



Old Boltonians' Association 1895 - 2025

THE BUGLE



Autumn 2025

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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.



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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 Boy community as much as we value the opportunity to stay connected to 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 or by scanning the QR code below.

Stay In Touch

	www.boltonalumninetwork.com
	Old Boys and Old Girls (Official)
	Bolton School Alumni
	boltonschoolalumni
	Bolton School Alumni
	boltonsch
	boltonschool.me/
	bsalumni/albums
	www.boltonschool.org



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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am honoured to be serving as President of the Old Boltonians' Association for the coming year. I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to the School that has meant so much to me and my family over the years.

My earliest memories of Bolton School go back to before I was a pupil, with Sunday swimming sessions at the old baths and Scout fêtes at Woodlands. But my deepest appreciation for the School has grown through my experience as a parent. The decision to send our four children to Bolton School was one my wife, Louise, championed; having experienced the state system herself, she knew how important a strong educational foundation can be. Like many families, we made sacrifices to make it happen – as my parents certainly did to send five of us to School when the Direct grant was phased out – and we have never regretted it.

As President, my focus this year will be on four main areas:

- **Widening Access** – I will be supporting fundraising efforts to help ensure the School remains accessible to talented young people from all backgrounds. I look forward to working with the Development Office to support the newly-launched Open Futures Bursary Campaign, which aims to focus the philanthropic support of the entire School community on achieving the School's ambition to support one in three pupils with a bursary place.

- **Strengthening the Alumni Network**

– I want to increase engagement, particularly with recent leavers. As the father of three Old Girls, the brother of three Old Girls and the son of an Old Girl, I am fully invested in the Girls' Division, alongside my strong connection to the Boys' Division. I am looking forward to working with the Old Girls' Association to continue to build a joint Alumni network.

- **Expanding Mentoring** – I have mentored a wide range of people over the years, and now that I am retired, I am eager to do even more. My aim is to establish a system where every student, Old Boy or Old Girl can find a mentor to support them at key moments.

- **Supporting Leavers** – Many of our Alumni are in a position to help current students navigate decisions about university, apprenticeships, gap years and careers, and I hope to work with the School to explore how we can make this support more accessible.

I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Barry Nightingale (Class of 1979)

Old Boltonians' Association President, 2025-2026



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF BOYS' DIVISION

This Autumn, my usual view over the Levels has been hidden by scaffolding that now wraps the South Wing, where essential stone restoration work is taking place to preserve our magnificent buildings. I was fortunate to inspect the project recently, and it was fascinating not only to see the intricate ornamental stonework up close, but also to gain a fresh perspective on the School. Watching the Year 7 cross-country trials from the roof was a particular highlight.

Despite the construction, School life has continued undisturbed, and I look back on a term bursting with its usual energy. The grand opening of the Leverhulme Woodlands has given Primary Division pupils new opportunities to explore nature and learn outdoors in all weathers. The sense of togetherness, whether pupils are outdoors on site, at Patterdale (which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year), or participating in our extensive extracurricular programme, remains central to our ethos of belonging. In that same spirit, the School hosted its first community Iftar, where students, staff and families broke fast together over biryani, samosas and daal, sharing an evening of warmth and unity.

Sport has also provided plenty of memorable moments. Our cricketers were crowned North West T20 champions after an impressive run of victories, while our football teams in Years 7, 10 and 11 added a trio of Town Cups to the trophy cabinet.

Off the field, some may have spotted our campus in Costa Coffee's latest advert – income from this project supports our bursary scheme and our ongoing commitment to social mobility. In October, Bolton School was named *School/College of the Year* at the UK Social Mobility Awards, and, shortly afterwards, *Independent School of the Year for Contribution to Social Mobility*. These national accolades recognise the transformative

impact of our bursary programme and the generosity of Alumni, parents, staff, and friends. The Centenary Dinner honoured Lord Leverhulme's legacy and launched the *Open Futures* campaign to expand our bursary scheme further, ensuring that as many students as possible can benefit from a Bolton School education, regardless of background.

For me, *The Bugle* continues to showcase the many achievements of our Old Boys across the widest range of careers and voluntary endeavours. Boys in School are always inspired to hear how Alumni have flourished since leaving, whether through events such as Prizegiving or through ongoing guidance, mentoring and careers support. To build on this, we have reshaped our provision and appointed our first Head of Futures, Amanda Potts, who will no doubt seek to expand the *World of Work* talks featured in this edition.

Finally, having recently returned from the rooftops myself, I particularly enjoyed reading about the Fire Watchers in our archives; another story of togetherness, cooperation, and community – all enduring qualities that remain at the heart of Bolton School today.

Nic Ford

Head of Boys' 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.



Martin Wadsworth is the recipient of this year's award for distinguished service to the Old Boys' Association

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)**, **Gwyneth 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 Baggley (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.



3,113

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

1,652

Are willing to offer advice

1,266

Have offered to help review CVs

68%

Are willing to help

1,806

Are willing to answer industry specific questions

1,509

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.

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, it 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.



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). Described as the 'Oscars for Social Mobility', 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.



Bolton School Hosts First Community Iftar

On Tuesday 18th 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 School Captain and Head Girl. 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.



Water Polo Winners

Over 200 students and parents gathered for the annual Foundation End of Season Celebration – a fantastic opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the students' achievements this year.

We were honoured to welcome back Old Boys **James Blenkinship** and **Harry Bentham (both Class of 2022)**, both now senior internationals and university water polo scholars. They inspired students as they presented awards and shared their journeys from Bolton School.



James (left) and Harry joined the celebrations



Bolton School Crowned North West T20 Champions!

Bolton School became the North West T20 Champions following a remarkable run of victories that earned the team a place in the national rounds of the competition. The journey to the title saw impressive wins over King's Chester, Lancaster and Sedbergh, culminating in a thrilling final against Cheadle Hulme.

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



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

educational, emotional and societal benefits of learning outdoors. **Phil Brickell MP (Class of 2004)**, Labour MP for Bolton West, and Kirith Entwistle, Labour MP for Bolton North East, also attended in support. Tim Taylor 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.

Apprenticeship Ambitions

Eleven recent leavers from the Boys' Division have secured competitive apprenticeships and professional training positions with prestigious international firms in fields such as Finance, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Pilot Training. Mr Deane Lamb, Head of Year 13 and Degree Apprenticeship Lead, praised their hard work and dedication throughout the demanding application process.

Alongside university applications, including to Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group institutions, Bolton School offers tailored support for students pursuing Degree Apprenticeships. The Sixth Form team provides expert guidance through every stage, from CV writing and applications to interviews and assessments, helping students transition from education to high-level professional careers.

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.

Lights, Camera, Bursaries!

Bolton School features in the latest *Costa Coffee* advert, its iconic buildings portraying a university. The one-minute commercial follows a young student who finds comfort and friendship in a Costa shop.



Income from such projects supports the School's bursary scheme, helping bright students from all backgrounds access a Bolton School education.

Park Road Welcomes its New Head

At the beginning of the Summer Term the boys and staff of Park Road were delighted to welcome Mrs Claire Finch as the new Head of the Boys' Junior School.



Claire was educated at Withington Girls' School and then at Newcastle University, where she read Philosophy, before completing her PGCE at Manchester Metropolitan University. Prior to joining Park Road, she served as the Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Altrincham Preparatory School for Boys, having originally joined the school in 2015.

Reflecting upon her appointment, Claire commented: "It is a privilege to be joining such a vibrant, caring and ambitious school community and I look forward to working in partnership with the boys, staff, and parents of Park Road as we embark on this new chapter together."

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.



Year 7 Town Cup winners with Mr Johnson



Year 10 Town Cup winners with Dr Mullins and Mr Prentki

A Trio of Town Cups

Three Boys' Division football teams have brought home Bolton Town Cups this year.

The Year 11s were the third team to win the final of their age group tournament, which took place in front of a large crowd at the end of April, hosted by Old Bolts AFC. After falling behind in the first half, the boys eventually beat a strong Thornleigh team 2-1.

Earlier in the Spring term, the Year 10 and Year 7 teams also won their age groups finals to be named 2025 Town Champions. Congratulations to all three teams!



Y11 Town Cup Winners 2025

Celebrating 30 Years of Patterdale Hall!

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



Tim Taylor, Debbie Done, Philip Britton

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



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.

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.

AO Extends Sports Sponsorship at Bolton School

AO has expanded its sponsorship at Bolton School to include the Boys' Division's football team kits. Over the next three years, four leading Senior Division teams will proudly wear AO kits for all matches.

The School extends its sincere thanks to AO Founder and CEO **John Roberts (Class of 1992)** for his continued partnership and his company's enduring support for both sporting talent and Bolton School's long-term bursary goals.



Bolton School Awarded for Excellence in Outdoor Learning

Bolton School has received the prestigious Gold Standard from the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC), a national benchmark held by only 55 UK providers.

This award recognises excellence in safety, leadership, learning, sustainability and customer care. Outdoor Learning is woven into the Bolton School curriculum, building resilience and confidence from the Primary Division through to the Sixth Form. Pupils enjoy activities such as archery, climbing, biking, and paddle sports, with expeditions across the UK and Europe. Residential and weekend trips bring adventure into real-world settings, while older students pursue national awards and instructor-level qualifications – developing resilience, independence and a lifelong love of the outdoors.

Steve Bradley, Head of Outdoor Learning in Boys' Division, said: "Outdoor Learning is not viewed as a supplementary enrichment activity, but as a strategic thread in our commitment to building capable, compassionate and confident young people."



THE MAIL BAG

A selection of emails and letters received since the last edition of *The Bugle* was published.

Star Letter Old Boys are Everywhere!

Roger Henthorne (1941-1948) was recently going through some paperwork which contained some memories and photographs of School – he was surprised to realise how throughout his life there were times when one could say Bolton School was just around the corner again!

"On leaving School I was called up to do my National Service. I was finally posted to Nairobi and on my second day there walked into an ex-pupil who knew my face and so we had a chat. Then I went to Chester College to train as a teacher where, as you expect, I met several Old Boys whom I knew quite well. Then, as my family now lived in Harrow, where I taught in Shepherd's Bush and Harrow, I managed to attend several of the Old Boys' dinners.

"I then became the Deputy Head of a school at Linton in Cambridgeshire before taking up the post of Headteacher of Saint Mary's Church of England School in Saint Neots. The first teacher I appointed at Saint Neots was a Sue who had attended the Girls' Division, later to become a headteacher herself. During my time at St Mary's several of the staff at Longsands Comprehensive School were ex-teachers or pupils at Bolton School, namely **John Newton**, Deputy Head, **Edward Aspinall** and finally the Headteacher, **Rob Whatmough**. I was very privileged to receive from the University of Chester the honorary degree of Bachelor of Education in 2019 for services to education.

"I know these are of the ramblings of an old man ... but I do keep a very warm place in my heart for my time at Bolton School. May it continue to serve and encourage young people with the ideals of service to the community that the Headmaster of my time, Mr Poskitt, so carefully encouraged to us to do."

Reflections on Classmates, Careers and Longevity

Harry Latham (Class of 1951) was surprised to recognise the names of some of the late Old Boltonians mentioned in the previous edition of *The Bugle*. He was also surprised to see that a number of old classmate nonagenarians have actually outlasted the average life male span (84 years and two months in BC Canada) – and wonders if this longevity is a peculiarity related to the sparsities of the 1940s and early 1950s, with a WWII food restriction, various sugar food restrictions, or even the physical activity encouraged by a Bolton School upbringing!

Harry particularly remembers **Ray Doldon (Class of 1951)**: "He and I represented a 'Sheffield University Gymnastics Team' (of two!) when the Sheffield Gym Instructor learned we planned to go to Manchester University to link up with **Geoff Bain (Class of 1951)**, hoping to learn a few new gymnastic manoeuvres. We went, but he hadn't learned any such new manoeuvres either!"

Then and Now

Ray Doldon (Class of 1951) recalls very clearly, as a 12 year-old boy, looking forward to a holiday to the Lake District with the School scout troop in the Summer of 1945.

"Compare that with the worldwide escapades that today's boys will be anticipating now! However, I am sure we boys from the 1945 era had all the same eagerness and anticipation then, as the young boys will have today, especially if they were anticipating the same schoolboy camaraderie that we did all those 80 years ago.

"Those of us who are lucky enough to have come through those 80 years will be remembering the early days, and hoping that the next 80 years will bring them through the ups and downs of their lives as we lucky chaps have experienced from the 1945 era! Their experiences will be continuing testimony to their schooldays as boys and Old Boys in the 80 years of travels and experiences awaiting them."

Masterful Memories

Mike Ainscough (Class of 1962) was delighted to receive the Spring edition of The Bugle:

"I had an unexpected thrill this morning when the latest issue of *The Bugle* dropped through my letterbox – the front cover with a 1955 drawing of the School by George Higginson.

"I started as a pupil in that same year and had my first lessons in art from GH. They were a revelation – superb lessons in drawing – which have stayed with me 70 years later. So many, many thanks for putting this drawing on the cover – may there be others."

Mike's own work can be seen at his website mikeainscoughart.co.uk.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

From Farnworth to the Frontiers of Creativity:
A Conversation with Anthony Lilley OBE



Guest speaker at this year's Summer Prizegiving was **Anthony Lilley OBE FRSA (Class of 1988)**, a media and arts producer, consultant and advisor. Prior to awarding the prizes, he chatted to **Naomi Lord (Girls' Division, Class of 1998; Foundation Director of Creative Learning)**.

*Bolton School Old Boy **Anthony Lilley OBE** – a self-described “ordinary lad” from Farnworth turned award-winning theatre and media producer – returned to deliver the speech at the Boys' Division Prizegiving. In a lively and generous conversation, he reflected on School days, the spark of creativity and a career built on curiosity, collaboration and constant reinvention.*

When Anthony Lilley returned to Bolton School as the guest of honour at this year's Prizegiving, there was a palpable sense of excitement. Here was an Old Boy from Farnworth – someone who described himself as an “ordinary lad” – who had gone on to collect BAFTA, RTS and Peabody awards, and even an OBE. Yet in person, Anthony is anything but lofty. He is funny, self-effacing, and generous, quick to give credit to others and to poke fun at himself.

In conversation, Anthony recalled his school days with a grin. He described himself as “half luvvy, half geek”: a teenager equally at home shifting scenery for a School production of *The Tempest* as he was tinkering with early computers. “That’s where it all started,” he said. One teacher even sacrificed his lunch breaks so Anthony could play on the School’s rudimentary machines. That gift of extra time, Anthony noted, sparked a lifelong passion for technology.

But it wasn't only, or even mainly, computing. His German master, **Mr Freem (Boys' Division Staff, 1970–2010)**, Anthony remembered, saw something in him that others hadn't quite named yet. That teacher valued Anthony's creativity and energy, but held him to rigorous standards of hard work and achievement – not letting him drift on charm or enthusiasm alone.

“He expected a lot of me,” Anthony explained, “and in doing so, he showed me what I might be capable of. I wanted to show him I could live up to his expectations.”



Looking back, Anthony sees this as an early lesson in the importance of creative dispositions: the ability to think differently, to imagine alternatives, but also to do the work to bring those ideas into being.

After leaving School, Anthony studied Law at Oxford. He joked, “I got better at law but never became a lawyer.” Instead, he stumbled – or perhaps wove – his way into new media, theatre, broadcasting, games and strategy. He could be described as a “jack of all trades,” whilst resisting any description of what he does as “a proper job”, there is an underglow of pride in the playful dexterity that underpins his wide-ranging career successes. His career development was not a straight line, but rather a series of pivots, each one a chance to reinvent himself and learn something new.

Over the years, Anthony has built a portfolio that straddles theatre, television, games and digital storytelling. He has worked with big cultural brands such as *Doctor Who* and *Top Gear*, and his work in digital innovation has been recognised with BAFTAs, RTS and Peabody awards. In 2008, at the age of only 38, he was appointed OBE for services to media and the creative industries. These days, he juggles a portfolio of roles: theatre producer at Scenario Two Ltd, Professor of Creative Industries at Ulster University, Chair of Studio Ulster Ltd, a cutting-edge virtual production facility, Senior Advisor to placemaking specialists Time and Space, board member of UK Theatre and Chair of the international artists' group Blast Theory.

His wife, he said with warmth, has been the constant thread. “She’s the best person I’ve ever met,” he explained. When he needs grounding, she gives it; when he needs honesty, she never flinches. It was clear that, for all the accolades, Anthony considers his greatest gifts to be for partnership and a novel perspective.

Talking about his work today, Anthony was quick to shift the spotlight away from himself. “My role is often just to hold the space for other people’s talents,” he said, “to bring them together and let them shine.” He sees himself as a prospector for innovation, scanning the landscape for new ideas and then creating the conditions for others to make them real.

Creativity, he argued, is not just a single talent but a set of dispositions – ways of approaching problems with curiosity, flexibility and resilience. In his speech, he urged pupils not to fear failure, because “exploration and so-called failure are how we learn.” Plans, he observed with a laugh, rarely unfold as expected. The real skill is to adapt, to collaborate and to keep going with optimism.

When asked about achievements, Anthony acknowledged the OBE and awards with modesty, but his energy was reserved for something else: the chance to keep reinventing, to make space for others and to bring creativity into every corner of his work.

“Everything I’ve done starts with Bolton School,” he observed. From an ordinary lad in Farnworth to a leader in creative industries, Anthony’s story is less about personal triumph than about curiosity, generosity and the courage to keep trying.

As he put it with characteristic humour and candour: “Everybody’s winging it, all the time.” For today’s pupils, his message was both liberating and challenging: stay curious, stay decent, put in the work and don’t be afraid to take the scenic route.

World of Work

The World of Work talks aim to encourage current pupils to broaden their horizons via a series of Zoom sessions by a range of inspiring Old Boys.

Matt Crook

(Class of 1990)

Matt creates formats for entertainment and hard-hitting factual shows.

With more than ten years' experience of creating and producing shows which include: *Five Go Dating*, *The Real Hustle*, *Movie Mistakes*, *Honey I Bought the House*, *The Next Great Magician*, *Doorstep Crime*, *Thief Trackers*, *Derren Brown's Twisted Tales*, *Cinderella: A Comic Relief* and many others, Matt has had widespread success in British and international markets. Matt started his career on iconic shows including *The Big Breakfast*, *Big Brother 1* and *The 11 O'clock Show with Ricky Gervais*.



Tim Cutler

(Class of 1994)

Tim gained a BSc in Medical Sciences from the University of Leeds with a view to a career in Forensic Science.

However, after deciding that laboratory work was not for him, he applied successfully for a role within the audit team at KPMG in Manchester. His work involves providing audit and assurance services to the Public Sector, specialising in NHS, Local Government and Higher Education. Working for a large multi-national partnership has provided many career opportunities, including a stint working for KPMG in Australia, working for the Department of Health in their Leeds offices and spending 12 months as the commercial director for one of the UK's major political parties. Tim became a partner at KPMG in 2014 and now leads their public sector practice across the North of England and Scotland; he is also the national lead partner for NHS and Local Government audit.



Binit Somaia

(Class of 1989)

Binit is an aviation professional with a 30-year career shaped by his passion for connecting people, places, and ideas through travel.

After earning an Economics degree at Cambridge, he moved to Australia to pursue finance but shifted to aviation during a recession. He gained early experience in airline sales and marketing, followed by a brief stint in a London tech start-up. Returning to aviation, he joined a consulting firm in Australia, where he has worked for over 20 years. His advisory work spans airlines, airports, and governments, with a focus on India and emerging markets across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.



Ben Lomas

(Class of 1994)

Ben is an Investment Director at TrinityBridge.

He started his investment management career in 1999 and most recently spent 14 years with Brown Shipley as a Private Client Manager and later, Client Director.

He joined TrinityBridge's Manchester office in 2021, and specialises in managing bespoke portfolios for private individuals, intermediaries, trusts, family investment companies and charities.

Ben is a Chartered Fellow of the Securities Institute and a holder of its Diploma.



Thank You!

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

Nick Malone (Class of 1965) visited various Boys' Division Art lessons

Larry Patterson (Class of 1965) spoke to Boys' Division pupils taking part in Operation Wallacea, to Girls' Division pupils taking part in World Challenge and to Year 13 Biologists about his conservation work.

Julian Butterworth (Class of 1990) delivered a drug and alcohol awareness session to Year 12 pupils in Boys' Division and Girls' Division.

Henry Collier (Class of 2006) gave a talk to MedSoc about his career as a Consultant Anaesthetist

Austin Smith (Class of 2013) spoke to the Law Society about his career as a Solicitor.

Luke Cavanaugh (Class of 2018) joined Boys' Division's Year 10 Russian students via Zoom to speak about studying Russian and English at Cambridge and about his current role in Kyiv.

George Morgan (Class of 2018) shared details of his current PhD research into materials for solar cells with Year 12 pupils from both Boys' and Girls' Divisions.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards



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

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

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. He was recently appointed as an Independent Director at the British Mountaineering Council.

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.

Find Your Path

The Old Boltonians' Find Your Path mentoring scheme, well into its ninth year, has seen over 100 young Old Boys seek advice from mentors as they move into the world of work.

Mentees have sought the support of Alumni 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.

The Find Your Path scheme welcomes applications from young Old Boys considering their next steps, who will benefit from the breadth of experience the mentors have to offer. Please email development@boltonschool.org to find out more.



A recent beneficiary of the scheme is **Peter Johnson (Class of 2019)**:

"I enrolled in the mentoring scheme in early 2024 as I sought advice on how to kickstart my career in journalism. I was part way through a master's degree in Broadcast Journalism at the University of Salford and already had several years of experience in community radio, but was having difficulty finding a paid job in the industry.

"I was paired with **Stephen Parry (Class of 1974)**, who

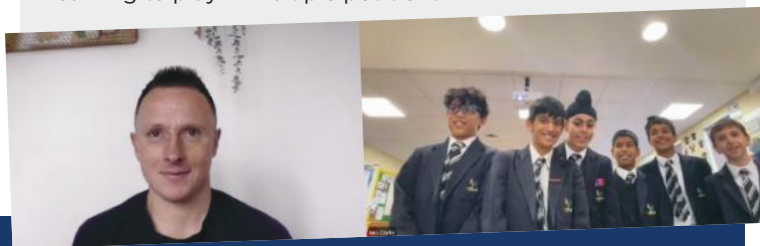
Austin's Advice for Aspiring Sports Stars

***Austin Harris (Class of 2001)** recently spoke to Bolton School's Junior Elite Athletes via Zoom, offering an inspiring perspective on pursuing a career in sport.*

A professional football coach who has worked with clubs including Brighton and Plymouth, Austin now works for the FA, coaching the next generation of coaches. He shared how his lifelong passion for sport – especially football – drove his career, even after realising he would not make it as a professional player.

Austin described his time coaching in America during and after university, where he gained valuable experience, earned his coaching qualifications and travelled extensively.

His key message to the Park Road boys was that elite sport can be ruthless, so, while it is important to give your all, it is equally vital to have a Plan B. He encouraged the athletes to work hard at School and keep their options open. For aspiring footballers, he also advised developing versatility by learning to play in multiple positions.



was incredibly generous with his time and provided me with some invaluable CV advice. He also put me in touch with a fellow alumnus of Bolton School, **Andy Gregory (Class of 1974)**, who was able to recommend potential avenues to consider regarding employment and further training thanks to his experience with the *Daily Mail*.

"David Walker (Class of 1973), Elliot Turnbull (Class of 2016) and Neil Bowker (Class of 1973) were all also brilliant to speak to, and I was even fortunate to shadow Neil in his role at IGN at Stockley Park in London.

"One of the best things about the mentoring scheme was the number of contacts it opened up, as each Old Boy I was put in touch with not only had advice of their own, but was also forthcoming in putting me in touch with others.

"In no small part down to the advice I received through the mentoring scheme, I was able to develop my experience, improve my CV and strengthen my job applications. I ultimately gained employment with the British Forces Broadcasting Service as a presenter and producer, and now present a daily radio show on *BFBS Colchester*.

"I found a strong sense of community among all of the Old Boys whom I spoke to and it was clear how important it was to them to help younger Alumni such as me make the formative steps in their careers.

"Just making the initial step of subscribing to the mentoring scheme opens the doors to hundreds of potential contacts and I found that due to Bolton School those to whom I spoke were all genuinely invested in my progress and future. I thoroughly recommend the scheme to anybody at a crossroads in their early career."

From Bolton School to Business Leader

Max Hopkinson (Class of 2002) was recently featured in *Insider* magazine's '42 under 42' profile, which looks ahead and predicts who will be the leading business figures in ten years' time. Max was listed as one of the entrepreneurs to look out for.

Year 13 Pupil **Harrison Prill** was delighted to interview Max to explore how his time at Bolton School has shaped his journey and contributed to his success today.

Max, the owner of several companies including BIND (a marketing agency) and The Keynote Club (an organisation set up to help people improve their public speaking) was recently named in the '42 Under 42 awards' which profile 42 leading entrepreneurs and business leaders under the age of 42 in specific regions. Identified as one of the 'rising stars', Max explained how he felt "flattered" and "proud" that his hard work and determination had been recognised.

What makes Max's story particularly inspiring is the journey of The Keynote Club. From modest beginnings as a small charitable initiative, the organisation has expanded into a global company, now supporting thousands of people around the world who struggle with public speaking. Max explained that his long-term ambition is to "help one million people for free", whilst also entering the corporate world and selling their services to major enterprises. He sees public speaking not just as a skill, but as a transformative tool that can "unlock confidence and professional and personal growth".

When reflecting on his time at Bolton School, Max was quick to point out that his fondest memories stretched far beyond the classroom. He recalled the breadth of opportunities he enjoyed, particularly in sport and outdoor pursuits. Highlights included the Waterpolo Tour of Malta, the six-week Trek Challenge in Greece, and numerous expeditions to Patterdale Hall in the Lake District – experiences he says inspired him so much that he eventually bought a house there. These adventures, he explained, gave him a sense of resilience, independence and a willingness to embrace challenges, all of which he carried into his entrepreneurial career.

Max also spoke warmly of his studies, especially Business Studies at A Level, which he said laid the foundations for his interest in entrepreneurship. He credited several of his teachers – Mr Joseph, Mr McNeil and Dr Holland – describing them as "tough, scary, but absolutely excellent". Max reflected on how their teaching styles not only imparted knowledge, but also instilled discipline, resilience and the ability to think critically

– qualities that have proved invaluable in his business ventures.

When asked how Bolton School had helped him to become the person he is today, Max said the School provided him with strong grounding in character as much as academics.

He explained that School taught him the importance of "keeping his feet on the ground" and "staying down to earth", even when pursuing ambitious goals.

He also noted that the challenges and setbacks he faced at school helped him to become a "stronger" and "better" person, prepared to tackle difficulties head-on.

Perhaps most importantly, Max spoke of the friendships he formed at Bolton. He emphasised how many of the connections he made during his School days remain strong today, and that some of his closest friends are still those he met in the classroom or on school trips.

He was then asked what advice he would give to students hoping to start their own business in the future, to which he described launching a career as "the beginning of a long learning journey". He explained that success rarely happens overnight, but is often achieved through trial and error, encouraging aspiring entrepreneurs not to fear mistakes, but to learn from them.

Max highlighted curiosity as one of the most valuable traits a young entrepreneur can develop – whether through "asking questions", "seeking knowledge" or staying "open-minded". He also stressed the importance of both physical and mental fitness, noting that they help to build the confidence needed to overcome challenges and achieve long term success.



Max gave the Tillotson Lecture in 2022



Max and his Mum, Lesley (a former Governor of Bolton School), at a fundraising ball they organised



Max has honed his public speaking skills

Discipline, Determination and the Dark Blue Dream

If, back in September 2019, **James Hopkinson (Class of 2022)** had been asked what he thought of rowing, he would probably have replied with a typical nondescript 'fine'. Ask him the same question now, and it's a very different answer.

"My first term of rowing with School was peppered with freezing cold, windy and rainy afternoons in Salford Quays but we kept going and getting some outings to learn the ropes of this new school sport. After six months, just as we were getting the hang of Wednesday afternoon sessions, Lockdown started. It wasn't until September 2020 when we finally got back out onto the Quays."

"Having decided I quite liked the idea of pulling on a stick to move a boat, I joined the Agecroft Rowing Club Development Squad. By far the youngest member of the group, I kept my head down trying to improve my rowing technique. My first race was on home water with a fellow Bolton School boy, **Barnaby Keogh (Class of 2023)**, and after only one close scrape with a wall we had officially finished our first race as a School. Later that season we competed at Trafford Head and won the U18s double sculls category, the first official Bolton School crew to do so.

"Moving to university, I met an amazing group of friends through the Boat Club at The Queen's College, Oxford. I got involved with rowing and coaching immediately, and was elected as Men's Vice Captain in my second term, a position I held until this year.

"I have also taken on additional admin roles for the wider Oxford rowing community. I joined the Oxford University Rowing Club's committee as Treasurer. This gave me the chance to experience the organisational side of rowing events as well as giving me the opportunity to undertake a two-day powered boat handling course in the Bristol Harbour. Using this qualification I have driven one of the safety boats at almost every race held in Oxford, giving me a front row seat for all the action.

"During the holidays I still enjoy going to Salford Quays and helping at Agecroft, whether that is coaching or rowing with my old squad when they are a person short. I owe a lot to Mrs Jepson for introducing rowing at Bolton School and I am always happy to help out with Wednesday afternoon coaching when I am home.

"In my third year at Oxford, I decided to trial for the University squad. Being relatively small for a rower, the Lightweight programme was attractive and so I signed up. After a slightly shaky start to my season, I remained committed to the training program and began to see a steady improvement to my testing scores. The first major selection of the season came around with the Fours Head in London in November. I made it into one of the crews (what a relief!) and this gave me the confidence to keep going and commit to the gruelling 12 sessions a week.

"As I continued to improve under the watchful coaching eye of Team GB Olympic Gold Medallist Harry Brightmore, I found out I'd been selected for the Lightweight Trial Eight. Trial Eights

*Rowing with the
Lightweights at the
Spanish Training
Camp, 2025*



*Competing for The Queen's College, Oxford, at the
Qualifying Races for Henley Royal Regatta, 2024*

is the first opportunity to race the full Boat Race course in London, usually against another evenly matched crew from the squad. We raced against one of the leading school crews in the UK, Latymer Upper School. Unfortunately, we lost this matchup, but we learnt a lot about how to deal with a nearly 20-minute race in awful conditions.

"In January I was selected to attend the Spanish training camp at the Cerlac centre in Ourense. After a 4am start at Stansted we made it to the idyllic location with hotel on the river and got settled in with a lovely calm afternoon session. Spending a week rowing three times a day with the rest of the time either eating, sleeping or chatting with the rest of the squad helped to cement the great environment cultivated in the group, and it helped solidify friendships with people I'd met less than four months prior.

"In the lead up to the Boat Race, all of us in the selected lightweight crew were eating less and training harder, going to London most weekends for training races against larger clubs and schools, and using the GB training facility in Caversham for some final testing. Things were looking positive.

"Race day arrived; we made our regular commute to our base in Putney carrying a few more nerves than normal. We got through the weigh-in process smoothly then sat and waited to boat. One final talk from our coach Harry and the doors opened; we were ready. The experience felt surreal as we walked through a packed crowd of friends and family. Although we ultimately lost the race, we were the fastest Oxford Lightweight crew to have raced in London.

"I've learned a lot about myself, be it handling pressure, developing mental resilience, teamwork and the discipline required to manage those early morning training sessions with the grit and determination necessary to win my seat in the Lightweight Blue Boat. I will carry all of that with me for the rest of my life, and I'll always be proud to have rowed Dark Blue".



*Meeting up with Mrs Jepson
at Henley Royal Regatta,
2023, after she had competed*

*Rowing for Agecroft
at the Eights Head
in London, 2022*



Double Scull with Barnaby Keogh at Trafford Head, 2022



EVENTS



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 conversation.

¹ Sheila Tonge (née Baird, 1963), Richard Morris (1986), Mel Morris, Harry Lane (1964), Christine Lane, Peter Tonge (1952) ² Gwynneth Nightingale (née Kirk, 1953), Barry Nightingale (1979; OBA President 2025-26) ³ David Matthews (1961), David Jenner (1960), Peter Nightingale (1961; BD Staff, 1968-1973) ⁴ Deborah Parkinson-Thwaites and Rik Thwaites (1977) ⁵ Laura Henthorn (née Carless, 1977; OGA Chairman Emerita), Brian Leigh-Bramwell (1969), Isabella Leigh-Bramwell

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.



¹ Krupa Patel, Fletcher Mellor-Brook, Felicity Field, Liv Hextall, David Chow, Loni Mayoua, Eve Blackmore, Jayden Luhar, Raoul Saxena ² Zain Mehraj, Ketan Dhokia, William Pearce, Toby Yates, Adi Ranganath, Daud Khan ³ Anna Medvid, Grace Northcott, Cameron Weatherley, Peter Craig, Jacob Simmonite



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.

¹ Luke Yates, Alex Dorsky, Greg Dorsky ² Toby Greenwood, Thomas Atkinson ³ Back, L-R: Dominic Farrell, Alex Dorsky, Yoji Haddow, Finley Corrigan, Seb Gregson, Hashim Choudry, Riley Ng Front, L-R: Isaac Lucas, Lucas McGann ⁴ Lucas McGann, Seb Gregson, Finley Corrigan ⁵ Oscar Horrigan, Adam Faulkner, Ryan Coombes, Sam Entwistle, Toby Greenwood, Nikhil Patel, Jonathan Frank, Ashton Kay, Luke Yates, Thomas Atkinson, Alexander Cook, James Parfrey, Arun Patel, Will Malley, Greg Dorsky ⁶ Alex Dorsky, Ashton Kay, Arun Patel, Sam Entwistle

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.



¹ David Dunn (Class of 1979; BD Staff, 1983-1992), Martin Wadsworth (BD Staff, 1974-2006) ² Ernest Marsh (Class of 1962; BD Staff 1973-1976), John Taylor (BD Staff, 1971-2011), Ian Robertson (BD Staff, 1993-2003) ³ Colin Chambers (BD Staff, 1969-2000), Dave Rogers (BD Staff, 1981-2014), Kristy Turner (current BD Staff)



'5' Class Reunion

Bolton School, Saturday 20th September 2025

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



¹ Old Boys from the Class of 1965 ² Chris Jenner, Rod Wardle (1965) ³ Mel Collier, Brian Darbyshire, Nick Malone, Stephen Bentley, Carl Parnell, Rod Wardle (1965) ⁴ Stephen Grundy, David Lythgoe, Alan Highton, Steve Horrocks (1975) ⁵ David Sharp, Warwick Milne (1975) ⁶ Richard Walker, Dave Woods, David Heale, Paul Johnson, David Powell, Robin Bridge, John Winder (1985) ⁷ Ranjan Sen, Robin Joseph (1995) ⁸ Jack Shenton, Mark Jones, Matthew Lancashire (1995) ⁹ Andy Chisnall, Avi Mehra (née Loomba), Badal Kotecha (2005) ¹⁰ Tom Liversedge, Sean McAllister, Gareth Ainscow (2005) ¹¹ Tom Watton, Jake Mannion, Matthew Spenceley, Oliver Norris (2015) ¹² Akul Pankhania, Ilyas Ibrahim (2015)



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** or scan the QR code to visit the 'Alumni and Giving Back' section of the School website (**www.boltonschool.org**) where you can book online.



2025

Friday 5th December	OBA Dinner	Arts Centre, Bolton School, 6.45pm
Monday 15th December	Boys' Division Christmas Festival	Boys' Division Great Hall, 7.30pm

2026

Tuesday 13th January	North and South America Zoom	Via Zoom, 5-6pm UK time
Friday 6th February	Alumni Cambridge Dinner	St Catharine's College, 7pm
Friday 13th February	Joint Old Boys' and Old Girls' Lunch	Arts Centre, Bolton School, 12 noon
Friday 6th March	Alumni London Dinner	HMS Belfast, 6.45pm
Wednesday 25th March	European Zoom Catch up	Via Zoom, 4-6pm UK time
Friday 1st May	Old Boys' and Old Girls' Scottish Dinner	The University of Edinburgh, 7pm
Friday 15th May	Alumni Northern Dinner	Science and Industry Museum Manchester, 6.30pm
Thursday 21st May	Old Boys' Lunch and AGM	Leverhulme Suite, Bolton School, 12 noon
Tuesday 9th June	Middle East Zoom	Via Zoom, time TBC
Friday 12th June	Alumni Cumbria Lunch	Lindeth Howe Hotel, 12 noon

Zoom in for a Chat!

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

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.

Alumni Ambassadors

Are you an Old Boy 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.



Bolton School Christmas Festival

*The annual Boys' Division Christmas Festival will take place on **Monday 15th December** in the Boys' Division Great Hall.*

All Old Boys are welcome to attend this School event which will, as usual, feature traditional and modern readings, a variety of musical performances – and, of course, an opportunity for all to join in singing a selection of much-loved Christmas carols.

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** for further details.

Staff in the Spotlight

This time the spotlight shines on Mr Hough, who is enjoying a well-deserved retirement after nearly four decades at Bolton School.

Colin Hough

(Boys' Division Staff, 1988-2025)

37 years! It's a lifetime, but it never felt like it, as my teaching and learning always kept evolving. As I said to Mr Britton after 25 years: "Nothing came along that would have been better than the Bolton School family."

I still remember my interview with Alan Wright: when asked about sports, I replied skiing and horse riding. He was a little taken aback, as I would be unlikely to use those skills – this was before the concept of outdoor pursuits. However, I remember horse riding with Year 7 in the early days of outdoor pursuit trips away, and I went on to lead many Park Road ski trips. I had expressed an interest in being a leader with the 19th Bolton Scouts, which I did for nine years; I am still connected with the Group, being on the Board of Trustees.

I remember going to Cautley with David Irvine and Nigel Cropper and I was there at the beginning, decorating Robin Cottage with Trevor and Jill Pledger and working parties of boys. I taught Biology in the Senior School and I set about modernising science in Park Road, with the support of Colin Chambers. My original PGCE was Secondary Biology and Combined Science with a specialism in Middle School Science (Years 5-9). Over time, I ended up teaching 100% in the Senior School, leaving Park Road behind.

In 1992 I led a Scout trip to the Czech Republic and I needed another adult Leader to come with me and be a second driver. The Leader who came is now my wife of 32 years, Anna, who teaches at Park Road. 1995 was a rough year as I ended up

having six months off work due to a spinal injury. On my return I didn't feel the same about A Level Biology and so I gave up teaching it and began to focus more on my original skill-set. By 1997 Anna was pregnant with our son and Alan Wright agreed to me covering Anna's maternity leave in Park Road – I think he knew I wouldn't want to go back! With the support of Mike Percik and others I settled into life at Park Road full time.

So much has changed during my career. When I began teaching, the GCSEs had only just begun and the National Curriculum was being phased in in state schools – changing several times. SATs came and went, whilst we in the Independent Schools sector watched and took what was good from the system – an excellent position to be in. Students have changed significantly over the years and Covid, of course, had a great impact.

Many staff regard Bolton School as a family, which has grown in numbers considerably over the last 30 years. When I have met Old Boys and Old Girls they have always spoken with fondness about the place. Of course, change is inevitable, but I would hope that the ethos of Bolton School laid down all those years ago continues unabated.

It will feel strange at the start of the new academic year and I will miss my work family, but a new chapter begins ...



Alumni Authors

Silver Streams and Muddy Dreams

by Tony Bailey (Class of 1962)



Tony (known at School as WAB) writes: "At long last I have written a book which has been published by the History Press. It is an autobiography of my life and how my interest in the outdoors including cycling, mountaineering, surfing, sailing and angling, have shaped who I am. Now that I'm a bit old, it is angling which has come full circle; I can look back on my connection with nature, which has helped

me throughout my career as a headteacher brought up with the sport ethos of Bolton School and the excitement of Butch camps, which I have successfully transferred to my own school programmes. There's also a bit about Bolton School (all good!!)"

In his ninth decade and still very active Tony rejoices in a life of outdoor activity, shared with his wife, his family and friends.

Interest in angling began early with exploration of local ponds and streams often difficult to approach where perch, roach and

carp were thriving and breeding. Later, moving to Blackpool, Tony was able to cycle into the Forest of Bowland and the Wyre Valley, where there were many opportunities particularly for fly fishing. Unexpectedly there were bream, seen once in an almost endless shoal, and, as he had anticipated, pike. He records catching a 23-pound pike and a rare golden crucian carp.

Silver Streams describes the development of Tony's skills and his fascination with life beneath the surface. From the beginning he is an enthusiastic craftsman, buying and adapting rods for particular purposes and capable of building a boat. His knowledge of tackle is formidable and knowledge of flies is impressive and extensive. Some of their astonishing variety are illustrated with photographs and there is a multitude of photographs of different species of fish.

It is evident that practice and equipment are matters for constant conversation between anglers and the book is characterised by its approachable tone. It will be of interest to practised anglers, to beginners and to readers who want to find out why angling is so fascinating. The photographs of streams, rivers and pools illustrate "the whole experience of connecting with nature", which Tony knows through mountaineering, swimming and boating as well. The experience is very important to him and to us.

Charles Winder (Boys' Division Staff, 1964-1999)

OLD BOYS' NEWS

Class of 1950-1959

Norman Longworth

(Class of 1953)

As literally an Old Boy of 89 hiding in the south of France Norman does not have the privilege of meeting his contemporaries nor those who came after. But the death of his dear friend, Ed Bailey (Class of 1957; see obituary on page 33), certainly affected him deeply. Otherwise, Norman is in good health and is presently transforming his copious albums of poems into music thanks to AI - he hopes to publish them in the future. Meanwhile, the poems are languishing in the tender care of Amazon.

Malcolm 'Danny' Howe

(Class of 1956)

After 55 years of living on the King's Road, Chelsea, Malcolm has moved to Wandsworth Common *de luxe* care home, enjoying gourmet food and interesting cultural activities. Visitors are welcome in the afternoons. On the day of the Old Boltonians' London Dinner, 7th March, Malcolm invited Philip Britton to a gourmet lunch at the Chelsea Arts Club and presented him with his military medals and insignia of his Portuguese orders of chivalry for eventual display at School.

G A 'Tony' Caldwell

(Class of 1957)

Tony is still living in Evesham, having since last year reduced his charity fundraising for Blood Cancer UK to concentrate on his several choirs, mainly with Pershore Choral whose concerts are in the Abbey there, and to continue his regular walking, albeit at a more leisurely pace, including a week in the Lake District with his family in September. Earlier this year Tony met with Old Boy **Mark Radcliffe** (Class of 1976) (folk music presenter on the BBC) as he was 'doing a gig' at Tony's local folk club, The Fleece Inn, at Bretforton, Evesham, where it was good to manage a chat and reminisce over their different periods at School.

Class of 1960-1969

John G Powell

(Class of 1962)

John and Old Girl **Gill Wood (née Atkinson, Class of 1964)** were boyfriend and girlfriend around 1960 in the days of Mr Poskitt and



Miss Higginson. 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.

John's wife of over 40 years died some five years ago, while Gill lost her husband earlier this year after some 50+ years of happy marriage. 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.

Graham Lloyd

(Class of 1962)

Congratulations to Graham, who recently came third in the over-75 category of the USA national cycling championships. Graham, now resident in Massachusetts, says: "They say age is just a number; well, on 14th September in Frederick, Maryland it felt like a very large one! 70 miles, 7,000 ft of climbing, gradients of 16.8% in 30°C heat needed a full gas effort to get onto the podium (just!)".

Graham clearly thrives on a challenge irrespective of age. He completed his first full Ironman at age 63 and seven years later became Number One in the Ironman Overall Global Amateur Rankings after earning the maximum possible number of ranking points.



Graham at the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii

Graham Ashurst

(Class of 1968)

Congratulations to Graham who this Summer received his PhD in American Studies from the University of Nottingham. His thesis was based around the politics of American school education since the mid-Twentieth Century, focusing on the career of the preeminent educational writer, Diane Ravitch.



Mark Doel

(Class of 1969)

Mark has published a book, *Soviet Georgia in 20 Objects*.

Mark has long-standing links with the republic of Georgia, starting with a European Union project begun in 2006 in order to develop social work education there. Through more than 20 visits he has come to know the country, its history, culture and cuisine. He became intrigued by life in Soviet times in Georgia after a conversation with a woman now in her 70s; he wondered what it would be like to have lived much of your life in a social and political system that most people want to turn their backs on. He realised that these stories were seldom told and would soon die out.

Mark uses his experience of using Objects as a way to unfold personal stories and set them in their historical period. Objects that were presented to him include a religious icon carried by a Georgian soldier in the Red Army in WWII; a Red Moscow perfume bottle still containing a trace of perfume from 1949; a gold medal awarded to a school girl against the odds of corruption and bribery; a street lemonade dispenser which had one glass that everybody and anybody used; a photograph from a young pioneers' camp; and a door bell signifying the arrival of the NKVD (secret police) to take an 'enemy of the people' away in the middle of the night.

Class of 1970-1979

David Seddon

(Class of 1971)

Following his professional career in European real estate investment at Jones Lang LaSalle, David was invited by an old JLL partner, then serving as the Master of the Chartered Surveyors Livery Company, to join that prestigious organisation.

Before joining, David completed the traditional requirement of becoming a Freeman of the City of London. Since July, he has been officially recognised as both a Freeman of the City and a member of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors (WCCS). After driving his sheep across a Thames bridge (a longstanding privilege of City Freeman) David has got involved with the WCCS student bursary programme, which provides mentoring to undergraduates studying for enrolment as Chartered Surveyors – an evolution of his role in founding, with Peter Acton (also Class of 1971) the Find Your Path mentoring programme for Old Boys.



David with his Freeman certificate

Class of 1980-1989

Peter Leather
(Class of 1980) and
David Leather
(Class of 1982)



David (left) and Peter at the summit of Col de la Bonette, 2,802m, the highest road in Europe.

In September former OBA President Peter and his brother, David, rode an immense road cycling challenge, *La Route des Grandes Alpes*, from Geneva to Menton on the Mediterranean.

They competed against each other over six days, covering 535km and 44,000 feet of ascent, having been coached by a 70-year old Irish veteran, Martin Birney of SportActive.

The 12 major Cols included five *Cols Hors Catégorie*: Col de la Madeleine, Col du Galibier, Col d'Izoard, Col de la Bonette and Col du Turini. Peter and David established personal records up most of the Cols and were rewarded by magnificent views from the summits. Their coach emphasised that a positive mindset of respect, resilience and commitment is key, and the brothers

completed the challenge in fantastic spirit, with memories to last a lifetime.

Class of 1990-1999

Phil Owen
(Class of 1991)
Congratulations to Phil and **Dawn (née Monks, Class of 1993)** 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 Tidsey, 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.



wonderful children: Erin (27), Jamie (14), and Freddie (13).

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

Andrew Gray
(Class of 1998)

Andrew Gray's interest in politics began at Bolton School, sharpened by lunchtime debates and the provocations of teachers such as Caspar Joseph *et al.* After 20 years in law and founding several firms, in 2024 he launched **Suffrago.org** – a political-tech platform using data, dozens

of journalists and AI to strengthen democratic engagement. He was also the first UK election candidate to use AI in an election.

This year he welcomed **Luke O'Donoghue (Class of 2019)** to the team, continuing a tradition of Old Boltonians working together across generations. With international projects now in motion, Suffrago is seeking supporters and investors who share the belief that political technology can be a force for good. After all, why shouldn't the most impactful tech companies of the next decade come from Old Bolts – and not just those who bent the knee at a recent US Presidential inauguration?

Steve Thomasson
(Class of 1998)



During the Summer Steve, who is now based in Jena, Germany, visited School with his German partner, Daniela Schäfer, and her parents, Bärbel and Harald.

Class of 2000-2009

Robert de Maine
(Class of 2002)

Rob was fortunate enough to be selected as Commanding Officer of 705 Naval Air Squadron (705 NAS) in March 2024. 705 NAS is part of the UK Military Flying Training System where all future Helicopter pilots from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force start their Rotary Wing training. All trainees, from across the services must pass through 705 NAS so it was an interesting and rewarding role. In June 2025 Rob flew his last sortie (for now) and was assigned to be the next Flying Training Pipeline Manager – responsible for overseeing the many different flying training systems across UK defence, maximising efficiency in delivering trainee aircrew to the front line.

Class of 2010-2019

Chris Kent
(Class of 2014)

Congratulations to Chris on his engagement to **Charlotte Wardle (Class of 2013)**! Chris and Charlotte 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!

Hadley Stewart

(Class of 2014)

Hadley and **Naomi Lord (Class of 1998; Boys' Division Staff)** joined creative forces 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.

Adam Critchlow, Stewart Knights and Nikolaii Stewart

(Class of 2018)



L-R: Stewart, Nikolaii and Adam

Back in 2017 Adam, Stewart and Nikolaii walked from Grenfell Tower to the AO Arena to fundraise for the British Red Cross to support families affected by those two tragedies. Eight years later, the trio are donning their walking boots again, this time to walk from the Houses of Parliament in London to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. None of the three are athletes, but are taking on this physically challenging 14-day, 380-mile expedition to raise money for Red Cross Ukraine and UNRWA for Islamic relief. You can follow their trek and donate at: www.instagram.com/bridgethegap_expedition/.

Tom Ryder

(Class of 2018)

Tom, the interim deputy digital editor at *Farmers Guardian*, has won the British Guild of Agricultural Journalists' John Deere Training Award.



Tom's winning feature, 'Profitable upland farming: How Shropshire farmers are making the environment pay', was published as part of a *Farmers Guardian* water special. The article showcased the work of the Upper Onny

Farmers Group in Shropshire, where farmers are collaborating to improve land, water and wildlife while keeping their businesses financially secure.

Tom said it was an honour to receive the award, adding: "Farmers like those in the Upper Onny Farmers Group are paving the way for anyone who wants to farm with nature, without losing out on profitability. No industry works with nature quite like ours, and we should shout about those who are showing how it can be done profitably."

Tom was presented with his award at a celebratory lunch in London in October.

Luke O'Donoghue

(Class of 2019)

Luke has recently joined **Andrew Gray (Class of 1998)**, working on a political technology platform to revolutionise democracy. Andrew founded Suffrago.org back in September 2024, and after connecting with Luke earlier this year invited him to join the team.

Having started his political journey at Bolton School, and choosing to study it at A Level, Luke was keen to become involved with Suffrago and support the company's efforts.

Class of 2019 onwards

Harvey Goodwin and Jacob Farnworth

(Class of 2022)



Jacob (left) and Harvey (right) with another friend, Liam (middle), who also lost a friend to mental-health related issues

On 11th August 2025 Harvey and Jacob summited Kilimanjaro (5895m), the highest mountain in Africa, in aid of Andy's Man Club, a men's mental health charity.

The pair are passionate about this cause after the tragic loss of their friend and classmate at Bolton School, **Cameron Milton**. So far, they have raised around £9,000 for the charity, which runs free support groups within Bolton and surrounding areas.

Scan the QR code to go to Harvey and Jacob's JustGiving page.



Bill Burrows

(Class of 2024)



This Summer, Beware of the Theatre Productions (formed at The University of Manchester) presented *No Higher Purpose*

at the Edinburgh Fringe. The musical drew in fascinated crowds with its unusual premise: a chicken-worshipping cult growing curious about the real world beyond the farm. Performed with sharp wit and a tongue-in-cheek sincerity, the production leaned into the absurdity while still delivering polished songs and engaging storytelling. Bill was in the cast, playing the role of closeted Feather, who navigated romantic feelings for his best friend throughout the show. One critic noted the "beautiful sincerity" with which he played his part, even describing him as "a highlight in the show". The musical's infectious energy ensured that audiences left amused and intrigued by the unlikely subject matter. This was noted in numerous positive reviews, including *The Student Review*, which wrote: "It leaves the audience with their sides maybe aching from laughter, but also with a beautiful open-ended message."

News of Former Staff

Nigel Cropper

(Boys' Division Staff, 1976-2012)

Nigel has made a permanent move back to Bolton from Scotland.

This year he was a prime mover in the Festival of New Writing at Bolton Little Theatre in June, in which he wrote one of the ten plays performed, acted in another and directed four of them. In April there was a staged reading of his play, *Concerted Effort*, performed at the Whitefield Garrick Theatre. He has also played his violin in concerts with the Bolton Chamber Orchestra, Lancashire Chamber Orchestra and Northern Baroque Orchestra.

September saw the launch of Nigel's new initiative at the Whitefield Garrick: the Garrick Showcase invites local writers to submit short monologues or dialogues on a given theme four times a year (full details can be found on the theatre's website). He will be appearing in the Marco Players' production of *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* at Bolton Little Theatre in November.

Finally, Nigel is currently slightly more than half way through his seventh novel, *Festival Notes*, which is a sequel to his 2018 novel, *Digging for the Notes*.

Mini Reunions

L-R: John Taylor, Rob Redgate, Tim Wild, Steve Capstick, Peter Hassall, Stephen Ball



L-R: Alex Brodie, Sanjay Kotegaonkar, Richard Kirkby, Sam Hilton, Paul Fernside (BD Staff, 1992-2023), James Lee, Daniel Bowles, Caspar Joseph (BD Staff, 1986-2022), Rob Lees, James O'Reilly, Jon-Paul Hardman



Manchester Meet

Some of the Class of 1996 managed to coordinate diaries to enjoy a gathering in Manchester's Northern Quarter in May of this year. Joined by two former staff members they caught up over a few drinks and shared many memories from the old days and the occasion certainly whet the appetite for next year's 30-year reunion – gulp!

Successful Six-a-Side Reunions

Since the appeal went out in Autumn 2024 edition of *The Bugle* there have been two reunions of the footballers who won the 1974 Public Schools Six-a-Side competition. Firstly, in Manchester last December, **Stephen Ball (1975)**, **Tim Wild (1976)**, **Rob Redgate (1976)**, **Steven Capstick (1976)** and **John Taylor (BD Staff, 1971-2011)** met up to share their recollections. In early April they were joined by **Peter Hassall (1975)** for a follow-up meeting near Clitheroe. The group has also been in regular contact with **Lindsay Donald (1977)**, their goalkeeper, who couldn't make the reunions with the very poor excuse that he lives in Canada.



Back, L-R: Peter Hassall, Lindsay Donald, Steve Capstick. Front, L-R: Tim Wild, Paul Sweeney, Stephen Ball, Robin Jeffrey, Rob Redgate

Stephen Ball has turned out to be the group's archivist, having preserved a fine collection of School Grey Books, magazines and newspaper reports from the time. There is every chance that there may be a third meeting, as very recently contact has been made with **Robin Jeffrey (1976)** who apparently has been hiding in plain sight in Bradford. That just leaves Paul Sweeney (1975) whose whereabouts have not been established.



L-R: Hannah, Laurence, Rishi, Tom

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.

1997 Trek Camp Reunion

Alan Prince (BD Staff, 1966-2002), **Martin Wadsworth (BD Staff, 1974-2006)** and **Phil Redding (Class of 1997)** get together every Summer when Phil is back in Bolton to catch up and reminisce about their time together at School.



L-R: Alan, Martin and Phil met up in July this year



L-R: Rick, Paul, Dave, Gareth, Bil, Justin

Richard, Simon and Ben with George Formby (not an old Boltonian!)



L-R: Richard, Paul (not Bolton School), Dave, Simon, Justin, Gareth, Bil, Akshay, Danny, Ivan

Old Boys Enjoy a 'Virtual' Lunch

Taking inspiration from the Alumni virtual get-togethers in various parts of the world, four of the 1970 cohort held a reunion with both real and virtual elements. In June, **Gary Sykes** and **Warren Faulkner** held their annual get together in southern Spain. Whilst taking lunch in Estepona, Gary had arranged for them to be 'joined' by **Dave Hodson** in Perth, Western Australia, courtesy of internet radio. Dave is a volunteer DJ on the local Kalamunda Community Radio and, as part of his show, he was able to play a dedication for Warren, *Samba Pa Ti*, his favourite track by Santana. Also listening in from his home in Crete was **Warren Davenport**. Perhaps in the not-too-distant future all four Old Boys may meet again in person: who knows?

If anyone would like to listen to Dave's show, in which he plays tunes which will bring back memories, good or less good, from years ago, he can be found at bit.ly/4pN0dH2 every Friday, 13.00-15.00 BST (12.00-14.00 GMT). Dave is always happy to hear from other Old Boys during his show and can be reached on dave.hodson21@gmail.com.



Liverpool Link Up

A group from the Class of 1990 met up for food and drinks in Liverpool back in May.

Akshay Bhatnagar, **Rick Bishop**, **Bil Chowdhury**, **Danny Hurcombe**, **Ivan Le Jeune**, **Gareth Mawdesley**, **Simon Modi**, **Justin Steed**, **Dave Walmsley**, **Ben Williams** and **Richard Williams** have been meeting up for several years in various UK cities and would be interested to hear from anyone else from their year group who would like to join future get-togethers – please email ben.williams@nhs.net. A trip to Sedburgh next May has already been booked, with plans to visit Cautley and walk up Cautley Spout.

Richard and Ben also met up with **Simon Cowin (Class of 1990)** in Douglas. The brothers were on the Isle of Man to watch the TT Races and arranged to meet up with Simon who is a GP in Port Erin.

Graduations Galore

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



Adam Vahed
(Class of 2020)

Adam has graduated in Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) from Newcastle University. He has

now returned to the North West and is working as a Foundation Doctor at Royal Bolton Hospital.

Arjun Aulakh
(Class of 2021)



Arjun has graduated with a 2:1 in Business Accounting with Finance from Leeds Beckett

University. He is planning to pursue a Master's degree in Global Banking and Finance to deepen his understanding of international financial systems and prepare for a career in investment banking or corporate finance.

Nathan Burudi
(Class of 2021)



Nathan has graduated from the University of Leeds with a First Class Honours degree in Mathematics and Economics. He has now joined EY as an Audit Graduate.

Thomas Higham
(Class of 2021)



Thomas celebrates his graduation with his mother and his brother, Freddie (Class of 2022)

Thomas has graduated from the University of Warwick with a First Class Master of Mathematics. He is now embarking on a DPhil (PhD) in Mathematics at the University of Oxford, having been awarded funding through an EPSRC Scholarship with UKAEA.

Umar Ibrahim
(Class of 2021)

Umar has graduated with First Class Honours in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Leicester. He is currently focusing on professional development while considering various graduate opportunities he has been offered, reflecting on where he can make the biggest impact and achieve his long-term goals in engineering.

Khaleel Raja
(Class of 2021)



Khaleel has graduated from the University of Leicester with a 2:1 in Accounting and Finance and will be starting a role as an audit associate working towards gaining his ACA certificate.

Archie Seddon
(Class of 2021)



Archie has graduated from Newcastle University with a BSc in Accounting and Finance. He is hoping to get into Wealth Management in the future with a view to beginning his qualifications soon.

Tom Simpson
(Class of 2021)



Tom has graduated *summa cum laude* from St Francis College, New York, with a Management degree and International Studies minor. A former NCAA Division I water polo athlete, he now manages sales for a Swedish brand and has begun a master's in Project Management this Autumn.

Piers Skeels-Caldwell
(Class of 2021)



Piers has graduated with a 2:1 in German and Business Management from the University of Leeds. He is now on the supply chain graduate scheme at Mondelēz International.

Anthony Soi
(Class of 2021)



Anthony has graduated from Henley Business School at the University of Reading with First Class Honours in BA Accounting and Business on the Flying Start Degree Programme, delivered in partnership with PwC. He has now returned to PwC as a Senior Associate in Audit in the London office and hopes to qualify as a Chartered Accountant shortly.

Thomas Fox
(Class of 2022)



Tom has graduated with First Class BA Honours in English Literature from Newcastle University. He is now studying for an MA in Politics and International Relations of the Middle East at Durham University.

Thomas Martin
(Class of 2022)



Tom has graduated from Durham University with First Class Honours in BSc Geography. He is currently undertaking an internship with the United Nations in Valencia, after which he plans to return to the UK to begin a research master's.

Anuj Mistra
(Class of 2022)



Anuj graduated from the University of Oxford this Summer with a First Class degree in English and the university's Geddes Prize for student journalism. He is now studying for a master's degree in journalism, specialising in broadcasting, at City, University of London.

Mani Parsai
(Class of 2022)



Mani has graduated from King's College London with First Class Honours in Classical Studies. He is beginning to pursue a career in commercial law, having been awarded a place on Perkins Coie's vacation scheme in London.

Aadil Patel
(Class of 2022)



Aadil has graduated from The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) with a BSc in Economic History and Geography. He is looking forward to the next chapter and the opportunities ahead!

Old Boys Beyond Bolton

The Old Boltonians' Association has over 6,200 members living and working not just in the UK, but across the globe. Here we catch up with three Old Boys 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!

Jon Simkin

(Class of 1977)

"After leaving School and beginning a career in procurement locally, I became a victim of a plant rationalisation and had to plan my next move. I was offered an opportunity in Chicago with a manufacturer of newspaper printing presses – so in May 1981, I boarded a plane to O'Hare Airport, knowing little more about America than from *Starsky and Hutch* and *The Dukes of Hazzard*!"

"Life was a blur for the next six months. The second girl I met – the accountant managing my temporary living expenses – soon became my girlfriend, then fiancée, and, by year's end, my wife. After an initial six-week assignment in Rockford, I moved to a permanent role in Chicago but spent 18 months commuting a 200-mile daily round trip. I also learned about the brutal Midwestern climate: minus 40°C winters and 40°C summers with high humidity!"

"Over the next 20 years my career took us from Illinois to New Jersey, where we settled briefly in the Pocono Mountains. My work evolved from purchasing into e-procurement, global sourcing and, finally, change management. A planned 12-week assignment in Europe became four years in Winchester, where with our three children we enjoyed life on the South Downs. We returned to New Jersey in 1999, but when my NYC role demanded compromises I couldn't make, I quit in 2000.

"I considered roles in Switzerland, the UK and New Jersey, choosing the latter to join a start-up developing an e-sourcing consultancy. Unfortunately, we were victims of the dot-com crash, so that move was short-lived.

"In 2001 we moved back to the UK. For about ten years I picked 'interesting' opportunities and worked as an independent consultant in both private and public sectors before retiring about ten years ago.

"Not quite done with Transatlantic travel, from 2019 we spent ten months a year in California's Sierra Nevada foothills, returning each December for Christmas in Chorley. This Summer we came back permanently to our draughty old farmhouse in Lancashire – with our three children, a grandson, and a very confused dog.

"I grew up in a world where most people never left their community. That world has gone. I was lucky enough to be offered opportunities – and bold enough to take them. It's been the ride of my life ... and I suspect it's not over yet!"



Mark Hodson

(Class of 1980)

"After completing my postgraduate studies in the UK I moved to the Netherlands in 1988 to work for the European Patent Office in The Hague. I knew that part of the Netherlands through family connections, and it sounded like an interesting job where I could use my language skills as well as my science/engineering qualifications. I vaguely imagined returning to the UK after a few years, but I liked the work and ended up staying with the EPO until retirement. I still live in The Hague and have no plans to move back to the UK.

"My experience 35 years ago isn't necessarily relevant to people thinking about relocating now: most of the expats I know now work remotely and divide their time between the Netherlands and their home country. That probably makes it more difficult to settle, but it makes life easier for those with partners and/or children. I was single when I came here, and that helps; relocating abroad is notoriously difficult for partners of expats, who may have trouble connecting socially or finding a job in their field.

"I found it very easy to settle here – the prevalence of English as a universal second language makes it easy to cope, and Dutch isn't difficult to learn, especially if you already speak German. Working for an international organisation puts you in contact with other young foreigners who are finding their feet in the Netherlands. There was never any shortage of social and cultural activities outside work.

"What do I miss about the UK? Nothing important, although it takes a bit more effort to stay in touch with friends and family. British culture has moved on in the time I've been living abroad, and I'd probably find it hard to reconnect with some aspects of life if I ever did move back, even though I regularly read the British papers. The Netherlands is where I feel at home, especially since Brexit. I visit the UK two or three times a year, but when I'm there I'm a tourist, not a local. Sometimes people even compliment me on my English ..."



Stephen Rigby

(Class of 1965)

"Having obtained a PhD from Lancaster University, I completed a three-year post-doctoral stint (Pirelli Research Fellow) at the University of Southampton. At the end of the Fellowship, instead of joining Pirelli, I went to Brookhaven National Lab on Long Island, NY, working for an Old Boltonian, **Eric Forsythe (Class of 1950)**. During this time, I realised I hated pure research, so I returned to Pirelli in Eastleigh, UK, to head a new product development programme. When it ended, I was appointed Assistant Factory Manager.

"I was then invited to join a private investment company in Atlanta, GA. My role was to analyse the technical aspects of potential investments—making sure there was no perpetual motion or similar nonsense claimed. The company was not very astute and went belly-up three years later. Luckily, I secured a job as Technical Manager with a company in Yonkers, NY, later transferring to their Illinois plant as Manager of Process Engineering. When the company bought another firm with a plant in Paducah, KY, I was sent there as Engineering Manager on a 90-day temporary transfer ... which became permanent. I ultimately became Plant Manager.

"While in Paducah, the US company was bought by BICC (a British multinational). We hosted visitors from all over the world studying US productivity, one of whom offered me a role in New Zealand as Operations Manager with four factories. From there, I was transferred back to US Headquarters in West Nyack, NY, as Business Unit Director. Altogether, I spent 14 years with BICC.

"My next move was to Rome, NY, where I was headhunted to be VP of Technology. That move was not ideal: after 18 months my position was eliminated – and the company went bankrupt a year later. I then joined a small manufacturing/design company in Massachusetts, handling product development, manufacturing support and quality. Seven years later, I joined Cooper Power Systems (later EATON) to manage the materials development lab in Wisconsin. In 2017, my position was abolished in a global RIF, and I decided to retire.

"Basically, I've been paid to see the world! My advice: stay flexible, keep wide contacts – and have a spouse who loves travelling!"



SPORTS

Habits Old and New Die Hard and Spring Forth

Tradition (and copy deadlines) demand your correspondent not only confirms the hard truths of the previous season but also looks forward in hope and/or expectation to the next, which, in actuality, will be in full flow as this is read! To aid that reading, rose coloured spectacles, sadly not yet available from Bolton School merchandising, may well be needed in considering the club scenario.

The Saturday teams both finished in the bottom two slots of the respective divisions last year. Due to restructuring of the league, they will stay at the same level and, with significant recruitment the watchword over Summer for the tweaked management structure, mid-table security or better is in our sights.

The Ladies' team finished in the lower reaches of their division, wherein most teams were from clubs whose men's teams were semi-pro or, indeed, fully professional. Pastures new via a change of league are being trodden and, playing a mix of similarly run teams, we can hope we will see them return to seriously winning ways.

The veterans, seen as a well-established and significant element of club activities, finished as runners up in their division and lost in their cup final. Promotion however may be a step too far as their premier division has some seriously experienced quality, but we can but hope everything will come up roses.

The new Under-18 squad, having performed impressively in finishing in the upper echelons of their division and reaching the last four of two cups, has bifurcated with the older group with significant recruitment becoming an Under-21 team and the younger remaining as Under-18. This augurs very well for the medium-term strength and development of the club as we look to stereo success in the Youth section.

The offer of football in several guises for any age of Boltonian outside the regular season continues with a range of regular one offs. The second Summer Sixes successfully took place in the Bolton School July sun – only half as many teams this year as last, but nonetheless much enjoyed by over 50 participants with the oldest entrants, the Elliott/Abbott combo, winning. We continue to grace the Easter festival at Liverpool Ramblers. We enjoyed the second Bill Stevenson Memorial match, again offering the chance for all those who knew Bill or his generation to celebrate by playing or supporting. We commemorated the success of the A-Team from 2005 to 2010 when, under Ron Manager (who is of course our treasurer) – they won three divisional titles. This new venture saw some 30-plus from those teams again tread the greenswards of Turton elegantly, if a little more slowly than spectators recalled. Next Spring sees the regular Legends trip to the Jersey tournament, so, be you 17 or 77 or anywhere in between, the club still manages to offer a fine array of football for any locally-based members of the School family and indeed returning diaspora wishing to continue their sporting links to School. If, by some fortuitous quirk, this mildly mercurial offering persuades you to take a more active role once again in football then, as ever, we will offer you the chance to play a role as player, manager, coach, spectator, sponsor, patron or, as the legend that is Dave Lee vows to retire in 2026, groundsman – all are very welcome!

Martin Wadsworth (Boys' Division Staff, 1974-2006)

Old Boltonians' Golf Society Report | AUTUMN 2025

We continue to see a resurgence of the OBA Golf Society with 27 golfers from across the School community supporting The Taylor Trophy again in July.

The Trophy was won for a second year by **Joe Riding (Class of 2017)**, who scored an impressive 40 points, edging out **James Chadwick (Class of 1998)**, who scored a solid 36 points. In third place was **Frank Millhouse (Class of 1961; Golf Society President 2006)** with 35 points, just pipping grandson **Josh Millhouse (current Year 10)** who had 34 points. Only yours truly let the family down! There were five current pupils playing on the day which was great to see and we are keen to increase this next year.

In May, a team of **Mark Millhouse, Norman Fletcher (Class of 1968), David Johnson (Class of 1976), James Chadwick, Guy Haynes (Class of 1995) and Nick Baxter (Class of 2003)** travelled to Huddersfield Golf Club to attempt to qualify for the finals of The Grafton Morrish and I am pleased to say this was for once achieved with some ease. On the weekend during which Storm Amy lashed the country an intrepid team of **Mark Millhouse, David Johnson, James Chadwick, Richard Sellers (Class of 1998), Guy Haynes and Paul Randall (Class of 1998)** travelled to Hunstanton and Brancaster to face a very strong St George's Weybridge side in the first round. Sadly, we were narrowly beaten 2-1; however, with St George's Weybridge going on to lose in the semi-final, this was still a creditable

achievement. It was again a highlight to see **Andrew Fletcher (Class of 1974)** travel to Hunstanton and join the team for a practice round. Andrew can be seen here caressing a 'gentlemen's persuader' into the par three 4th at Hunstanton.



As golf for many goes into hibernation for the Winter, I would encourage anyone who does not currently have links with the Golf Society to contact either me (markm@pmdbusinessfinance.co.uk or **07711 594030**) or School so that you may be added to the mailing list.

I wish you a restful Winter and look forward to next year's events.

*Mark Millhouse (Class of 1994)
Golf Secretary*





Old Boltonians Shine in Spirited Easter Clash

On Saturday 19th April the annual Bolton RUFC v Old Boltonians match took place at Bolton Rugby Club in front of a large Easter crowd. Several players in the club side had a foot in either camp, bringing the number of Old Boltonians involved up to a healthy number.

The early exchanges led to a converted Bolton try which was matched by a well worked try for the Old Bolts. As the game progressed the more experienced and heavier club side began to boss the set piece and dominate the exchanges.

Either side of half time the club ran in several tries to gain a comfortable lead.

The Old Bolts side never gave up and as the game opened up they found some gaps, mainly due to the hard running of **Matthew Boyers (Class of 2015)** and **Andrew Hurt (Class of 2020)**. As bodies tired, three additional tries were scored by the younger and fitter Old Bolts side.

After the match, a packed clubhouse enjoyed catching up over a beer or two.

Next year's date is already in the diary: Easter Saturday 2026.

Sam Hilton (Class of 1996)

Old Boys Return for Prestigious MCC Fixture

At the end of June the Boys' Division 1st XI Cricket Team played in their annual match against MCC.

The boys enjoyed the opportunity to play against this prestigious team which included some Old Boys, whilst a number of Old Boys, former staff and their families came along to spectate. Boys were presented with their cricket colours during a lunch and enjoyed hearing from current MCC Captain, **Adam Syddall (Class of 1998)**, about the long-term connections and friendships he has forged through his love of cricket at School and beyond.



Frank Millhouse (1961), Frank Hodgkiss (1965), Roland Wild (1961)



Martin Wadsworth (BD Staff, 1974-2006), Jeff Taylor (1972)



Huw Dixon (1994) (left) and Adam Syddall (second right) with MCC players



Stephen Parry (1974), Graham Ashurst (1968), Gary Sykes (1970)

Mervyn Brooker Memorial Cricket Match

Over 40 Old Boys returned to School in June to take part in the annual competition in memory of former Headmaster Mervyn Brooker (2003-2008).

There was great camaraderie on the pitch which saw cricket of a wide variety of standards being played. By the second game the 90s leavers were three hamstrings down, one torn calf and one in A&E receiving stitches. Eventually the 10s Leavers were worthy winners of the Mervyn Brooker Memorial Trophy, beating the 90s Leavers in the final. The 00 Leavers came away with the wooden spoon and the School XI finished a respectable third place.

Following a very enjoyable day of sport, the Old Boy contingent descended on The Victoria Inn, aka Fanny's, and there was much reminiscing about Mervyn, his love of the sport and how playing cricket has maintained engagement with School for so many Old Boys over the years.

Winning Captain Krish Patel (Class of 2010) receives the trophy from Claire Whyward, daughter of Mervyn Brooker



00s Leavers team:

Back, L-R: Brad Cliff (2007), Jake Greville (2007), David Cryer (2009), Nick Sanders (2009), Andrew Wadsworth (2008), Danny Jones (2003)

Front, L-R: Daniel Lloyd (2007), Jimmy Farrell (2007), Nigel Eastham (2007), Liam Watkinson (2009), Richard Hodgkinson (2007), Chris Moffatt (2007)



Brigid Brooker and Claire with the teams

ARCHIVES

How did Fire Watching Operate During the War?

Night fire watching was first introduced in February 1941 with the greatest problem perceived to be the threat of incendiary bombs penetrating the roof and setting fire to the timber in the loft. An appeal for assistance led to 21 masters, four mistresses, 12 men on the non-teaching staff and 70 boys aged over 15 volunteering immediately for duty. These volunteers were allocated between eight teams of nine, which provided cover on a rota basis. All the buildings were treated as being one unit and at any time three adults and six boys were on duty to cover the whole of the Boys' Division main building and the top floor and roof of the Girls' Division. Park Road was covered by one man and two boys.



Air raid shelter sign – still in situ on Boys' Division 'A' corridor

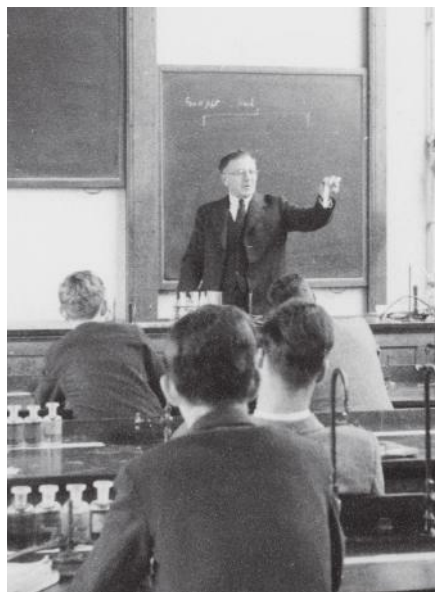
It was very much a team effort, with the staff teams including Mr FR Poskitt (Headmaster, 1933-1966); numbers were augmented at Easter 1941 by some of the Governors giving of their time to assist the fire watching effort.

By March 1941 equipment was gradually arriving and the main items still lacking were the Davy Descenders which facilitated quick emergency escapes from upper stories by providing automatic controlled descent. The need for cat walks and roof ladders to get around the room had been satisfied by boys making them in the workshop from timber taken from the property known as Broomfield, which had been the home of the Boys' Junior School from 1928 to 1938 and which was demolished at this time. The other main pieces of equipment were stirrup pumps. These would be used by two people, one working the pump which stood in a bucket of water, the other holding the hose and nozzle to point a jet of water onto the fire.

Fire watching was a serious responsibility, but many of the boys did find it something of an adventure. It was an eerie experience to move about the empty corridors at night by the dim light of shielded lamps, and younger boys envied the older boys who could climb the 20-foot, almost vertical, ladders into the blackness of the attics and then grope under and over ventilation pipes, balancing carefully on the rafters and taking care not to put a foot through the ceiling.

Lord Haslam (Chairman of Governors, 1990-1997) remembered how it provided an entirely different dimension to the School. In those days there was very little contact between the Divisions and he remembered how it was during one of the periods of fire watching that he first stepped into the Girls' Division.

Mr WF Jary (Boys' Division Staff, 1929-1957) was in overall charge of the fire watching programme and detailed the responsibilities of those involved. The Master in charge of each team was responsible for seeing that:



Mr Jary

- Teams turned up punctually and that those present were recorded in the Register;
- Ladders were all in position and loft exits opened;
- All keys were on the Board and overalls, lamps and helmets issued;
- All boys knew their duties in the event of an alert;
- Teams were properly trained, had practices of various kinds and were familiar with the whole building, including the Girls' Division;

- Boys did their homework and had adequate sleep;
- Hydrants and hoses were returned to the Entrance Hall in the morning.

The general routine was for tea at 5.30pm, supper and prayers about 9.15pm and bed by 10.15 pm. Breakfast was at 8am. Mrs Husband, Housekeeper in the Girls' Division, also ensured that emergency rations and hot rations were available to those who had to spend a few chilly hours on the rooftops. No meals however could be eaten in the Library!

Search the Archives!

Many of the School's archive materials, including full School photographs from both Divisions, historic issues of *The Boltonian* and past editions of *The Bugle*, have been fully digitised and can be accessed via the Alumni page of the School website – or scan here.



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

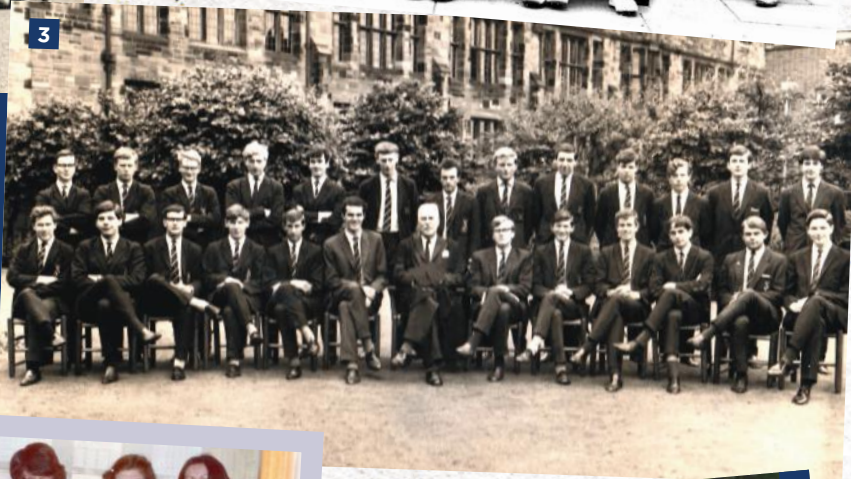


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Looking Back



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

If you have any photos of your time at School which you would like to share please email them to development@boltonschool.org.

- 1 Thank you to **Chris Jenner (1965)** for this photo of the 1st XV Rugby team 1964-65
- 2 Many thanks to **Mark Ramsey (Class of 1979)** for this photo of the Cricket Team sometime in the 1970s - Mark is on the far left of the photograph in front of the scoreboard
- 3 Chris Jenner also sent in this photo of the Monitors in 1965
- 4 Thank you to **Bernard Stevenson (Class of 1975)** for this photo of the back-stage hands for a School drama production in 1971. Bernard is kneeling bottom left. Please get in touch if you recognise yourself or any of the others in the picture!
- 5 The Fireraisers 1977
- 6 Badminton, 1998-99
- 7 Rheinland Trip, 2009
- 8 Russia Trip, 2018
- 9 Senior Cross Country, 1988-89: J L Harvey and P J Hull

Memories

Mint Cake Diplomacy

Robin Howarth (Class of 1961) recalls how, in 1961, under the leadership of David Allen (Boys' Division Staff, 1957-1993) and HV 'Bill' Brookes (Boys' Division Staff, 1919-1962) the 19th Senior Troop descended on Cauterets in France en route to the Pyrenees.

My team included **Douglas Brear, Keith Grimshaw, Phil Geoghegan (all Class of 1961)** and me. Would-be 'off-the grid' venturers, we crammed rucksacks with mixed dried goodies, spam for high-end dining and the 'revolutionary' camping-gaz. Inspired by Edmund Hillary's Everest conquest, we crammed in sugar-laden, heavy-weight Kendal Mint Cake for fortification. Crampons hung from rucksacks. Ambitions were high, experience was low and rucksacks were heavy.

Staggering through the lower Pyrenees, encountering the occasional lost pilgrim from nearby Lourdes, heat, altitude and almost vertical ascents sapped energy. Kendal Mint Cake only increased thirst and we eventually descended into Gavarnie to power-up for stage two of our venture. Replenished, we circumnavigated the awe-inspiring Cirque de Gavarnie, staggered into loftier reaches of the Pyrenees and sheltered at a 'refuge' in preparation for the icy, muscle-challenging ascent of the 11,000-foot Vignemale Mountain. With aid of a guide, ropes, crampons and a fair share of luck we reached the summit. Zero visibility. So much for mountain climbing!

Later, crossing ice-fields and crevasses (ropes and crampons please) we reached the Brèche de Roland – a 350-foot geological breach in the Pyrenean Peaks, nature's monumental sleight of hand. Legend claims the heroic Roland's mighty sword cleaved through the mountain for his forces to escape the Saracens. Venturing through the Breche (minus Saracens) we descended into Spain's remote Odessa region and pitched our tents. Time to relax. How wrong I was!

The sun searing my eyeballs the next day I panned the soaring peaks while the other three reconnoitered a nearby valley. Struggling to focus, a brief movement caught my attention. Was it a trick of the eye? I waited. Eventually a silhouette crested the next ridge. I watched its slow descent. The image then morphed into two, heading in my direction. Step by slow step, the images gained clarity – two bearded men dressed in green with heavy boots, definitely not hikers. Hikers do not sport machine guns with bandoliers across chests and pistols in belts!

Heart-pounding time! This was Spain under General Franco's fascist dictatorship with just cause for trepidation. The pair ambled onwards with no apparent menace. Machine guns do that for them. I tried to relax with a Baden Powell calmness! The duo stopped amidst a waft of garlic and BO. Communication evolved via garbled Spanish, pidgin French, pidgin English and pidgin sign-language. As to my short-panted, long-socked, scouting apparel, garlic-laden derision from the duo needed zero translation. Fingers gesticulated towards the Breche de Roland. I nodded. More jabberings. I was aware of the word "Prohibido" – no entry to Spain. "Salida" – only an 'exit'. What? Surely dictators have better things to dictate.

The next words sent shivers down my spine: "el arresto". Arrested for hiking through the 'one-way' Brèche! As I stuttered incomprehensively one soldier's hands simulated handcuffs while his comrade casually re-shouldered his machine gun, stunning me into pathetic silence. What use are 'backwoodsman' and 'orienteeing' badges in these circumstances?

This was just the prelude. Amidst my mental fog another word reared its ugly head. "Paseport". My passport! "Her Britannic Majesty's Passport is never to be surrendered, blah, blah".

Save your breath, this is Franco-land! What to do? I could make a run for it. My lanky legs could outstrip these two, but bullets were a different kettle of fish. Foraging through packets of dried potatoes and blocks of Mint Cake, I produced my passport which vanished into a soldier's pocket while his 'amigo' grabbed a Mint Cake. Trying to downplay the drama of 'el aresto', I opened the Mint Cake and handed out pieces. The guards sucked on the tooth-breaking hardness with delight. In a gesture of 'international accord', I deftly donated more, hopeful for some downplay to this borderland 'contretemps' – glad to off-load more heavy-weight energy-boosters. I bet Edmond didn't lug his Mint Cake up 29,000 feet.

The more vigilant soldier noticed the second tent. "Amigos?" I nodded. More indecipherable chattering. "Cuantos? Combien?" I held up three fingers. "Donde" assuming this was "where", I gestured south. Would they arrest all four of us? "Cuonde?". Fingers pointed to a watch. I shook my head feigning regret, indicating 7 o'clock, six hours ahead – a long wait! Hopefully too long. More jabberings and fading enthusiasm. I scanned the horizon. Please don't appear just yet!

A six-hour wait seemed to sap their resolve. The waving of more Mint Cakes escalated a decision. "Excelente! Muy bien!" Pocketing their 'gift', they smiled, adjusted guns and turned to go. Then I remembered. "Passport! Por Favor!".

"No, no, no" as one patted his pocket holding Her Britannic Majesty's Passport. "Dos dias" pointing in the Odessa direction. Desperately, I waved our map "Where?". Fingers indicated – Control de Pasaportes. "Amigos". Them too! They ambled off waving the Kendal Mint Cake. It seemed they had forgotten to arrest me!

The next day we dropped into the gushing waters of Odessa Valley. With river-washed uniforms, the following day we found the hole-in-the-wall "Control de Pasaportes". I quietly planted two items on the desk. They swiftly vanished and my passport magically appeared! Mint Cake diplomacy!

Passports 'stamped', we lingered at the 'bar de vinos'. How speedily bottles of red 'plonk' empty on a broiling Spanish day. Of course, there are consequences, as four dehydrated spinning heads, four sets of blurry eyes and four sets of wobbly legs staggered up the tortuous haul back to camp. At least I was not under arrest, Her Britannic Majesty's Passport was secure in my pocket and my rucksack was free of those back-breaking, thirst-inducing Kendal Mint Cakes. Cheers Sir Edmund Hillary.

I write this Pyrenean 'encounter' as a tribute to the two Graham Brothers, Stuart and Andrew, fellow 19th Scouts, who, with their father, Arthur, tragically lost their lives on the A6 in February 1958. In their short lives the boys lived up to the honourable tradition of Baden Powell. We salute them.

50 Years On and Counting ...

A couple of items in the Spring edition of *The Bugle* prompted **Robert Pollard (Class of 1975)** to get in touch.

"The first was a list of teachers who had inspired a previous pupil. The list, which included names such as Harrison (my form master in 2C when I entered School), Hood, Allen, Griffiths, (DES) Shaw, Mathieson, Sefton, McCann, Kirk and Lancashire, amongst many others, and, as noted, that gentleman among gentlemen, Alan Mitchell, reminded me of some of the many people who helped form my early life.

"The second was a photo of the School Bank, to which I was recruited by the said Mr Mitchell. In the early days I would go round the '2, 3 and 4' classes on form assembly days to accept deposits from those less inclined to seek out the bank's premises in the corner of the first floor of the new wing. If I recall correctly, the accounts attracted nil or minimal interest and competition from Building Societies offering better returns meant account holders and balances dwindled. The decision was made to close the bank, which I completed around 1974-75, and a new use was found for the premises near the Geography rooms.

"Certain other memories also remain vivid. I distinctly remember it snowing one day in June 1975 when I was sitting one of my Geography A Level papers. A county championship match at Buxton between Derbyshire and Lancashire, taking place on the same day, was abandoned as the ground was covered in snow. Wintry weather also reminds me of another occasion, when I was in Year 4 or 5. On the last day of term, the 7.50 Ribble Bus 236 service from Holcombe Brook battled across the moors in increasingly heavy snow, only to hit an almighty traffic jam in Bradshaw. We reached School about 12.15 – just in time to sign the late book ... again."

On leaving School Robert went to UMIST where he graduated with a 2:1 in Management Sciences and then pursued a career in retail with BHS, before progressing into consulting working with Price Waterhouse, KPMG and other specialist consulting firms. Now retired, he resides on the South Coast near Bournemouth.

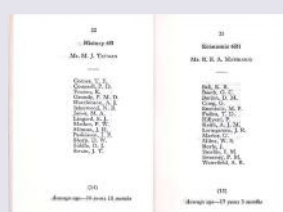
Bolton School Grey Books

The article on *Bolton School Memorabilia* in the Spring issue of *The Bugle* prompted **Jonathan Livingstone (Class of 1975)** to dig out his old copies of the Grey Books. He writes:

"Doubtless long since discontinued, these were issued annually, early on in the School year. They were so ingrained in our experience of Bolton School, that I am sure I won't be the only former pupil to mention them. I was at School from 1965 to 1975. For some reason I am missing one of the years, otherwise I have a full set for these dates.

"The photo of Lower 2 (1967-1968), David Jenner's class, identifies new boys in italics. These would be

boys from other primary schools in Bolton and towns nearby who had been successful in the 11+, joining Park Road pupils who had also passed the exam. My recollection is that the new joiners were very bright indeed. The 11+ therefore giving opportunities for many new pupils to study at Bolton School – I feel there is a parallel with the opportunities the bursary scheme makes possible today.



"The photo of Economics 6B1 (1974-1975) reminds me of all who were lucky enough to be in Robin Mathieson's class that year and the year before. Happy times indeed!"

For the avoidance of doubt, the Grey Book is still printed and distributed each Autumn term!

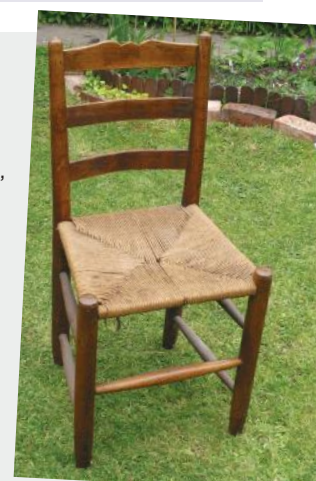
Assembly Memories

The feature on *School memorabilia* in the Spring edition prompted **Ted McAvoy (Class of 1967)** to get in touch:

"Your feature triggered my ageing brain and I remembered my Great Hall chair. When these were finally replaced, they were offered to staff and Old Boys and I couldn't resist buying one. Happy memories of Mr Poskitt striding down the hall in his gown and a memory of a certain pupil bringing his grass snake into assembly!"

Ted also remembers his schoolmate **Chris Topp (Class of 1967)**, whose obituary featured in the Spring edition, and adds the following:

"The friends Chris reunited with and with whom he started in business (as Dorothea Restorations) were all Boltonians – myself, **David Hodgson (Class of 1967)** and **Roger Lees (Class of 1966)**. The business grew and gradually split up, the four of us pursuing slightly different careers, but we have remained very firm friends ever the last 50 years and I gave an account of Chris's early life at his funeral".



Memories

Cautley Revisited

As we celebrate 30 years of outdoor learning and pursuits at Patterdale Hall Residential Adventure Learning Centre, **Carl Howard (Class of 1990)** shares his memories of visiting Cautley.

"At 52 I am of the cohort who went to Cautley not Patterdale Hall. I have incredibly fond memories of trips there, with the Cubs, Scouts and School. My mother, Ann Howard, was Cub Leader at 19th Bolton for about 25 years, starting when I joined and then staying long after I left School. Alongside Margaret Featherstone and Eddy (sorry name escapes me) they ran the show for a generation.

"In my first trip to Cautley I fell, fast asleep, from a top bunk and landed on my back on one of the large metal storage cupboards used back then to keep kit tidy. I didn't wake up but made such a noise landing that my mother and others came to see what had happened and had to get me back in bed. The bruise the following day was quite something.

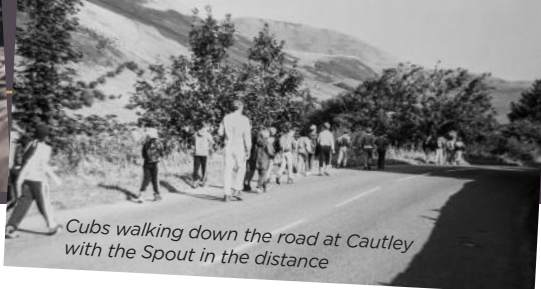
"We walked Cautley Spout a number of times and during middle school were advised to be on our best behaviour and under no circumstances to be rude when visiting Sedbergh. We were asked, if absolutely necessary, by Caspar Joseph from memory, to describe the town by the acronym, a FOSH, and not its full form, as an earlier student had.

"I have incredibly fond memories and when it was sold to make way for Patterdale Hall my mother, with help from John Greenhalgh, Scout Leader, rescued the large mahogany cabinet from the first floor landing, which stayed at my parents' house until it was sold when my mother died in 2015.

"I took my wife, Julie, and our two kids back to Cautley during lockdown to show them where we had stayed (St Mark's is now an Airbnb) and drag them up Cautley Spout to The Calf for old times' sake. Even now I reminisce with **Andrew Forshaw, Dave Gorner, Alastair Hughes** and **Ben Mobley (all Class of 1990)** about our many visits there."

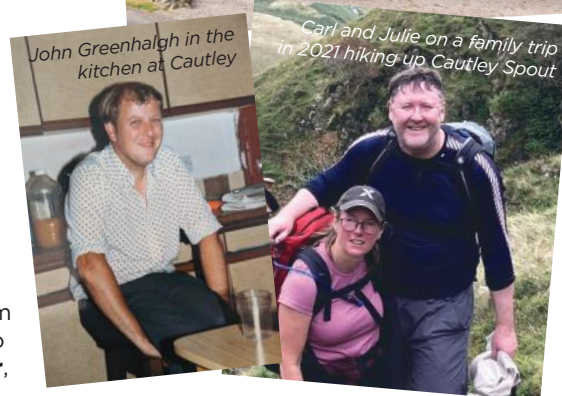


L-R: Margaret Featherstone, Eddy Taylor, Suzanne Howard (Class of 1992), Bob Topp, Ann Howard



Cubs walking down the road at Cautley with the Spout in the distance

St Mark's, Cautley, is now an Airbnb



John Greenhalgh in the kitchen at Cautley

Carl and Julie on a family trip in 2021 hiking up Cautley Spout

Masonic Support

Earlier this year Philip Britton was presented with a cheque for the Open Futures Bursary Campaign by the Old Boltonian Lodge.



Philip Britton (centre) receives a cheque from David Poppitt (1964) and David Hawkins (1967)

it is far closer to the truth that members share a common purpose, which is centred on philanthropy and community. Philanthropic giving is a central pillar of life for freemasons, and we are grateful to those connected with the School for their support.

"Over two decades the Lodge has contributed well over £25,000 to those funds, providing the opportunity for more young people to aspire to a Bolton School education. It was a pleasure, as a non-member, to address a recent meeting and share our mutual heritage through the School.

"It is a common misconception that a masonic lodge is a secret society, but

"Lord Leverhulme himself had a notable masonic career, with involvement in a great deal of activity and many different lodges, supporting their work financially and focused on the potential for creating a community sense of purpose. He came to this later in life and very obviously believed this was a choice for an individual, as it is well documented he put no pressure on his son, the second Viscount, to seek membership of a lodge.

"The Old Boltonians' Lodge was founded in 1939, on the eve of the Second World War. Formed 14 years after Levehulme's death it is not linked directly to him and there are similar lodges at many of the older prestigious schools, who meet to compare notes from time to time. The lodge meets several times a year at School, with members drawn from Alumni, but now also the wider Bolton community. More recently it has been possible to have all female lodges, but there has not yet been the impetus to form one at School.

"My thanks to members of the lodge for their generous and sustained support for the School."



Lord Leverhulme

Freemasonry

The Old Boltonians' Masonic Lodge, No 5814, meets regularly in the Senior Library at School throughout the year. In line with the charitable intentions of the society, each year the Lodge provides support to both Divisions of Bolton School, in the form of pupil Bursaries and Scholarships.

Whilst membership of the Lodge has been opened up to other Freemasons, the majority of its members are Old Boltonians,

providing a unique way of keeping in touch with fellow Old Boys. Members range in age from their 20s to their 80s, providing friendship to fellow Masons of all generations.

If you would like to hear more, please contact:

David Poppitt - The Lodge Secretary

Email: DPoppitt@aol.com

Tel: 07785 728700

LIVES REMEMBERED

Norman 'Ed' Bailey (Class of 1957)

'Ed' was born in 1939 and attended Bolton School from 1950.



I cannot comment on his school history since I was two years in advance of him, but I believe that he was a model schoolboy who adhered diligently to his learning. I did, however, know him

outside School since he went to the same unitarian church and, in that connection, he became my best friend. Throughout his life he enjoyed learning new concepts and new ideas. Curiosity was his forte. We visited each other's house at least five times a week and it was in my house that he fell in love with classical music and jazz. In his own house we played bridge incessantly since his mother was a fanatic of the game. I taught him to play the piano when he was 12 years old and within three weeks he could play it better than me, interpreting complex pieces of music that I could only yearn for. He was an excellent musician and played the guitar as well – that was in the skiffle group we established in the 1960s. I also, among many other memories, remember the many times we performed together in the dance band which we called the Units. He played the piano and I played the accordion. Since we had only one sheet of music, I played it next to his left ear, for which he attributed his deafness in that very organ. We attended the church events, joined the choir, participated in the plays, and became involved in Unitarianism on a national scale – even to the extent of cycling from Bolton to Switzerland and back for an international conference. Our partnership wavered slightly when I left to do my National Service, but always revived on my frequent returns.

He was Best Man at my wedding with Margaret, and we attribute our longevity of 68 years of marriage to his presence – with little evidence of course. Shortly after that he emigrated to Australia and established himself, with a partner, managing their own company. After ten years the partner disappeared to South Africa with the money, and Ed found himself bankrupt. So he changed tack and taught Fortran at the local university. By now he too was married and with his wife, Maureen, they ran a children's theatre over many years, for which they both received an accolade from the Victorian government. We visited him and his family in Australia many times, at least 12, when I was working with Australian

cities to establish lifelong learning in Melbourne. They took us everywhere in Victoria and beyond. These meetings always ended with several barbies and much laughter.

When his wife died at a relatively early age Ed continued creating new performances for his children's theatre. He became blind in later years because of a botched eye intervention, and spent the last 15 years of his life unable to see. This did not stop him playing the piano, writing scripts in Braille for his children's theatre and even making several visits to the UK and France. Later, he had multiple health problems including cancer, which he passed off as everyday inconveniences. To the end he contacted me on my birthday and me on his. These were one-hour catch-up marathons in which we reminisced over many topics, from past experiences together to present day events, and eventually to how we would change the world if only we were allowed to.

He leaves behind two children and a host of grieving admirers who recognised that he was someone extra-special.

Good-bye Ed. You gave everything you could and more to improve life on earth. Rest in peace.

The other Norman (Longworth, Class of 1953) and Margaret



Douglas Sladen Bamford (Class of 1953)

Douglas was born in Bolton on 2nd August 1934. He attended Bolton School and then Downing College, Cambridge where he obtained his MA. He then entered medical school via The London Hospital Medical College from which he graduated MB BChir in 1959. Following house officer roles at The London Hospital, Doug entered general practice in Sheffield.



However, his real medical interest lay in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and he accepted a senior house officer role at Edgeware General Hospital. He completed his registrar training at

Edgeware and The London Hospital and became a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in 1965. He was a lecturer in Anatomy at London Medical College and was appointed Senior Registrar at The London Hospital during which time he acquired his FRCS Ed

in 1968.

Doug was appointed to his consultant position in Bath in 1972. He quickly won the respect of his medical colleagues and established himself in the local medical community as a dynamic force and leader and served on numerous hospital and health service and RCOG committees representing Wessex Region at the RCOG. He was awarded his FRCOG in 1978.

Doug was a much-loved consultant in Bath. He was a skilled clinician and superb surgeon and soon established a busy private practice. He was a gentle man, kind and compassionate and with a keen wit which endeared him to his colleagues, patients and staff. He was a favourite of his nursing and midwifery colleagues, his junior medical staff and students. He was never too busy to help others with any of their concerns or difficulties.

Doug had a cracking sense of humour to which I was exposed every day of the two and a half years I spent as his registrar in the 1970s. I remember a very late night/early January morning encounter with Doug when we were summoned on a Flying Squad mission to Paulton. It was midwinter and 2am. Doug picked me up in his slightly beaten up old Triumph Spitfire with a hole in the passenger side floor covered with a 'Bluey' continence sheet to keep the road slush out. The roof was open because it was not working properly. It was freezing cold (it had been snowing), and with a sky full of stars, and Doug was urging me that it was a lovely night for a drive in the country as we trundled along behind the ambulance bound for this lonely farmhouse in the wilds of Somerset. Doug was in his element giving the relatively new antipodean registrar the real-life experience of English Obstetric Practice.

There was much laughter when Doug was around. It was one of the most satisfying times of my professional life and I was indeed blessed to have been exposed to such a wonderful mentor at a very early time in my career. Our friendship endured despite 12,000 km and almost 50 years of living in different countries.

Upon his retirement in 1996 Doug was an enthusiastic member of the RCOG Retired Fellows and Members Society, which was chaired by Harvey Wagman, a life-long friend with whom he trained in London.

Doug was a keen golfer and together with his wife, Eryl, spent many great golfing holidays and memories with their friends in the South West especially.

Doug was a wonderful family man. He and Eryl were married in February 1964. They had one child, Nikki, and Doug was a devoted father and husband. Nikki blessed Doug and Eryl with three grandchildren

and three great-grandchildren and they were a source of great pleasure in his retirement years.

Doug died on 13th October 2024 after a long illness which he endured with great courage and determination. He is survived by Eryl, Nikki, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Don Cave (former colleague)

Norman Ashworth Binks (Class of 1954)

Norman always gave his mother credit for working hard to send him to Bolton School and he remained a loyal and proud Old Boy until his death, aged 90, in June this year. Together with other Old Boltonians (affectionately known as 'The Rusty Old Bolts'), he was a member of Badger Patrol in the Scouts and their travels together surely inspired his wanderlust in later years. Norman was an accomplished pianist and fondly remembered playing *Clair de Lune* at a School concert which got a review in the *Bolton Evening News*.



He studied Biochemistry at the University of Liverpool before embarking on National Service with Ten Platoon. On the initial 12-week training programme he met friends for life, and

attended annual reunions for almost 66 years. He began working life as a chemist with Beechams in Liverpool, then as a factory inspector. Norman married **Audrey (née Schofield; Girls' Division, Class of 1954)** in 1961. In 1966 his next job was as an Employee Relations Adviser with Mobil Oil in London. They moved to Berkhamsted, where they brought up their two children, Carole and Judith. Norman was passionate about the local community and was a keen member of the Lions and the Berkhamsted Citizens Association. In Berkhamsted, Norman, on impulse, bought a narrowboat, much to Audrey's horror. But they were to enjoy many days and weeks on the waterways, especially later in their retirement.

His next roles were in Personnel Management with BEA and then British Airways for over 20 years. In 1989 Norman moved to Emirates Airline in Dubai. It was initially a year's contract to set up staff policies, but he and Audrey stayed for nine years! They joined the Pajero Club, taking part in four-wheel-drive desert driving and they both enjoyed travelling and cruising in later years.



At work, Norman was known as a mentor, an adviser and, outside of office hours, he

was a friend. It was important to him for his staff to progress and he often spotted unseen potential in people and took a chance with them.

Norman and Audrey were renowned for their hospitality and their parties were legendary. He was quick to strike up friendships, often with complete strangers, and superb at keeping in touch, remaining connected with individuals and groups throughout his life, including regularly attending school reunions.

Norman was once asked in a job interview "What was the best decision you ever made?" and he answered "Marrying Audrey". He missed her terribly when she died three years ago, but continued to live alone with support from family, including his grandson, Michael, and granddaughter, Sarah, who were devoted to taking care of him.

His career took him far and wide, but Norman never forgot the opportunities that Bolton School gave him, both socially and academically. His legacy was not just what he achieved, but the man he was. This was reflected in tributes from ex-colleagues and friends who spoke of his high standards, calm authority, discipline, quiet wisdom, humour, warmth and kindness. As one person put it: "He was a friend to everyone, a true gentleman."

Carole Cross (née Binks)

David George Butcher (Class of 1959)

It is my privilege to pay tribute to David, who died on 1st July 2025 aged 83.



Born in 1941, the majority of his early education was at Devonshire Road Primary. On his first day at Bolton School, walking from home in Church Road, David met another new starter, John Kirkman, who

became his closest friend and eventually his Best Man.

Following School, David went to Salford to train as a Public Health Inspector. He made several television appearances in relation to his work. He ended his career with the City of Salford, as Deputy Environmental and Consumer Manager, retiring in 1997.

My first encounter with David was at the Scout Long Camp of 1955 in Luxemburg, where we both witnessed the infamous 'hand grenade' story, published in the Autumn 2024 edition of *The Bugle*. At camp, each group had to entertain the others. I remember David's 'skiffle' group, where, taking an old wooden tea chest, a

broom handle and a length of sisal fixed to both, he managed, with much hilarity, to strum and sing to entertain everyone.

David's guitar playing at 'Fanny's' was legendary. The hostelry was in those days a rather cosy, friendly and smoke-filled drinking haunt, frequented by Old Boys and Girls. Evenings were spent in the downstairs snug, pints in hand, the fire burning, and David on his guitar singing the odd bawdy song.

David married Joan in 1966 at St Peter's Church in Bolton. The birth of their children, Judith, Steven and Peter, completed their family.

His singing and musical prowess led him to star in the Church Road PTA Pantomimes and on one occasion he even wrote and directed *Mother Goose*. He became a stalwart member of the Rosemere AOS and performed in its Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

Alongside other friends, he created the volunteer group known as 'The Friends of Moss Bank Park'. Under his leadership, the renovation of the Rock Garden and the Walled Garden was achieved.

Family holidays were initially spent in this country, but in an effort to escape our wet weather, the family started to holiday in France, where David revelled in speaking French to the locals.

As their children grew older, David and Joan made it a regular feature to meet with friends throughout the year, with much reminiscing and hilarity. This included our annual Armistice Sunday visits to the Lake District, climbing either Great Gable, or Castle Crag in Borrowdale, where there are war memorials.



David at the helm, sailing on Windermere, April 2011

David occasionally sailed with friends on Windermere, something he really enjoyed.

After a short illness, David died peacefully at home, with Joan, as she always had been, at his side.

His funeral took place at Barrow Bridge

Mission on 11th July 2025. Over 120 family and friends, some from the Boys' and Girls' Divisions, heard a moving tribute to him from his daughter Judith.

Ivan M Leigh (Class of 1962)



Please scan the QR code to read an extended obituary to David.

Donald John Cameron

(Class of 1954)

Donald was born on 28th December 1937 in Chorley to Evelyn and Angus Cameron. Angus was undermanager at The Midland Bank.



At the outbreak of WWII the family evacuated to Dolphinholme on the River Wyre. Donald attended the village school, while his father commuted to Chorley on his motorcycle. When his father was called up, Donald and his mother

sometimes followed him on his postings, notably to Woodhall Spa.

After Angus was demobbed, they returned to Chorley and Donald attended St George's Primary School before passing the Entrance Examination for Bolton School in 1949. He left after his GCE exams to become a Navigating Cadet with T&J Harrison of Liverpool, later moving to Safmarine and obtaining his Master's Certificate.

In 1960 Donald married Maureen and they had two sons, Duncan (1963) and John (1966). He left the sea in 1967 to study for a degree in Nautical Science at Cardiff then began lecturing at Fleetwood Nautical College, teaching all certificates up to Master's and fishing qualifications. Subsequently he decided to move into secondary education and his first position was teaching Economics and Mathematics at St Wilfred's School, Blackburn. He left there for a position teaching Mathematics at Ribbleson Hall, Preston and from there went to Parklands, Preston as Head of Maths.

Donald's love of the outdoors was demonstrated in his running school camps in the holidays to the Yorkshire Dales and Saundersfoot among other places, and taking his family camping and caravanning. This rekindled his interest in Scouting: he became heavily involved as a District Scout Leader and on the management committee of Waddecar Scout Activity Centre. He also renewed his love of sailing, buying a small yacht which he kept at Skippool, near Fleetwood.

Donald took early retirement from teaching which enabled him to spend even more time outdoors, holidaying with Maureen – usually in the caravan, but occasionally, and memorably, in small tents round the top of Scotland and its islands.

Whilst nominally retired, he still needed to at least 'seek work' to enable him to get full NI credits, so he got a part time job as organiser of the Best Kept Village in Lancashire contest, expanding both its entry figures and profile. He also spent a while skipping a party barge on the Leeds Liverpool Canal.

During this time he met an old friend,

Brian Ditchfield, with whom he used to go youth hostelling. Brian was on the cusp of retirement and had recently taken up golf, a sport Donald had played a lot whilst he was at sea. He started playing again with Brian and this continued for nigh on 30 years until Brian moved to be near his daughter, shortly before his death.

Donald and Maureen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2020 – the message from The Queen was proudly displayed on their lounge wall.

Duncan Cameron (Class of 1981)

Peter Noel Grimshaw

(Class of 1955)

Peter was born in Manchester in 1937, the son of William Thomas and Ann Grimshaw; he very much grew up as a proud Athertonian.



He joined Bolton School under the bursary scheme, and it was here that his academic life was able to flourish and his potential could be realised. He loved School and had a huge capacity for learning – he went on to study Geography and Geology at King's College London and later gained a master's degree. He was a shining example of what can be achieved with so very little: "Can't do" was not in his vocabulary.

Peter was a man of substance not style; neither a Flash Harry nor a Jack the Lad type of character. He was friendly, warm, gregarious, diligent, astute, disciplined, fastidious, fiercely loyal and generous – a man very much of high moral fibre. Although diminutive in stature, he possessed both mental and physical strength, character and intellect. A staunch socialist and a pacifist, he was not afraid to give his opinion on any subjects close to his heart. Nevertheless, he could be stubborn and exhibited a fiery temper at times.

Peter had three careers, in teaching/lecturing, town planning and writing/publishing. He spent most of his teaching life in St Helens where he was Head of Geography/Geology. Then in the early 1970s he moved to social planning in the Preston area as part of a team of the Central Lancashire New Town. After leaving in the early 1980s he set up his own writing/publishing company, PNG Communications International. Although he refused to embrace modern technology and computers – he was an analogue man in a digital world – he published *Excavators*, which became the reference book worldwide on the subject, and subsequently produced several other books and thousands of articles in the field of mining and machinery. He made various TV and radio appearances talking passionately on that subject – but resisted lucrative offers to live and work in North America

and northern Europe because Atherton was his home.

Peter had a philanthropic streak, making an indelible mark on his home town. Thanks to him the allotments on Crosby Street are still allotments, Chow Bent primary school is located where it is, Howe Bridge leisure centre got built and Atherton train station is still in existence.



Peter's interests were as varied as his career. He loved cartography (he was a walking, talking map), was a keen photographer and loved reading, opera, classical music and brass bands. He had a powerful tenor baritone voice and enjoyed choirs and singing. Road cycling was another passion, as were walking and hiking, particularly in the Lake District. And if Mum was the domestic goddess, then Dad was a DIY god – he had the skills to turn his hand to anything, particularly woodworking where he excelled in making and painting toys for me. He helped found the Threlkeld Mining Museum and The Vintage Excavator Trust. In short, he lived life to the full – he probably squeezed enough in to cover two full lifetimes!

In later life Peter fought dementia – this dreadful illness slowly eroded everything he had learnt and been taught. He passed away on 27th November 2024.

Peter Thomas Grimshaw

Peter John Harris

(Class of 1957)

It is with great sorrow that the family of Peter John Harris announce his passing on Sunday 7th September, aged 87 years.



Peter was a pupil at Bolton School between the ages of 8 and 18 years and shared many fond memories of his time in this environment.

During this period of his life, he gained the nickname 'Ferret', which he always found

amusing. He enjoyed sharing tales of his studies taking place in some interesting places, one such being 'Blakey Tower' – not the real name, of course, but used as this was where he was taught by Mr Blake. Whilst up there you were unable to hear the School bell to signify the end of the lesson, hence a phone call would have to be made so the teacher would know when to send the pupils on to their next class. On one particular occasion, in the absence of Mr Blake, the phone rang to be answered by a student pretending to be him. Much to their horror, however, it was Mr Blake at the other end of the line!

Some of Peter's most notable achievements included being Captain of Manchester House, playing hockey for the School and, probably his favourite, being chosen to be principal violinist in the School orchestra. He truly loved his School years and was proud to be one of its Alumni. He was always happy to share an entertaining story from one of his multitude of memories.



From School days he went onto Liverpool University to study mechanical engineering and followed that working for 37 years for British Aerospace. This was a job he thoroughly enjoyed, the highlight being involved with the creation of Concorde. When not at work he was a devoted husband and father, creating some more wonderful memories never to be forgotten. He will be forever remembered as a kind, caring and lovely man who always had a ready smile, and known to all who knew him as one of life's true gentlemen.

For over 85 years he lived a full, active and rewarding life. Sadly, for the about the last 18 months, following a diagnosis of heart failure he deteriorated quickly, resulting in kidney failure.

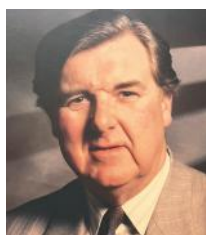
He is, and always will be, greatly missed by us all: his wife Kathleen, daughters Penny and Jackie, their husbands and his four grandchildren.

Kathleen Harris, Penny Croquette (née Harris) and Jackie Moncrief (née Harris)

Brian William Heap

(Class of 1946)

Brian was born in Bolton on 23rd April 1929 and was a scholarship pupil at Bolton School.



He was continually involved in education throughout his life. He began his teaching career in 1953 at Hutton Grammar School for Boys near Preston and for 35 years contributed

to education in the role of Head of Art and Head of Careers. In 1953 he married Rita Thomasson, a nurse at Bolton Royal Infirmary, and they celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 2013 with a card From Queen Elizabeth II. Their daughter, Jane, was born in 1956.

In 1960 Brian began his work in careers in school, at a time when careers education was virtually non-existent. He established an effective liaison between schools and universities and in 1968 published the very first guide listing the A Level grades required by universities for admission to their courses. This was the first of its kind and continued to be recognised as a definitive and impartial guide. *The Times* deemed Brian "the guru of university

choice and admissions". The book *University Degree Course Offers* became known as HEAP, the name which appears in bolder font on the publication. He mused that luckily this could also refer to Higher Education and Planning. The 55th edition was published the month after he died. He also wrote *Choosing Your Degree Course* (11 editions) and *University Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries* (8 editions).

His expertise and popularity resulted in an extensive lecture programme, both in the UK and abroad, including at International Schools, the World Bank and the British Council. He was especially pleased when Sophia Loren accompanied her son, Carlo, to an interview and, when asked about the fee for the work, he had to stop himself from saying "I'll have a date with your mother!"

Brian was a regular broadcaster with the *BBC* and got on well with Michael Parkinson, despite them sparring about one of them being a 'Lankie' and the other a 'Yorkie'!

Throughout his life he relaxed by sketching and his sketchbooks chart his travels. Although in the last years of his life his mobility was poor, he had an active brain which was razor-sharp and a zest for life. He died peacefully in his sleep, at home, in February 2024. A long life, well-lived.

Jane Heap

Steven Jary

(Class of 1955)

Steven died after a short illness in Shrewsbury Hospital in April this year. His father was WF Jary (Boys' Division Staff, 1937-1957). Steven started his education via Beech House and the Junior School.



He spent most of his life around Welshpool/Four Crosses/Guilsfield where he lived with his wife of 48 years, Joyce.

He was a very talented engineer and worked at K&N Flow Form in

Newtown in a managerial capacity and retained the engineering talent all his life.

Steven's passion was walking and exploring in Wales, including a good time in Pembrokeshire with many holidays with friends, and the countryside where he lived.

He leaves a daughter, Lisa, and two grandchildren from his previous marriage and his wife, Joyce.

Richard Lowe (Class of 1962)

Peter Labbett

(Class of 1968)

Peter died on 20th April at Blackburn General Hospital after a very short illness.



He came from Southport in 1962 and transferred to the School in class 3A2. He left in 1968 to start work at Shell-Mex BP in Manchester in their Personnel Department as it was then.

He took and passed exams in Personnel Management and after five or six years left to join the NHS working at various hospital trusts. He took early retirement in 2000 to take on consultancy and independent work for several hospitals and trusts in Northern England, and was still gainfully employed and sought after, 25 years later, up to his death.

Peter was in the very successful First XI football teams of 1967-68, and remained in contact with many involved in those teams.



He organised annual reunions for many of the team, involving a meal and a Wanderers match, for about the last 20 years. We all met up in early April for the latest one. He also played for Old Boltonians and Bolton Wyresdale. He was an avid supporter of Rochdale and Burnley. He was born in Nelson, Burnley, but his pride and joy were Rochdale and he had fond memories and anecdotes regarding their first ever promotion (from Division 4 in 1968!).

Peter enjoyed playing golf and cricket and set up a social cricket team, eventually named as the Duke of Darwen's 11 in his honour - they held a match in his memory recently, donating proceedings to the BHF.

He was a bachelor, had many travel experiences and an apartment in Spain for many years. Recently he spent time in Cuba and the Scottish Islands, as well as enjoying his golfing trips, with Geoff Taylor, back to Spain meeting up with his lifelong schoolmate, David Anderson.

David Anderson, Pete Booth, Barry Lomax, Brian West (all Class of 1968)

Michael Mellor

(Class of 1958)

Mike was born in September 1938 and joined School in September 1950. We were both in different Shell Forms then, but first met when we were selected for consideration to take part in a TV Schools' Quiz Show, *Top of the Form*. However, numbers were whittled down to four participants - the only one I remember was Peter Clough.



Mike and I were often in the same Form, together with Raymond Morris and Peter Voce, the four of us keeping up a close fellowship throughout our lives.



L-R: Peter Voce, Mike Mellor, Raymond Morris, Tony Caldwell

At School Mike was a member of the School Rugby Team. He applied to the University of Manchester for a Physics course, but then decided he was not too happy with that choice. He had a word with Headmaster Poskitt who advised him to take up Medicine and helped to gain him entry to UCH London, for which he was eternally grateful. Whilst there he obtained three House jobs and was offered a locum position.

However, he chose to pursue a five-year term with the RAF and served a three-year spell as a Flight Lieutenant with the Royal Malayan Air Force.

He married Janet, a qualified nurse he met in London, and she joined him abroad. He ended his time with the RAF at Cottesmore, then entered General Medical Practice in West Bridgford, Nottingham in the 1990s where additionally he was appointed Medical Officer for Notts County Cricket Team.

Mike led a healthy, active life, but in recent last few years had various illnesses leading to heart failure last March.

My abiding memory of Mike is being a modest, determined, imaginative, resourceful and reliably loyal friend.

He leaves behind his wife, Jan, living in Ruddington, Notts, together with two sons and their families.

Tony Caldwell (Class of 1957)

John F Ryley

(Class of 1945)

John Ryley was one of a dwindling number of Old Boys who could recount what it was like to be at School during wartime. Once on this subject he would reminisce about how lessons were interrupted by visits to the air raid shelters and tell of wartime peculiarities such as The Pig Club.



John started at the newly opened Park Road, before moving up to the Senior School in 1939, during FR Poskitt's tenure as Head. He remembered his teachers there as being generally good,



if somewhat eccentric at times, particularly Mr Crispin (Woodwork) who, despite his novel forms of corporal punishment, ultimately became a good friend. Doubtless trekking around Scotland with 'Butch' Ingham (who also taught him Latin) on his legendary camps was important in developing his lifelong appetite for travel and exploration.

From School, John went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge in October 1945 to read Natural Sciences. After graduating and then staying on to earn his PhD in parasitology, based at the Molteno Institute, he took a job with what was then ICI Pharmaceuticals at Alderley Edge. He remained there for his entire working life and built a distinguished career in biological research, initially working on malaria and other tropical diseases, then coccidiosis in animals, and finally fungal disease. When

a selection of his research papers was consolidated as *Adventures in Parasitology* he was awarded the senior degree of Doctor of Science by his *alma mater*.

It was at ICI that John met his wife, Margaret, and thus began a very happy marriage of 68 years that only ended last year with Margaret's death.

John's life was governed by his strong Christian faith. He was a well-known figure in the Crusaders movement in the North West, founding and running a popular class in Poynton near his home. He was also an Anglican Lay Reader, and in later years he was a regular preacher at his local church, combining his appetite for research and learning with a very practical approach.

Habitually a positive figure with a sense of fun, he will be missed by his many friends and large family of three children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Michael Ryley (Class of 1978)

Michael Philip Somerville

(Class of 1974)

Following last year's reunion of 1974 Leavers several of us hoped to get back in touch with a contemporary, Mike Somerville, who had left in 1972, transferring to Rossall School.



His early departure, and the geographical separations which followed the end of School life, had led to a gradual loss of contact.

Angela Ghadery (née Moorcroft, Class of 1974) learned that the Somerville family

had moved to a different Bolton address, and that, at one stage, Mike had lived in Horwich. We tried to follow up this information, writing and calling several times at both houses. Eventually we were saddened to discover that he had died earlier this year, during the period in which we had been attempting to find him. Although our efforts to learn more about Mike's life continue, it feels appropriate to record his passing now.

The School Archivist, Eric Fairweather, kindly provided some information and a photograph. Other details were gleaned from internet searches and public records.

Mike's father, Dr Douglas Mark Somerville, an Old Boy, was a Consultant Ophthalmologist, his mother a former Nurse. They are survived by Mike's younger brother, Paul.

Born in Farnworth on 31st March 1956, Mike attended High Lea Preparatory School, entering Park Road on 10th September 1964, and the Senior School on 7th September 1967. He left on 21st July 1972. He died on 17th January 2025.

As a boy Mike was interested in Natural History and Aviation. He took part in School trips to Farnborough Air Show in 1968, and Biggin Hill Air Fair in 1969.

My own memories are of an amusing teenager, whose parents welcomed me as a frequent visitor to their home, where Mike shared his passion for progressive rock music. Deep Purple, Emerson Lake and Palmer and Genesis were a thunderous background to conversation. Mike became a skilful driver, interested in cars, fashion and cinema. He could describe film performances and stories in vivid detail.

Mike's nickname was 'Fortescue'. I think the idea was that his imposing family home required him to have a 'posh' name, and he played up to the caricature, 'Lord Fortescue' being an amusing Wodehousian upper class twit.

In hindsight I wonder if Mike, sometimes pale and brittle, concealed anxiety with jokes, perhaps worrying more than most about our pending exams. He may have felt under pressure to excel, and achieve results beyond his reach. His departure was preceded by a period of difficulty, and failure to meet schoolwork deadlines.

As we still don't know how Mike's adult life unfolded these notes are incomplete. Meanwhile he is remembered affectionately, a likeable and generous companion on the hormonal hike through our turbulent teens, an amiable enigma, a friend from School.

Andy Foden (Class of 1974)

Keith Taylor

(Class of 1957)

Keith Taylor was among Bolton School's intake of September 1949. He and I were allocated adjacent desks in Lower Shell A and so began a friendship that lasted 76 years until his death in May this year.



In the February half-term break of 1953, fellow pupils Errol Goulden, John Mitchell, Malcolm Stevens, Keith and I arranged to meet and enjoy a ramble over local moorland beyond Walker Fold, which resulted in a

lifelong hobby of birdwatching for both of us. In the years following we would meet at Doffcocker Lodge, cycle to Rumworth Lodge, travel by bus to Belmont Reservoir, Mossley Common or Pennington Flash where we would advance our knowledge of local birds and gradually increase our tick lists. Later, we visited Hilbre Island in the Dee estuary, the Lake District, the southern Scotland coast from the Solway Firth to Stranraer and visit the Forest of Glentworth.

Keith was a talented artist and enjoyed the tuition of Art master George Higginson who, since they both lived in the Deane area, occasionally gave Keith a lift to School in his Humber Super Snipe. It could be said that Keith was a frustrated thespian, since he participated in several School plays, including *Julius Caesar* in 1954 and *Othello* in 1955, but was never given a speaking part while a pupil. He did, however, forge a lasting but distant friendship with Sir Ian McKellen with whom he shared one of the latter's numerous 80th birthday celebrations.

On leaving School, Keith trained to be a quantity surveyor and subsequently worked for Manchester City Council in this role until he took early retirement in his fifties. His early training resulted in his deferred call-up for National Service into the army at Bulford Camp on Salisbury Plain in December 1959, only three weeks before National Service intake came to an end, but Keith used his time to undertake further study at Southampton University on day release while still in the army. For a short period following his demobilisation in 1961 he continued to work in Southampton where his landlady frequently served him tripe since she thought this was the staple diet of all northerners. He returned to Bolton in 1965 where he met and married his namesake, Carol Taylor, and set up home in Over Hulton.



In the years that followed, Keith became an active member of the local community. He attended many of the Old Boltonians' lunches; played football with the Old Boltonians, was a long-term member of the School's senior scouts and helped with setting up many scout camps. He had an active role in Bolton's Little Theatre where he assisted with set decorating and lighting and did make his debut as an actor in *The Recruiting Officer*; but, most of all, he partnered the late Sandra Leatherbarrow in providing taped news programmes for the blind and visually impaired once a month for many years. In August 1985 I accompanied Keith when he took a blind friend to a test match at Old Trafford against Australian opposition. This was when Ian Botham was in his prime. Between the two of us, we provided a running commentary for his friend from the members' pavilion.

Keith maintained many School friendships over the years. Subsequently, he played prominent parts in the funerals of his former peers, Roger Kirk, Joe Cairns and Keith Smith. He seemed to be on hand-shaking terms with several Headmasters over time, such was his close relationship with Bolton School behind the scenes.

Keith's long-term interest in brass bands resulted in the Mossley Brass Band playing at his funeral on 5th May.

In addition to his widow, Carol, and his two daughters, Wendy Wray and Kathryn Whitaker, Keith enjoyed the company of three grandchildren and a grandson.

Ian Thompson (Class of 1956)

Brian William Thornley

(Class of 1947)

Brian passed away peacefully on 26th September 2025 at the age of 94. Born in Bolton in 1930, Brian's time at Bolton School included the Second World War years. He often remembered how he watch would watch from the School playing fields as German bombers flew overhead on their way to wreak devastation on the cities of Manchester and Liverpool. Brian enjoyed his time at the School, especially studying the Arts, and was an active member of the Debating and Choral societies. He also met his 'best pal', John Wilcox, a firm friendship that was to last a lifetime.



On leaving School in 1947, Brian followed his father into the textile industry as a trainee at Swan Lane Spinning Company in Bolton. After two years of National Service in the RAF, Brian progressed to British Nylon Spinners, based

in Doncaster. Returning to Bolton one weekend, Brian met his future wife, Margaret, at a Civic Dance at the Town Hall. They were married in 1962 and had two children, James and Julia.

BNS's parent company, ICI Fibres, took Brian and his family to Harrogate in 1966, where he was based for the rest of his life. As a Textile Technologist, he fronted ICI's customer service drive for man-made Terylene and Polyester. His career with ICI saw him often travel to the textile mills of Lancashire to give support and advice. He also travelled frequently and extensively across Europe, including Scandinavia, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas. After taking early retirement from ICI, Brian joined Finicisa in Porto, Portugal. He and Margaret enjoyed living in the city for five years whilst Brian advised on customer service and product development.

Retiring permanently back to Harrogate in 1987, Brian was able to dedicate more time to his other favourite interests and pursuits: golf, Churchwarden at the local Church of St Wilfrid, Bolton Wanderers FC, the history of the Lancashire Textile industry and his growing family.

Throughout his life and career, Brian retained a strong passion for the town of Bolton and Bolton School, and regularly sported his various Bolton School ties. He returned to School reunions, the last of which being in 2023, where he became a bit of a celebrity as the oldest 'Old Boltonian'!

Brian was a true gentleman, whose life was shaped by the knowledge and values instilled in him by both his parents and Bolton School. After spending over 60 years in Harrogate he was an honorary Yorkshireman, however he remained a Lancastrian and in particular, a Boltonian, at heart.

James Thornley



Frank Wright Yates

(Class of 1952)

Frank died earlier this year at the age of 91. He was born in 1933 and was loyal to his Lancastrian roots throughout his life. He attended Bolton School and would recall his School days with great fondness. His favourite lesson was woodwork. Mr Crispin, the teacher, instilled the importance of mastering basics and nurtured Frank's practical skills. As a member of Mr Ingham's hiking club, Frank gained resilience and experienced the challenges and thrill of harsh terrains in places like Skye, the Cairngorms and Switzerland.



Frank thrived on challenge, and this was fostered through Scouts and at Bolton School by his participation in sports. He was Captain of the Swimming and Gymnastics clubs. One of his

most vivid memories was of a School gymnastics competition. Having completed two disciplines, Frank and his rival, Bill Cummings, shared the lead. Bill scored 99.5% in the floor routine and Frank admitted feeling defeated. One of the Masters encouraged him by saying, "Go and do your best" so Frank daringly completed his routine without floor mats and was awarded a score of 100%. It impressed upon him the importance of trusting in yourself, doing your best and never giving up.

Frank graduated as a doctor from Liverpool University in 1958 and chose to do colonial service over conscription because it offered medical and surgical experience. He completed four years in Nigeria as a medical officer, where he was amongst the first doctors to perform corrective surgery for trachoma sufferers, as well as more complex and life-saving surgery.

His work fulfilled his need for challenge and purpose. He worked in basic and challenging conditions and with few resources, often travelling vast distances to treat patients. He reformed the hospital in Bama and repurposed a mortuary into

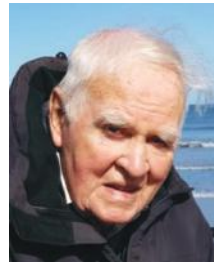
a laboratory. Frank supported patients' treatment and healing with structures and contraptions which he designed and built himself, including wooden legs for amputees.

On returning from Nigeria in 1962, Frank joined a GP practice in Adlington where he remained until 1995. He was progressive in practice management, with the introduction of an appointment system and later, a computerised system. He helped to set up the Chorley Out-of-Hours Co-operative.

During his long career, he supported several generations of the same families and his patients remember him as a hardworking, traditional GP, who always had time to listen to his patients in surgery and on home or hospital visits.

After 33 years serving the NHS, he retired but continued to work as a medical director for local firms.

Frank was interested in problem-solving all his life. He initiated and helped to design and build the new surgery in Granville Street in 1968. He built garages and extensions on his houses; he put in central heating and helped other people to put in theirs. He serviced his cars and landscaped his gardens. He loved working with wood and appreciated craftsmanship. He had a very strong work ethic and believed in an honest job done well. He never lost his interest in travelling, and he and his wife, Doris, always enjoyed going to new places with their caravan.



Frank was privileged to serve the wider community in various roles. He willingly gave his time to local fundraising events and always donated anonymously.

He believed in the value of education and was proud of his connection with local schools as a governor at Rivington & Blackrod High School and Rivington Foundation Primary School. He never expected recognition so he was delighted when he was invited to plant a tree at Rivington Foundation Primary for his service to the school. In 2024 Frank was deeply honoured to receive the Old Boy of the Year Award at Bolton School.



Frank was honoured to receive Bolton School's Old Boy of the Year Award in 2024

Frank approached challenges with determination. In later life, he faced serious health conditions with patience and fortitude. He spent his last years in Scarborough, where his neighbours would see him pushing his carer in his wheelchair and timing himself to the top of the avenue and back with a stopwatch. He never gave up and kept looking forward in a way that inspired those around him.

Ruth Yates

In Memoriam

J Philip Ashworth (Class of 1956) - Died 25th May 2024

(Robert) David Hart (Class of 1951) - Died 4th April 2025

Peter Hayes (Class of 1965) - Died 8th April 2025

David Frederick Morlidge (Class of 1960) - Died 21st October 2025

Leland Norman Rudd (Class of 1960) - Died 17th September 2022

John Stephen Smith (Class of 1984) - Died February 2024

(George) Rodney Ward (Class of 1962) - Died 29th August 2025

The School Magazine

The Boltonian remains the premium magazine for the Boys' Division. As an Old Boy it is possible to become a subscriber to *The Boltonian* and have a copy mailed directly to you each year.

The magazine costs £15 per annum for UK subscribers and £20 per annum for non-UK subscribers. All prices include postage and packaging. Single editions (including some earlier editions - subject to availability) are also available. Any profits made from the sale of the magazine will go towards the running of the Old Boltonians' Association. For details of how to subscribe, please contact the Development Office.



