor), Kathleen Vause, Joan Webster and Barbara Hough.

**Police:** Ruth Guest.

**Welfare Work:** Lucy Ellison, Edith Shanks (Navy).

**NFS:** Jean Dudgale (née Ainslie).

**WRAF:** Marion Griffiths.

*With thanks to Mrs Sophie Entwistle, Mrs Melissa Wright (both Girls' Division Staff) and Mr Eric Fairweather (School Archivist)*



# Story of a Gown

The Prefects' gowns are one of the enduring symbols of the Girls' Division, and the Gowning of the Prefects, held in the Great Hall each May, has become one of its most special traditions. Here **Suzanne Smith** (née Shaw, Class of 2001), **Jacqueline Clayton** (née Stanton, 2008) and **Neha Khimani** (Class of 2018) describe wearing their gowns with pride.



## What was your favourite moment whilst wearing your gown?

**Suzie:** Definitely going into Assembly, pipe organ blaring, gown flowing as we speed-walked down the two aisles to take our seats at the front!

**Jackie:** It's so hard to choose just one; every assembly, open day and concert was special. Having only joined Bolton School in the Sixth Form, I never thought I would be given the opportunity to be a Prefect. But my teachers and peers were so genuinely warm and friendly, pretty soon it felt like I'd been there forever!

**Neha:** There are so many memories, including walking into assembly with the grand organ playing, the carol services, and Easter Extravaganza. One of the highlights has to be the Prefects' Panto – working together to come up with new plot lines and jokes, and making the props, teacher ID cards and costumes (including wearing the itchiest wig for Mr Joyce's beard). I won't forget the absolute chaos behind the curtain on the day!

## What were your hopes and plans for the future as you passed on your gown?

**Suzie:** I was excited for new adventures. The prospect of heading off to university and out into the world after spending ten years growing up in the comfort of School was a little scary, but I felt well-prepared for what was to come next and ready to tackle it head on.

**Jackie:** I think like most people the future felt both very far away and scarily close all at once! I think I hoped to go to university and I hoped to be feeling like I was in the right place doing the right thing!

**Neha:** When I passed on my gown, my biggest dream was to become a doctor. I remember carrying stacks of past papers with me up and down the Riley stairs – and now when I feel stressed, tired or burnt out from work, I remember how hard 17/18 year old me worked to get to this point. My sister had just joined Year 7, so I also had hopes and dreams for her, too, including that she'd be passed down my gown one day. In time, she was, continuing another cherished Bolton School tradition!

## What did you do after leaving School?

**Suzie:** I spent three amazing years at Bristol University studying Geography before moving to London and starting work at an Investment Bank.



L-R: Jackie, Claire Rogers, Rachael Southern in their Prefects' gowns

**Jackie:** I took a gap year working with teenagers in a church in Cornwall, and then took up my deferred place at The University of Nottingham to read English. I met and married my husband, Ben, there.

**Neha:** I studied medicine at The University of Manchester, and then started work as a resident doctor at Royal Blackburn Hospital. I've

developed an interest in medical education, which I hope to continue to build on as I go into specialty training.



Neha graduated from The University of Manchester in 2023

## What are you doing now?

**Suzie:** After six years in London I ended up emigrating to South Africa for ten years with my husband and my two daughters were born there. We are now back home, living in Guildford, and though still in Finance I now work for a large energy company, juggling life as best as I can!

**Jackie:** We have recently moved back to the North West with our three primary-aged children and I have just returned to work at a Sixth Form college in the Library. I still dream of being Mrs Sowerby or Mrs Hadj when I grow up!

**Neha:** I've just completed my two foundation years, and am now taking a year out from training. It has felt like running on a medicine treadmill since I decided to apply back when I was 16 at School. I'm using this time to develop my portfolio for speciality applications, build some teaching experience, do a bit of travelling and, also, get married!

## What one piece of advice would you give to this year's Year 13 pupils?

**Suzie:** Don't think you need to have everything figured out now. Life will change and throw you curve balls; you will change and grow up in ways you never envisaged. You are strong and capable and can adapt and change course. Believe in yourself!

**Jackie:** You can't actually have it all! Or at least, not all at once. So think about your priorities and find people in your life who will champion you in seasons when the sacrifices feel hard.

**Neha:** The world is a huge place full of so many opportunities: don't confine yourself to a small box. Keep your mind and options open. Also remember, wherever you go, connections from Bolton School will always pop up – make full use of that valuable network! Since leaving, I've come across Alumni all over the place: my seniors and consultants, my juniors and students and colleagues. At almost every turn, there has been an Old Boy or an Old Girl!

## Are you still in touch with friends from School?

**Suzie:** Yes, I am still in touch with a number of friends. I actually work with one close friend and visited another in Australia two Christmases ago, but also I should do more! It's also nice bumping randomly into other BSGD Alumni – I reminisce with one of my daughters' teachers about Mrs Spurr and School life, and am friends with a girl from the year below (who I never knew at School) because our daughters are in the same class.

**Jackie:** Yes, some. Becky Smethurst and Jenni Heeks (both Class of 2008) were both childhood friends and bridesmaids at our wedding.

**Neha:** Yes! Many of us keep in touch, and when we get a chance we try to meet up. Even when that's not possible, we all are still connected through social media. It's wonderful to see the exciting and successful lives everyone has gone on to have, and everything they're achieving. The friends I had in School were one of the key reasons that pushed me to get into medical school. Since then, we've supported each other through university and into our careers and I'm confident we'll continue to be there for each other in everything that lies ahead.



Suzie loved wearing her gown in Assemblies



# Old Girls Go Global



The Old Girls' Association has over 5,700 members living and working not just in the UK, but across the globe. Here we catch up with three Old Girls who have relocated overseas, find out what motivated them to move abroad, what they enjoy about their lives there ... and what they still miss about the UK!



Angela, in the yellow jacket, next to the Préfète in her uniform, with her husband next to her

## Angela Dunn

(née Smith, Class of 1963)

"I moved to a small rural village in south-west France with my husband and Golden Retriever in 1996. We had bought a holiday home six years earlier and then got the chance to take early retirement.

"We lived quietly at first. I grew vegetables, taking advice from very welcoming neighbours. We soon joined our Comité des Fêtes which organises social events in the village – hard work, but good fun. After committee meetings we would compare notes about what we had understood! I became secretary of an association in Cahors which has a mixed membership of French and ex-pats. And a few years later Eric was elected on to our local council. Most importantly we worked hard on our French – so necessary to become part of a community.

"The countryside is beautiful. Our valley is delightful, a joy for dog walking, lots of hidden corners and little streams and we claim at least 26 species of wild orchid!

"We decided to apply for French citizenship. It was a long process – French people will tell you the bureaucracy is impressive here. Finally, in 2022, we received our certificates from the Préfète, the state representative in the department (see photo). We do not lose our British nationality but can now proudly say "We are British, but French as well".

"Do we miss anything? Not really. Only Yorkshire (sorry!) tea bags, but visitors are tasked with bringing them!"

## Lucy-Jane Georghiou

(née Edwards, Class of 1995)

I have lived in Limassol, Cyprus, for 21 years. After graduating from the University of Cambridge, I taught for a few years and was honoured with a National Teaching Award for Outstanding New Teacher. When I emigrated, I was performing in the West End in Musical Theatre.

My husband, then a Research Fellow at Cambridge, was invited by the University of Cyprus to help establish their new Engineering Department. After our first child was born, we decided to move to Cyprus.

I initially hoped to work in the Performing Arts, but since there's no West End here, I focused on education. I joined Foley's School, an international British-curriculum school in Limassol, as a Primary Teacher. Within months I became Head of Primary and later had my second child. Wanting to stay connected to the arts, I founded the Limassol Theatre Arts School – the city's first to offer professional musical theatre training. After my third and fourth children, I became Head of the School. Combining education and the arts in such a beautiful environment has been incredibly rewarding.

Life here is wonderfully different: endless blue skies, Greek language, fresh local food, and a strong sense of safety – I even run at night without worry. The school day ends early, leaving afternoons free for family.

"I love the family-focused culture, friendly people, healthy lifestyle and the sunshine. I do miss wandering through Autumn leaves in Cambridge, the West End and a proper Sunday roast, but Cyprus truly feels like home."



## Charlotte Unwin

(Class of 2013)

"In early 2024, we finally made the move to Australia! The idea started back in 2019 when we

came for a backpacking holiday and completely fell in love with the place. From then on, it became our mission to get visas and make it happen. In February 2024, we sold the house, the car and everything we own, packed up our suitcases (and the cat!) and boarded the plane.

"We've settled in Burleigh Heads, which feels like a little slice of tropical paradise. My husband works as a fire engineer, and I am a speech language pathologist with a telehealth company, helping kids in remote and outback areas who don't have access to regular health services. I find the job very different to working for the NHS, but I still love it and find it massively rewarding.

"We've definitely taken on the Aussie lifestyle – early morning walks on the beach, a strong flat white and weekend trips to the local farmers' market. The nature here is amazing too: we can watch whales from May to October, snorkel with turtles in our local creek, and the lorikeets and galahs make every morning noisy but colourful. We even live next to a headland that's home to wild koalas. A Christmas BBQ on the beach definitely feels a million miles from a frosty UK December!"



## Judith Whitehead

(Class of 1977)

"When I left the UK for Athens in 1986, I never imagined I would still be here almost 40 years later.

I met my husband when he was studying in Manchester, and when he returned to Greece for military service I decided to find a job in Athens – I was lucky to secure one at a British International School.

"Initially we lived in central Athens and I found the concrete and the pollution difficult after the leafy UK suburbs. The language was also a challenge; although most Greeks speak English, I felt I should learn the language of the country I lived in. My children still cringe with embarrassment when I speak Greek, but I have no problem understanding or communicating. Working in a British school meant I had colleagues in the same situation as me. We celebrated Bonfire Night, held Christmas carol concerts and recreated many traditions we missed from home.

"We now live in a leafy suburb of Athens. I love the lifestyle here and of course the sun. The people are very warm and friendly, and the food is wonderful. We enjoy year-round trips to archaeological sites, the mountains and the sea. I visit the UK regularly and initially enjoy its organisation and predictability, but after a couple of weeks I am eager to return to the spontaneity and freedom of life in Greece."





# Staff in the Spotlight

## Helen Beresford

(1987-2025)

*Little did I know, when I travelled to my interview for Biology Teacher at a school in Bolton, that I would be doing the journey for the next 30+ years!*

I asked the bus driver to tell me when we arrived, which was unnecessary, and entering the impressive building was like entering another world. I remember sitting in the staffroom and it was pointed out that all the Biology staff had a first name beginning with M (Marion, Marilyn, Marilou and Mari), not a good sign for me then! Pupils wore indoor shoes, used fountain pens and Prefects wore gowns. Grace was said as we sat for lunch, before the food was carefully portioned by the teacher at the head of the table, netball was played in the Girls' Quad, the cloisters were open to the fresh air and the rehearsals for big events were choreographed with military precision. There was just one computer room and staff would occasionally borrow an Apple Mac; the small ones with the tiny screen. There was still a banda machine (I only tried once!) and one small photocopier in the staffroom. How things have changed! I do remember that swapping from overhead projectors to computers was a big leap for me!

I have worked with many inspiring and supportive colleagues over the years.

*I remember Mrs Garthwaite and Miss Corkill very clearly from the interview day and they helped me adjust to Bolton School ways, along with my good friend Mrs McCann.*

Biology field trips were always a highlight of the school year, sadly, no longer a residential trip. Some old girls will remember Cautley, where shopping and cooking for everyone was required as well as teaching, and the field centres at Grange over Sands, Malham and Blencathra all hold very happy memories for me. In my first year

Miss Corkill took me out identifying wild flowers in Grange and I have followed her lead, writing in my ID book the dates and places when I spot different species. I have been on many other school trips with some highlights being the WW1 Battlefields trip with the History Department, Peru with Operation Wallacea and amazing ski trips to France and USA. The Science Department have always been a fantastic team, both teachers and technicians all collaborating towards providing the best for the students. Mrs Furey, Mrs Walsh, Mrs Dalzel-Job, Miss Gunshon and myself formed a longstanding team in Biology but the natural process of evolution is now happening with fantastic new colleagues. Working here for such a long time means that colleagues have become special friends, so my Biobuddies (and others!) won't be rid of me just yet! I have enjoyed celebrating marriages, births and special birthdays with my BSGD friends but also had a number of very sad moments along the way. When I think about the students I have taught, I am so pleased that so many have fulfilled their ambitions and some have utilised Biology in their career path. As a form tutor, I recall many fun day to day moments as well as trips to York, Llangollen, Warwick and many more. I also had great pleasure supporting many pupils through their UCAS applications. Working to support Trainee teachers on placements at our school was also a fulfilling role and it's fantastic that some came back to be employed here.

As I retire, I am looking forward to spending more time with family and friends, returning to some of my hobbies especially artistic ones and travelling a little further afield. I will continue doing Pilates and spending time in my garden. I now have a new puppy who is already keeping me busy and I will enjoy some long walks and trips with her. I would like to thank all at Bolton School for the opportunities, support and exceptional work environment.



## Joanne Taylor

(2024-2025)

*Although my time at Bolton School Girls' Division has been short, completing just one academic year as Director of Sport, it has left a lasting impression on me. After spending 11 years teaching in the Middle East, I count myself incredibly fortunate to have returned to the UK and joined such a beautiful campus and warm, welcoming community.*

From the very first day, I was struck by the atmosphere of the school—supportive, respectful and vibrant. Every time I walk down to the fields and look across the stunning grounds, I am reminded of just how lucky I have been. There is something truly special about the view back towards the magnificent school building; it never fails to inspire a moment of quiet appreciation.

*The students have been a joy to teach—enthusiastic, polite and engaged—and their warmth and openness made the transition back into UK education so much easier.*

It is this kind of positive environment that makes Bolton School stand out, and I feel privileged to have contributed, even in a small way, to such a dynamic setting.

The decision to leave has not been an easy one. Ultimately, it comes down to family. With three young sons adjusting to life in the UK, I've come to realise the importance of being more present during this transitional time for them. This choice reflects a personal need rather than any lack of fondness for the School or my role within it.

*I am truly sorry that my time here was not longer. I leave with nothing but gratitude and admiration for the staff and students alike. I wish Bolton School continued success and hope it goes from strength to strength in the years ahead.*







## Andrea Donaghy

(1994-2025)

*As I look back on the past 31 years at Bolton School, I find it hard to believe how quickly the time has flown. It's never easy to say goodbye, but as I prepare to retire, I'm filled with a sense of pride in a career that's been full of memorable moments, brilliant people and a lot of laughter.*

My journey began with a love of sport, sparked when I picked up a lacrosse stick at the age of 11. While I've always enjoyed all sports, there was something about lacrosse that stood out—the freedom, the fast pace, the lack of boundaries and of course, that wild *St Trinian's* spirit—or perhaps *Malory Towers*, depending on your taste in books! That early enthusiasm turned into a lifelong passion, affording me the honour to represent England, and it's been a privilege to share it with so many pupils over the years. I realise that lacrosse is not everyone's cup of tea and apologies to all those who have endured cold, wet and muddy lessons—it's all about persistence!

*I remember my interview like it was yesterday. It was the Christmas season and the Great Hall was decorated with angels - a tradition that continues to this day.*

Some things have changed, but many of the School's core traditions have stood the test of time. When I was offered the job and started in 1994, I couldn't have known what lay ahead. Having played on the Leverhulme lacrosse pitches as a pupil, it was a special feeling to return and take on the responsibility of leading the sport at BSGD.

Away from the sports fields, I've had the chance to travel far and wide with our students, from ski trips to France, Switzerland and Austria, to sports tours in Malta, Australia, Canada and the USA.

Those experiences have been memorable and rewarding highlights of my career. Bolton School has played a major part in my life for over three decades, and though it's time to move on, I take with me plenty of memories and experiences that I'll always value.

This year also marks the end of an era for one of the strongest Senior Lacrosse Squads I've had the pleasure to coach. Unbeaten in the Northern Schools' Championships for 7 years and crowned Division 1 National Champions, the 'Dream Team' (their name, not mine!) and I will be bowing out together. It feels fitting to finish on a high and hand over to the next generation ready to make their own mark.

The PE Department has been a fantastic place to work. We've shared countless laughs on a daily basis and have supported one another through every challenge. It's been a place of teamwork, energy and banter—and I honestly couldn't have worked with a better group of friends. I'll miss our department enormously.

As for what comes next—I'm finally taking the 'gap year' I never had. No fixed plans, just a chance to take a breath, try new things and see where the road leads. Whether it's travel, new hobbies or simply swapping a PE whistle for my kindle, I'm looking forward to the change of pace.

*To all the pupils I've taught: thank you for keeping me on my toes. To my colleagues and especially the PE Dept: I'll miss you, and to Bolton School: thank you for the special memories I will always treasure.*



## Tom Winrow

(2014-2025)

*As a proud Boltonian, it has been a privilege to teach at this wonderful school for a decade.*

The Girls' Division has provided me with many opportunities: first, as a Year Tutor in Years 10 and 11, where I had the pleasure of directing many memorable Christmas Post performances. As the years passed, my outdated cultural references ensured that I had a lot to learn about the latest celebrity dramas and trends. In 2022, I moved into the Sixth Form, working alongside Year 13 in their final, crucial year of education at Bolton School.

*It was the privilege of my career to briefly serve as Acting Head of Sixth Form alongside Mrs Delves - it was the busiest, most hectic and most rewarding of my time working in education.*

It will be hard to leave the Riley Centre - between the Prefects' Pantomime performances, Easter Extravaganza event, bidding farewell to Year 13 on their final day as a Bolton School Girl, and Sharon's treats in the café, there was always something to keep me busy!

I have been blessed to lead the Politics department since 2022, and this experience has provided the grounding I need to take the next step in my career. I look back with pride at the growing popularity of the subject over the years, despite the political turmoil of the real world. I will miss receiving unexpected emails from Old Girls who have taken the time to get back in touch with an update on their lives on the back of their political studies.

What I will miss most about the Girls' Division is the people. I have been privileged to teach the most talented and capable students in my time here. Watching the American Flag Football team on finals day filled me with pride: the girls went from novices to finalists in little over 12 months. I now need to follow in their footsteps and take myself out of my comfort zone by embracing new challenges at my next school. I have worked alongside wonderful colleagues who are the most talented, professional and dedicated educators, and I look forward to the day that our paths cross in the future. As with everything life, all good things must come to an end, and I will look back on my time in the Girls' Division with fond memories.





# OLD GIRLS' NEWS

## Class of 1960-1969

### Gill Wood

(née Atkinson, Class of 1964)



Gill and Old Boy **John Powell (Class of 1962)** were girlfriend and boyfriend around 1960 in the days of Miss Higginson

and Mr Poskitt. The couple lost touch as they pursued their careers, in dentistry and nursing respectively. However, they reconnected about 12 years ago through Friends Reunited and have remained in touch ever since.

Gill lost her husband earlier this year after some 50+ years of happy marriage, while John's wife of over 40 years died some five years ago. The pair have now come full circle and are happily together, living in both Whitby and in Shipston-on-Stour, dividing their time between the two places.

If anyone remembers them from so many years ago, they would be delighted to establish contact once again – please contact the Development Office.

## Class of 1970-1979

### Judith Turner

(Class of 1973)



Judith, a self-confessed horse-riding addict, was recently featured in a blog about her passion for horse-riding holidays. She has travelled the world to pursue her love of horseback

adventure – if anyone needs convincing about the thrills and benefits of holidaying in the saddle, *True Confessions from a Pioneering Riding Holiday Addict* can be read at [bit.ly/48mCMxL](https://bit.ly/48mCMxL).

No one was more surprised than Judith when she was asked to be interviewed whilst on a riding holiday – the lady who writes the blogs was intrigued by her long riding career. Judith herself is convinced that keeping going with such an outdoor and fun activity will help her to enjoy life as a pensioner!

### Dr Judith Knott

(née Kenyon, Class of 1978)

Judith has written her first article in German, which will appear in *Mendelssohn-Studien* 24 later in 2025. It focuses on the younger sister of the Mendelssohn family, Rebecka Dirichlet, and the few traces in

her correspondence of the indirect role she played in a prison escape in the aftermath of the 1848 uprisings. Judith also became a grandmother in July.

### Christine Walters

(née Morris, Class of 1979)



Sheona (left) and Chris were delighted to find a shared connection!

During the Summer Chris attended a concert by the renowned Wantage Silver Band in her capacity as Deputy Mayor of Wantage. She was delighted to meet one of the soloists, Sheona Wade, who is Head of Academic Music in the

Girls' Division. The pair had a lovely chat after the concert, and enjoyed comparing notes on the *School Song* and *Three Kings*!

## Class of 1980-1989

### Dr Fiona Cownie

(Class of 1980)



Fiona at the graduation of one of her doctoral students

Fiona is Professor Emerita at Bournemouth University in recognition of her work in sustainability, relationship marketing and education – particularly working with doctoral

students. After her Human Geography degree at the University of Reading, Fiona worked in advertising and marketing and then moved into higher education, setting up Bournemouth University's advertising degree. Fiona was appointed Professor in Relationship Marketing and Sustainability at Bournemouth and hopes to have generally managed to balance work with being a good mum. Fiona is married to Bob, has two sons, James and Edward, loves running (they are all committed parkrunners), is about to have a go at her first ultra-marathon, swims in the sea most days and in 2025 is proud to celebrate being a vegan for 40 years. She would love to hear from Bolton Alumni from the 1980 cohort and looks forward to the next 'O' reunion.

### Karen Harper

(Class of 1986)

After graduation from the University of Bolton in 2014 Karen began a second career in SEN Teaching. She is currently at Chatsworth High Community School and College in Ellesmere Park, Salford.

## Class of 1990-1999

### Dawn Owen

(née Monks, Class of 1993)



Congratulations to Dawn and **Phil Owen (Class of 1991)** who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in September. Phil writes:

"For years, our story was little more than a

series of near misses on the school coach. To me, she was the girl I hadn't quite met yet – a face in one of the seats. To Dawn, I was the boy she'd quietly watched get on the coach each morning, though I hadn't the faintest idea. A romance in the making – though in truth, we never actually spoke a word.

"Eventually, fate intervened. A rare mixed Sixth Form careers lesson for me brought us into the same classroom – the Vause Room, Dawn's form room. As she popped in to collect her things, she spotted me. Her friend, **Leanne Blackmore (née Tidsey, Class of 1993)**, pointed out that I was her brother's friend and a neighbour, whispered a plan and not long after, a letter found its way into my hands. Feeling rather confident, I rang and asked, 'Are you busy this evening?' Her reply was a very definite, 'Yes.' Clearly, I was a natural at romance and a less specific question was required, such as, 'Can I take you out on a date some time?'



"Of course, our story didn't properly begin that night. It took another twist of fate, a little more time, and ultimately

Dawn's need of a date for a ball before we finally came together. From that moment onwards, we have never looked back.

"Now, over 30 years after those coach rides into School and celebrating 30 years of marriage, life looks rather different. We've traded school uniforms for careers and responsibilities, late-night revision for even later nights as parents, and that very first letter for three wonderful children: Erin (27), Jamie (14) and Freddie (13).

### Naomi Lord

(Class of 1998; Boys' Division Staff)

Naomi joined creative forces with **Hadley Stewart (Boys' Division, Class of 2014)** this Summer to produce *Belonging is a Social Construct*. The exhibition invited





over 20 local artists, writers and creatives to explore what it means to belong through the lenses of culture, resistance and representation. In a time of shifting identities and contested spaces, this exhibition asked: who gets to belong, and on what terms? Having opened in June, the exhibition ran until 20th September at the Creatives Now studio in the Market Place shopping centre in Bolton.

## Class of 2010-2019

### Charlotte Wardle

(Class of 2013)



Congratulations to Charlotte on her engagement to **Chris Kent (Class of 2014)**! Charlotte and Chris met in the Sixth Form at Bolton School and years later are very

much still together. The couple went to Amsterdam, one of their favourite places, in May, and Chris proposed – “Finally!” said their families and friends!

### Charlotte Johnson

(Class of 2017)



Charlotte studied Dance at the University of Chester, not really knowing where it would take her. Graduating during Covid meant that her dancing dreams were put

on hold and she worked in a care home – but she never gave up on a dancing career. She recently opened a dance school with another dancer, Beth Kenny, whom she met through another dance school where they were both teachers. The pair started choreographing dances for competitions and quickly realised they worked very well together – so in January this year they opened CB Studios, initially in Oldham, then expanding to Walkden and Prestwich. They teach body conditioning, jazz, commercial and contemporary. They have also entered their dancers into competitions where they placed first, second and third. To find out more, please visit Instagram [@cbstudiosofficial](#).

Charlotte continues to work at the care home as a training administrator, alongside running her dance school.

## Class of 2019 onwards

### Sally Cowling

(Class of 2020)



Sally with brother Toby (Class of 2013) at Wellington Barracks

she played percussion) were joined one rehearsal by the British Army Band Catterick for an open evening. There, Sally learned all about what the army had to offer regarding a career in music. She was immediately hooked and decided to apply for an audition. This was one of the best decisions she ever made and now, having completed months of training, she is a musician in the Band of the Scots Guards in the Household Division, able to learn new skills and perform music as her full-time job. To date, she has performed in Trooping the Colour, taken part in State visits, and carried out countless public duties like Changing the Guard with the band at both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. The opportunities are incredible – Sally highly recommends this job enough to any young musicians at school or university who are unsure where their talent and love of music will take them.

### Eleanor Murray

(Class of 2021)



Eleanor (third from the right) with the She Swims Like a Girl team

Fewer people have swum the English Channel than climbed Mount Everest – a statistic Eleanor now appreciates first-hand. Inspired by her dad, an avid open-water swimmer, she proposed the challenge to her friends at the University of Sheffield Swimming and Waterpolo Club. After a year of training, early get-ups and many cold-water swims, the team were on their way to Dover. With just hours' notice, they were in the water at 4:30am, battling the elements. The cold and the motion sickness made it mentally and physically exhausting, and minutes of swimming felt like hours. But when the group touched France after 10 hours and 59 minutes, they were absolutely

buzzing! Being the fastest relay team that year, all felt an enormous sense of pride and teamwork. All together they raised around £10,000 for charities under their team name, *She Swims Like a Girl*, and Eleanor raised £1,500 for Bolton Lads and Girls Club. Thank you to everyone who donated and their self-promotion on social media paid off. What started as a crazy idea ended with six friends becoming English Channel swimmers, on the 150th year since the first crossing!

### Halimah Natha

(Class of 2023)



Halimah has recently secured a training contract with Ward Hadaway, a leading UK law firm with offices in Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Newcastle and Teesside. She

achieved this in her second year of university study, which is a rare accomplishment for aspiring solicitors. Halimah will commence her training in September 2027 after completing the Solicitors Qualifying Examination and master's at the University of Law. She was drawn to Ward Hadaway's strong reputation in commercial law and its supportive, people-focused culture. Securing the training contract marks an exciting step towards qualifying as a solicitor, and she is particularly looking forward to gaining experience across a variety of practice areas.

### Harriet Dickens

(Class of 2024) and

### Lucy Blenkinship

(Class of 2026)



Congratulations to Harriet and Lucy who were selected to represent the GB women's water polo team at the World

Championships in Singapore in July. As two of the youngest members in the squad, the girls were very excited to be making their world debuts!

Team GB came second in their group and advanced to the next round, where they faced Japan, hoping to progress to the quarter-finals. Unfortunately, this was not meant to be and the team finished 11th overall. Both girls made a significant contribution to the success of the team and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.





Oliver and Abigail



Abigail and her Grandma, Kathleen



L-R: Harriet, Gabriella, Emily, Natasha, Abigail, Beth, Polly, Ananya, Amber



Abigail and her father, Robin

## Abigail Billington

(née Bridge, Class of 2015)

Congratulations to Abigail who married Oliver Billington, whom she met at the University of York in 2015, on 25th May 2025 at Hawkstone Hall in Shrewsbury. There were many Old Girls and Old Boys in attendance, including Abigail's Grandma, Kathleen Bridge (née Collier, Class of 1960), her Grandad, Phil Bridge (Class of 1961), and her father, Robin Bridge (Class of 1985).

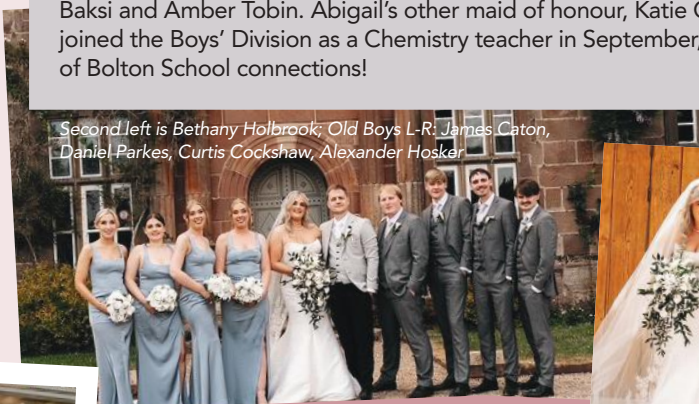
There was also a large contingent from the Class of 2015: Harriet Gribbin, Gabriella Zinner (née Sikorski), Emily Bibby, Natasha Hall, Beth McCaul (maid of honour), Polly Hughes (bridesmaid), Ananya Baksi and Amber Tobin. Abigail's other maid of honour, Katie Clegg, joined the Boys' Division as a Chemistry teacher in September, so lots of Bolton School connections!

## Matches and Hatches

### Francesca Wilson

(née Adams, Class of 2017)

Francesca married Benjamin Wilson in a private ceremony in Lytham St Annes on 6th May 2025. This was followed by a larger event and celebration in Henley-on-Thames on Saturday 10th May 2025 – at which Johanna Mercer, Ashleigh Meech, Penelope Booth and Kirsty Fielding were all in attendance, and Amelia Myatt was a bridesmaid (all Class of 2017).



Second left is Bethany Holbrook; Old Boys L-R: James Caton, Daniel Parkes, Curtis Cockshaw, Alexander Hosker



### Charlotte Holbrook

(née Hopkins (Class of 2016)

Congratulations to Charlotte who married **Jack Holbrook (Class of 2016)** at Browsholme Hall and Tithe Barn in Clitheroe on 22nd May 2025. The couple met at in the Sixth Form at Bolton School and have been together for ten years.

Old Girls and Old Boys were well represented at the wedding, with bridesmaid Bethany Holbrook (Class of 2017), Emma Parkes (Class of 2016), best man James Caton (Class of 2016) and groomsmen Alexander Hosker (2016), Curtis Cockshaw (Class of 2016) and Daniel Parkes (Class of 2019) in attendance.

The Bolton School connection extended to current pupil Abigail Morris, the bride's sister, who was a bridesmaid, and the mother of the bride, Joanne Morris, who is a teacher at Park Road.

### Eleanor Senior-Wignall

(née Senior, Class of 2012)

Eleanor got married in March 2024; she and her husband, Hugh, welcomed their son, Alexander Senior-Wignall, in April 2025. Congratulations!



### Megan Turner

(née Booth, Class of 2015)

Congratulations to Megan, who, after meeting on an A Level Physics trip, married her high school sweetheart Rich Turner! Surrounded by close friends and family, the pair tied the knot at Ivy Lodge in the Cotswolds on 4th August 2025.

Megan's cousins and BSGD Old Girls Emma Metcalfe (Class of 2014) and Rachel Baldwin (née Metcalfe, Class of 2017) were bridesmaids on the day, and childhood best friend Georgia Ball (Class of 2015) also joined the celebrations!



### Thorrun Govind

(Class of 2010)

Pharmacist, lawyer and TV health expert Thorrun married James Willby (Oxon) in an intimate ceremony at The Connaught, Mayfair, London, on 23rd August 2025. The couple celebrated their special day surrounded by close family and friends.

Photographs courtesy of The Kensington Photographer





# Graduations Galore



Congratulations to all Old Girls who have graduated this Summer, and best wishes to all of you as you take the next steps in your careers.

## Holly Morton

(Class of 2011)

Holly has graduated with a PhD in English Literature from the University of Liverpool and is now officially Dr Holly Morton! She is extremely proud of this achievement and hopes that one day (as a current teacher now) she may inspire someone in the same way that Dr Brown inspired her at Bolton School. Holly had never heard of a PhD until Dr Brown, who was a great inspiration, particularly paving the way for women in academia.

Holly's PhD, *Visual Violence in Early Modern Dramas: from Seneca to Shakespeare*, explores how descriptive violence in plays takes inspiration from rhetoric in the real world within the contemporary society. She owes much of her love of English from her GCSE English teacher, Ms Worthington (who became Mrs Sutcliffe).



University of Edinburgh. Alongside her studies Serena worked part-time at CSY Architects, based just outside Edinburgh, and will continue to work there full-time for a further year as an Architectural Assistant. Her long-term plan is to become a fully-licensed architect, and so she will be pursuing a master's degree after a year or so in industry.

In her spare time Serena creates paintings and digital art which she posts on her Instagram account, [@aryaartistry](#).

## Elsbeth Harper

(Class of 2021)

Elsie has graduated with a First Class Honours in Product Design (Industrial) from the University of Leeds. She is now working as an Associate Mechanical Design Engineer with TAIT.



## Shreya Kamath

(Class of 2021)

Shreya has graduated from Imperial College London with First Class Honours in MEng Electronic and Information Engineering.

She has now begun her professional journey in the Risk Intelligence and Markets division at the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG).



## Elizabeth Warburton

(Class of 2021)



Lizzy has been awarded a First Class Honours degree in BA Business Management from the University of Leeds.

She is now working as a Marketing Graduate at Müller UK & Ireland where she will be working on the Müller Corner team!

## Ellen Baines

(Class of 2022)

Ellen has graduated from the University of Liverpool with a 2:1 in Communication and Media.



Ellen is planning to take a year out to go travelling, starting with South-East Asia in January, and to write about her journey to kick-start a career in journalism. She then plans to complete a placement/apprenticeship/post-grad within broadcast media.

## Amerleen Hundle

(Class of 2022)



Amerleen has graduated from the University of Oxford with a BA in Economics and Business Management.

She has now taken up a graduate position at OC&C Strategy Consultants in London, having undertaken an internship there last Summer, with her ultimate aim to build a career in teaching.

## Taya Panter

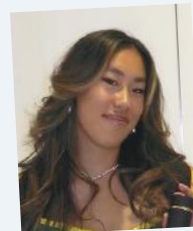
(Class of 2022)

Taya has been awarded First Class Honours for her degree in Politics and International Relations from Royal Holloway, University of London. She is now working as a caseworker for an MP in South London.



## Jasmine Shum

(Class of 2023)



Jasmine recently graduated from her Marketing Executive apprenticeship at Amazon. She started working for the global tech company at 18 years old and completed her

apprenticeship within two years. Post-graduation she secured a full-time role staying on in Prime Video, now working as a Social Creative Operations and Strategy Manager in London.



## Zara Walsh

(Class of 2019)

Zara has graduated from the University of Bristol with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) and

also completed a Master of Laws (LLM), finishing top of this programme with Distinction. She has a keen interest in the intersection of public policy and health inequalities and is now looking forward to beginning her Foundation Programme at South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust.

## Sarah Mogg

(Class of 2020)

Sarah has graduated in Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Surgery from the University of Nottingham. She is now sworn in as a member of the Royal Veterinary College and is working at Potters House Vets in Upholland.



## Serena Arya

(Class of 2021)

Serena has graduated with First Class Honours in Architecture from the



## Share Your Graduation Photos!

If you are attending your graduation ceremony this term, we would love to see your photos and include them in the Spring Newsletter! Please email [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org).



## Mini Reunions



Michele, Heather, Angela (Pye) and Hilary all studied A Level Music together



## Reunited and Reminiscing in Manchester

Following their decade reunion at the School in October 2023, a group of 1973 leavers agreed that ten years was far too long to wait for another gathering. Quite a crowd of them came together to celebrate their 70th birthdays with a special lunch at San Carlo's Italian Restaurant in Manchester.

Those celebrating were: Carolyn Edmonds (née Craston), Susan (Sue) Loscombe (née Davies), Heather Denton, Barbara Arlow (née Dootson), Ann Crook (née Hedderly), Angela Smith (née Jackson), Hilary Fox (née Markland), Elizabeth (Liz) Wilson (née Moore), Christine (Chris) Bradbook (née Oldfield), Angela Carmichael (née Pye), Ruth Rogan, Lorna Anderson (née Stark), Shelley Mould (née Street), Michele Allen (née Taylor), Joëlle Jones (née Toudic) and Judith Turner.

While several others were unable to attend this time, there is hope that this will become a bi-annual tradition and that a fuller group will get together in 2027.

If any other Old Girls from the Class of 1973 would like to make contact, please get in touch with the Development Office.



L-R: Róisín, Zandra and Cathy



## Cautley Catch-Up

Back in June a group of Old Girls from the Class of 1987 arranged a reunion in a very familiar place – Cautley!

"What used to be (in our memories, at least) quite an austere place (we're thinking metal-framed bunk beds and just one bathroom between far too many of us!) is now a beautiful self-catering holiday home. So ten of us from as far afield as West Wales, Bristol, the Borders and all across the North gathered to catch up and reminisce for the weekend. The weather on the Saturday conspired to give us the full authentic Cautley experience; those brave enough to venture out for a walk endured driving rain and water over their boot tops, returning soaked through to their underwear.

"Sunday was a much nicer day and reminded us how beautiful the location is, though it was probably wasted on us at the age of 12. There was much fun, laughter and memories, and the date for next time is already in the diary."

Nicola Celino (née Gray), Susanne Heald (née Hood), Heather Sharrock, Sybra Edwards (née Stuart), Kath Robinson (née Partington), Mel Bray (née Gladman), Lynda Jubb (née Jones), Viki Edmondson (née Anderson), Sarah Rea, Rozanna Niazi



## Graduation Gathering

A group from the Class of 2022 met up for a drink in Manchester to celebrate the fact that a number of them had recently graduated.

L-R: Eloise McDermott, Olivia Matthews-Berry, Olivia Travi, Eleanor Haighton, Ariella Tanfield, Helena Lintott

## '87 Alliances

Strong friendships remain with the Class of 1987, both in the UK and around the world. When Róisín Arkwright visits 'home' from Sydney, Australia (she moved there in 2000) the 'old' friends catch up!

When Zandra Puddephatt (née Nightingale) visited Róisín in Sydney for the final test of the British and Irish Lions Tour, Cathy Higgins (née Knight) was also able to join them. Cathy emigrated to New Zealand with her family in 1984, but still remains in close contact with the friendship group.

L-R: Zandra, Sarah Lundy (née Redford) Juliet Lawson (née Lowe), Jane Boardman and Cath McCurdy (née Leftley), Roisin – unfortunately Wendy Bell-Brown (née Owen) was unable to join in this time





L-R around the table:  
Sue Robinson (née Hampson),  
Moira Greenhalgh (née Stevens),  
Joy Vans Agnew, Heather Vinter  
(née Armstrong), Elizabeth  
Mullenger, Su Detre (née Beesley),  
Angie Davies (née Mason Smith)

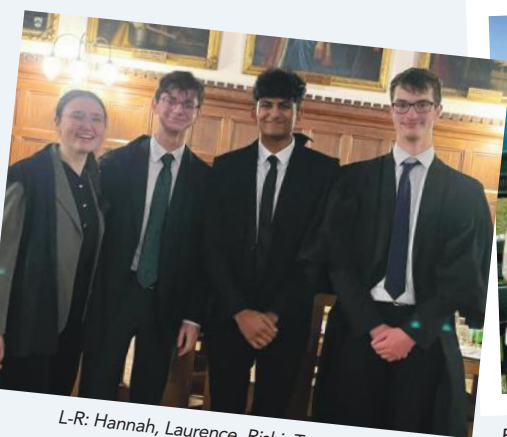
L-R: Sue Kaberry (née Cox),  
Anita Hughes (née Percival),  
Moira Greenhalgh (née Stevens),  
Angie Davies (née Mason Smith),  
Sue Seely (née Band)



## Ladies who Lunch

A group from the Class of 1964 regularly meet for lunch at venues across the country. In May they gathered at RHS Bridgewater and in June they visited the Army and Navy Club in London.

A Manchester Lunch is planned for November or December – with the friends all turning 80 this year they are planning to celebrate with as many as can be mustered!



L-R: Hannah, Laurence, Rishi, Tom



Elizabeth (left) and Heather

## Four Meet Up in Oxford

Hannah McKee met up with Tom Boardman, Laurence Britton and Rishi Narla (all Class of 2023) for a formal dinner at Pembroke College, Oxford. The four try to do this once a term, going around their different colleges.



Justine and Jason duet!



Rachel, Gillian and Justine

## Friends Still Having Fun!

Justine Latham (née Shih), Gillian Rimmer (née Barker) and Rachel Parsons (née Fielding) (all Class of 1991) celebrated together at Justine's belated 50th birthday party. Justine was the star of the show, performing a duet with 80s heartthrob Jason Donovan – this will mean something to those who were teenagers in the 1980s! Justine, Rachel and Gillian have been friends for over 40 years, first meeting in the Junior School in 1981!

## A Friendship Rekindled

In May Elizabeth Edmond (née Eaton, Class of 1963) and Heather Jenkins (née Bentley, Class of 1967) met in Southport, Heather's home town, after not seeing each other for 64 years!

Elizabeth used to live near Heather in Chorley and they knew each other from travelling on the same bus to School. Elizabeth used to have guinea pigs and Heather must have asked if she could see them. This was agreed and, as a result, Elizabeth gave one to Heather, followed by another. They bred and before long Heather had a few more which she took to the pet shop and sold for 2/6 pence!

Heather recognised Elizabeth's surname name in the *Old Girls' Newsletter* and eventually got in touch with her via the Development Office. The two of them then exchanged a number of emails and Heather found out that Elizabeth was a retired GP living in Leicester.

Elizabeth travelled to many places in the UK by coach and before too long she organised a trip to Southport. The next challenge was to swap pictures, as they had no idea what each other looked like!

Eventually, on a sunny day, Elizabeth arrived in Southport. She and Heather had a wonderful day, catching up on 64 years and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. They intend to keep in touch – who knows, this may be at a School event.

Without the *Newsletter* this would never have happened!

## Dublin Delights

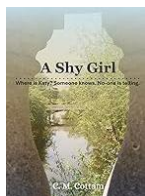
A group of Old Girls from the Class of 2022 organised a mini-reunion in Dublin this Summer. It was a perfect opportunity for them to catch up with each other since they are currently all based in different places across the UK for university and grad-jobs. They are all very grateful to Bolton School for bringing them together and helping them to find friends for life.

L-R: Lillian Featham, Amerleen Hundle, Taya Panter, Manahil Masood, Summer Kay



## A Shy Girl

*A Shy Girl* by **Christine Cottam (Class of 1967)** was published on 1st September. Under its original title, *Such A Nice Girl*, it was longlisted for the Northern Writers' Awards and the Badenoch Award. Despite this, Christine struggled to find a publisher – she notes that lots more better-known people than her began writing thrillers during the Covid lockdown, for example, Richard Osman and the Reverend Richard Coles!



Christine's novel was about to be published through Amazon, when she discovered that several books had come out in the interim with the same title. So, with the help of TechMates, the title was changed and the text updated accordingly. TechMates is a voluntary group supported by Wigan Council that assists people with digital technology – as Christine

is partially-sighted, the book could never have been published without them. They even facilitated her cover design.

The 'foreword' in the book explains the injustice which prompted Christine to write it, and the 'blurb' on the back cover explains the plot:

*Katy is missing. In the 1960s, the colleges making up Oxford University were single-sex and residential. New entrants were paired with older undergraduates (nicknamed College Mothers) to help them settle in. Unable to rely on hers, Katy seeks friendship elsewhere. For a shy girl, it's a dream come true when popular Rosie starts to show her around. Having wangled invitations to a supposedly classy party, in a men's college on the far side of the city, why does Rosie abandon her there, knowing the risks? Was that the plan, all along? Someone knows. No-one is telling. Everyone whom Katy should be able to trust has played a part in driving her into a corner, where even her life is at stake.*

*A Shy Girl* is available from Amazon, priced at £10.99 – scan the QR code for details or buy online from Amazon.



## The Fax Club Experiment

This Autumn **Laura-Jane Marris (née Simpson, Class of 1995)** will be one of 32 contributing authors to The Fax Club Experiment, a book unlike anything else.

In 2024, 100 strangers bought fax machines to join a bizarre experiment. Every Friday, for a year, they received one question, no names, only numbers. Just 32 finished the experiment. Their answers, reflections and stories became something unexpected: a book about slow thinking in a world addicted to instant everything.

The idea came from David Hieatt, entrepreneur, co-founder of Hiut Denim and creator of *The Do Lectures* (named by *The Guardian* as one of the world's top ten ideas festivals). His thought was simple, strange and a little bit brilliant: what if, in the age of instant everything, 100 strangers bought fax machines to communicate for a year?

Inside the book you'll find:

- 52 thought-provoking questions that cut through small talk;
- Stories that surprise, challenge and inspire;
- Counterintuitive exercises to stretch your thinking;
- A blueprint for sparking real conversations - no screens required.

What began as an absurd experiment turned into a powerful exploration of slowness, secrecy, and different ways of thinking. *The Fax Club Experiment* proves that slowing down can set your mind free.

Laura's contribution is among the 52 chapters, offering her personal take on this unusual experiment and what it revealed about creativity, connection, and questioning the obvious.

The book will be published this Autumn – to find out more visit [thefaxclubexperiment.com](http://thefaxclubexperiment.com).

### Calling All Bookworms!

If you enjoy reading and would like to review books for future editions of this Newsletter, please contact the Development Office.

## Boltonians Ladies Football

*It has been a time of change this season for Boltonians Ladies' FC.*

After a successful pre-season and attracting a number of new players, it's currently working well for them. They have won all their league games at the time of writing, and only lost on penalties away to Blackpool FC, three leagues higher in the rankings, in the Lancashire FA Challenge Trophy. On current showing there is every reason to believe they will do well in their division this year and they still have the League's Cups and the Manchester FA Cup for a different kind of challenge. The girls still have a relatively small squad of players, but that is beginning to be one of their strengths, since they have a great unity and sense of identity as a result. Having said that, they would always welcome new players to share the adventure of the next few seasons back in Lancashire. There is new leadership, as well as a new competition, with Zane Wells having taken on the role of manager and with the on-pitch direction being the responsibility of experienced players Michelle Ryan and Emma Pilling.

The team remains committed to being an amateur side playing at the best level they can, and purely for the pleasure of the game. Training continues on Tuesday evenings at Ladybridge FC,

with home games on Sunday afternoons at the Old Boltonians' ground in Turton. Any new players or helpers are welcome – please contact David Lee at [davidjlee@live.co.uk](mailto:davidjlee@live.co.uk) or visit [www.oldbolts.co.uk](http://www.oldbolts.co.uk).





## How did Girls' Division assist SKCV?

*One of the key findings of the 2023 Inspection Report was that the girls have 'a deep commitment to service and contribute positively to the lives of others both within School and beyond'. This has been exemplified over the years by the School's enviable commitment to the support of charitable causes, a notable example of which was the relationship with the Sri Krishna Chaitanya Vidyavihar Children's Trust (SKCV) in Vijayawada, southern India.*



SKCV Trip, 2011

SKCV was founded in 1984 by Matthew Norton and introduced to School in 2001 by staff member Mrs Hilary Kerridge (later Mrs McCumiskey), Matthew's sister.



Its purpose was to give homeless street children in Vijayawada, between the ages of six and eighteen, not only security and safety, but also a good education so that they might be able to support themselves and their families in the future. To this end they provided a residential village, a school, separate night shelter for girls and boys, vocational workshops and a 24-hour children's hospital. There were more than 20,000 children who came under the category of 'street children' in Vijayawada alone and they would spend their days on the streets or at the railway station, begging or doing odd jobs. Many were sexually abused and beaten and a large number were lured by incentives into a miserable life of prostitution.

Miss Panton (Headmistress, 1994-2005) agreed to SKCV becoming a specific School charity and in the months and years that followed girls and staff pulled together to raise funds from a wide variety of events such as cheese and wine parties, fashion shows, a charity show, a balloon race, a staff garden party and sharing proceeds from the Christmas Post. There was even a donation from St Katherine's Church, Blackrod after Ms Noot and Mrs Sanders gave the Harvest sermon with SKCV being the theme. In total more than £15,000 was raised and this was generously supplemented by donations from the Scott Bolton Trust. These funds were used in diverse ways, one of the more unusual being to purchase a cow and calf. Nothing was left to waste as the dung was used not only to generate electricity, but also to act as fertiliser for the wormery, which in turn helped produce nutritious soil for the vegetable gardens.

Regular email correspondence between the Bolton girls and their Indian counterparts helped strengthen the relationship and in December 2005 the School made its first visit to Vijayawanda when

20 girls made the trip to India, accompanied by Ms Noot, Mrs Sanders, Mrs Sheaff and Miss Watson. Their destination was a farm a few miles outside the city, the headquarters of SKCV and home to some 130 children, mainly orphans, who had been rescued from the streets. They only carried hand luggage because the decision had been taken to use the aircraft luggage allowance solely for the gifts and educational supplies that filled no less than 30 suitcases. They were to forego all home comforts and to be dressed in traditional Punjabi dress for the duration of their stay, during which they helped with teaching, assisting in the drop-in centre and working on the farm. The wearing of Indian dress proved to be much appreciated, even if scarf management was apparently rather problematic!

Further trips to SKVC took place in 2011 and 2014 – all leaving lasting impressions on all involved. **Sophie Hammond (Class of 2007)** said that "Never did I think that there would be children in situations like theirs who could still smile and laugh without any cares. They were so inspirational." Mrs Sanders wrote how "going out there has certainly put things in perspective for all of us". The funding made a huge difference for good and SKCV has been life-changing for many of the children. To this day Ms Noot remains in touch with a boy who became a sound engineer in Mumbai and another who is a chef at sea.



SKCV TRIP 2014



## Meet the Archivist

**Eric Fairweather**

If you have a question about the School's history or would like to donate to the Archive any photographs or artefacts from your time at School, Eric would love to hear from you.

**E: [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org)**



# Memories

## School Song, Still Strong

More than four decades after they first met in the Third Form, four members of the Class of 1988 continue to share a lasting friendship rooted in their Bolton School days. Here, **Jane Broadis (née Pickup)** revisits those formative years filled with music, drama, sport and scholarship, capturing the spirit of the Girls' Division in the 1980s and the enduring influence of a Bolton education on the women they became.



L-R: Jaïne, Gill, Helen and Jane at the '8' Decade Reunion in 2018



"Back in the September of 1981, **Jane Pickup**, **Helen Price**, **Gillian Proctor** and **Jaïne Riley** found themselves sitting in alphabetical order towards the back of **Janet Fell's (Girls' Division Staff, 1978-1983)** Third Form. From that first day, when we learned to change from 'outdoor' shoes into 'indoors', and wrote our names on our 'gennies' – the red 'General Classwork Book' – we became

friends, most of us being 'the only one' from our state primary schools.

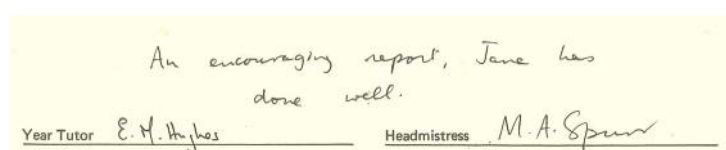
"Our first homework was to learn the words of the *School Prayer* which we glued into our new hymn books, editing 'the labours of other men', so we more appropriately and fairly 'entered into the labours of others'. The four of us discovered shared interests in sport, drama and music – we loved to sing – and it wasn't long before we'd created our own quintet along with **Abigail Whittle**, which saw us practising in the Music Room and meeting at Gillian's house on weekends, where her Dad arranged our pieces for cello, clarinet, oboe, piano and flute. I think we even called ourselves the Famous Five for a time, though we didn't tell anyone else.

"At Christmas time we learned *Three Kings From Persian Lands Afar* which we would go on to sing annually in the Carol Service in Junior Choir, Senior Choir and then Small Choir, along with *School Song*, which we can all still sing to this day – in parts! I know we all treasure the musical legacy we were given by **Paul Blissett (Girls' Division Staff, 1963-1993)** and **Margaret Long (Girls' Division Staff, 1958-1989)**. I also treasure a vinyl single recording of the song, which includes the unforgettable unified creak of woven straw chair seats and swish of skirts, as the School stood in unison. Those eight introductory notes on the organ still bring back the awe I felt as an 11-year-old when I first stood in that Great Hall and realised I had become a Bolton School Girl.

"After a Winter season of the new game 'lacrosse', which none of us had played before, we all won spots on a sports team or two: athletics, netball, rounders as the Spring and Summer arrived. I had also become a stalwart member of the YOC – the Young Ornithologist's Club – run by **Marian Corkill (Girls' Division Staff, 1970-2003)** and **Janet Fell**. I loved it; I'd won the Christmas card design competition and there were multiple weekend trips to local bird reserves. When I was young, I never appreciated the dedication of staff in giving up so much of their free time to nurture the interests of little naturalists, or those who accompanied us on the first of many memorable trips to Cautley.

"Each School year had a certain rhythm, which now beats through the pages of a scrap book that I kept as a child. Speech Day in the Autumn was always a day where returning girls seemed so grown up. **Margaret Spurr (Headmistress, 1979-1994)**, a great champion of girls' potential and their rightful place in the wider world of work, would encourage us to strive and embrace our ambitions, without being held back by a lack of confidence, convention or societal expectations: 'Girls! You can be anything you want to be!' Auditions for the Autumn Drama Festival were held, followed by selection to win the coveted responsibility of reading a lesson in the Carol Service (I never did...).

"I still have all my reports, issued each year at the end of the Autumn and Summer Terms, with the distinctive handwriting of every subject teacher who had their own box to fill. If you did especially well, Mrs Spurr would leave a handwritten comment; I didn't deserve one of those until the close of the Autumn Term in the Upper Fourth.



Jane was delighted to receive a handwritten comment from Mrs Spurr

"That was the term where the 'The Famous Five' performed *Incident* by David Campton in the Drama Festival, a parable on racial prejudice set around the surname 'Smith'. I can still remember my opening line, 'But I booked 'em for Jones and friend!' In 2022, 39 years later, Jaïne sent me a picture of the hand-written script which she'd unearthed in her loft. I had copied it out on thin computer paper interleaved with carbon paper, pressing so hard to produce further copies for each of us.

"It was in the Upper Fourth when my form, in the weekly Form Meeting, voted for me to be the new recipient of the 'Department Girdle', a strange woven jute band worn around the waist and which hung down behind. It was considered more of a curse than a blessing, with girls banding together to influence the election of the new wearer. I was lucky, in that the year that I 'won' it, the band was replaced with a tiny round enamel gold and red badge with a 'D' to match the much more popular gym badge with its capital 'G'.

"The Lower Fifth brought exciting new developments. Not only had we refined our academic interests and chosen our O Level subjects, but this was the year when we were considered old enough to meet and mix with boys, on the condition that we obeyed the 'Three-Foot Rule'. Drama and Music were never so popular with the opportunity to be in joint productions. I found myself with Helen, cast as devils in the play *Dr Faustus*, directed by **Bobby Georgiou (Girls' Division Staff, 1981-1996)** and performed in March that year. I still remain jealous of Helen's off-the-peg red leotard, whereas I had one sewn by girls in the Needlework Department, cut too high and baggy on the legs and generally overly roomy after a nasty two-week bout of measles.





Sixth Formers, 1988



My Fair Lady, 1988



Jane in *The Incident*, part of the Drama Festival, c 1986

"Come May, we all performed in our first joint choir performance – Handel's *Messiah* – accompanied by the Joint School Orchestra with professional soloists. The Lower Fifth Fete followed, which saw us put our entrepreneurial skills to the test and sell homemade cakes while dressed up for the 'Wild West'.

"Other joint productions followed: *The Mikado* in the Upper Fifth, *Pirates of Penzance* in the Lower Sixth and my favourite, *My Fair Lady*, in the Upper Sixth. I borrowed Mrs Long's blouse and looked suitably severe cast as Henry Higgins' housekeeper, Mrs Pearce, whilst Helen starred as Eliza. Then came A Level results, with Gillian leaving to study Natural Sciences, me to become a Geographer, Helen to pursue law and Jaine to train to become a dentist. Over the following years we built careers and raised children, some of us living and working overseas.

*"For over 40 years we have kept in touch, and, with the advent of social media, that became easier. Our WhatsApp group, aptly named 'Remnants of IILF', saw a flurry of activity this year when we decided it was about time we had our first weekend away together. The years rolled back as we reminisced about lessons, teachers and trips, shared news we'd gleaned about peers, and reflected on what we thought Bolton School had done for us – perhaps thoughts for another article, another time!"*

"We are all still working. I have never left the world of education, teaching across both state, independent and international schools at both the primary and secondary level. I am currently a full-time Head of English (and Head of Curriculum), a subject I loved at School and came back to; I can't help hoping that Mrs Georgiou, who gave me an early love of the subject, would be proud! I nostalgically remember my first paid teaching role when I actually spent a term covering **Tricia Keenan's (Girls' Division Staff, 1983-2014)** maternity leave and teaching in the Girls' Division. After graduating, I returned voluntarily to observe lessons for a week when I cheekily suggested to my old

Geography teacher and Head of Sixth Form, **Mary Hughes (Girls' Division Staff)**, that they could employ me. By the end of the day, I had a term of work lined up in the Geography Department alongside Sarah Cole, who remains a friend, who was the interim Head of Geography whilst Mrs Keenan was away.

*"I'll never forget my send-off at the end of that Summer term of 1993, when I walked down the central aisle in the hall to say farewell on stage, surrounded by cheering girls, standing on their chairs waving jumpers and cardigans. I'll also never forget my discomfort in the staffroom, trying very hard to avoid calling my old A Level teachers by their first names which felt far too familiar; I just couldn't bring myself to call **Mrs Scott (Girls' Division Staff 1981-1997)** 'Marilou', or **Mrs Fairweather and Mrs Hall (Girls' Division Staff 1975-2008 and 1993-2014 respectively)** 'Pat', despite the passage of time and my new role as their colleague."*

"As an educator over three decades, my work has shown me how impactful education in the formative years can be. School experiences, and the relationships made there, all contribute to shaping who we become. As I head towards retirement, my greatest hope is that one or two of my former pupils will look back and remember me with the same affection that I hold for some of my Bolton School teachers. I'm hugely grateful that I have old friends to share the memories of my days in the Girls' Division which have no doubt shaped my values, outlook and direction in life. And even on our recent weekend away, with Mrs Spurr's voice faintly echoing in our ears, I can confirm that we were good ambassadors of the School: we didn't eat in public, and managed to maintain our *Department, Decorum and Dignity* at all times."



# Memories

## Mini Le Mans

*In the 1980s the Girls' Division twice entered a team in the 24-hour Mini Le Mans Pedal Car Race in Leverhulme Park.*

*Michelle Hughes (Class of 1985) took part in both events and sent in these photos.*

The 1981 team comprised **Miss Johnson** and **Miss Millington** as team managers, three mechanics, including the designer **David Pearson**, and **Kim Gardner**, **Michelle Hughes**, **Amanda Gerrard**, **Julie Simm**, **Sarah Monks**, **Sally Tankard** and **Clare Smith** as pedallers. The team competed in a specially built car – with thanks to the Scott Trust who donated £150 towards building it – and succeeded in continuing to pedal for the whole 24 hours. They completed a total of 581 laps (196.8 miles) at an average speed of 8.2 mph and finished 31st out of 36.



1982: Michelle is sitting in the pedal car



1981: Michelle is second from the left

There was added excitement in the 1982 race as BBC cameras were filming the event and the Girls' Division team was interviewed by the *Get Set for Summer* crew. **Miss Johnson** and **Miss Millington** again managed the team which included **Amanda Gerrard**, **Michelle Hughes**, **Julie Simm**, **Elizabeth Wallwork**, **Janette McCormick** and **Tracey Dootson**. With their modified 1981 car they completed 690 laps (230 miles) which was 119 laps more than the previous year, but unfortunately not enough to win the trophy.

The event raised money for local charities.

## Maps, Miles and Memories

*For Janet Hutson (née Wright, Class of 1970), an A Level Geography trip to the Langdales remains a highlight of her School days, where learning and adventure went hand in hand. She recalls:*

*"October 1969: an A Level Geography weekend based in the Langdales staying in a house, the holiday home of one of the group – Vicky Hornby, I think. There can't have been very many of us as we travelled in a minibus, but it felt like there were a lot; 17-year-olds do take up a lot of space! We were taken by Mrs Adams and*

*Miss Ogden (also Mr Adams, who drove the minibus and camped in the garden). The weather was surprisingly good and we covered a lot of miles and a great deal of Geography, carefully recorded in a grey Geography notebook; so many Banda'd maps and diagrams! It was great.*

*"The following Easter we had a longer trip to the North Yorkshire Moors and East Coast, being based in a guest house in Scarborough. When a Geography teacher myself I took many field trips to those moors and coast, covering a lot of the same locations. My students were always entertained by the field notebook from my School days – but also took heart from seeing my first (terrible) field sketches!"*

## Bolton School Opens Doors to Business Sponsorships

*Bolton School is inviting local businesses to step into the spotlight with a range of dynamic sponsorship opportunities designed to boost visibility and community impact.*

Whether you're looking to make a bold statement or support meaningful events, there's a package to suit every brand:

- **Banner Sponsorship:** Get noticed with on-site advertising that puts your name front and centre.
- **Event Sponsorship:** Become the headline sponsor at one of three major School-wide fundraising events.
- **Welcome Drinks:** Add sparkle to School gatherings by sponsoring a drinks reception.
- **Ticket Subsidy:** Champion inclusivity by funding event tickets for Alumni under 25.

If you are interested in connecting with a vibrant school community and making a lasting impression please email [rbrayshaw@boltonschool.org](mailto:rbrayshaw@boltonschool.org) for further details.





# Looking Back

*A nostalgic trip down Chorley New Road  
– photographs from across the decades.*



1	Thank you to <b>Michelle Hughes (1985)</b> for this photo of her impressive jump over her teammates! Michelle was the individual winner in the Under 13 section of the Bolton Borough gymnastics championships.
2	Thank you to <b>Yvonne Lowe (née Conroy, 1955)</b> for identifying the final member of the 1953-53 Tennis Team – the photo features: Back, L-R: June Allen, Jean Shepherd, Kathleen Johnson Front, L-R: Shelagh Hough, Yvonne Conroy, Audrey Ashworth
3	Thank you to <b>Eva Marshall (née Leach, 1953)</b> for this cutting from the Bolton Evening News. The photo shows 'members of the domestic staff of Bolton School [on] an outing to Blackpool'. The cutting is not dated, but the outfits suggest it was several decades ago!
4	Year 13 Biology field trip, 2011
5	Guide Dogs, Summer 2007
6	Christmas jumpers, 2014
7	Music Rehearsals, 1997



# LIVES REMEMBERED

## Effie Mary Crompton

(née Marshall, Class of 1955)

Effie. If you were in the Senior School between 1947 and 1955 you will know that name.



Effie (left) as Head Girl and Prefect Yvonne

Head Girl, House Captain, Prefect, Games Captain, Scholar and mathematical rival as far as I was concerned. I remember getting 100% in an arithmetic exam and my first thought was that even Effie

couldn't beat that. She was a humble powerhouse and although she won all the prizes, she was always more interested in the achievements of others.

My most vivid memories of her were on the lacrosse pitch. To join Effie on an attack knowing that she would always be there to receive a pass was a tremendous benefit to the whole team. She won scholarships to read mathematics at Oxford and Cambridge and chose Cambridge to become a star in yet another galaxy.

We met again when we had both retired. She was still the same – bright, enthusiastic, full of curiosity and eager to learn. Cruelly, the legs that had outrun everyone on the lacrosse field had now started to let her down. She became captain of a new team called family and, with the help of her husband, **David Crompton (Class of 1956)**, and their children, John, Tessa and Virginia, found resourceful and ingenious solutions to her increasing frailty. She died peacefully in hospital and lies in a quiet churchyard near Cambridge. You can be sad that Effie has gone but, better still, you can smile because she has lived.

Yvonne Lowe (née Conroy, Class of 1955)

## Patricia Day

(née Crowcroft, Class of 1962)

Pat will be remembered by her family for her loving, caring and compassionate nature as well as her powerful intellect and voracity for life.



From Bolton School she became the first woman in her family to attend university, earning a degree in Physics from Nottingham. It was there that she met her

lifelong soulmate, John Day, with whom she raised two children and welcomed four grandchildren.

Her career at IBM spanned over two decades, during which she broke barriers, becoming one of the first women to graduate from 'Systems Engineering School', mastering mainframe programming. In retirement, she and John embraced their love of golf, travelled widely and spent treasured time at their second home in Northern Cyprus.

Above all, Pat will always be remembered as a wonderful mother, grandmother, sister and friend.

Sue Sosteric (née Day)



## Jean Mary Howarth

(née Lever, Class of 1961)

Jean entered Bolton School on 15th September 1954, with 11 other boys and girls from Devonshire Road School.



Her father and his two brothers attended Bolton School. Her father was handed a prize for academic achievements by Viscount Leverhulme.

Jean's sister, **Susan Bargery (Class of 1963)**,

followed her two years later and all Jean's children, **Simon (Class of 1988)**, **Nicholas (Class of 1989)** and **Jane (Class of 1994)** attended the School. She progressed uneventfully through School and left to do a dentistry degree at King's College London. She returned to Bolton, married to Maurice, and worked as a dentist here for 43 years.

She served on health committees, including as the only dentist on a national one. She was Treasurer and Chairman of the Bolton Dental Association (East Cheshire/East Lancashire branch) and Treasurer and Chairman of Bolton School's Old Girls' Association Committee, which she joined in 1966 and remained on. She said she enjoyed School more after she left and as an Old Girl always enjoyed the feeling of being a member of a family.

Jean always felt grateful for the education she received at Bolton School and the attitude that one should try to reach one's potential and help others who were less fortunate.



Simon and Nick accept the award on their mother's behalf

Shortly before she passed away, Jean was delighted to receive a letter from Philip Britton, Head of Foundation, informing her that she was the recipient

of the second Distinguished Service to the Old Girls' Association Award in recognition of her staunch commitment to the Association. Jean served on the Committee for several decades, including five years as its Chairman. Jean was unable to accept this award in person, but her sons, Simon and Nick, returned to School to accept it on her behalf. They toured the Girls' Division, seeing the many places about which their mother talked so fondly. It was evident during their conversations that Jean loved her School and the award recognised her unwavering support for the Old Girls' Association.

## Judith Margaret Wildman

(née Ayton, Class of 1955)

Judith was the daughter of William ('Billy') and Hilda Ayton, a Master Painter and Decorator and a Milliner. She lived with her parents and a beloved Boston Terrier called Binky in Bolton throughout her early life. She attended Bolton School Girls Division between 1945 and 1955 and very much enjoyed her school days, making many lifelong friends whilst there, including **Sheila Monks (née Jones, 1957)**, **Tessa Booth (née Bannister, 1956)**, **Carol Holt (née Simpson, 1953)**, **Carol Gray (née Watkiss, 1955)** and **Janet Taylor (née Monks, 1956)**.



After leaving School, Judith attended The Manchester College of Housecraft and The Bolton Women's College of Domestic Arts and Crafts where she obtained several qualifications in Domestic Science.

She met her future husband, John Wildman, on Trinity Street Station just as he was about to depart to Malaya for two years National Service. They married on his return in Delph Hill Methodist Chapel in 1961 and were together for 63 years. They have one daughter, Caroline, a retired solicitor.

John's management role in the Metal Box Company took the family all over the British





Isles and they lived at various stages in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, returning briefly to their home town of Bolton in the 1980s. Moving every few years would have presented a challenge to most, but Judith embraced each new move, creating a beautiful home environment and amassing many new friends whom she retained throughout her life.

Over the years, Judith worked variously as a recipe tester, a Domestic Science teacher and a freelance home economist. She was also a very successful Tupperware sales agent whilst living in Scotland, earning at the time more than John did, to his bemusement, and she was the top sales agent for Hedgerows, a Devon-based gift company, when living in South Wales. In the 1970s, she had a radio show on Radio Carlisle, advising listeners on best buys of the week.

She accredited her successes in life to the confidence and drive instilled in her by her time at Bolton School. Her frequent mantra when she had somehow achieved a seemingly impossible feat or overcome a difficult situation was to state, with a smile on her face, "Bolton School, you know!"



Her school meant a lot to her and she was immensely proud of her *alma mater*.

On John's retirement, he and Judith returned to live in Cumbria. Judith loved gardening and created a beautiful garden at their cottage. She also loved singing and was a long-standing member of the church choir. Judith had a well-deserved reputation as a great hostess and she and John enjoyed a busy social life. They travelled extensively around the globe, often with golf clubs

and friends in tow. Scotland, Majorca and Austria were particular favourites.

Judith is remembered by those who knew her as a lady who lived life to the full; always elegant, vivacious, kind and interested in others. She died peacefully after a short illness and is survived by John, her daughter, Caroline, and her grandchildren, George and Alice.

*Caroline Samuels (née Wildman)*

## In Memoriam

**Patricia Anne Green (née Farrimond) - Died 24th August 2025**

**Rose Hargraves (née Glover, Class of 1959) - Died 21st July 2025**

**Mary Morton (née Morgan, Class of 1966) - Died 6th August 2025**

**Gillian Thornley (née Ormrod, Class of 1950) - Died 23rd July 2025**

**Ginny Whiteside (Class of 2016) - Died 5th July 2025**





# Old Girls Association Autumn Newsletter 2025



L-R: Katie Nightingale, Jess Melling and Madison Brownley (all Class of 2015) at the '5' Class Reunion, September 2025