

OB REVIEW

2025



OLD BEDFORDIANS CLUB

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The BSA Team on stage at the Quarry Theatre, with staging set for Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

THE MAGICAL BSA TEAM

I hope you enjoy reading this year's edition of the Ousel / OB Review, which is packed with news and stories about Old Bedfordians. For me, the highlight of the year was the OB cricket team winning the Cricketer Cup for the first time, defeating our old rivals, the Old Tonbridgians, who themselves have won the cup on numerous occasions. During the campaign to reach the final, we had 36 OBs involved - highlighting both our strength in depth and the number of OBs who want to play for the Club. I look forward to next year, when we defend the cup.

This summer also saw us publish *180 Not Out*, the definitive history of Bedford School cricket, which was founded in 1845. The book charts the development of cricket at the school and the many characters involved in it. As you'd expect, many of the players went on to do extraordinary things in their lives. The book can be purchased online from *NoLimitz*, the school's shop.

The Memorial Hall was opened in July 1926 by Prince Henry; to commemorate this, we plan to unveil a new board with the names of twenty-two OBs who do not currently appear on the roll of honour. We hope to invite back as many living relatives as possible to the ceremony, to highlight the fact that, 108 years after the guns fell silent, we still remember their loved ones. Looking ahead to next year, we

have a battlefield tour to Gallipoli, where we plan to follow in the footsteps of OB **Arthur Tisdall (1900-09)**, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery.

This year's annual OB Dinner, to be held on Thursday 12th November, returns to the House of Commons for the first time in twenty years. We very much look forward to welcoming OBs and their guests to this most prestigious of locations.

Looking further ahead, the school will celebrate its 475th anniversary in 2027. We are already turning our attention to a series of events that will mark the occasion, which will fully involve the OB Community.

We were delighted to welcome Rosy Harrington as our new Communications Manager earlier this summer. She is eager to hear from OBs about how we can ensure our communications are both engaging and relevant. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any thoughts.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone involved in the school community for their support over the past year - particularly those who have generously given their time to help and support current pupils, enriching their educational experience and preparing them for life beyond the gates of Bedford School. ■

Hugh Maltby (73-83)
Director, Old Bedfordians Club

OB CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Richard Northern

It's been another active and successful year for the OB Club as the articles in this edition show.

A highlight for me was watching the OB cricket team, ably led by Charlie Thurston but showing strength in depth, make history by winning the Cricketers Cup for the first time on a sunny afternoon in August in the beautiful grounds of Arundel Castle. A perfect way to celebrate the publication this year of the book *180 not out* celebrating

180 years of cricket at the School. Another striking memory is of a lively evening at King's Cross in London, where for the first time since 2017 we held a joint business networking event with the alumnae of Bedford Girls' School.

A trip to Canada this autumn reminded me what a wonderful resource our District Vice President (DVP) network is. I enjoyed meeting **David Cox (60-65)** in Toronto and **Michael Evison (51-59)** in Vancouver, and was very grateful for their kind welcome and hospitality. I also made contact with several other DVPs across Canada. Most had served as DVPs for many years, but continue to offer their time, wisdom and hospitality to fellow OBs, who live in or pass through their districts. It was refreshing and reassuring to encounter that kindness, integrity and friendliness, which I generally find to be a hallmark of OBs I meet throughout the world.

The next school year will be one of change, or at least transition. We will have an opportunity next summer to say goodbye and pay our tributes to James Hodgson, when he steps down as Head Master. But I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing my thanks to him for the tremendous support that he has given both to the OB Club and to me and my predecessors personally in this role. The Club would not have been able to provide the range of services to its members that we currently enjoy without the active support and encouragement of James and his management team. James and I share a firm belief that a close and mutually supportive relationship between the school and the OB Club works to the long-term benefit of both institutions (and our members).

Bedford School will also open the first of what is expected to become a network of overseas schools with a new campus for girls in Mohali in Northern India in April. The OB Club looks forward to building a close relationship with the alumni of Mohali and other branches of the Bedford School family around the globe in future.

Richard Northern (63-72)
President

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Oliver English

It's been another brilliant year for the OB Club — full of connection, momentum, and a real sense of community across generations.

There is far too much to cover, but some highlights this year included the 10-Year Anniversary Networking Event at Related Argent's King's Cross Marketing Suite, hosted by **Chris Taylor (70-77)**. Ten years ago, Chris introduced OBs to the redevelopment when it was just a concept on a model — this year, we returned to see the vision

realised in one of London's most dynamic districts.

OBs have also continued to make their mark in sport. We were proud to see the Club crowned Cricketer Cup Champions, after a nail-biting final against the Old Tonbridgians. At Henley Royal Regatta, we celebrated one of the largest groups of OB rowers in recent years, with the School's 1st VIII also delivering a strong performance. Over 200 OBs, parents, and friends joined us by the riverside to mark the occasion — a fantastic show of OB spirit.

Back in Bedford, our "At Home" event brought together over 100 OBs and guests for a relaxed afternoon beside the Pavilion, while Kevin Clement's new book, *180 Not Out – Now Out!*, offered a humorous and insightful look at the long and colourful history of Bedford School cricket.

In theatre, as I write this, the tenth anniversary of the Quarry Theatre will be celebrated with a gala performance uniting pupils from Bedford School, Bedford Girls' School and Goldington Academy, showcasing the range of talent across the school that ultimately ends up within the club.

On the networking front, the first joint OBC & BGS Networking Event since 2017 was a standout occasion — a great example of how the Club continues to evolve and expand its reach, which brought together alumni from both schools for a lively evening of conversation and new connections. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and we hope to make it a regular fixture in the calendar.

Preparations are already underway for 2027, when the School will celebrate its 475th anniversary through a series of commemorative events and initiatives.

Looking ahead, the launch of our University Vice President (UVP) initiative in early 2025 was an exciting step forward. With representatives established in Durham, and Newcastle, Bristol, Nottingham and London to soon follow, this project aims to bridge the gap between school and the wider OB network - helping recent leavers stay connected, supported, and inspired.

Thank you to everyone who's contributed, attended, or supported us this year. The OB community continues to thrive because of your energy, generosity, and shared pride.

Oliver English (07-16)
Chairman, Old Bedfordian Club

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR OB CLUB MEMBERSHIP

When you left Bedford School, you became an Old Bedfordian – part of a proud tradition that dates back to 1891. As one of the most active alumni associations in the country, the OB Club is a vibrant global community of over 9,000 members, offering a busy calendar of reunions, sports fixtures, and social gatherings throughout the year. It's a lifelong connection to the school and to fellow OBs, wherever life takes you.

The OB Club exists to keep the Bedford School spirit alive long after school days are over. Its core mission is to foster meaningful connections among alumni, support members in their careers and lives, and maintain a strong bond between the school and its current and former pupils. It is a vital link between generations of OBs, former staff, and the school – offering opportunities to reconnect, celebrate shared experiences, and support the school's ongoing aims. Whether you're attending an event, catching up with fellow OBs, or simply staying in touch, the OB Club is there for you.

On the last page of this OB Review you'll find details of just some of the fantastic events which will be happening next year. We would love to see as many of you as possible – whether that's at one of these events or a visit to the school. You're always welcome to join us.



OB CLUB IN NUMBERS



9421
OLD BEDFORDIAN
CLUB MEMBERS
WORLDWIDE



71
DISTRICT VICE
PRESIDENTS (DVPS)
GLOBALLY



1000+
OBs ATTENDING
EVENTS WORLDWIDE
EACH YEAR

While the Club receives a modest income from investments, its main support comes from OBs who upgrade to Eagle Supporter status (formerly Subscribing Members). These vital contributions help enhance the Club's activities and services for all members, enabling us to be a leading alumni network and continue doing what we do best.

Eagle Supporters are entitled to several benefits, including:

- **The Ousel:** Our main annual publication, The Ousel, is available free of charge to Eagle Supporters only.
- **Discounts:** Eagle Supporters receive discounts on key Club events such as the Annual Dinner and the At Home celebrations.

The annual fee is just £30. If you'd like to upgrade your membership and receive this year's copy of the Ousel, as well as access discounts to our events, please get in touch. obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk ■



DON'T FORGET! If you haven't already joined Eagle Connect, then now is the time. This platform plays a key role for OBs to network, keep up to date with news from Bedford School and for OBs to offer, and receive career advice and guidance. Joining is easy – just scan the QR code to get started.



THIS YEAR'S EVENTS

AL MURRAY AT THE CORN EXCHANGE

Over 70 OBs and their partners enjoyed seeing comedian **Al Murray (77-86)** in his one-man show 'Guv Island', at the Bedford Corn Exchange in March as part of his UK Tour. Al, lived up to his reputation in his persona as an English publican with conservative values and an animosity towards Germans and the French. Sloshing beer and wine over the front few rows – who had luckily been given splash ponchos! Many of the OBs attending met up before hand, some for a meal at Fuego Tapas and then on to the Bedford Rowing Club for some pre-show drinks and to get into the party mood.



CHRISTMAS DRINKS AT BEDFORD ROWING CLUB

Over 50 OBs gathered for the, now traditional, Annual Christmas Drinks at Bedford Rowing Club. Younger OBs in particular enjoyed swapping stories of their first term at University and plans for the months ahead.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE | LEST WE FORGET

On Sunday 10th November, OBs, past parents, current parents, along with the wider members of our community joined us for the Chapel Service at the school to remember the fallen. Following the service, a wreath was laid outside the Memorial Hall by **Major Samuel Brown (08-13)** of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Among those who served and sacrificed was Old Bedfordian **Alec Cook (27-38)**, whose young life was tragically cut short during the Second World War. This year, we have chosen to spotlight Alec and share his story as a pure testament to bravery. May we always remember them.

ST ALBANS SUMMER DRINKS

On a beautiful summer evening, a group of OBs gathered in Ye Olde Fighting Cocks which claims to be the oldest pub in England and has been in business since 793AD! The inaugural 'St Albans Summer drinks' was a huge success and the conversation flowed, as did the drinks.



HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

Despite the blazing heat on the hottest day of the year, over 200 OBs, Parents, and Past Parents gathered at Henley Royal Regatta to support the 1st VIII and reconnect over a refreshing glass of Pimm's (or two!) The school gazebos provided much-needed shade, creating the perfect setting for a relaxed and joyful morning of celebration and camaraderie.

There was plenty to cheer about. Just before the drinks reception began, the 1st VIII delivered a thrilling performance, defeating Abingdon School by two lengths in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup.



AT HOME

Old Bedfordians gathered on Saturday 5th July for the annual At Home event. The day began with refreshments in the Memorial Hall before tours of the school. It was fitting in a year that we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of The Quarry that the tour included a visit to the theatre building, as well as the Library and The Sports Hall. OBs were also able to see the Fives Courts and the Chapel – both of which are undergoing exciting refurbishments thanks to the kind

generosity of OBs.

Over 100 OBs and guests then gathered in the marquee by the School Pavilion to enjoy a drinks reception and a delicious three course lunch, whilst overlooking the Head Master's Invitation XI v 1st XI cricket match.

We were delighted that **Fernando Vega de Seoane (91-93)** and some of his family were able to join us for lunch following his extremely motivating and moving speech which he delivered as guest of honour at Speech Day.



THE QUARRY THEATRE IS 10

On the 26th June, the school put on a production of a Servant to Two Masters which was the start of the celebrations for the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Quarry Theatre. Thank you to the following OB guests who joined us for the opening night; **Ben Baker (17-22)**, **Cory Bloxham (10-16)**, **Harun Cehovic (15-17)**, **Josh Cooke (13-23)**, **Louis Cooke (19-24)**, **Tomas Else (17-22)**, **Will Osborne (11-22)**, **Max Pearson (12-23)**, **Callum Smyth (20-22)**, **Dylan Swain (11-22)**, **George Wegener (15-20)**, **Jonathan Hooley (89-97)**. Also thank you to **George Robertson (15-20)** who co-directed the show.

On the 28th November the celebrations continued and OBs along with special guests were invited for an exclusive performance of 'Harry Potter and The Cursed Child'. A champagne drinks reception welcomed guests before they watched the outstanding performance by pupils of Bedford School, Bedford Girls School and Goldington Academy.



ANNUAL DINNER 2024

On Friday, 22nd November, OBs gathered to celebrate their ongoing relationship with the school at the annual OB Club Dinner. This year's event was held at the prestigious One Great George Street, London, the home of the Institution of Civil Engineers, where guests enjoyed a fabulous three-course meal, plenty of wine, and some excellent speeches.

This year's guest speaker, **Miles Young (63-72)**, delivered a fascinating and humorous account of his journey into the world of advertising and PR prior to becoming CEO of the international advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather.



NETWORKING AND CAREERS



18TH ANNUAL CAREERS CONVENTION

This year's OB Careers Convention coincided with National Careers Week in March. Now in its eighteenth year, the event was held online for the fourth consecutive year, spanning three evenings.

We hosted twelve sessions featuring 60+ experts across a wide range of careers, including investment banking, cybersecurity, scientific research, aviation, law, engineering, and medicine. With participants from fourteen schools, including eleven state schools, we reinforced our commitment to giving back to the wider community and making this our most inclusive Careers Convention yet.

The event received outstanding feedback from both attendees and career representatives, who were highly impressed with the engagement and curiosity of participants.

We extend our thanks to our incredible representatives - OBs, parents, past parents, and friends of the school - whose generosity and expertise made this event possible.

NETWORKING JOINTLY WITH BEDFORD GIRLS SCHOOL ALUMNAE

OBs and BGS Alumnae enjoyed a fantastic evening of networking and great conversation at The German Gymnasium in April 2025. Thank you to everyone who came along. We are excited to announce that plans are afoot to do another joint networking event again next year - check out our website for more details.



INSURANCE NETWORKING EVENT - LONDON NOVEMBER 20TH

20 OBs working in the insurance industry gathered at The Sterling bar in the Gherkin for an evening of networking and drinks. Organised by Hugh Maltby (73-83), the event proved hugely popular - demonstrating two things: firstly, those in insurance are a sociable bunch, and secondly, the promise of a first drink on the house works wonders!

NETWORKING - KINGS CROSS 10 YEARS ON

In 2015, OB **Chris Taylor (70-77)** hosted members of the OB Club at his offices to learn about the proposed regeneration of King's Cross. A decade later, OBs returned to hear the full story thanks to the kind hospitality of School Governor and Director of Asset Management at Related Argent, Anthea Harries,.

Chris played a pivotal role in the regeneration through his leadership at Federated Hermes. His involvement helped guide the transformation into a thriving mixed-use district, balancing commercial success with social and environmental responsibility.

OB **Alex Peck (95-06)**, who recently joined Related Argent and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the site, explained how the mix of retail and office space, alongside the restaurants, had created a popular destination for Londoners, a far cry from the 'no-go' area that King's Cross was once known as.

After the presentation, Alex and Chris fielded many questions from the floor before everyone retired for further drinks and a spot of networking.



DVP EVENTS

DVP HONG KONG - MARCH 2025

DVP for Hong Kong, **Ambrose Wang (01-06)** organised an informal gathering at Cardinal Point.

16 OBs met up on the Sky Terrace, with its spectacular and sweeping views over the Hong Kong skyline and Victoria Harbour and enjoyed drinks and reminiscences.



DVP LONDON - MARCH 2025

DVP for London, **Chris Jones (72-77)** organised a lunch gathering for thirty OBs at the City University Club in the heart of the City of London. OBs from several different year groups attended, including several former Caving Club members. Proceedings began with a champagne reception, followed by a four-course meal accompanied by some fine wines. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time, with some continuing to socialise late into the night.



DVP LINCOLNSHIRE - SEPT 2025

On 14th September, OBs, their partners, and Past Parents gathered for a memorable day exploring Lincolnshire's rich aviation heritage. The event, organised by DVP for Lincolnshire **Rob Kendrick (62-71)**, offered a unique blend of history, personal stories, and camaraderie.

The day began with a private guided tour of the Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre, where the group delved into the fascinating history of the airfield and its role during the Second World War.

After a hearty three-course lunch at a local pub, the group continued to the International Bomber Command Centre. Despite the rain, spirits remained high as attendees explored the grounds and visited the memorial walls, which bear the names of over 57,000 men and women who gave their lives in service.



DVP BEDFORD - JULY 2025

DVP for Bedfordshire **Jason Reddy (79-84)** and a group of OBs gathered at the Burrow at Bedford Blues to watch the first test of the British and Irish Lions Tour of Australia. They enjoyed some food and drinks and were treated to a thrilling game of Rugby which saw the Lions win 27-19.





The Quarry Theatre is 10 Celebrations



Henley Royal Regatta 2025



Networking event joint with BGS Alumnae



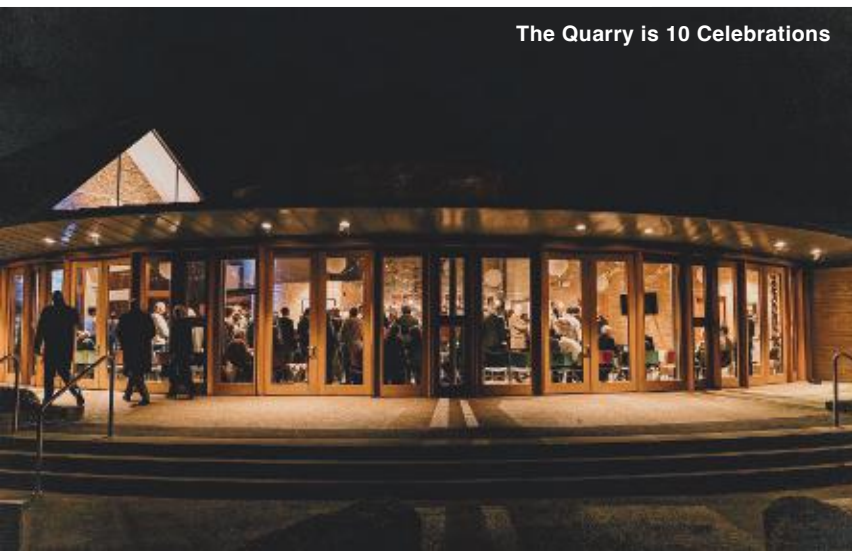
St Albans Summer Drinks 2025



DVP Lincolnshire event 2025



At Home 2025



The Quarry is 10 Celebrations



OB Club Annual Dinner 2024

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS (DVPS) AND UVPS (UNIVERSITY VICE PRESIDENTS) – OUR GLOBAL NETWORK OF CONNECTIVITY

A LETTER FROM MARTIN SNAITH (53-63) TO THE OB CLUB.

Since stepping down from the Presidency of the OB Club, I and my wife have been able to travel again visiting haunts, old and new, but wherever that was appropriate to encourage our marvellous DVPS. Our most recent trip found us in South Africa. Our first stop was Cape Town, and there we were greeted by our DVP for the Cape, Alexander Gitlin (90-96) and his wife Ana. Alex is the Executive Head of Reddam House School, Constantia on the outskirts of Cape Town. He very kindly organised a dinner to meet up and also catch up with a friend from years ago, Ken Orrell (61-66). Alex and Ana were superb hosts describing their school and the, then ongoing, visit by two Bedford Preparatory School cricket teams.

▼ DVP Alex Gitlin(90-96) and his wife in Cape Town. We hope to meet up when they are next in England

We then moved on to various stops and on to Port Elizabeth to catch a flight to Durban, where a couple of years ago we met OB and great supporter of the School, Peter France (67-73). We enjoyed a long weekend with my nephew and his family at the Hluhluwe Game Park before driving to Nottingham Road. This is near where my brother, Jeremy (41-51) farmed, and was the local DVP for Natal, now KwaZuluNatal (KZN), until his sad death some thirty three years ago. The farm still exists with my sister-in-law on site.

We stayed in a lovely old hotel, Rawdons, in Nottingham Road close to OB Chris Wilson (64-68). He has an extensive collection of tractors, of all ages, which he has restored. We contacted him and he was incredibly kind in organising a visit to the amazing collection of tractors, trains and rolling stock of a number of gauges used in South Africa over two centuries. At Chris' suggestion we travelled up to Ficksburg via the Golden Gate pass and returned through the better known Van Reenan's pass - which are in themselves both



spectacular, with the Golden Gate just winning! Afterwards we entertained Chris at Rawdons hotel and introduced him to other members of Jeremy's family. He again produced a surprise for us all... and that was my brother's last car, which he had painstakingly restored!

We left South Africa via O.T. Airport, Johannesburg but, whilst transiting, OB Richard Stout (88-95) kindly joined us for a tea and a natter, and I should also note that he has kindly agreed to join the Club's Finance Committee.

When we reached home I thought it might be a good idea to write the above as a demonstration of how the OB Club, through its local DVPs and our fantastic Club Office, is working both in this country and around the world to provide a well-supported network to help both young and old OBs.

It also made me consider how the School and Club have changed in response to the demands of the pupils and their parents in this, I suppose we could call it, "a post Imperial world". When I was at the school in the 1950s it was still largely geared to "producing" pupils who might be going to areas which, in the maps at that time, were shown in pink as being members of the Empire, then slowly metamorphosing into the Commonwealth of Nations. Hence the School was targeting the military and the Civil Services of both home and Commonwealth countries, bankers, traders and the like. I recall the designated staff member telling me that there were good prospects for me if I applied for the Military, the Hong Kong Police or the British South Africa Police Force and that essentially was all! Happily that has all changed and the

education is geared largely to providing pupils with an ability to obtain University degrees and thereafter to consider a much wider selection of careers they might wish to follow. The Club also has followed that model and is geared to helping leavers obtain a foothold in their chosen careers before, during, and after University, and even helping them to determine just what they might want to do whilst still at school.

All leavers are invited to join and make the most of the Old Bedfordian network which is operating at "home", Europe and overseas. There has been a change overseas in that we no longer have large numbers in countries such as would have been found in South Africa, Argentina or Malaysia, fifty or so years ago. Nonetheless I found, when starting out after University, that the OB network was incredibly useful. This was exemplified in Kenya through the local DVP, Brian Keith (32-38), where with his help I was able to develop my social life. Later in Thailand, I was guided by our excellent DVP for so many years, Dr Ubhashri Krishnamra (58-63), to the OB Manager of the Standard Chartered Bank in Bangkok, who helped hugely in my work there. I feel I have to mention another DVP, who has very recently died. The redoubtable Ted Shorrocks (44-50) who befriended so many OBs when they visited New Zealand for work, as in my case, or holidays.

The OB Club, as you see, is clearly thriving at home and overseas, ably overseen by our Director, Hugh Maltby, and his team. All OBs can assist with this by supporting its various activities with the School, the Club's own sports teams and its various social events organised by the office and DVPs. ■

One of the OB Club's greatest strengths is its network of volunteer representatives known as District Vice Presidents (DVPs). Located across the UK and internationally, DVPs play a vital role in supporting the OB community. They offer advice, make introductions, and help organise events for local and visiting OBs and their families, fostering meaningful connections and ensuring OBs feel welcome wherever they are in the world.

We are always looking for self-motivated OBs who

would like to join the DVP network. If you enjoy socialising and communicating with people of all ages and would like to volunteer for the role, you sound perfect – please get in touch with the OB Club!

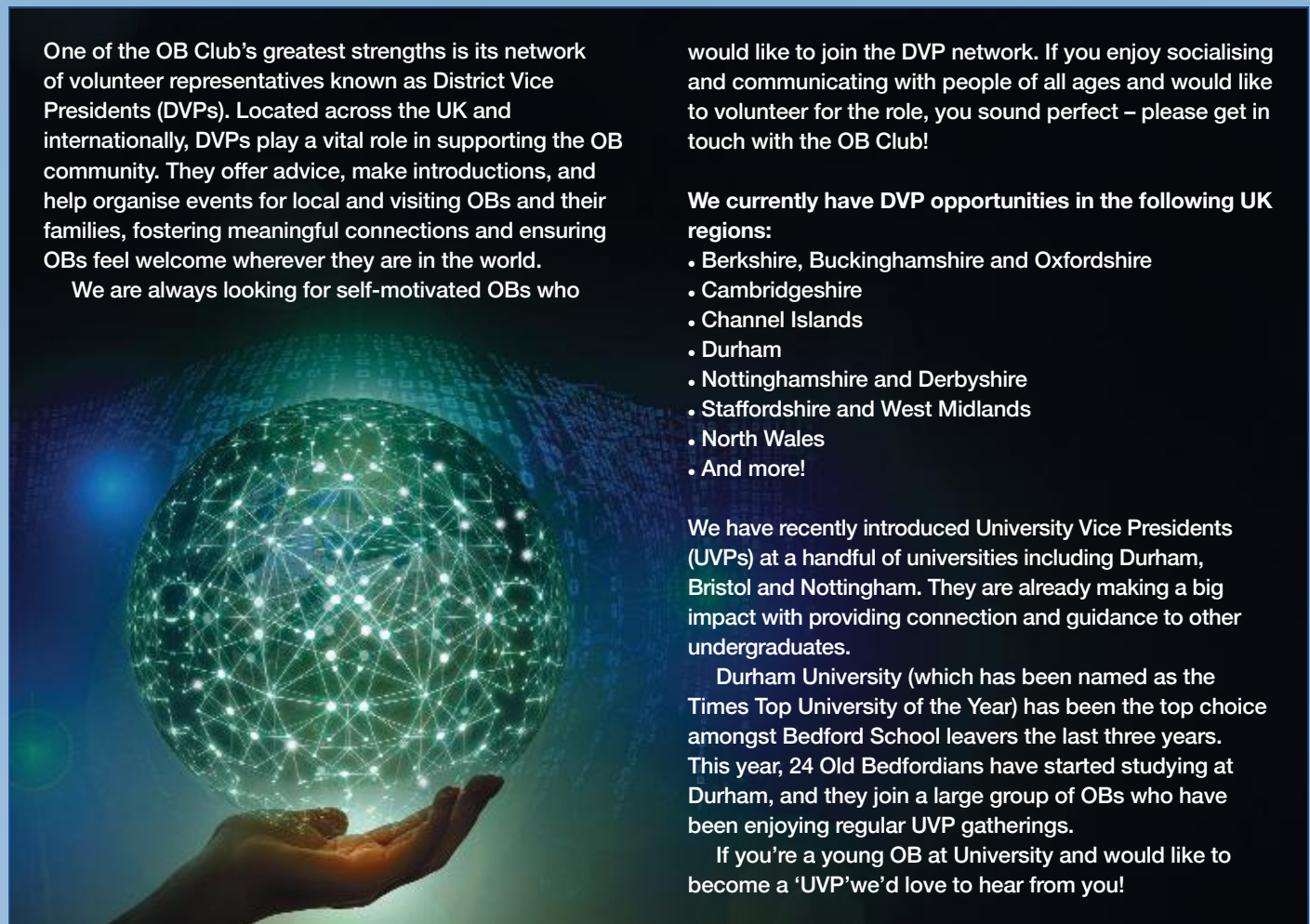
We currently have DVP opportunities in the following UK regions:

- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Channel Islands
- Durham
- Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire
- Staffordshire and West Midlands
- North Wales
- And more!

We have recently introduced University Vice Presidents (UVPs) at a handful of universities including Durham, Bristol and Nottingham. They are already making a big impact with providing connection and guidance to other undergraduates.

Durham University (which has been named as the Times Top University of the Year) has been the top choice amongst Bedford School leavers the last three years. This year, 24 Old Bedfordians have started studying at Durham, and they join a large group of OBs who have been enjoying regular UVP gatherings.

If you're a young OB at University and would like to become a 'UVP' we'd love to hear from you!



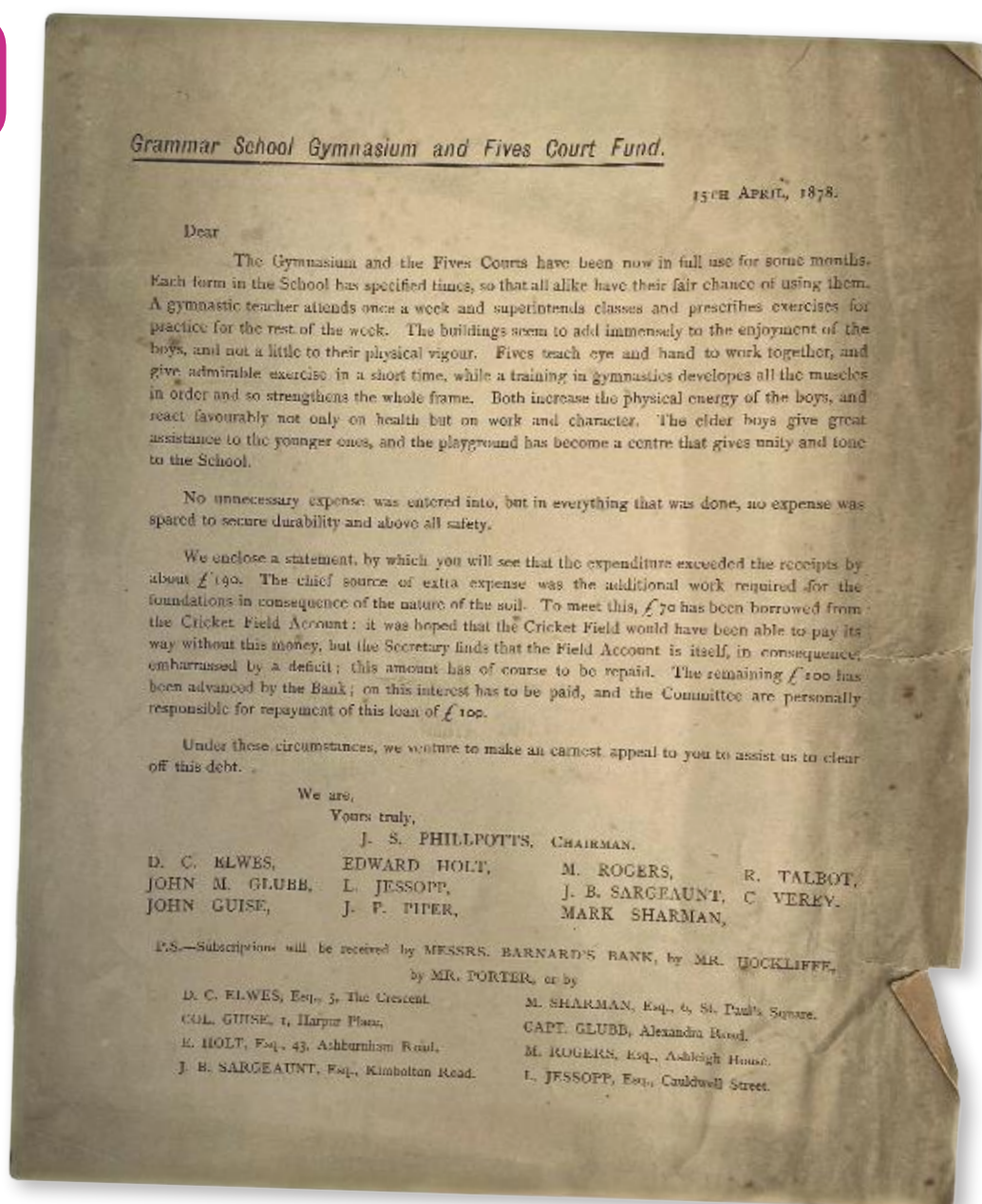
FIVES AT BEDFORD SCHOOL PAST AND PRESENT

Fives has been at the heart of Bedford School since 1876, when visionary Head Master James Phillpotts led the charge to build the first courts - laying the foundations for a sporting legacy that has shaped generations of Bedfordians. Phillpotts launched the Fives Court Appeal by generously pledging £25. However, it was not all plain sailing. In 1877, the *Ouse!* Editor commented that "there was still a deficit of £130 to be made up," noting, "When Rugby and Harrow get their thousands so easily, it is to be hoped we shall not fail in getting our tens; but we must all work together to raise the funds."

By 1878, the funds had been raised, and the courts were built and ready for use. With the new courts available, the number of boys playing the sport soon grew, and several OBs pressed the school to start a Fives Club led by a committee, which was duly formed in 1882. The committee's enthusiasm encouraged many more boys to take up the sport, with the *Ouse!* noting in 1883 that the courts were full every afternoon, and by 1885, they were popular before school as well.

With the sport's popularity growing, it was decided in 1890 that the school needed new courts, to be positioned adjacent to the Howard Building (The Art School). However, the construction of a new School building, opened in 1891, had consumed all the Governors' funds. The OBs, keen to support the building of new courts, approached the Head Master, who immediately promised his warm support.

In 1891, three tenders were received for the construction of the new courts. The lowest, at £415, was accepted and work commenced. Meanwhile, the appeal, which had raised £170, continued, with officials of the OB Club encouraging members to donate. In 1892, the magnificent new courts were opened and described as "the envy of any Public School of the time." The School Song at the time referenced "Cricket, Football, Rowing



▲ Headmaster James Phillpotts requesting support for Fives from the school community.

and Fives," and thus, Fives became part of the School's DNA.

In the years that followed, the school became a leading proponent of the sport and, as measured by the National Schools' and Universities Championships, established itself as one of the top Fives-playing schools in the country.

Fast forward 147 years, and today the school courts are open year-round, in all weather. House and School teams, and a wide number of fixtures, all contribute to a lively, competitive environment.

And yet, after over a century of use, these historic courts now stand in disrepair—no longer fit to inspire or support the level

Artists impression of the new Fives courts at Bedford School



of play Bedford deserves. Without urgent investment, a proud tradition risks fading into history. It is no longer an inspiring environment in a modern, growing, and successful school.

It was against this background, about ten years ago, that OB **Peter Mellor** ('57-'62) was asked by the then Fives Master if he could help get Fives back on its former path. It was easy for him to say "yes," and an annual cup was established for the best Junior—Junior because that's where the future lies. Peter has returned to the OB Sports Weekend every year since, particularly to support the current Fives Master's initiative to include Fives in the Prep School's sporting curriculum—seen as the best way to build for



the future. This and other initiatives have already led to a noticeable increase in the number of boys playing.

Peter is often asked what's so special about Fives. He describes it as a two-handed, no-racquet sport. He speaks of balance, strength, fitness, and coordination, among other attributes. He talks about key shots, how to master them, the importance of practice and dedication. Singles, one-on-one—how to win: "Hit the ball where the other guy isn't" seemed a workable strategy. It worked for him on the Fives court—and, for sure, it worked for life.

Little has been done to the courts since they were opened in 1892. Just as in the 1880's a group of OBs with a love for the sport, led by Peter, have come together to raise the necessary funds to restore the courts to their former glory, which includes replacement of the back walls with glass. The spectator area will also be enclosed with glass—providing a light, modern environment for players and spectators, with external visibility and improved safety and security. We believe these exciting and contemporary changes, in line with the school's modern vision, will rekindle a wave of interest in this great sport. We believe the adage: "If you build it, they will come." ■

We'll keep OBs updated on the project as it develops. In the meantime, if you would like to know more about the plans and how you can help secure the future of Fives at the school, please contact Sarah Bowers, Philanthropy Manager: sbowers@bedfordschool.org.uk

BEHIND EVERY SUCCESS: THE POWER OF GENEROSITY AT BEDFORD SCHOOL



Vincent Gatien

For the past two years, the Philanthropy Team has worked closely with donors at every level to enrich life at Bedford School. It's no exaggeration to say that behind every area of progress sits an act of generosity, and the impact of that support can be seen across every corner of school life.

Sport is woven into Bedford's character, promoting healthy living and building vital skills such as teamwork and determination. It is no surprise that many donors choose to give back to the sports that shaped them. Renovations are currently underway in the rifle range, a project funded in full by a generous Old Bedfordian. A group of OB Fives enthusiasts have come together to support an exciting renovation of the school's courts. The Bedford School Foundation Trust has supported golf by installing two simulators, allowing boys to practice throughout the year. The Boat Club has also seen major investment, from scholarships that attract talent to gifts that provide exceptional equipment and expert strength and conditioning support.

Philanthropy also powers innovation in learning. Two donors have funded enhanced robotics equipment and sponsored our VEX Robotics teams to compete nationally and internationally. This is far more than playing with robots - it teaches technical thinking, programming, and problem-solving, while honing collaboration as pupils work together to succeed. Last year, a parent funded the school's first Virology Research Group, which is conducting university-standard research into bacteria affecting global crop yields. This



VEX Robotics in action



The new printing press



Newly renovated print room

initiative benefits the entire school, from the boys doing the research to younger pupils inspired by their discoveries.

Generosity also enriches cultural life. An OB benefactor enabled us to renovate the Print Room and install a refurbished Hunter Penrose printing press. Another OB donor has shown incredible generosity by fully funding the creation and installation of a new organ in the chapel, something every pupil will enjoy when they come together in the great Bedfordian tradition of collective singing.

Crucially, philanthropy opens doors through bursaries. Bedford School offers a broad curriculum and diverse co-curricular life, and if a boy wishes to experience this but does not have the financial means, a bursary gives him that chance. Through the Flourish Appeal, donors can help cover the cost of school fees, or support extra-curricular tuition, sports equipment, and other essentials.

Every gift genuinely matters. Regular smaller donations, larger one-off contributions, legacies that show belief in the school long after a donor's lifetime, and everything in between. Every act of generosity improves our school. In the classrooms, the sports fields, the recital hall, the theatre, and every other aspect of the Bedford School experience. ■

Thank you to everyone who has chosen to support us. If you would like to know more about how you might make a contribution, please contact the Philanthropy Team at foundation@bedfordschool.org.uk.

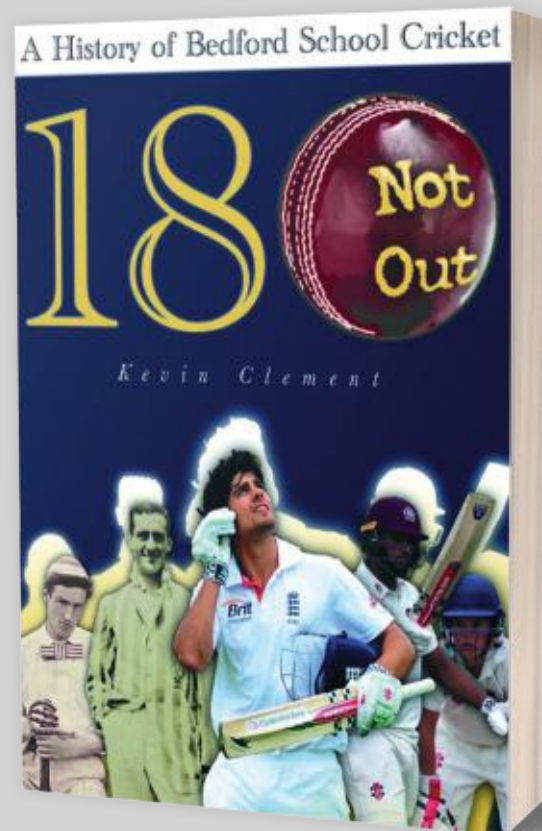
180 NOT OUT - OUT NOW!

We are thrilled that Kevin Clement has written an amazing book about the history of cricket at Bedford School. It's a very insightful, funny and informative book, which is full of tales and interesting characters. For example, the story of the scorer's illegal purchase of cigarettes at Tonbridge in 1954, which ultimately led to the sacking of the Head of School and 44 Monitors!

Earlier this year, Rosy Harrington (Marketing and Communications Manager, BSA) sat down with Kevin to talk about what inspired him to write the book and how he found the process.

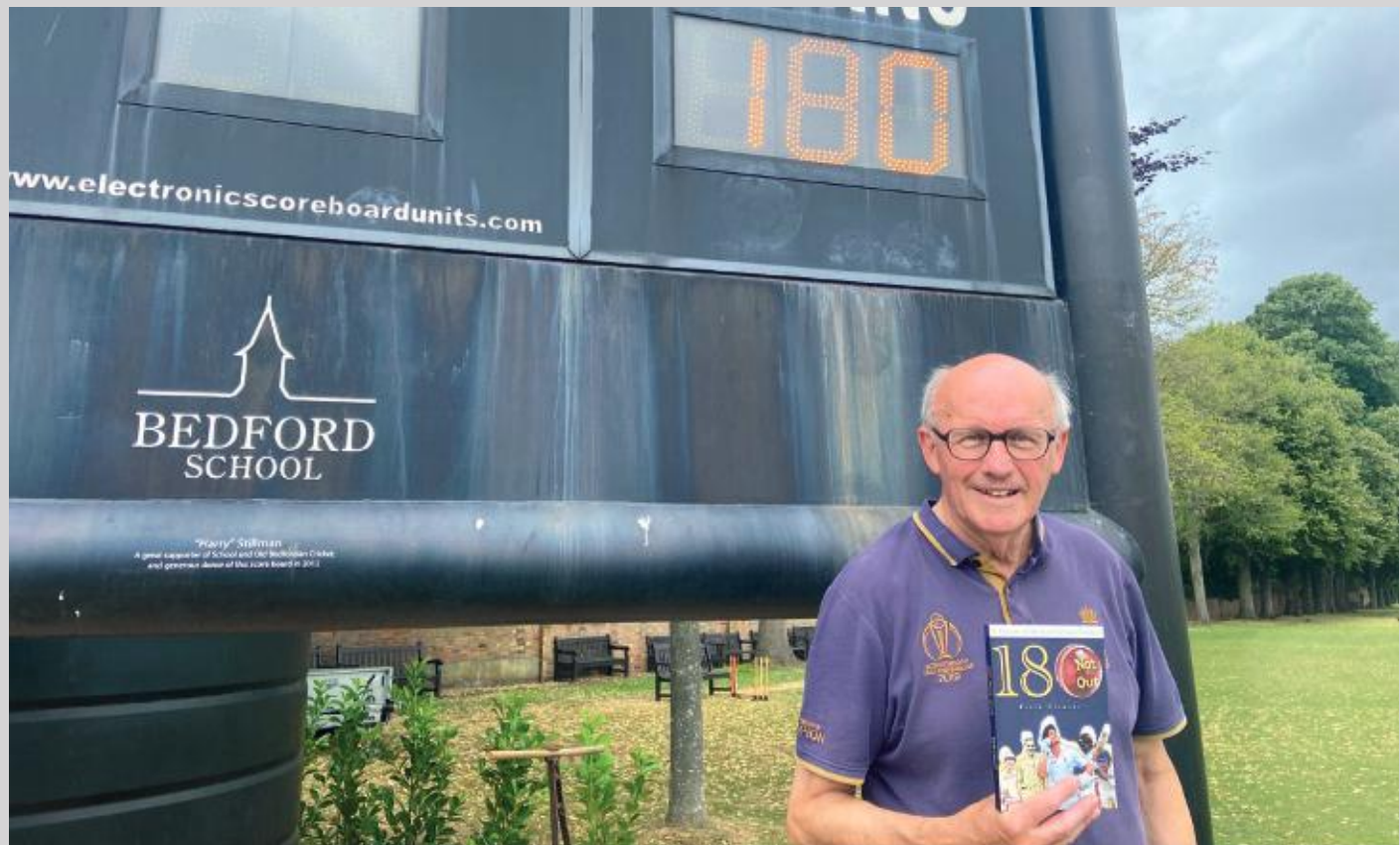
So Kevin, you're clearly a huge cricket fan. When did your interest in cricket first start?

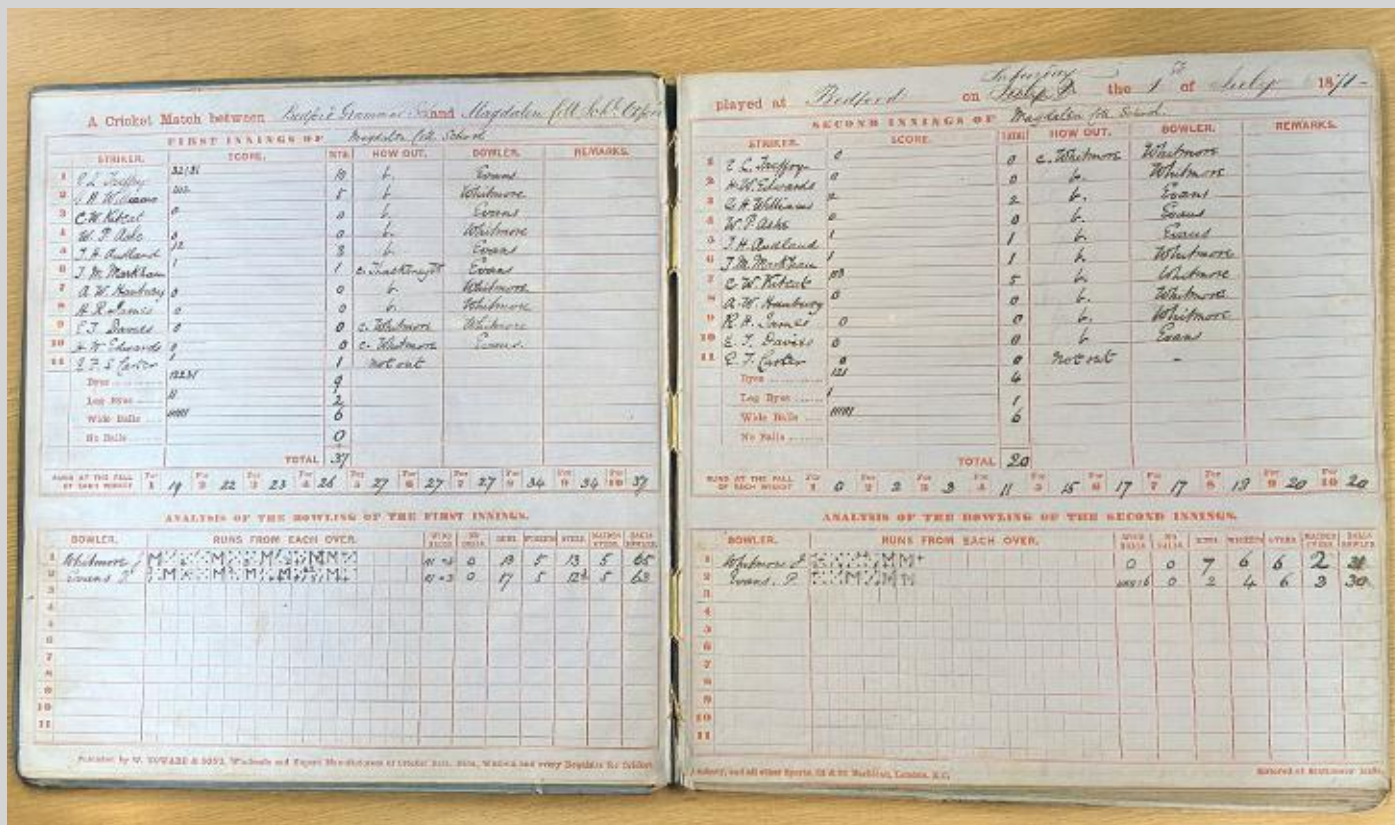
It all started in 1964, when the game was far removed from today's exciting brand. I was hooked despite watching on black and white TV the tedious England v Australia Test match at Old Trafford. 549 overs were bowled before both innings were completed at a scoring rate of less than two and a half an over. Nevertheless, it captured my interest!



What inspired you to write about the history of cricket at Bedford School?

As a writer of very niche cricket books, I was looking for another subject to get my teeth into. I met Gary Steer, who was captain of my Cricket club, Godmanchester Town, in the late 1990s, for our annual Christmas meal in 2023, and he suggested Bedford School cricket would be a great project. By the end of my second Guinness, I was convinced!





How did you come up with the title?

The kudos belongs to Hugh Maltby (73-83) who, once 1845 was established as the year of the first match, suggested 180 Not Out. It was, to quote the vernacular, a ‘no brainer’. We all believed it was a unique cricket title but, on a recent visit to the MCC Library at Lord’s, I discovered it had been used in 2006 for a pictorial history of cricket in Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury and District.

I understand pupils in the school were involved in designing the cover? Can you tell me more about this?

Michael Croker, the recently retired Director of Art, instigated a competition among his A level students. There were a number of creative designs with Eric Breslin’s excellent composition the standout winner.

How did you go about researching the book, and how long did the process take?

The online Ousel collection was the obvious place to start and provided copious information about cricket from 1877 onwards. It was a little trickier to find information about 1845 – 1876 from the Ousels, but thankfully much of the missing detail was captured in newspapers from this time. Conversations ensued with many prominent OB cricketers and masters-in-charge of cricket, and these furnished a fascinating insight into cricket at the school. Furthermore, the School Archives contained gems including the 1871 scorebook. In all I spent 9 months researching and another 6 months composing the content.

Did you run into any difficulties researching or writing the book?

Surprisingly few. Perhaps the most exasperating was being unable to locate scorecards and details of 1st XI matches

▲ The original cricket scorecard for the match between Bedford School and Magdalen College School, Oxford. 1st July 1871.

played this century given the disappearance of scorebooks and paucity of detail in Ousels.

What was your favourite chapter to write, and why?

It’s a generic response and reflects my genealogical background. Researching and penning the hundreds of biographies in 180 Not Out was definitely a wonderful experience.

What was the most interesting fact that you found out about while researching the book?

The Hampshire and Glamorgan first-class cricketer Frank Ryan [took over 1000 wickets] was a Bedford School imposter. Reflecting the class divide and elitism of over a century ago he chose to indicate he was an alumnus of Bedford School rather than his real school 4700 miles away, St Joseph’s College, Darjeeling, India.

You’ve called this the most enjoyable book you’ve ever written – what made it so special for you?

180 Not Out is the fourth cricket book I’ve written in the last decade. I particularly enjoy social history which is abundant in the publication.

So now that “180 Not Out” is complete... What’s next?

I’m open to offers!

Thank you for your time Kevin. ■



You can purchase a copy of 180 Not Out from No Limitz – just scan this QR code.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN - THE MEMORIAL HALL: A BRIEF HISTORY



Laying the foundation stone
of the Memorial Hall, 1925

The Memorial Hall building lies at the heart of the school, and 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of its opening. As many of you will know, the Memorial Hall commemorates those Old Bedfordians (OB's) who lost their lives in the two great wars. In 2026, we are planning to unveil a new board commemorating the names of OBs who had been missed off the original boards.

A meeting of the OB Club committee in the spring of 1918 determined that a Memorial Hall with a library and museum should be built to perpetuate in permanent form the memory of those who had died in the Great War. A fundraising appeal was launched to raise the £10,000 that it was felt would be necessary to build a building fit to commemorate those who had died. The architect Oswald Milne (1893-1898) was selected to design the building and in 1925 the foundation stone was laid by Lieutenant General Sir WP Braithwaite, KCB (1881-1984). Under the stone was placed a bottle containing copies of newspapers, *The Ousel*, and other documents of interest. Unfortunately, the event was marred by a persistent and at times heavy downpour of rain, which robbed the open-air ceremony of much of its dignity. Many of those who attended the event were family members of those who gave their lives.

By Summer 1926 the building was complete, and on Monday July 25th 1926 the Memorial Hall was officially opened by His Royal Highness Prince Henry. The Burnaby Road entrance to the school was furnished with four flag staffs, each bearing the spreading Eagle of Bedford. Draped between the heads of the staffs were three festoons of bunting in the school colours and below were displayed the house colours. The school flag was flying on the school itself. Near the new building a

platform had been erected and decorated with ferns, flowers, and bunting. The 'great and the good' of the local Bedford community welcomed Prince Henry to the school and he was treated to a lunch with 61 OBs in the school Gymnasium.

Following the end of the Second World War in 1945, the OB Club once again deliberated on how best to honour those who had lost their lives in the Second World War. The Club resolved to provide financial support for the education of the sons of OBs who had died, creating a fundraising campaign that would also align with the 400th anniversary of the founding of the school in 1552 - an anniversary that would not have been possible without their sacrifice. It was further resolved that the names of those who had lost their lives should be recorded alongside those from the First World War.

In 2002, the culmination of many years of work by historians Mr and Mrs Stuart Blythe resulted in extensive research into the names listed on the 1914-18 Memorial Board. On 15th May of that year, the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Michael Walker, GCB, CMG, CBE, unveiled an additional board listing 25 names of OBs previously undiscovered. The unveiling was attended by many guests, including 25 serving OBs and members of the Armed Services.

Since 2005, Gina Worboys, Assistant Director of the OB Club has continued researching OBs who died during the First World War and has discovered a further 22 names. These will be added to a new memorial board, which is intended to be unveiled in 2026 as part of the commemoration of the opening of the Memorial Hall. We very much hope to invite as many living relatives as possible, to show them that even 107 years after the guns fell silent, we still remember their sacrifices.

LIEUTENANT FRANCIS HEMSLEY (1890-1897)

The remains of Lieutenant Francis (Frank) Henry Hemsley, a Canadian soldier of the First World War, have been identified, and his burial took place earlier this year at the Commonwealth War Graves Loos British Cemetery.

His remains were discovered in August 2012 by a bomb disposal unit clearing ordnance from a construction site in Vendin-le-Vieil, France. Alongside the remains were artefacts including fragments of a gas mask, a helmet, and a badly damaged pair of boots. Several buttons clearly marked with "16th Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regiment" were also found.

Through detailed, painstaking research, DNA analysis, and the assistance of the Canadian Museum of History, the Canadian Casualty Identification Review Board was able to confirm the identity of the remains as those of Frank in February 2024.

He was born in Ealing, Middlesex, England, in 1880, one of seven children of Alexander and Ellen Hemsley (née Streeten). He came to Bedford in 1890 before enlisting as a Trooper with the 35th Squadron, 11th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, serving from 1900 to 1901 during the South African War. In 1906, he married Adina Cresswell Hebden, and they had two children before he emigrated to Canada in 1911.

His family joined him a year later, and a third child was later born to them. They farmed near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, before he enlisted. He was also a member of the 52nd Prince Albert Volunteers militia regiment, receiving his militia commission as a lieutenant in December 1915.

In February 1916, in Winnipeg, he joined the 183rd Battalion (Manitoba Beavers) as a lieutenant at the age of 35. Frank sailed for Liverpool, England, in October and, after training with the 108th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), and the 14th (Manitoba) Reserve Battalion, CEF, during which he qualified as a Lewis gun instructor, he became a member of the 16th Battalion (The Canadian Scottish), CEF, in April 1917 and joined the unit in the field in France in May.

The 16th Battalion fought in the Battle of Hill 70, which began on August 15, 1917. Between August 15–17, the battalion suffered 257 casualties, including 62 who were killed. Frank was reported killed in action on August 16, 1917, at the age of 37.

He was buried, but the location of his grave was later lost, and his name was commemorated on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial for Canadian soldiers killed in France during the First World War with no known grave.

He was laid to rest by members of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) from Victoria, British Columbia, with family in attendance.



Frank Hemsley's reburial, 2025

A SPECIAL VE DAY VISIT

On the 8th May, OB **Roger Whitbread (47-52)**, father of Prep School teacher Andrew Whitbread, came to talk to the Year 3 and 4 boys in the Prep School about his experiences during WW2 and on VE Day. He spoke about bombs landing in Bedford aimed at the WH Allen factory, and how the house next door to his parents' was hit by an incendiary bomb, which caused it to burn down and also rendered their own house uninhabitable. They often had to take cover in an air raid shelter when the sirens went off.

Rationing meant he didn't have sweets or chocolate, and he remembered going down to the Embankment on VE Day to celebrate the end of the war. His father was in the army and didn't return to England until early 1946 - five years after leaving for India. It was a really powerful experience for the boys to hear from someone who had lived through the war. It really brought to life this period of history for them.

Hugh Maltby (73-83) attended the talk as Roger was a good friend of his father. He had a complete surprise when Roger pulled up a picture of the two of them in the Under-15 A team, which was overseen by David Money (Staff 47-78). Hugh joked 'Thankfully I didn't inherit my dad's ears!'



Hugh Maltby
and Roger
Whitbread,
May 2025

A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

On 9th July 1926, a pivotal moment in Bedford School's history took place. Under the leadership of Head Master Reginald Carter, a trust deed was enacted that laid the foundation for what would become a cornerstone of the school's enduring success - the Bedford School Trust (BST). This initiative was more than a financial arrangement; it was a visionary act of philanthropy designed to enrich the educational experience and preserve the traditions of Bedford School for generations to come.

The original trust was established with a clear mission: to provide financial support for the general benefit of the school. It also included dedicated funds for specific activities such as the Combined Cadet Force (then known as the OTC) and the Boat Club, reflecting the school's commitment to extracurricular education that extends beyond the classroom.

Over the decades, BST evolved into a vital institution that not only promoted academic excellence but also enhanced pupil welfare, extracurricular engagement, and the preservation of the school's historic facilities. From scholarships and bursaries to overseas tours and educational trips, the Trust became a force behind many of the opportunities available to the pupils.

In 2022, a strategic merger between the Bedford School Trust and the Bedford School Foundation marked the beginning of a new era. The formation of the Bedford School Foundation Trust (BSFT) streamlined operations, reduced administrative costs, and sharpened the focus on fundraising. Overseen by an independent board of Trustees, the new entity continues to uphold the values of its predecessors while

adapting to the evolving needs of the school community

Each year, the school community gathers for the Founders and Benefactors Service, a celebratory occasion that honours the spirit of giving and the individuals whose generosity has shaped the school's journey. It's a moment to reflect on the enduring legacy of philanthropy and to inspire future contributions.

The Foundation Trust's influence can be seen in every corner of the school. In addition to the provision of bursaries and scholarships it has supported a wide array of capital projects, including more recently:

- **The Observatory and Planetarium, fostering scientific curiosity.**
- **The Quarry Theatre, enriching the cultural life of students.**
- **The restoration of the Chapel ceiling, preserving architectural heritage.**
- **The refurbishment of the Rifle Range, golf simulator, and the school art facility, enhancing student experience across disciplines.**

These projects, among many others, are testaments to the Trust's unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation of a Bedford School education.

The BSFT stands as a beacon of continuity and progress. Born from a vision in 1926 and revitalised through strategic evolution in 2022, it remains deeply embedded in the life of Bedford School. Its work ensures that every student, past and present, benefits from a rich educational environment supported by a legacy of generosity and foresight. ■

BEDFORD SCHOOL GOES INTERNATIONAL!

On Wednesday 23 April, Bedford School hosted an official signing ceremony with the Doon International Educational Society, marking the launch of Bedford School Mohali - the first international school under the Bedford School brand.

Held in the Quarry Theatre, the ceremony was attended by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant Susan Lousada, High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Camilla King, Mayor of Bedford and OB Tom Wootton (78–87), and special guest Sir Alastair Cook (98–03), former England Cricket Captain. They were joined by representatives from the school's new partners at Doon.

Head Master James Hodgson welcomed guests and introduced the new school, accompanied by visuals that showcased the project. The Lord-Lieutenant then delivered an inspiring speech, celebrating three pioneering achievements of the partnership: the creation of the first British international girls' school in India, the first British

school brand to establish a presence in Northern India, and the first time Bedford School has extended its distinguished name beyond its Bedford campus.

Both the Head Master and Harinder Singh Mann of Doon emphasised the strong alignment between the two institutions' core values—integrity, endeavour, curiosity, responsibility, and, above all, kindness.

Following the official signing, guests exchanged gifts, including two cricket bats signed by Sir Alastair, who joined the partners on stage for photographs.

Reflecting on the event, James Hodgson said:

"I am absolutely thrilled. From almost the moment we met Harinder and Charanjeet, we knew this was going to be an exceptional partnership. Most importantly, we share a clear vision of what a good education looks like. To see that vision coming to life in a girls' school 4,000 miles away is incredibly exciting."



Celebrations following the official Signing Ceremony

Bedford School Mohali- artists impression



Charanjeet Mann added:

“We’ve been genuinely impressed by everything we’ve seen during our visit. There’s an infectious energy, vibrancy, and commitment to excellence here – everything you would expect from a top-tier educational institution. Today’s signing is a major milestone for us, and we look forward to taking the Bedford name to India with pride, quality, and purpose.”

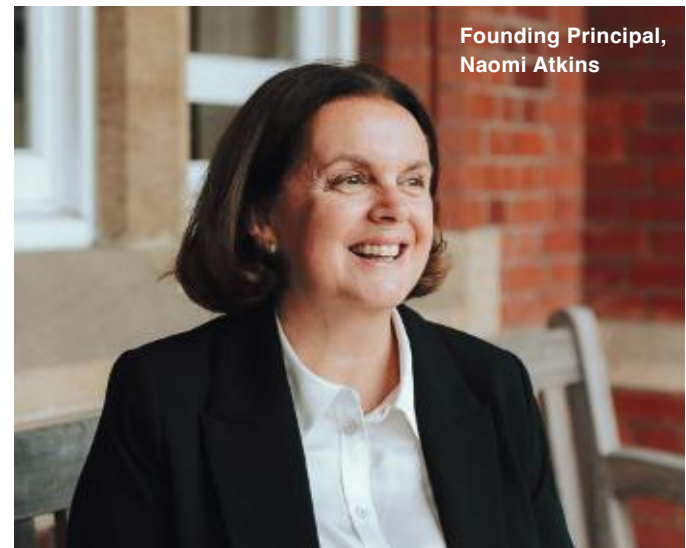
Bedford School Mohali is due to open its doors in April 2026 under the headship of Founding Principal, Naomi Atkins. A visionary leader with a distinguished career in education, Naomi brings a wealth of experience in both UK and international schools, coupled with a proven track record of founding, developing and leading high-performing institutions. Her leadership career includes senior roles at renowned schools such as Dulwich College in China, The British School Jakarta, The Stephen Perse Foundation and The Prince of Wales Island International School.

Speaking about her appointment, Ms Atkins said,

“It is a privilege to be entrusted with leading Bedford School Mohali at such a formative moment in its history. This is an exciting opportunity to create a school community that combines academic excellence with exceptional pastoral care, in an environment where every girl can flourish. I look forward to working closely with the Bedford School UK team, our partners in India, and our founding staff to bring this vision to life.”

Mohali is the first step in a really exciting journey for Bedford School, with plans to open more international schools underway. In December 2024, Iwan Lloyd was appointed as International Development Director and his focus is researching and developing international campuses for Bedford School, where there’s a demand for quality British education and where Bedford’s ethos and values will make a positive social impact.

This international expansion aligns seamlessly with Bedford School’s strategic plan, particularly its Community



Founding Principal,
Naomi Atkins

Partnerships pillar. By establishing international campuses, Bedford not only extends its educational ethos globally but also brings back invaluable benefits to the home school. These benefits range from cultural exchanges to financial gains. Iwan emphasises that this initiative is about more than just academics; it’s about embracing Bedford’s 470-year-old ethos of community engagement and positive impact. Plus, these new campuses offer a chance to innovate with Bedford’s three core focusses of digital technology, community partnerships, and entrepreneurship, all while staying true to the school’s core values. ■



Iwan Lloyd, International
Development Director

The 2D Winning Entry by Sean Winward



The 3D Sculpture Winning Entry by Ra'ed Rizwan

DETWEILER

The Detweiler Competition is an annual event which was introduced to Bedford School by Rob Campbell (Director of Art 1994-2013) in 1997 and is named after the Canadian composer, author and patron of the arts Dr Alan Detweiler, who so generously provided the prizes until his death in 2012.

Initially set up as an Art competition, it now includes English, Music and Drama, encouraging the arts across the whole school and becoming a major event in the school calendar.

This year's theme of 'Structure' inspired a diverse range of artistic expressions, making the exhibition a must-see event for the entire school community. The Detweiler exhibition opened on Friday 28 February, when parents, teachers, Old Bedfordians and members of the Bedford School community were able to immerse themselves in the boys' depictions of 'Structure' and see it through their eyes. Visitors enjoyed drinks and canapés in the Main Foyer before moving up to the Great Hall to watch the drama pieces and listen to the creative writing and music entries.

We were delighted to welcome back Matthew Orr (75-81) to judge this year's art entries. It was Matthew's first visit to the school since leaving in 1981, and he was joined by his brother, Roddy Orr (71-75), who assisted him in judging the



Matthew Orr during prize giving

competition. On accepting the invitation to come back to the school and judge the contest, Matthew said ‘I am delighted to accept the wonderful invitation to judge and present at the Detweiler Art Competition’

Matthew was a keen artist during his time at school, and now he and his wife, Sybil Robson Orr, are philanthropists and support the Robson Orr TenTen Award. TenTen is a 10-year project, in collaboration with the Government Art Collection, which commissions a British artist each year to create a limited-edition print. Fifteen of these are then put on display in diplomatic buildings, while the sale of 11 editions help raise funds for the collection to support emerging artists in Britain. Matthew has been kind enough to invite OBs and current art students to the reception to announce the winner for the last two years which has been a hugely informative and engaging experience for all those involved.

The Detweiler Competition continues to be a highlight of the Bedford School calendar, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity of our boys. ■

Upper Sixth Former Ra’ed Rizwan highlighted the unique aspect of the art category, “What I love most about the Detweiler for the Art category is the exhibition room. Seeing art classwork put up like museum pieces is very interesting, and makes for a wide variety of different kinds of art. Even after the prize giving, I do enjoy wandering around the space, admiring the intensity of it all.



Ra’ed Rizwan



BEDFORD SCHOOL'S MOVEMBER LEGACY

In 2014, Will Montgomery had a bold idea: to rally Bedford School behind the Movember movement. Movember, a global charity focused on men's mental and physical wellbeing, aligns perfectly with Bedford School's values. It encourages innovation, teamwork, and a healthy dose of competition - all qualities our boys embrace wholeheartedly.

Will said

"Losing my father whilst at university I was struck by several things. Firstly, just how quickly things that you value can be taken away from you and therefore how important it is to make sure those around us who we love and value know about it. Secondly, by just how ill-equipped many young people are to support one another at times of difficulty. I am passionate about Movember as I want our boys to seek help when they need it (for either physical or mental health issues) and because I want our young men knowing they can help others even when they do not have experience surrounding the issues those close to them might be experiencing. It is for those two reasons that I Mo each year."

Ten years later, that spark has grown into a blazing tradition of creativity, compassion, and commitment to men's health. A full month of activities is now overseen and driven each year by Victoria Marriott. Her infectious enthusiasm for all things 'Mo' is palpable, and although she would say "it's the boys that do all the work", it's clear that her passion fuels the energy throughout the month.

Each year, a new cohort of Mo Bros brings fresh energy and ideas to the campaign. From bake sales to tug-of-war,



▲ 2015 Mo Bros

open mic nights to moustache-themed merchandise, the boys have consistently found inventive ways to raise funds and awareness. Their efforts have not only made a difference - they've made history.

2024: A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

2024's campaign was our most successful yet, raising an incredible £22,480 and earning Bedford School a place in the Movember Hall of Fame for surpassing £100,000 in total donations. We also placed second in the National Schools Challenge, continuing our streak of top-three finishes over the past three years.



2024 Mo Bros



- ▲ 2018 Mo Bros
- ▶ 2024 Schoo's Challenge Leaderboard with Vicky Marriot

A MOVEMENT THAT MATTERS

Movember's mission is urgent: men are dying too young, often from preventable causes. The charity tackles the three biggest issues in men's health - mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer, by funding groundbreaking global projects.

Bedford School is proud to support this movement. Our Mo Bros have shown that with creativity, compassion, and collaboration, we can make a real difference.

Here's to the next decade of Mo Bro! ■



FROM REDBURN TO RECORDS: CELEBRATING HUGH CULVERHOUSE

Bedford School has cultivated many fine athletes in all sorts of sports. During a recent visit to Munich, I had the pleasure of meeting up with former Redburn boarder **Hugh Culverhouse** (65–69), who in my view is one of our greatest sportsmen.

In 1971, at just 19 years old, Hugh was competing in a national championship cross-country race for Imperial College London when he suffered a stress fracture to his left hip. What initially seemed like a setback turned into a life-changing event. Despite undergoing several operations over the next four years, it became clear that he would never regain the use of his left leg. A break in the blood supply to the hip joint had caused necrosis of the head of the femur, leaving the leg unable to bear weight.

With his running career behind him, Hugh turned to cycling, a sport that would not only accommodate his disability but also allow him to thrive. His adaptations to the bike were ingenious: his left leg, while able to articulate, could not rotate or bear weight; so he used a non-rotating crank to provide a resting place for his foot. Inspired by ultra-endurance cyclist John Marino (founder of the Race Across America [RAAM] challenge), he developed a multi-year plan to tackle increasingly difficult cycling challenges.

At the age of 31 in 1983, he achieved his best performance over 24 hours using only one leg, covering a distance of 394 miles. In 1985, he set a disabled (cycling using only one leg) record for cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats (LEJOG), completing the 847-mile journey in 77 hours and 53 minutes.

In 1986, supported by a dedicated team of five crew members who looked after logistics, nutrition, massage, and

▼ **Below Left: Hugh and his support team line up for a team photo**
Below Right: Setting off from Lands End



navigation, he set a record for the fastest one-legged cycle crossing of the USA, covering the 2,970 miles from east to west in an astonishing 13 days, 11 hours, and 1 minute.

To improve his LEJOG time that he had set in 1985, he designed in 1987 a way to minimise sleep, taking only 92 minutes in total off the bike over the entire journey. This contrasted with his first attempt, during which he took some real rest in a bed in Penrith. But in 1987, during the third night on the go, he experienced extreme sleep deprivation, hallucinations, and nearly fell from the bike. He was only saved from a serious accident by the loud honking of his support team's van, who had stopped hearing him singing over the CB radio - alerting them to the fact that he'd probably fallen asleep. Learning from his previous challenges, he set a new record of 69 hours, 5 minutes, and 4 seconds, improving his 1985 time by over 8 hours. To date, Hugh's record still stands.





▲ Top Right: Hugh having finished at John O'Groats
 ► A friend of Hugh's provides support during his LEJOG attempt

In 1988, Hugh represented Great Britain at the Seoul Paralympics, finishing eighth in the 50 km cycling road race. In 1990, he competed at the World Para Games where he won a silver medal in the road race. A short time later, a disastrous medical error involving his hip ended his road racing career and kept him out of time trials for 20 years.

Hugh has competed in several English National 24-Hour Championships on his bike. In July 2016, aged 64, he recorded 374.73 miles, the equivalent distance of cycling from Bedford to Glasgow! His last competitive outing was in the 2023 National Championships, when he achieved 262.31 miles in torrential rain that lasted throughout the race. He had not known it at the time, but a tumour was already growing in his left (inactive) leg.

Hugh's determination extended beyond the bike. In recent years, he competed in running events using crutches despite the lack of a category that matched his disability. In the 2014 London Marathon, he finished in 3:23:47 in the 60–64 age group, running alongside able-bodied competitors. His time is still awaiting Guinness Book of Records ratification as a world



record on crutches, even though Hugh's marathon best was 3:21:48 in the 2013 Munich Marathon.

Hugh sits alongside OB Arthur Newton who left the school in 1901, the legendary ultramarathon runner who set world records in the 1920s and 1930s. He completed 50 miles in 5 hours and 35 minutes, 100 miles in 14 hours and 6 minutes in 1934, and 152 miles in 24 hours. Hugh stands alongside Arthur as one of the OB community's most distinguished ultra sportsmen.

Hugh's story is one of grit, adaptability, and quiet triumph. From the pain of a career-ending injury to the glory of international competition and personal reinvention, he has shown that limitations are often just the beginning of a new path.

We had a most enjoyable afternoon in his local beer garden, talking about life, cycling, and sport. Despite the recent amputation of his left leg, I left him considering how he'd get himself back on his bike, showing that you can't keep a good man down! ■

Hugh Maltby
 Director of the Old Bedfordians Club

FROM SACRED SPACE TO CENTRE STAGE: A DECADE OF THE QUARRY THEATRE AT ST LUKE'S

Ten years ago, a quiet transformation took place in Bedford School. Where once stood a 19th-century Moravian church and its adjoining 18th-century Minister's House, a new kind of sanctuary emerged — one not of worship, but of creativity, community, education and performance. The Quarry Theatre at St Luke's opened its doors in 2015, breathing new life into a Grade II listed building and establishing itself as a brand-new theatre for Bedford School, as well as cornerstone of Bedford town's cultural landscape.

As we celebrate its 10th anniversary, The Quarry Theatre stands not only as a triumph of architectural preservation and innovation, but as a vibrant hub for artistic expression — bridging the historic with the contemporary, and Bedford School with the wider community.

From the outset, the theatre was designed with education at its heart. Every detail was crafted to support learning for Bedford School boys - not just for budding actors, but for

aspiring directors, set designers, lighting technicians and stage managers. A specially designed overhead grid allows boys to safely crawl across and rig lighting, avoiding the need for traditional ladders and enabling them to learn professional techniques in a safe environment. Backstage areas are fully accessible and functional, giving boys the opportunity to explore all aspects of theatre production.

During the school day, the theatre is alive with activity. Lessons take place daily, offering a chance to develop not only creative talents but also essential life skills - teamwork, communication and problem-solving while also building confidence. Whether they're performing under the spotlight or working behind the scenes, boys are immersed in an environment that encourages curiosity and self-expression.

The theatre's very name honours the Quarry family, proud former pupils of Bedford School and long-time members of the St Luke's congregation. Their connection to the building

▼ The Quarry Theatre –
view from the school grounds



runs deep; Gareth Quarry's (68-77) father once played the organ when it stood as a church (the organ itself remains on the far back wall of the centre stage to this day), his parents were married there and Gareth himself was christened within its walls. The family's generous support helped transform this sacred space into a lively cultural landmark, ensuring that its legacy would continue to inspire future generations.

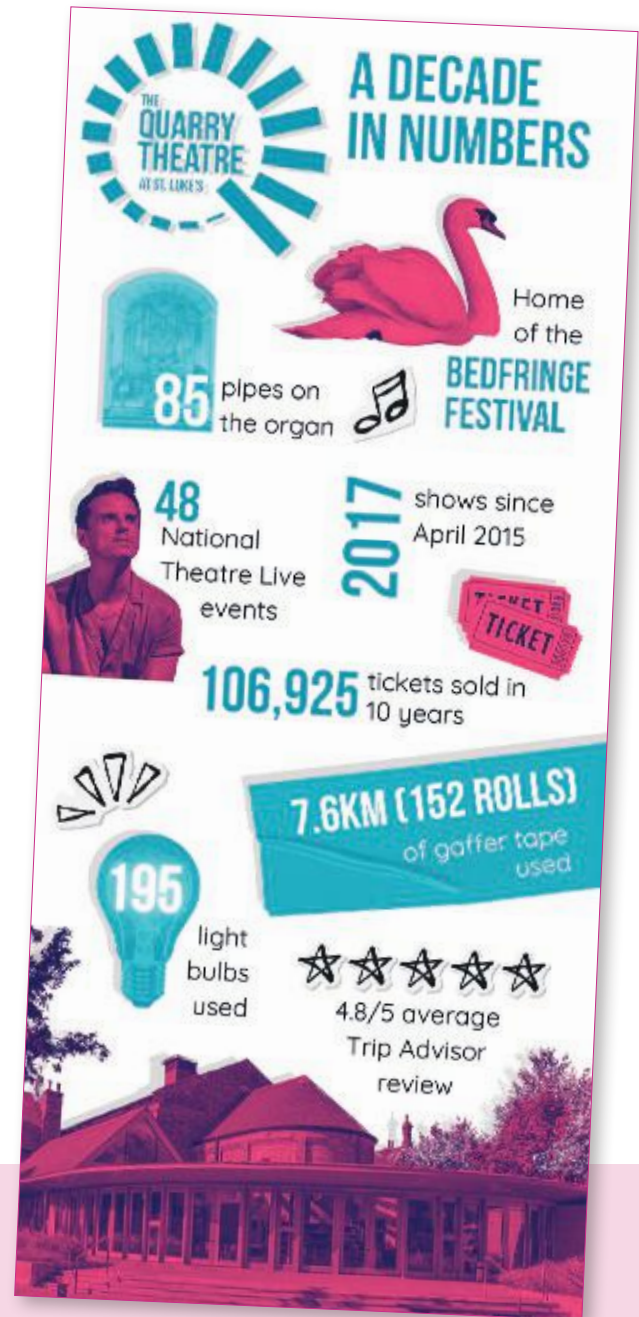
Equally instrumental was Brian Saville (40-48), whose generous bequest in his will provided vital funding for the theatre's development. His gift, alongside Gareth Quarry's helped ensure that future generations of pupils and Bedfordians alike would have access to a space that inspires, educates and entertains.

Today, The Quarry Theatre is a cornerstone of Bedford's cultural life. It hosts a diverse programme of public performances — from drama and music to comedy and film — while offering Bedford School pupils a dynamic learning environment.

For many OBs, the theatre remains a deeply formative space:

“If it wasn't for Bedford School, I don't think I would've become an actor.”
 — Old Bedfordian Jonno Davies, who portrayed Robbie Williams in the 2024 biopic *Better Man*.

“Doing drama at Bedford gave me confidence, discipline and respect that has been invaluable in the workplace.”
 — Old Bedfordian and Drama Scholar, Louis Cooke, Apprentice Auctioneer at Christie's Auction House.



A DECADE OF DRAMA: KEY MOMENTS IN THE QUARRY THEATRE'S JOURNEY



2013 – A Vision Takes Shape

Planning permission is granted to transform the Grade II listed St Luke's Church — originally consecrated in 1865 — into a state-of-the-art theatre for Bedford School.



26 June 2015 – Curtain Up

The Quarry Theatre officially opens its doors. Named after a school benefactor, the venue blends historic architecture with modern design, featuring a 286-seat galleried courtyard theatre and a 60-seat studio space in the former Minister's House.



2016–2019 – A Cultural Beacon Emerges

The theatre quickly becomes a hub for both school and community productions, hosting everything from Shakespeare to pupil-devised pieces, and welcoming touring acts, comedians and musicians.



2020 – Lights Dimmed, But Not Out

Like venues across the UK, The Quarry Theatre faces temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it adapts with streamed performances and socially distanced events, keeping the spirit of theatre alive.



2021–2024 – Resurgence and Recognition

Post-pandemic, the theatre sees a resurgence in audience numbers and programming. It hosts acclaimed acts, the award-winning BedFringe and educational workshops, reinforcing its role as a cultural cornerstone in Bedford.



2025 – 10 Years On

Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, The Quarry Theatre reflects on a decade of creativity, resilience, and community. A special season of performances and showcases mark the milestone. Highlights include Bedford School's productions of *A Servant to Two Masters* and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.

LIVING THE DREAM: HOW PASSION BECAME A CAREER

Old Bedfordians are forging careers in all sorts of interesting industries – turning their passions into businesses they love. We want to showcase some of those careers which align with the schools ‘Future Ready’ philosophy.

FROM SCHOOL HOBBY TO STUDIO MASTERY:

Bill Amberg Inspires the Next Generation of Designers



How many people can say that a school hobby turned into a lifelong passion and a fulfilling career spanning over 40 years? For Old Bedfordian **Bill Amberg (75–79)**, that’s exactly what happened.

Bill’s creative spark was ignited in the Design

and Technology Department, where a teacher’s casual suggestion led him to explore leather as a medium. After leaving school, he travelled the world, learning from master artisans and refining his craft before returning to London to establish his own studio.

Today, Bill Amberg Studio is renowned for its bespoke leather products, interiors, and furniture. His team has collaborated with design luminaries such as Paul Smith, Donna Karan, David Chipperfield, and Norman Foster, as well as Eric Parry - the architect behind Bedford School’s Library and Music School.

Current pupils at the school were lucky enough to learn from Bill on two occasions this year – On a visit to the school, Bill shared his journey with Upper School boys studying Design Technology and Art. He spoke not only of his celebrated work but also of the creative process. The boys were captivated. They left with a deeper appreciation for creativity - and a newfound respect for the power of a simple sketchbook.

Just a few months later the Design Technology department took 11 Lower Sixth boys to visit Bill’s studio in London. Hidden within an unassuming building on an industrial estate, the studio revealed a world of craftsmanship and innovation. Bill spoke passionately about leather as a raw material, highlighting its sustainability and the studio’s commitment to repurposing every scrap - even developing a method to combine offcuts into new, usable material.

A heartfelt thank you to Bill Amberg for generously sharing his time and expertise, both at Bedford School and in his studio. His story is a powerful reminder of where creativity, curiosity, and a sketchbook can lead.



FROM PUB CHAT TO PLATFORM LAUNCH:

OBs Create SaaS Solution for SMEs

Have you ever had one of those conversations with mates in the pub where someone says, “Wouldn’t it be great if someone invented...”? That’s exactly what happened to Old Bedfordians **Andrew Murphy (75–86)** and **Richard Stidolph (76–86)** during a post-bike ride pit stop.

Andrew, who has spent many years working in Enterprise sales for cloud-based software companies, had identified a gap in the market: small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were being overlooked by the big players in the SaaS world, but no platform was currently on the market which catered to this audience. What he didn’t know was that Richard had come to the same conclusion - and had already begun developing a platform in his spare time, naming it *CheckNet*.

With Andrew’s expertise in sales and account management and Richard’s coding capabilities, the two joined forces. Today, *CheckNet* is live, serving customers across the UK and Europe, and available in five languages. The platform offers an all-in-one solution for businesses, covering everything from CRM and HR to accounts and project management.

Several months into its launch, the business is going from strength to strength. Andrew shared,

“It’s fantastic to be working with a friend in a business where we are both championing and assisting SME’s to

succeed via the use of a software platform that was built solely with the requirements of business owners in mind.”



◀ Find out more about CheckNet here

FROM SCHOOLYARD SCRAPES TO NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

The Story of Fourway



It all began in 1975, in the corridors and classrooms of Bedford School, where **Chris Snell (75-83)** and **Charles Codrington (74-85)** first met. The two quickly became

known as a bit of a mischievous pair - always up to something, always in a scrape. Their friendship was forged in shared adventures and schoolboy antics, and though Charles left in 1981, the bond remained.

Chris went on to study engineering, while Charles pursued his passion for music — playing drums in a band, promoting gigs, and taking on various jobs to support his creative pursuits

After university, Chris entered the workforce but soon realised he was better suited to working for himself. He decided to start his own audio business — specialising in public address systems that were robust and dependable. He picked up the phone and called Charles.

The setup was humble: a desk balanced on an ironing board, a copy of the Yellow Pages, and a shared determination. That was the birth of Fourway Communication in 1990.

The duo proved to be a formidable team. Chris brought entrepreneurial drive and technical know-how, while Charles added structure and calm. Together, they built a business that quickly expanded beyond audio into broader communication systems - CCTV, telecomms and security, and quickly migrated into rail infrastructure.

Rail work became the backbone of Fourway's operations, and the company grew steadily. Today, it employs around 150 people, with several hundred contractors supporting major projects across the UK.

Chris's brother **Guy Snell (72-83)**, another Old Bedfordian, also joined the business. He had been working in their father's company but was drawn into the communication division's momentum and became an integral part of the team.

Working with a friend isn't always easy, and as Charles jokes, "Not many people could work with either of us!" But their long-standing friendship has been the glue. They understand each other, respect their differences, and bring complementary strengths to the table.

Over the years, Fourway has delivered many prestigious projects including the redevelopments of King's Cross and London Bridge stations. Today, their work spans airports, substations, power tunnels, and MoD - a far cry from the ironing board days.

Thirty-five years on, Chris (CEO) and Charles (MD) are still talking, still building, and still proving that sometimes, the best business partnerships begin in the schoolyard.

SHERIDAN PERFORMANCE - FROM ELITE SPORT TO EMPOWERING OTHERS:

Our Journey to Building a Coaching Business with Purpose



My brother **Connor Sheridan (07-18)** and I launched our business in April 2025 driven by a shared enthusiasm for sport and a deep desire to help others. We both have backgrounds in elite sport through representing GB in Rowing and Ireland in Triathlon, and between us we have multiple



qualifications and degrees within the Sport Science field. It has played an integral role in the shaping of who we are today. Working for ourselves had long been the goal. From our earliest careers post-university, the idea of building something meaningful and impactful was ever-present.

We have both loved helping people from a young age - whether it was offering guidance to junior rowers at school or supporting cancer survivors through rehabilitation. Alongside coaching rowing, these experiences have shaped our belief in the power of sport to uplift and transform. Our passion for coaching is rooted in the incredible mentors we've had throughout our sporting careers. Their impact on our lives was profound, and now we're driven by the opportunity to create that same positive, measurable change in the lives of our clients.

Building a business for yourself is an entirely different feeling - it is hard work, and arguably longer hours! But when it is something you are passionate about, it never feels like work.

Before launching, we both worked in executive search. We saw and experienced how easy it becomes to put your own health to the wayside in pursuit of career goals. We have spoken to thousands of candidates, they all had 2 things in common - they wanted more money, and they wanted more energy in their life.

We believe that health is the single biggest factor in determining success—both in and out of the office. That's why our coaching business is built around helping people achieve things they never thought possible: marathons and Ironman Triathlons. We work directly with individual clients online, and we love it.

But we also see a gap in corporate wellness. Gym subsidies and step challenges are a start, but they're not enough. We wish to grow into offering group events to corporate clients, where we can take a group of employees with the same bespoke, individual service through a company sponsored event.

We see a future where employees are not just enabled but actively encouraged to pursue bold physical challenges as part of their personal and professional growth.

The best advice we can give to anyone thinking of starting their own business is to build it around your passion. In the beginning there will be a lot of work with very little reward - your passion, your WHY, will at times be the only motivator you have to push through. Be brave and bold in your decision making and do so unapologetically.

Jared Sheridan (07-16)

TURN OVER FOR MORE

CAPTURING MOMENTS, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES:

Richard Man's Entrepreneurial Path

I was first introduced to photography when I was boarding at Bedford. My parents had given me a small point-and-shoot camera so I could document my time at school while they were living in Saudi Arabia. My passion for photography never really stopped from there. As a boarder, I threw myself into school photography life: attending weekly Photography Club meetups and taking photos of rowing, rugby, school theatre productions and Redburn life. Each environment had its own challenges, which fuelled my desire to keep improving. The more photos I took, the more curious I became about how an image can tell a story or make someone happy. I've always found that photos are the easiest presents to give - whether in a frame or as a polaroid.

I wanted to combine photography with my love for rowing, and alongside a few friends whom I competed against on the water, Rory Cruickshank (Norwich School) and Alex Kintzer (Eton College), we started AllMarkOne in 2015, named after our identical Canon 7D Mark I cameras. We noticed that rowing photography was relatively expensive for the quality offered. We wanted to make it cheaper, more accessible, and still maintain high standards. We were just kids having a go, we couldn't have imagined the scale we've reached since we were 15/16-year-olds.

We've come a long way. What started as a photography company has grown into offering videography, merchandise, live streaming, social media management and event production, all while keeping the same ethos of delivering great work for the community. What began in the UK has now expanded into the American market, and we continue to cover European and worldwide rowing events whenever we can.

If there's some advice I can offer to anyone thinking about turning something they love into a business, it would be:

- **Find your niche:** Focus on what genuinely excites you and doesn't feel like work, and be relentless in doing it better than anyone else. Always question why things are done a certain way and whether there are ways to make processes easier for yourself, your colleagues, or your customers.
- **Don't regret:** When I was in Year 9 in Redburn, a Christmas Party guest speaker said something I've never forgotten: "Have as few regrets as possible - have a go, and don't think, what if?"
- **Start small:** Building a business is like building with Lego. You create certain components first and focus on doing them well. As you add more pieces, some fit perfectly and others make more sense elsewhere. At AllMarkOne, we first became known for our photography, and only then expanded into live streaming, video production and social media management. Become the go-to person or brand in one area, then grow your capabilities.
- **Network:** I would have never started my business had it not been for meeting likeminded individuals who I was actually competing against on the water. You find the best opportunities through talking to people and understanding how you can help them by working together. ■

ALLMARKONE

Check out AllMarkOne on socials at @allmarkone, or feel free to contact Rich for a chat at richard@allmarkone.com.



OB ARTS

OBs continue to shine across the arts, making their mark on the stage and in films, television, music, art and literature. Here are just a few of this year's highlights.

TV / FILM / THEATRE

Luke Roberts (92-96)

has recently made a short film called 'The Bluebottle Theory', a darkly comic noir-style ten-minute thriller with a twist. The film has won several awards, including Best Super Short Film at Cannes and two categories at the Tokyo Lift-Off Global Network. Luke created and wrote the script as well as playing the lead character, Drew.



Bob Barrett (74-84) has starred on stage in his third Agatha Christie play. He recently played Colonel Race in 'Death on the Nile' on tour across the UK. Onboard a luxurious cruise under the heat of the Egyptian sun, a couple's idyllic honeymoon is cut short by a brutal murder. Can Poirot and his sidekick, Colonel Race, catch the killer? Previously Bob had been touring in the UK and Ireland in 'Murder on the Orient Express' and before that in 'And Then There Were None'.

Monkeying around! The Robbie Williams biopic 'Better Man' won The Film Award at the Rolling Stone UK Awards in November 2024. **Jonno Davies (01-10)**, the actor behind the CGI monkey, accepted the award at the Roundhouse in London. Jonno provided the speaking voice and performance capture for Robbie Williams in the film. Jonno is currently joining the cast of upcoming film, 'Young Washington', due for release in Summer 2026.

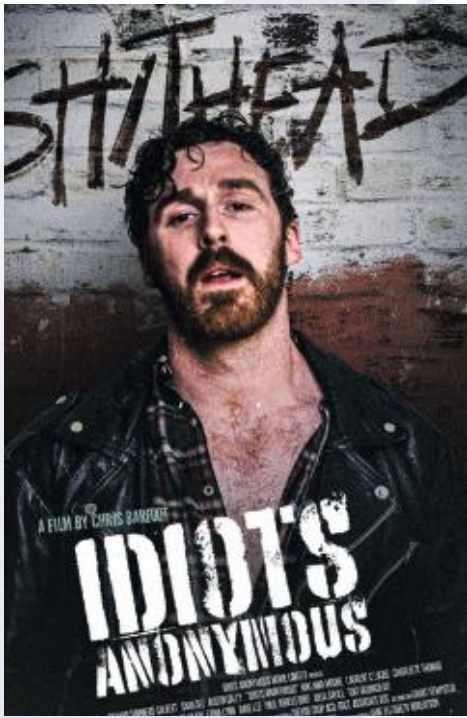


Henry Regan (03-08) is appearing in The Snow Queen at the Albany theatre in Deptford. At the heart of the story is Gerda, a fearless young mouse who sets off on a daring quest to rescue her best friend Kai from the icy grip of the mysterious Snow Queen. Along the way, she meets a mischievous squirrel, a clever crow, and the babbling Brook, all brought to life through lively performances and engaging puppetry. Henry is playing Kai and the crow. He is also appearing in the Bollywood film, 'Single Salma', due for release in late 2025, a laugh out loud Hindi comedy.



From vampires to enchanted swords, they're the ones standing between magic and mayhem. **Harun Cehovic (15-17)** is appearing as 'Huey' in the TV series The Librarians: The next Chapter. He has also appeared in the Italian short drama film, 'Cos Te Costa' which premiered in Rome in October 2025 to wonderful reviews from the Italian National Film Institute. Harun will be taking a theatre company on tour to the US in the Spring 2026.





Richard Summers-Calvert (99-10) is starring in an upcoming film, 'Idiots Anonymous', a black comedy where prison inmates, who are perfect strangers, seek to win the British Prime Minister 'get out of jail' early-release deal and so, face up to their darkest and dumbest crimes. All in group therapy! Richard has also

recently appeared in the film 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps' on Disney, and for TV: 'Stories of Progress'.

One to look out for in 2026. BAFTA winning Film Director **Chris Cottam (82-92)** is lining up a new series with Bill Murray in the lead role in a golf road trip around Ireland. Bill will come together with friends as they take in some of Ireland's most breathtaking fairways.

Ethan Taylor (03-12) has been playing Leo in 'Rob1n', a horror film on Prime Video. When a robotics expert channels the grief of losing his 11-year-old



son into building 'Robin', a fully functioning robotic doll, a series of horrific events makes it clear Robin will do whatever it takes to have his creator all to himself. Leo is the expert's estranged nephew who visits with his fiancée to patch up old wounds but they are soon at the mercy of Robin. Ethan is also the artistic Director for 'ThisIsMyTheatre' which tours the country, appearing in over 150 venues with six different shows a year.

The second series of 'SAS (Special Air Service) Rogue Heroes' aired in January 2025. The late **John Lewes (73-78)**, a nephew of Jock Lewes, extensively researched his uncle's life, which was tragically cut short on December 31, 1941, during an SAS deep-penetration patrol. John contributed significant material to the makers of the series, including footage of training sessions and photographs of Jock and his comrades.



MUSIC



Music Composer Alex Papp (12-17) was selected to take part in the prestigious 'Ink Still Wet' composer workshop at this year's Grafenegg Festival. A renowned international classical music festival held in the picturesque setting of Grafenegg Castle near Vienna, the festival features performances by leading orchestras and conductors,

showcasing a rich repertoire of classical music. Alex has also had his music played on BBC Radio 3's New Music Show and is currently the Manson Fellow in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music.

Dr Ross Cole (01-06), Associate Professor of Music at Leeds University, was awarded a prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize for his research in Music. These awards recognise the achievements of outstanding researchers whose work has attracted international acclaim and whose future career is exceptionally promising.



A composition by **Olly Bowes (10-15)** has been selected for the finals of the Tenebrae Choir's Undiscovered Voices competition. The Tenebrae Choir is one of the world's leading vocal ensembles renowned for its passion and precision. Olly's setting of Eala Earendel, an Anglo-Saxon advent

poem, will be performed in front of a live audience at the Wigmore Hall.

ARTISTS



Ben Wilshaw-Quinn's (07-18) painting of 'The Artist's Gaze – Self Portrait' was featured in 'Beyond the Prize' exhibition at the Mall Galleries, in St James's, London over Easter 2025. The exhibition featured recent award-winning artists of the Federation of British Artists of FBA Society exhibitions. Ben is currently the studio artist at Buckingham Fine Art Ltd, leading the in-house studio.

Max Eckhardt (03-05)

held an exhibition at the aquabitArt Gallery in Berlin entitled 'Urban Dream'. For Max, painting is a way to share a positive outlook with the world, a reminder that art can inspire without shouting, and that beauty and hope still matter.



Freddie Peacock (10-21) has been awarded with his Excellency Al Dabbagh's International Art Award in the Al-Dabbagh Group's 'Art for All' Competition. Freddie's piece, Desert Eyes, made up of six connected canvases, was purchased by the Al-Dabbagh Group and loaned to Petromin Corporation as part of the Art Loan Initiative.

It will be proudly displayed in the entrance hall of Petromin headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, allowing colleagues to enjoy and reflect on its creative energy and cultural significance.



Ben Burke (01-08), founding director of The Creative Community Club, was part of the recent mural project run by Bedford Creative Arts, painting the underpass between Aspects and the Embankment

The London Chorus have appointed **William Vann (95-00)** as their new Musical Director. William has already made a formidable mark in the musical world as a conductor, choirmaster and accompanist, with many recordings already to his name. He is particularly renowned for his revival performances and recordings of lost and lesser-known works of vocal and choral music by British composers. William is also the founder and Artistic Director of the London English Song Festival, the Director of Music at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the Music Director of Dulwich Choral Society.



Artist **Andy Holden (91-99)** and The Grubby Mitts performed live at The ICA in London in September, the event coinciding with Andy's



exhibition 'Love In The Misanthropocene' at The Palmer Gallery. The exhibit was a record album as an art installation, with the record presented as an environment. Each song on the "Love in the Misanthropocene" album was presented as a standalone "moving painting" while the sleeve art took the form of paintings and sculptures. The Grubby Mitts, a nine-piece band from Bedford, fronted by artist Andy, in collaboration with composer and multi-instrumentalist **Roger Illingworth (94-97)**, released their new single and Album in summer 2025.

BOOKS

Max Thackara (07-16)

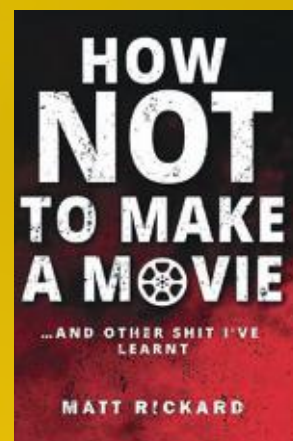
has published his first novel, *The Artist's Journey*, a novel of reality where the gap between fact and fiction is finally bridged.

After leaving Bedford, Max studied Philosophy at King's College London (BA and MA) before stepping onto what he describes as "the artist's road- a path where thought and life, myth and reality, are one and the same". Max has also published a collection of poetry titled 'The First Cup'.



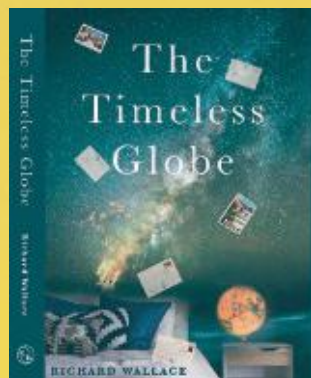
Matt Rickard (86-89)

recently completed his memoir, 'How NOT To Make A Movie' chronicling his unconventional journey through film production, one filled with both missteps and milestones. More than just a tale of the struggles of filmmaking, the book is a story of personal growth and the unexpected insights he gained along the way. His narrative resonates with anyone who has ever pursued a dream against formidable odds.



Richard Wallace (79-84)

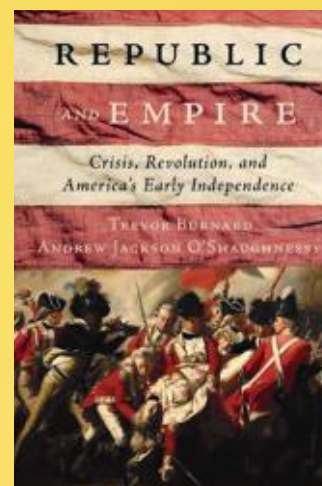
has published his first novel, 'The Timeless Globe', a mystery thriller weaving together the threads of mystery, the supernatural, and a poignant coming-of-age story. Following his father's untimely death on a business trip to Africa and the discovery of old letters in the attic, Danny realises that the dreams he has had exactly mirror every one of the letters. Soon, he's questioning if they are even dreams at all. Do ghosts exist and can they appear while you sleep? He sets out to find out who his father really was....whilst others want to keep the answers buried.



Sanjay Murthy (79-84) has published his first novel 'Any Given Saturday', a warm, comic celebration of English village life focused on the local cricket club. Barry Briggs has a dream to lead his club to respectability. The reality, however, is less glorious — his team can't win a match, the match teas are in chaos, and his teammates are more interested in ale and arguments than cricket.

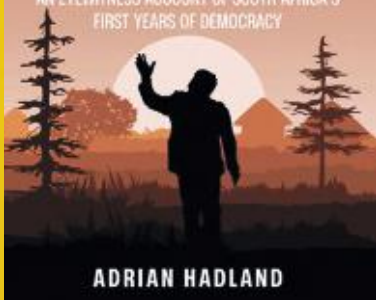


Professor **Andrew O'Shaughnessy (67-78)** has co-authored a new book on the American Revolution. 'Republic and Empire'. By looking beyond the familiar borders of the Revolution and considering colonies that did not rebel - Quebec, Nova Scotia, Bermuda, India, the British Caribbean, Senegal, and Ireland, the authors go beyond the republican, liberal, and democratic aspects of the emerging American nation, providing a broader history that transcends what we think we know about the Revolution.



CHRISTMAS WITH NELSON MANDELA

AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST YEARS OF DEMOCRACY



Award-winning journalist turned University professor, **Adrian Hadland (75-82)** is the author of 'Christmas with Mandela' an eyewitness account of the dramatic story of South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy. An insider's account of what happened, and how.

SPORTSMEN IN BRIEF



◀ It was great to see **Fraser Dingwall (13-17)** in action, having another fantastic year representing England and Northampton Saints. He played for England in the Six Nations tournament in the matches against Wales and Italy and scored an amazing try in the

match against New Zealand in the Quilter Nations Series. The victory over New Zealand was England's first on home soil against the All Blacks since 2012 and their first against New Zealand anywhere since the Rugby World Cup semi-final in 2019. Fraser has been a pivotal member of Saints Premiership-winning campaign in 2023/24, featuring in 16 of Saints' 20 league and knock-out games, and has captained Northampton on numerous occasions – including the Champions Cup Final in 2024/25 where he was joined by teammate **George Furbank (13-15)** who had just returned to full fitness following a fractured arm and who scored a try and made two assists in a 51-16 win against Castres in the quarter final. Saints lost in the final to Bordeaux Bègles.



◀ **Alex Christey (16-21)** was selected to represent CURUFC in the Annual Varsity Match on Sunday the 8th March. The game was held at the StoneX stadium, home of the Saracens and proved to be a thrilling match. Alex helped the Cambridge boys to secure a victory by scoring a try in the first half. Well done to Alex and all his teammates.

▼ **Oliver French (21-23)** and **Sam French (21-25)** both played for the Turks & Caicos Men's 7s squad in November 2024. Rugby clearly runs in the family, as the team was coached the brothers' father, **Neil French (87-92)**.




◀ **Aiden Ainsworth-Cave (15-24)** and **Jonny Weimann (18-24)** competed for England in the U20 Rugby World Cup Championship held in Italy. The England team came 2nd in their pool winning against both Australia and Wales in the heats but losing to Australia in the 5th place play off. Jonny also played for England in the 2025

U20 Six Nations. Both Aiden and Jonny have contracts with Northampton Saints.



◀ **Ryan Apps (09-20)** has enjoyed travelling the world as part of the Great Britain 7s team in the HSBC World Sevens Series, playing in Dubai, Africa and Australia. The tournament takes place over seven months and consists of seven events. Ryan currently plays for Bedford Blues.

▼ RECENT SIGNINGS:

- **Will Ramply (16-21)** has signed for Bristol Bears and had represented England Unis v France in May.
- **Callum Smyth (20-22)** has signed for Worcester Warriors.
- **Gabriel Mann (11-22)** has signed for Ealing Trailfinders.
- **Kayde Sylvester (18-20)** returned to sign for Bedford Blues.
- **James Bennett (20-22)** has signed for Northampton Saints.



▲ Clockwise from top left: Will Ramply, Callum Smyth, Gabriel Mann, Kayde Sylvester, James Bennett and Aidan Ainsworth-Cave (15-24)

▼ **Emilio Gay (11-18)** scored two consecutive home centuries for Durham, his new club in the County Championship. In recognition he was called up to the England Lions squad to face India 'A' in a two-match series in May. Emilio performed well, scoring 122 runs over the two matches. He has also been called up for the England Lions Ashes Tour to Australia. Emilio, who is half Italian, also played for Italy in a T20 match at the end of last year.



◀ Following his Olympic silver medal last year in Paris, **Ethan Vernon (07-18)** had his plans for 2025 slightly curtailed after suffering a fractured left collarbone during a training camp in Spain in December. Riding

for the Israel-Premier Tech team (now NSN Cycling Team), he secured a stage win at the Volta a Catalunya before taking part in La Vuelta a España, one of the three Grand Tours, alongside the Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France. Ethan came second on Stage 1 and Stage 8, beating many of the world's leading sprinters, and was placed fourth on Stage 4.

▼ Following his fourth-place finish in the German Olympic VIII last year in Paris, **Benedict Egging (14-17)** was once again in action for his country in the World Cup series leading up to the World Championships in Shanghai, China. He was selected to row in the eight that won silver in Varese and gold in Lucerne during the build-up to the Championships. Although the crew narrowly missed out on the A final, they made up for it with a commanding performance, winning the B final.



◀ **Robert Holden (13-18)** has completed his first season as a professional golfer, competing on the Alps Tour after securing his place in the British Open by winning regional qualifying at Northamptonshire County Golf Club with an impressive 5-under par score. His best finish this

season was 9th in the Aravell Golf Andorra Open, along with four top-20 finishes throughout the year.



◀ International Business senior at Harding University, AR, **Finlay Cummings (10-21)** has been named one of four Cobalt Golf All-America scholars by the Golf Coaches Association of America. Finlay was a key contributor to a highly successful season for the Bisons, who placed second at the Great American Conference Championships.

OLD BEDFORDIANS SPORT

RIFLE CLUB WRITTEN BY RUPERT RILEY (79-89)

The season has been notable as one of hugely encouraging, increasing reconnection with the school. Despite the focus on small-bore shooting (.22") that has dominated the School Rifle Club's success in recent years, they have made particular efforts through the Master in Charge, **Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89)**, to come to Bisley and transfer the marksmanship skills to the outdoor, long-range, higher-calibre (.308"/7.62mm) discipline of Full-Bore Target Rifle (TR). This harks to a time when Bedford was one of the dominant schools in the sport from the mid-1970s to the early 1990s and forms the basis for the success of the OBs who form the core of the Bedfordians Rifle Club. It is very much hoped that we will be able to steadily reintegrate the School club and recent leavers back into what remains a highly successful OB sport.

The other cause for pride is the continuing success of the so-called 'second generation Bedfordians', in the form of the offspring of OBs, some of whom are now established, national-level shots themselves and a tribute to the vision of the founders of the Bedfordians Rifle Club, who opened the membership to the progeny of OBs, to widen the membership base and make it more sustainable, in the longer term.

Club activity has continued to evolve in new directions through the energetic drive of the Captain, **Robin Hatcher (69-76)**, who had galvanised the Club to support the school and added a regular midweek shooting programme, in addition to the weekend matches for those that are more flexible in their time, thus sharpening Bedfordian skills for the crunch matches in the spring and summer. This has been aided and abetted by the dependable **Andy 'Turbo' Barnes (76-83)** the Secretary, organising the matches and administrating the Club and all the more significantly, **Nick Hudleston (78-83)** and **Julian Hilton-Johnston (77-82)**, who have done so much in terms of liaising closely with the



▲ Marc Smith (87-92) presented with the Top Scoring OB trophy by Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89, current master in charge of The School Rifle Club) following the OBs vs School .22" match in March

school to better connect with it and facilitate funds to support younger OB shots.

OB'S VS BEDFORD SCHOOL RIFLE CLUB (MARCH)

The traditional .22" match against the School Club in the School indoor rifle range was hotly contested in March but, as has been the case for some years now, the OBs were defeated (by a preposterously slim margin: 1,231-1,230), thanks to the boys' superior ability at the small-bore discipline. What was particularly satisfying was to see the plentiful recent leaver OBs turning out to boost the numbers from the 'old guard' and enjoy a very sociable lunch at the De Parys Hotel beforehand. **Marc Smith (87-92)**, and **James Hine (12-23)** topped out for the OBs, with 159 and 158 ex 160 respectively.



Q MATCH (APRIL)

As the season gathered momentum, the major club match of the Spring, The 'Q' Match was skippered by **Andy Barnes (76-83)** and resulted in a well-deserved victory against seven other old school clubs at Bisley shot over 300 and 600 yards. Almost inevitably our current GB squad member, **Paul Sykes (son of Andy Sykes (62-73))** was the top scorer with a 100.14v ex 100.20v.

BEDFORDIANS SPRING WEEKEND MATCHES (MAY)

The Club Spring Weekend in May followed with an excellent turnout of six members of the School Club mixing with 12 Bedfordians Rifle Club. This allowed for some coaching for the boys in fullbore shooting in the morning followed by a friendly mixed match at 600 yards in the afternoon. **Nick Hudleston** ably skippered the winning team ('No Bulls') to victory but were chased all the way by **Dan Lumley-Wood (12-21)** and his team ('Here To Win') resulting in a two-point margin. It was great to welcome back **Will Young (96-01)** who celebrated his return to shooting with us by contributing one of the top scores to his team's win, with a commendable 48.2v ex 50.10v.

More individual shooting was to follow with a closely contested Club competition concurrent with the Army Target Shooting Club TR Open Meeting, in which a number of Bedfordians were entered. **Robin Hatcher** took top slot in raw score but there was also a 'handicap competition' taking into account TR class (divided into ('X', 'A', 'O' and 'T' depending on recent performance in recognised competition performance in the UK) and **Nick Hudleston** topped out with that. **Nia Barnes (daughter of Andy Barnes)**, won the Long Range (900 and 1000 yards) aggregate outright in both competitions with some excellent shooting in blustery conditions.

The focus of the first half of the weekend was very much on fostering closer links with the School Club and we topped off Saturday with a drink in the Artist Rifles Clubhouse, where **Paul Sykes** gave an insightful talk on his recent experiences in the GB Rifle Team at the World Championships in South Africa. This was followed by a very sociable dinner with the boys and School Staff in the Surrey Rifle Association Clubhouse.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA) IMPERIAL MEETING (JULY)

The major calendar event in the national and international rifle shooting world is always a mecca for the Bedfordians Rifle Club and over generations has produced some standout performances, going back to 1909 when an OB, **PR Radice (02-07)**, won His Majesty the King's Prize, the most coveted

Paul Sykes at the end of HM The King's Final, a phenomenal performance at 900 and 1000yds.



rifle shooting prize in the world to this day.

Sadly, due to various factors, the number of Bedfordian competitors was lower than average this year and so results in the opening team matches of the Meeting reflected this, with only one full team being entered into the Schools Veterans match, coming 34th ex 45. Similarly, it was a largely self-selecting team for the Astor where, nevertheless, there was a commendable rallying display of marksmanship that saw the club team mid-tabled against some very strong county championship-winning club teams, packed with international-grade shooters.

Internal club competition was intense as 10 Bedfordians tussled over the Nigel Penn Trophy for the Weekend Aggregate, won easily by **Paul Sykes** and chased by **Rupert Riley (79-89)** and **Nia Barnes**. The 'Stickledown Watercolour' concurrent with the NRA Grand Aggregate was similarly scooped up by **Paul Sykes**, with **Rupert Riley** and **Andy Barnes** in 2nd and 3rd. The top 'Young Bedfordian' in the 1st stage of the Kings Prize was won by **Ben Ebbetts (son of Martin Ebbetts (70-74))**.

Ready to go at 600yds in the Astor: Nia Barnes and Paul Sykes, coached by Rupert Riley and Andy Barnes





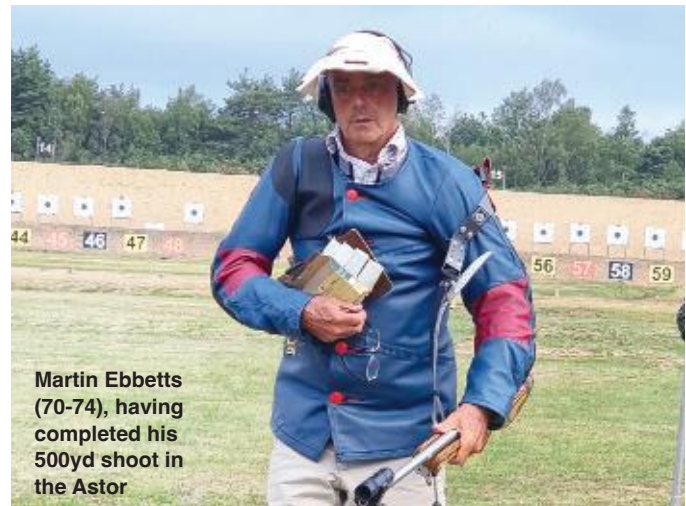
Nia Barnes, who together with her sister Nyree, shot for Wales

Individually Bedfordian performances were a little below par but all were eclipsed by our current star shot **Paul Sykes**, who was consistently excellent across the board, winning innumerable aggregates of competitions, particularly at Long Range (900/1000 yards). What topped this off was his superlative display of marksmanship in the Kings Prize: heading back to long range “clean”, having not dropped a shot out of the bullseye, after the 2nd Stage (150.21 ex 150.30) he followed this up with a top score at 900yds (75.8 ex 75.15). Much to the excitement and admiration of all spectators, he was winning the Kings Prize right up to his last shot at 1000yds. His only ‘inner’ (scoring 4) in the entire competition finished less than an inch to the left of the bullseye, resulting in a second place. Such fine margins between euphoria and deep disappointment are commonplace in rifle shooting but Paul, commendably, was phlegmatic, despite being so very close to the ultimate prize. Paul was also selected for the England Mackinnon Team match (900/1000 yards) where they were beaten into runners up position by a fine, resurgent Scotland performance. There was some sentimental speculation that perhaps there was a ‘posthumous Bedfordian influence’ on his superlative individual performances, as he successfully shot with the late **Nigel Penn (65-69)**’s rifle for his Long Range competitions.

Honours also abounded for the two daughters of **Andy Barnes, Nia and Nyree**, who were both selected for the NRA Team to tour the Channel Islands in May, the first sisters to be selected for this team. In essentially an NRA representative team for aspiring international shooters, they acquitted themselves well, contributing to a team that beat Guernsey but was very narrowly defeated by a very strong Jersey team with a significant home advantage. Both sisters went on to be selected for Wales in the Imperial Meeting in July.

LOOKING FORWARD

The scene is set for the Club to grow as we increasingly work with the school to bring the boys back into the TR sphere, with weekends planned for the late autumn and early spring 2026. It is very much the intention that recent leaver OBs will swell the ranks and begin to translate their obvious acumen at small-bore rifle shooting into TR, generating a continuum of OB honours



Martin Ebbetts (70-74), having completed his 500yd shoot in the Astor

that has existed for well over a hundred years at Bisley.

OBs who have previously shot in the School Rifle Club or have since taken up target rifle shooting (small-bore or full-bore) having left school are heartily encouraged to join us, we are a fully Home Office approved rifle club and have recently been granted funds by the Bedford School Foundation Trust to purchase two rifles and shooting equipment to allow those without their own to compete accordingly. Anyone with an interest in shooting with us should contact us through the excellent website (created by **Marc Smith**) at <https://bedfordiansrc.org/>

The following shot for the Bedfordians Rifle Club over the last year:

Phil Dawes (63-72); Martin Ebbetts (70-74); Martin Schwarz (70-75); Nick Hart (70-75); Robin Hatcher (69-76); Mirek Kirkillo-Stacewicz (69-79); Julian Hilton-Johnson (77-82); Steve; Andy Barnes (76-83); Nick Hudleston (78-83); Steve Lyon (73-84) Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89); Rupert Riley (79-89); Marc Smith (87-92); Paul Sykes*; Ben Ebbetts*; Nia Barnes*; Max Kirkillo-Stacewicz*; Nyree Barnes*; Will Young (96-01) Dan Lumley-Wood (12-21); James Hine (12-23) James Lumley Wood (14-23); Ian Gordon (58-68); Daniel Jackson (03-09); Harry Norris (12-23), Richard Cooper (57-68).



CRICKET CLUB WRITTEN BY GEORGE WOOD (83-94)

The 2025 season was a history-making one for OB Cricket and showcases the range of cricket on offer and the depth of passion for the game amongst Bedford School's alumni.

There is nowhere else to start than the championship winning run in the Cricketer Cup that took in Felsted, Haileybury, Sherborne, Stowe, Clifton College and Tonbridge in the final. The highest successful run-chase in Cricketer Cup Final history has already been reprised and represents the zenith of a magnificent season, however the entire cup-run was remarkable.

36 players represented the OBs at some point in the run which we think was comfortably the most in the competition and they encompassed over 40 years of Bedford School cricket experience with the earliest starter being 1983 through to the most recent 2024 leavers.

OBs were drawn away in every round up to the semi-finals with the final also played on the beautiful, neutral territory of Arundel. **Captain Charlie (Chaz) Thurston (07-14)** also managed to challenge the laws of probability by losing the toss five times in a row.

With warm-ups strictly prohibited, the 'Chazball' game plan was simple – one seamer would do, every other over bowled would be a riff on spin, suffocate the opposition run-rate, make sure we batted down to at least number 10 and play with freedom (and lots of power). We only stretched to the luxury of two seamers and winning the toss in the Final!

OBs achieved back to back 10 wicket wins versus Sherborne and Stowe, made all the more remarkable by the use of completely different sets of openers – **Michael Wells (13-20)**, **Ewan Cox (10-17)**, **Jamie Dunk (22-24)** and **Ed Wharton (07-12)**. Ed was also heroic with the ball whilst **Ben Slawinski (09-16)** was an ever-present contributing from first match to last. Mr Cricketer Cup, **Shiv Patel (04-15)**, was classy throughout but the biggest winner was the camaraderie across the squad – every match a genuine pleasure to be

involved with and players slotting in with ease.

Peter Rowe (03-08) yet again scored with aplomb and also took the field against Sherborne showing that he is a true team player. It was fitting that another OB Cricket great, **Peter Sowerby (74-85)**, was remembered as it was our privilege as winner to direct £1,000 to a charity of our choice and it went to Willen Hospice in Pete's memory.

The Cricketer Cup wasn't the only fare on offer. One of the most beautiful evenings of the year saw cricket played at a very different tempo as the OBs took on the Ousels in the annual T20 match-up organised by **Simon Lincoln (94-96)**. OBs were skippered by joint club captain **Charlie Blythman (12-23)** and a brilliant game concluded with Mr Guest (Staff) hitting the winning runs off the last ball and highlighted everything that cricket should be – fun, exciting, played with a smile on the face and a great excuse to get together.

Bookending the Ousels game were matches versus the MCC and then 1st and 2nd XI fixtures against the School. The OBs were comprehensively outplayed by a very strong MCC outfit (featuring OB **Anish Katechia (15-22)** who bowled beautifully) the OBs also lost to the School 1st XI in the traditional two-day fixture. The OB 2nd XI, recruited and brilliantly led by Ben Barnes, restored some pride with a power-packed batting performance that saw the ball flying to all parts in an enjoyable 35 over match.

2026 will see the OBs defending the Cricketer Cup title and another action packed OB Cricket Week featuring match-ups with the MCC, Ousels and School 1st and 2nd XIs. It would be great to see even more OBs play next year so do get involved – there is something for everyone.

Club Captains: Dilan Sheemar (17-22) and Charlie Blythman (12-23)

Cricketer Cup Captain: Charlie Thurston (07-14)

President: George Wood (83-94)

TENNIS CLUB WRITTEN BY TOBY O'DELL (78-86)

The annual OB's Tennis match against the boys was held on a beautiful day and once again proved to be a great afternoon. This year's players include **Toby O'Dell (78-86)**, **Bryn O'Dell (14-23)**, **Joshua Stewart (12-23)**, **Peter Devaney (02-11)**, **Duncan McLaren (61-68)**, **Jonathan Elwood (71-81)**. We did have a reserve of **Geoffrey Farr (50-56)** who is still a keen player and joined us for lunch and to watch our progress.

We were welcomed into the school with a delicious lunch to set us up for the afternoon's exertions. Particular thanks should go to the OB's office who have always looked after us providing some much-needed support whilst playing as well as organising the event.

This year we sadly suffered yet another defeat having been beaten fair and square by a strong School team. The boys are a credit to the school, there was a strong competitiveness in them this year and some good tennis, strong serves good ground strokes and generally good doubles skills. I hope to be able recruit them into the team once they have left, so that we can change our fortunes and return to our winning ways.



Tennis is a tricky game to pick up but is also very rewarding and one of the best cardio games to play as we move into our more senior years.

I hope that the boys who have left School this year or indeed in the last few years will be interested in joining the Tennis OB's as we have had a few members retire from the event.

Any Old Bedfordians who are interested in playing, are very welcome and can contact me at beaumontfarming@gmail.com

PHOENIX 7'S RUGBY TEAM

WRITTEN BY CONOR FINCH (13-18)

Another season in the books for Phoenix 7s, a campaign filled with flashes of brilliance, a few familiar calamities, and, naturally, a strong showing off the pitch.

OLNEY 7S – CHAOS FROM THE FIRST WHISTLE

Phoenix opened the season at Olney 7s, armed with a squad of **Bryn Williamson (C) (11-20)**, **Eugene Ekuban (12-13)**, **Freddie Drake-Lee (20-24)**, **Tom Jenkins (11-22)**, **Tom Kerr (17-23)**, **Lewis Butterly (16-21)**, **Sam Keane (16-21)**, **Oli Hind (06-17)**, and **Harry Payne (13-24)**.

In true Phoenix fashion, we kicked off the opening game with just six men, as punctuality remains an area for growth. Somehow, that didn't stop us grinding out a 17-14 win, proving that who needs seven when you've got spirit (and probably adrenaline-fuelled panic)?

Unfortunately, the momentum, and the seventh man, didn't quite carry us through the next two games, both of which were lost by a single try. Narrow margins, but still enough to ensure an early exit and an even earlier start to the social.

Speaking of which, Oli Hind took charge of the post-tournament proceedings with his trademark enthusiasm. Let's just say his off-field work rate remained exemplary.

HOUSE OF HOPE 7S – FROM THE ASHES THE PHOENIX RISES

Next up: the House of Hope 7s, run by Phoenix old boy **Jack Goldberg (09-11)**. A slightly reshuffled squad, **Bryn Williamson (11-20)**, **George Seward (17-18)**, **Eugene Ekuban (12-13)**, **Felix Mallalieu (08-19)**, **Conor Finch (C) (13-18)**, **Joe Wallace (16-18)**, **Freddie Drake-Lee (20-24)**, and **Eldon Craven (14-23)** made the trip to North London looking to turn things around.



Things didn't exactly start according to plan, as Concorde 7s handed out a 38-5 wake-up call in the opener. But, like a true Phoenix, the lads rose from the ashes going on to beat Bamboo RFC 28-12, Maccabi 7s 19-5, and then Bamboo again in the Plate Final to take home the silverware. Turns out, we're just slow starters.

LOOKING AHEAD

From a six-man opener to lifting a trophy, the season had all the usual Phoenix hallmarks: drama, resilience, and a deep commitment to both rugby and revelry. The mix of new faces and seasoned veterans proved a winning blend... eventually, The vibes, as always, were immaculate.

Here's to more tries, more fun, and maybe even starting a game with a full seven next season.

Josh Lyon (10-20) at the Bow



PHOENIX BOAT CLUB WRITTEN BY HUGH MALTBY (73-83)

It's been fantastic to see so many OBs continuing to participate in the sport after leaving school, demonstrating the passion they developed during their time at Bedford.

This year's School vs OB race once again coincided with the OBs Sports Weekend and the Men's Head of the River Race in London. Even though many OBs were racing in London, a strong eight was put together to race the school. In the main race, the OBs took an early lead, which they maintained down the course, narrowly beating the school at the finish line.

This year saw one of the largest contingents of OBs racing at Henley Royal Regatta, underlining their enduring passion for the sport beyond the school's boathouse. Twenty OBs competed in student and open club events, with twelve making it through to the Regatta itself after the qualifying races. There was plenty to shout about, with several OBs making it through to the quarter-finals and beyond.

Former Wingfield Sculls winner **Josh Lyon (10-20)** joined London Rowing Club this year after a highly successful rowing career at Reading University. Josh was selected to compete in the Britannia Challenge Cup, an event for coxed fours. His crew performed strongly throughout the week, reaching the

final where they faced arch-rivals Thames Rowing Club 'A'. The final was fiercely contested, with the result hanging in the balance until the Stewards' Enclosure, where Thames made a decisive push to win by a length.

Rupert Appis (22-24), after leaving school, joined the Leander Club gap year programme. His crew raced at the Metropolitan and Marlow Regattas, finishing fifth overall at Marlow in a highly competitive final. At Henley, they entered the Thames Challenge Cup and progressed to the semi-finals, narrowly losing to London 'A', who went on to win the event.

George Whitcombe (11-20) raced for Thames 'B' in the Wyfold Challenge Cup. In the early rounds, they defeated Molesey Boat Club, Commercial Rowing Club (Ireland), and the UK Armed Forces Rowing Club, which also featured **Rory Boylen (17-19)**. In the semi-final, George faced Sydney Rowing Club (Australia) in a hard-fought race. The Thames crew competed valiantly but were ultimately overcome by the cohesion and strength of their opponents.

Trent Abraham (10-19) raced for Thames Rowing Club 'B' in the Thames Challenge Cup and was unfortunate to draw their fellow Thames compatriots in the quarter-finals. That crew went on to reach the final, where they were narrowly beaten by London Rowing Club.

George Christian (08–18) represented London Rowing Club 'B' in the Thames Challenge Cup, reaching the quarter-finals where they raced 'De Hoop' from the Netherlands. They were narrowly defeated by just over a length, recording the second-fastest time of the day in the event.

Jacob Bailey (11–22) was in the seeded Nottingham Boat Club crew in the Britannia Challenge Cup, which was beaten by Molesey Boat Club in the second round.

Seb Iles (15–22) raced in the Britannia Challenge Cup for Agecroft Rowing Club. After beating Furnivall Scullers in the first round, they went out to Marlow Rowing Club in the next.

Making his coaching debut as Rowing Director for the City of Cambridge Boat Club, **Michael Ruta (00–11)** had nine crews entered in the Regatta across seven events, representing a resurgence for the Club.

OTHER OBS COMPETING INCLUDED:

- **Boris Batine (98–00), Connor Sheridan (07–18), Jared Sheridan (07–16)** – Barcelona Club de Rem, Thames Challenge Cup
- **Will Cave (13–24) Bedford Rowing Club** - Thames Challenge Cup

- **Will Garner (10–21) Durham University** – The Prince Albert Challenge Cup
- **Charlie McCutcheon (17–22) Birmingham University** – Temple Challenge Cup
- **Barnaby Williams (19–24) University of Exeter 'B'** – Temple Challenge Cup
- **Archie Black (19–24)** – Oxford Brookes 'C', Temple Challenge Cup
- **Sam Lock (17–24), Ally Satchwill (01–12)** – Star Club, Thames Challenge Cup
- **James Deardon (11–22)** – University of Edinburgh, Island Challenge Cup
- **Harry Tolmie (17–24)** – Oxford Brookes University 'B', Ladies' Challenge Plate

The School Boat Club is extremely fortunate to receive the generous support of OBs and parents, whether through the purchase of equipment (such as boats, oars, and ergometers), the provision of scholarships, or other forms of assistance. All of this is helping to make the programme one of the most successful in the country, providing a strong foundation from which we can challenge the very best.



Rupert Apps (Bow) Rowing for Leander

GOLF SOCIETY WRITTEN BY JEREMY WOODROW (83-93)

HALFORD HEWITT 2025

The 2025 Hewitt arrived with great optimism following the run to the final the year in 2024. Bedford were drawn in the first round at Royal Cinque Ports in a local derby against Oundle.

Tom Langley-Poole (96-06) and **Harry Wetton (02-13)** never got it going and lost on the 14th. **Iain Pratt (83-93)** and **Lee Dinmore (86-89)** registered the first point with a 2&1 victory on 17, after the former knocked it in to 4 feet to close out the match. **George Wilson (03-10)** and debutant **Seb Wren (02-12)** made it 2-1 after also winning 2&1.

The top match and game 4 were very close and both went down the 19th. **Colin Beesley (90-98)** and **Tim Martin (11-17)** halved the 19th and headed down the 20th whilst captain **Henry Wilson (04-11)** and **Will Notley (92-03)** were trying to close the match out on the first extra playoff hole. Very tense and Oundle were feeling the pressure and 3 putted the 19th to give Henry a 3 foot par putt for the win – which he calmly knocked in to secure the victory. Simultaneously, Colin held a four footer for par on the 20th to win and record a 4-1 victory. But it was much closer than the scoreline suggested.

In the second round we were drawn against Winchester who Bedford had beaten en route to the final in 2024 – they were still annoyed and seeking revenge. The match marked the 50th Hewitt cap for Iain Pratt – following in the footsteps of the legendary Tim Henderson to become the 2nd Old Bedfordian to reach the half century.

George Scott (99-09) had arrived on the Thursday and was put straight into the team with George Wilson to continue

| HALFORD HEWITT | | Royal Cinque Ports Golf | | FIRST ROUND | |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|
| MATCH No. 11 | | Thursday 10 April 2025 | | 13:35 | |
| OUNDLE | | v | BEDFORD | | |
| 1 | TEP Tusa SGM Stocks | 0 | CG Beesley TJ Martin | 20th | 1 |
| 2 | RT Pentecost PJ Foster | 0 | L Dinmore IAA Pratt | 2/1 | 1 |
| 3 | AJ Lightowler AW Lang | 5/4 1 | TA Langley-Poole HSN Wetton | | 0 |
| 4 | JS Carr TWE Goodley | 0 | GP Wilson WH Notley | 19th | 1 |
| 5 | HCI Fray GF. Crawley | 0 | HJ Wilson SM Wren | 2/1 | 1 |
| RESULT | | 1 | 4 | | |

▲ Halford Hewitt first round scorecard.

the formidable George & George partnership – which they duly did and secured a 4&3 victory. Unfortunately, there were heavy losses for Langley-Poole and Notley (6&5), Beesley and Martin (5&4), and Henry Wilson & Seb Wren (5&3). The match was lost which left Pratt & Dinmore to shake hands on 17 whilst all square in a ding-dong match. Winchester 3.5 – 1.5 Bedford.

Winchester went on to reach the final where they lost to Bradfield. Big thanks to the supporting team of **Adam Wilkinson (87-92)**, **Charles Coker (67-71)**, and **Mark Orchart (74-79)** who sent over 500 score update WhatsApp's!

We go again next year!

OB GOLF: 2025 MELLIN/BURLES/MILLARD SALVERS

Once again, we were warmly welcomed at the wonderful West Hill Golf Club for the GL Mellin, Peter Burles, and Bunny Millard Salvers between 25th to 27th June 2025. The GL Mellin



Iain Pratt - on his 50th Halford Hewitt appearance



Bedford's Burles squad: From l to r, Andrew Rudkin (64-69), Nigel Mobbs (69-74) Patrick Duke (66-70), and Richard Bromilow (67-72) (Chris Johnson (66-75) also played)

Salver is for three pairs playing foursomes/scratch aged 55 and over; the Peter Burles Salver is for two pairs playing foursomes/scratch aged 65 and over; and the Bunny Millard Salver is for those aged 75 and over.

In the first round of the Peter Burles Salver, Bedford drew Mill Hill. This year, we were pleased to welcome **Richard Bromilow (67-72)** to the Burles and Mellin teams, after a bizarre chance meeting with **Mark Orchart (74-79)** during a match between Long Ashton Golf Club and Bristol and Clifton Golf Club.

Partnered with **Chris Johnson (66-75)** and playing some quality golf, Richard and Chris won out in the country, 7&5. They were ably supported by the stalwart pairing of **Nigel Mobbs (69-74)** and **Andrew Rudkin (64-69)** who won 5&3. In the second round, we came up against Shrewsbury, many times Halford Hewitt winners. Richard and Chris continued to play solid quality golf against Shrewsbury's top pairing, achieving a half. Sadly, Shrewsbury were just too strong for us, eventually going down 0.5-1.5. Shrewsbury went on to win the Burles Salver.



▲ Richard Bromilow (67-72) hitting the tee shot at the difficult and picturesque par three 15th

In the GL Mellin Salver first round, Bedford also drew Mill Hill. All of Bedford's pairings got off to a slow start and never really recovered. Despite some spirited golf, we simply ran out of holes and succumbed to a disappointing 3-0.

The loss to Mill Hill meant that we took on Shrewsbury in the Mellin Plate. Some good early golf from **Mike Anderson (78-82)** and Hewitt/Mellin veteran **Tim Henderson (64-71)** resulted in Bedford's top pair hanging on to win 2&1, earning Henderson redemption for a Halford Hewitt loss against Shrewsbury all those years ago.

Julian Ormerod (75-85) and debutant **Richard Bromilow (67-72)** were involved in a real tussle, going all the way to the 18th. They eventually came out winners 1up, which gave Bedford an unassailable lead and a place in the Mellin Plate semi-final to face Forest. Julian Ormerod was particularly delighted to have beaten Shrewsbury, having (sadly) never managed to do so in the Princess Elizabeth Cup on the water at Henley!

Unfortunately, despite some fighting spirit from Anderson and Henderson, we ran out of steam in the semi-final (0.5-2.5), with Forest eventually going on to win the Mellin Plate.



▲ Mike Anderson's (78-82) tee shot at the short, but tricky par three 13th



Congratulations to **Richard Bromilow (62-72)** who played in both the Buries and Mellin teams, winning points in both competitions. We also wish **Paul Mantell (66-71)** (who played so well last year) a speedy recovery back to full health and look forward to seeing him in 2026.

John Cartwright (59-65) and **James Lawson (61-66)** took part in the qualifying round in the Bunny Millard Salver (75s and over). Although not successful in qualifying, it was great to have Bedford teams in all three tournaments.

If you are reading this, are aged over 55, and would like to play one of the best courses in the Surrey belt in a relaxed, yet competitive format with like-minded OBs, please get in contact with **Mark Orchard (74-79)** at mark.orchard@btinternet.com or Tom Langley-Poole. We look forward to hearing from you.

OTHER OBGS EVENTS

Outside of the larger inter-school, the OBGS runs a number of events throughout the year including a match against Old Oundelians and Spring Meeting, both held at Royal Worlington, a match against the school held at Woburn, an Autumn Meeting and the Henderson Trophy held at Woburn – if you would like to get involved please contact the OB Office or **Jeremy Woodrow (83-93)** – jdwoodrow1975@gmail.com

OLD OUNDELIANS

We enjoyed another excellent day at Royal Worlington on a chilly early spring day in this wonderful, long standing annual match against Oundle. After a hard fought 4-2 lead at lunchtime, the highlight being an impressive 7&6 win for **Charles Wren (95-06)** and **Andrew Rudkin (64-69)**, we headed out satisfied by the sumptuous lunch for the afternoon matches. The top 4 matches all won, with a half and narrow loss on the last in the final match, ensured we took the afternoon 4.5-1.5 to finish with an emphatic victory 8.5-3.5.

Team: **Simon Blundell (84-89)**, **Tom Langley-Poole (96-06)**, **Will Notley (92-03)**, **im Henderson (64-71)**, **Kevin Dunbar (74-79)**, **Julian Ormerod (75-85)**, **Chris Johnson (66-75)**, **Jeremy Woodrow (83-93)**, **John Cartwright (59-65)**, **Charles Wren (95-06)**, **Andrew Rudkin (64-69)**, Roy Nicholson (OO and honorary OB for the day!).

▲ Bedford's Mellin squad: From l to r: **Scott Goodson (69-79)**, **Julian Ormerod (75-85)**, **Mike Anderson (78-82)**, **Tim Henderson (64-71)**, **Mark Orchard (74-79)**, **Kevin Dunbar (74-79)** and **Richard Bromilow (62-72)**

SCHOOL MATCH

The OBGS gathered at Woburn to play a strong School team boasting mostly low single figure handicaps. Following a hearty lunch in the Hay Room, battle commenced on the Marquess course which was in great condition. The match was hard fought and there was some excellent golf played, however, the OB's took advantage of their handicap advantage to take victory on the day. It was great to see the strength in depth in the school team including one Year 7 boy playing off a handicap index of 2.

HENDERSON TROPHY

We had a successful Henderson trophy meeting in October at Woburn hosted by **Tim Henderson (64-71)**. The Henderson Trophy is held annually in recognition of Tim having played 50 games in the Halford Hewitt. This year we had the great pleasure of inviting Iain Pratt to the trophy, as he reached that milestone this spring and got a very well-deserved round of applause from all those present.

The trophy was played on the Marquess course in rainy conditions which made scoring somewhat difficult especially after a hearty brunch. Individual winner was **Josh Taylor (05-16)** with 36 points playing off 4 handicap just edging out the next best of 35 points.

VIRTUAL GOLF WEEK

This year for the first time, the School organised a Virtual Golf week to raise awareness of the simulator and the School golf programme. Two evening events were held in January to play a Texas scramble over the back nine at Hillside. 16 OB's and parents joined over the two evening hosted by Sam Smith the school pro and much fun was had.

If anyone wants to get involved in any of the OBGS events, please contact the OB office or Jeremy Woodrow - jdwoodrow1975@gmail.com



OB SPORTS WEEKEND – MARCH 2025



NEWS OF OLD BEDFORDIANS



◀ **Roger Whitbread (47-52)** visited the school on VE Day and talked to the current students about his experiences as a boy in WW2.

▼ **Geoffrey Farr MBE DL (50-56)** has clocked up an amazing 60 years of playing and supporting tennis against the School for the OBs. Well done Geoffrey!



Action shot from 2019

At age 84, **Prof John Allan (49-59)**, has now fully retired from University of BC, Canada, but is still enjoying educational consulting. He has just been informed that his method, "Serial Drawing", is being used in the Ukraine to help heal war ravaged children. Researchers there have asked to translate his book, "Inscapes of the Child's World" into Ukrainian. John credits his interest in lifelong learning to his teachers at Bedford, especially Michael Barlen and Ronald Dalzell.



◀ Former merchant seaman, **Capt. David Hawker (54-59)** is an artist and actor with a huge repertoire of work. He specialised in maritime art, has designed artwork for the dining room of HMV Britannia and was the official artist

for the Mersey River Festival until 2020. He is also well known as a background actor. A Facebook group has been set up where dedicated fans of David's work post a photo when they spot him in a film or show. Take a look at 'Where's (WALLY erm...I mean) Capt. David Hawker?!'. David is currently President of the Rushden branch of the Royal British Legion.



◀ **Mark Brazier (50-59)** is still enjoying painting and held an exhibition of his work in Cheltenham in November 2024 (<https://www.markbrazierart.com/>)

▶ **Mark Easson (58-62)** has had a highflying career as an international airline pilot, finishing as an instructor/captain on the Boeing 747-400 for Air New Zealand, with stints in Alitalia and Korean Air. He has now just spent a few months qualifying as a helicopter pilot, achieving his licence at the tender age of 77. Let age be no barrier!



◀ **Richard Hemsley (57-62)** attended a service in France in April, held by the Canadian Armed Forces, to finally lay to rest his grandfather, Lt Frank

Hemsley, (1890-1897), of the 16th Battalion (The Canadian Scottish), who was killed in action in WW1 in 1917 and whose remains were only discovered and identified in 2012.



◀ Some "survivors" of the School Caving Club expedition to the Mendips in 1964 gathered in Derbyshire in May.

◀ **L-R Bill Jordan (56-67), Jack Stenhouse (57-67), and Charles Wimbush (59-64).**

▶ **Andrew Randall (61-66)** hosted his 7th Annual Car Party at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club in July. The event featured 25 'cars of distinction', including 11 pre-war. The 53 guests included several OBs: Randall in a 1934 Aston Martin, **Richard Charnley (59-70)** in a 1974 Aston Martin V8, **Ian Walrond (59-64)** in a 1971 Triumph TR6, **Peter Burns (59-66)**, **Stuart Wilkinson (59-66)** and **Mark Oddy (53-61)**.



◀ **Andy Davies (58-67)** met up with **Philip Pope (81-92)** to watch the British and Irish Lions on tour in Australia when visiting his son **Anthony (81-92)** in Sydney.

▶ Good to see **David Fletcher (58-69)** appearing regularly on TV's 'Flog It', specialising in English furniture and ceramics.



Congratulations to **Col Anthony Abrahams (60-70)** who has been made a Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire.

Martin Randall (60-72) was very interested to hear that a letter he had written to art historian Ernst Gombich 30 years ago was on display at the Warburg Institute!

▼ A group of 1972 Leavers met up at the Windmill in Mayfair, London for a pre-Christmas drink. L-R: **Jim Sloane (67-72)**, Zoe Bridges, **Tim Bridges (61-72)**, **Richard Bromilow (62-72)**, **Alistair Gray (66-72)**, **Jerry Arnott (67-72)**, **Bill Skinner (65-72)**, and Sassy Skinner.



► **Mark Yeomans (74-76)** has decided to wind things down and has sold his last show horse! He still has two retired horses to keep him active as well as being able to concentrate on his book writing.



◀ **Pete Collins (71-78)** found a lost OB whilst he was on holiday in Thailand. **Martin Sterne (55-61)** left just as he had entered the Upper School when his parents tragically died. It's good to be in touch again.

► Professor **Mike Capaldi (72-78)**, Dean of Innovation and Business at Newcastle University, has been announced as the new Chair of DER-IC, a UK-wide Power Electronics, Machines and Drives (PEMD) manufacturing network. Prior to assuming his role at Newcastle University, Professor Capaldi gained over three decades of invaluable experience in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry.



◀ **Steve Greenaway (73-78)** was delighted to welcome **Pete Collins (71-78)** to his home in Thailand whilst Pete was on holiday. Stephen recently took part in the Pong Yeang Trail, a gruelling 72.5km mountain trail event.

► **Matthew Orr (75-81)** caught up with **Caspar Winterfeldt (81-86)** at the Serpentine Summer Party, the gallery's annual fundraiser that Matthew and his wife, Sybil Robson-Orr, co-host.



◀ Sweden based conductor and violinist, **Andrew Manze (75-82)**, was the Guest of Honour at the Music Society Dinner in March. Our thanks to Andrew who also ran a conducting masterclass for some of the boys.

▼ Members of the 1982/3 1st VIII got together for a mini reunion in April at The Royal Ghurka restaurant in Bedford.



▲ L-R Phil Dunne (76-83), Simon Hemsley (79-84), Mark Davies (78-83), Nick Freeman (77-83) and David Jones (73-83).

▼ Members of the Class of '82 enjoyed an afternoon at Lords in August.



▲ L-R Chris Bell (73-82), Hugh Maltby (73-83), David Jarett (staff 76-97), Ed Allen (72-82), Simon Smith (77-82), Richard Lyster-Binns (77-81) and David Waterfield (75-82).

▼ **Richard Galley (72-82)** was invited to pipe in the haggis at the Bedford Rowing Club on Burns Night.





◀ MD of Montmartre Patisserie **Gary Ewing (78-83)**, and founder of Maths Circle Ltd, **Bruno Reddy (88-98)**, returned to School to adjudicate the House Entrepreneur Competition.

▶ Spotted hobnobbing with the Mayor! - **Hugh Maltby (73-83)** and Mayor **Tom Wootton (78-87)** at the Bedford Regatta.



◀ **Nick Hudleston (78-83)** caught up with **Guy Clayton (72-82)** when Guy was cruising the canals of Britain in the summer.

▶ **Mark Davies (78-83)**, who rows for the Sammamish Rowing Association in Washington State, USA, has been racking up an impressive array of medals at the US Rowing's Northwest Masters Regional Championships.



▼ Nine OBs and twelve past parents took part in the Extramile Cycling Challenge, raising money for their chosen charities. This year, the 3-day event took place in the Metz/Mulhouse region of France and involved climbing in excess of 13,000 feet each day, and visiting four countries (France, Switzerland, Germany, and Luxembourg).



▲ L-R Oliver Watts (84-93), Simon Lousada (70-81), Graham Brown (58-68), Richard Stidolph (76-86), Hugh Maltby (73-83), Russell Smith (87-93), Lawrence O'Leary (99-10)

▶ **William Rose (73-84)** renamed a boat after his father **John Rose (43-54)**. The Rowing Foundation had kindly given the Bedford Rowing Club a grant to have the boat completely refurbished, making it as good as new. John was a previous Captain and President of the Rowing Club, as was William's grandfather **Bill Robertson (1915-25)**. William's uncle, **Angus Robertson (43-55)**, the voice of Henley, passed away last year. William's wife, Jenny, is the mother of members of staff, Alice Swallow and the aunt of Will Montgomery. Her mother 'Mouse' was the second wife of **James Crowden (41-46)**, one of our most well-known oarsmen.



◀ **David Wilson (79-84)**, **Jason Reddy (79-84)** and **Andrew Keech (73-84)** felt the need for an early morning fry-up when David was visiting from his home in Singapore!

▶ **Dr Jason Reddy (79-84)** met with **Jason Wong MBE (84-89)**, England's Chief Dental Officer, at a conference at Cranfield University in April where lots of catching up was done!



◀ Following his change of career from entrepreneur to writer and cricket commentator, **Sanjay Murthy (79-84)** had fun commentating on the Rothsay County Championship match for the BBC in September. He is also writing his biography '30 Years of Failing Slowly'.

▶ **Iain Prentice (80-84)** completed the 'South Wales Wildhorse' ultra marathon, running 200 miles from Chepstow to the Gower, over the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons, finishing 27th out of 100 starters in 78 hours 22 minutes (including 3 hours of sleep out on the trails). This was his 23rd ultra run of 100 miles or more to date, including the Cape Wrath Ultra, the Spine Race and Dragons Back - all finished!





◀ Former England Rugby player **Martin Bayfield (80-85)** was spotted on *Celebrity Pointless* earlier in the year, partnering Matt Dawson.

Guy Lavender (81-85) has left the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), where he had served as CEO and Secretary since 2017, and has joined Cheltenham Racecourse as CEO, where he will be responsible for overseeing the Cheltenham Festival, Britain's premier jump racing event

For twenty-three years, **Ned Boulting (78-86)** has been the voice of the Tour de France. With broadcasting rights moving to TNT Sports in 2026, this year's Tour was the last one that Ned would commentate on alongside David Millar. This is not, however, the end of Ned's association with the race. He is currently working on plans through his "Never Strays Far" initiative, alongside fellow presenters David Millar, Pete Kenneough, and Lizzie Deignan, to return to France next year and set up a live watch-along and audio stream that keeps the race alive and is free to follow.

▶ Former Minister for Tech & Digital Economy, **Paul Scully (79-86)**, has been granted the Freedom of the City of London for 'significant contribution to London in public life'..



◀ **Andrew Murphy (75-86)** ran the London Marathon in April as well as joining the Bedford Belly Busters for a 160 mile cycle ride in aid of Motor Neuron Disease.

Media Entrepreneur **Richard Farmborough (82-87)** and Somersault Studio Towers made the BBC series 'Garth Malone's Easter Passion' which was shortlisted for the Radio Times' Award.

Andrew Fearon (83-88) from Titan Wealth returned to school to support Bedford School boys who are seeking to pursue careers in financial planning/ advice and wealth management.



◀ **David Pinkney (78-89)** donned his kilt to pipe in the Haggis at the Burns Supper in January.



▼ **Rob Smith (84-89)** took part in the Copenhagen half Marathon last year, together with past parents Francis Galbraith and Will Jenkin.

▶ **Colin Rowe (85-90)** had a starring role in the Hounslow Symphony Orchestra's Last Night of the Proms in July, playing Weber's Bassoon Concerto.



Freelance sports journalist, broadcaster, commentator and author **Simon Cambers (86-91)** was part of the ace radio commentary team at the Roland Garros French Open in June.



◀ **David Rowe (87-92)** was determined to combine his old sporting passion (rowing) with his current one (swimming) by taking part in the Selkie Swim - a 2.1km upstream swim along the Henley Royal Regatta course at sunrise (4.30am). He made the journey from Australia but sadly the event was cancelled. This did not deter David! He snuck onto the course and completed the swim in 53 minutes, having had the entire stretch of river to himself.

▶ OB Golf Society President **Jeremy Woodrow (83-93)** has been enjoying trying out the School's golf simulator.



▼ Humanitarian Affairs Officer at United Nations **Jake Morland (89-94)** has been providing emergency humanitarian assistance in Gaza. He gave his eyewitness account to the BBC of a harrowing trip with ambulances to transfer critically injured patients to safety when the convoy was hit by bullets.



◀ **Phil Wicksteed (84-94)** ran the Bristol 10km in May despite having had 8 hours of brain surgery, 12 rounds of chemo and 6 weeks of radiotherapy after being diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2023. He raised over £11k for the Brain Tumour charity.



◀ **Toby Bailey (85-95)** has now left Cricket Scotland to become the head coach of the Qatar National Cricket Team.

Richard Stout (88-95) has been mentoring and supporting Sixth Form competitive university applicants in the field of International Relations.

▶ DVP for Cape Town SA **Alex Gitlin (90-96)** and wife Leanne, joined **Prof Martin Snaith (53-63)** and his wife, Jane when they toured South Africa earlier on in the year.



◀ **Charlie Gray (88-96)**, (on right), completed the Zermatt Ultramarathon in July in an impressive 7hrs 44 mins with an elevation gain of 2000m. Pretty brutal, but the views made up for it!

▶ **Simon Lincoln (94-96)** was delighted to take the Bedford Prep touring team to play at Reddam House, Constantia in South Africa where the headmaster is **Alex Gitlin (90-96)**. He was joined by L-R **Jim Neale (92-97)**, **Simon Brading (92-97)**, **Alex, Simon and Ed Loader (97-06)**.



Mark Darbon (88-97) handed the Open Claret Jug to winner Scottie Scheffler at the 153rd Open at Royal Portrush in July, in his capacity as the relatively new CEO of the R&A.



◀ **Richard Staincliffe (91-98)**, ran the London Marathon in April raising funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

▼ **Bruno Reddy (88-98)** has been recognised for his contribution to maths education across the UK and internationally and was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Education by the University of Bedfordshire.



Professor Jason Lotay (87-98) has been mentoring and supporting Sixth Form competitive university applicants to study Mathematics.



◀ Chief Technology Officer, **Shah Irani (93-98)** felt privileged to be speaking at the AWS Summit (Amazon Web Services) in Hong Kong in May 2025 on some of the work his team has been working on at Fleet Management Ltd. Fleet is one of the world's largest ship management companies globally.

Chief Strategy Officer for Tÿ Nant Natural Mineral Water, **Gurinder Sidhu (91-98)**, joined the panel of the Alantra Fast 50 – Insights from the UK's Hottest F&B Brands at the Bread & Jam Festival, the UK's biggest event for Fast Moving Consumer Groups (FMGC) entrepreneurs.

David Skinner (88-98) appeared on TV in The Hotel Inspector for his new pub, the St Mary's Gate Inn in Arundel, which is celebrating its 500th birthday next year! David also owns The Lamb Inn in West Wittering and has great plans for his new venture.

▶ **Jon Lamb (90-00)** married Agnes Melgies at Clearwell Castle in the Forest of Dean in August, before jetting off to the Maldives for their honeymoon.



Football Social Media Strategist **Tasuku Okawa (95-01)** was interviewed for a piece by EFL who wanted to unpick some traits of the standout stars in Japanese football who have been making their mark across the Sky Bet Championship and Sky Bet League One.

Classical saxophonist, **Dominic Child (00-01)**, played the saxophone in the Royal Opera House's production of Turandot at Easter.



◀ **David Walker (92-01)** has been featuring on the US version of Antiques Roadshow. David, the founder of Walker Decorative Arts, is an appraiser, broker, buyer, and seller of antiques and fine art based in New York and Philadelphia.

He was previously a vice president at Sotheby's in New York, where he was head of 19th-Century Furniture and acted as a senior specialist in the Valuations department.

▶ **Hywel Mills (93-03)** is the publisher of The Signal, a US based nonpartisan current affairs brand that covers everything from economy, democracy, technology, culture, health and education and supports your capacity to think for yourself!





◀ Headmaster of Dumpton School, **Christian Seanger (92-03)**, gave a glowing report of his own school days at Bedford in an interview for Muddy Stilettos.

▶ Cllr **Stephen Elms (95-03)** attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. Stephen has helped over 100,000 students with their mental health while touring schools across the UK. He had also just completed the Sunderland City 10k.



◀ **Digby Rawlins (93-04)** is Expedition Planner & Project Manager for RVIVAL an adventure company that aims to provide authentic immersive experiences. Digby was also a runner up in the Active Traveller, Shutter Life winter Adventure Photo Competition for 2022.

Partner at Onside Law, **Ben Hanglin (98-05)**, was thrilled when his firm won the “Advisory Team of the Year” at the FEVO Sports Industry Awards 2025.

Social Impact FinTech Founder **Tom Bartrop (00-05)** was delighted that SuperFi was nominated for Innovation of the Year 2025 by the British Bank Awards run by Smart Money People. SuperFi helps people to stay on top of their bills and out of problem debt.

▶ Major **Duncan Couchman (94-05)** was awarded a CGS’ Commendation by Gen Sir Roly Walker at the annual Gunner 25 (The Army’s Fires and (I)STAR Conference) for his impressive work over the last year, working for the RA Personnel Team as the Royal Artillery goes through a period of significant positive change.



◀ England Squash Level 3 Performance Coach and Project/Service Delivery Manager for Aeromark, **Sam Morris (96-05)** joined the 100-Push-Ups a Day Challenge throughout January to

raise money for Cancer Research UK in memory of his father Aidan, who died of the disease in 2002.

Joel Webster (02-05), who has been performing on the P&O cruise ships to Norway, has been a member of the Riverside Players, an outdoors theatre company, since 2017. They performed Macbeth at Ardingly College in August where Joel played MacDuff.



◀ **Adam Park (97-05)** and his wife Jeanne took part in the Ultra X Nevada challenge, 220km across the Mojave Desert over 5 days and came 8th overall and 1st in their age category. Not for the faint-hearted!

Ali Watkiss’ (94-05) Company SunGod has partnered with Shades of Love, the world’s leading non-profit organisation for eyesight protection carrying out critical work in preventing eye disease in remote communities such as the Himalayas and Andes. Brother **Ed Watkiss (97-09)** is Head of Product.

▶ Congratulations to **Thomas Barber (98-06)** who has achieved his MBA from Clare College, Cambridge and is now embarking on a Master of Studies in Construction Engineering Analysis.



Ben Grounds (01-06) hosts, with others, That Evening Football Show, on freie-radios.online, a network of community radio stations in German-speaking countries, offering alternative programming to mainstream radio. The Show is a one-stop shop for all things football related, ranging from the latest breaking news to preview and review of the biggest games

Richard Martell (96-07) is the Co-Owner of Buckmore Park Kart Circuit, Kent where they held the first ever Paddock Car Club meeting before Easter, when over 250 car enthusiasts came together. From Minis to McLarens, and some of the finest 4-wheeled machinery in the South East.

▶ UK & Ireland Office Print Category Team Lead for Hewlett Packard, **Harry Page (03-08)** got engaged to Allie Glinert whilst on a hike to the Howth Cliffs, in Ireland.



◀ Dentist Dr **Kishan Patel (98-09)** got engaged to Senior Account Director in Healthcare Communications Jill Rush (DAHS 99-10) whilst on holiday in Mauritius. The couple plan to get married in 2026.

▶ Senior Anaesthetic trainee **Dr Henry Chow (03-09)** married Natalie Ming at Wollaton Hall in August. The couple met whilst at Nottingham University and flew back from Hong Kong for the ceremony at the place they had their first date.



Nathan Wyatt-Ingram (08-09) has graduated from Campbell University's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law.

Alex Kay (99-09) transferred from the PwC UK team to join PwC in Canada in April. Based in Ottawa, Alex is enjoying exploring and learning about Canada's rich and complex history.



◀ **Rob Fitzjohn (03-09)** came back to school in December to present a career talk on Entrepreneurship and Estate Agency. The boys found the session incredibly helpful and asked some well thought out questions.

▶ Personal trainer and bodybuilder **Stephen Digby-Cameron (00-10)** won Best in Class at the PCA Show in Newcastle. Not someone to mess with!



◀ International Property Broker **Andrew Ince (01-10)** married Robyn Bramall in July.

▼ Teacher at Tonbridge School, **Sam Farmer (07-10)**, married Debbie

Thackray in February 2025 at Limekiln, East Sussex. The couple met at Cambridge University in 2014. Debbie works for AG Communications, where she is the Impact Director.



▲ L-R Anthony Strain (05-10), Andrew Ince (01-10), Christopher Galvin (03-10), Sam Jackson (05-10), Sam, Chris Smart (05-10), Jamie Elliot (03-10), Will Briggs (02-09), Harry Peck (97-08), and Jonno Davies (01-10).



◀ Violinist **Cristian Grajner de Sá (02-11)** was invited to Radio 4 to discuss the difference between modern and old violins with regards to the sale of a Stradivari violin at auction at Sotheby's for £12-15 million. He was joined on the programme by Neil Kinnock and Beth Rigby.



◀ **Jack Goldberg (09-11)** has moved to Dubai and is Housemaster and Head of Cricket and Senior Rugby at Brighton College, Dubai. He has become engaged to Tash Coleman who is Marketing and Communications Executive at Harrow International School, Dubai. Jack has also joined the Dubai Hurricanes as a player and junior colts coach (U14-U16).

▶ Seismologist **Tom Winder (06-12)** was spotted reporting on Global News following the volcano eruption in Iceland, sending lava flowing toward the Blue Lagoon. - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1OSXrPgtbs>



▶ OB Club Chairman **Ollie English (07-12)** held a reunion in Munich in March for his IB cohort.



Berlin based esports coach **James MacCormack (07-12)** has left League of Legends team Mad Lions and is now Head Manager for Team Vitality's LEC team.



◀ **Nick Coward (01-12)** not only ran the London Marathon but a few weeks before he and his wife, Yvette, ran the one in Las Vegas too!

▶ Senior Planning Consultant with Newmark UK, **Max Cartwright (07-12)** got engaged to Alex Barrett in January whilst on holiday in Amsterdam.



▼ **Harry Sturley (10-12)** ran the London Marathon in April, raising money for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice in Northampton for their care of his father.



◀ **Toby Walker (08-13)** not only ran the London Marathon this year but he also did an Ultra Run in September, visiting all the premiership stadiums in London, starting at Crystal Palace and finishing at West Ham, a distance of 61km, raising money for CRY and Mind BLMK.



▲ Previous Director of the Old Bedfordians Club, **Brenda Roberts (06-13)** has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Bedfordshire. L-R Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Christopher Sharwood-Smith, Brenda and Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Susan Lousada.



◀ **Peter Strain (11-14)** ran the London Marathon in aid of the Helen & Douglas Children's Hospice, a charity that is close to the family's heart as they had looked after one of his brothers many years ago.

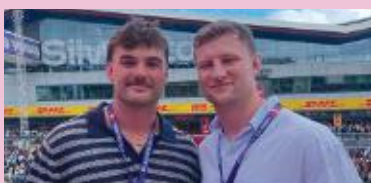
Filip Kozera (12-14) cofounded Wordware and has been hustling to make English a fully functional programming language for AI Agent Building. He has secured his seed funding to make his dream a reality. Wordware's mission is to democratize AI development and redefine how AI solutions are built.

► **Mik Glik (10-14)** has had a busy year. Not only has he launched his new company AmaranthLabs, delivering sustainable functional plant-based food ingredients for food manufacturers, but he completed the Barcelona Ironman.



◀ Account Executive for market research company Tracksuit, **Ed Parkin (12-14)**, married Helena Viner at Chateau La Durantie, Dordoyne, France.

► **Alex Ciuro (03-14)** married Gabrielle Gerrard in October 2024 at Masseria San Giovanni in Puglia, Italy. The couple met whilst at Leeds University. Brother **Jack Ciuro (06-17)** was best man.



◀ **George Furbank (13-15)** and **Fraser Dingwall (13-17)** took some time out from playing England Rugby to visit Silverstone!



▲ **Nick Stalley (05-16)** married Harriet Ensor at Clinch at Hinick House in October following a civil ceremony in Bedford in September.



◀ Congratulations to **Dr Bryan Ng (14-16)** who was awarded his DPhil from Oxford in Inorganic Chemistry. Bryan is the founder of Repolywise, a company that transforms unrecyclable waste plastic into new plastic.

▼ L-R **Oli Hind (06-17)**, **Max Humphreys (06-17)**, **Fraser, Olly Thrasher (08-17)**, **Will Barrett (07-17)**, **Ben Kight (12-17)**, and **Ed Johnson (06-17)** were cheering on **Fraser Dingwall (13-17)** at the 6-Nations Championships at the England v Italy match in March.



► England Rugby player **George Furbank (13-15)** has been spotted nipping around on his new ebike.



▼ **Jared Sheridan (07-16)** represented Ireland at the World Triathlon Championships (Olympic Distance) in October in Wollongong, Australia.



He and brother **Connor Sheridan (07-16)** have built Sheridan Performance, a coaching business dedicated to helping others challenge their limits by taking on big physical goals.

Logan Jones (06-17) and **Tom Liggins (12-17)** returned to school to lead drama society workshops. Logan has been appearing at the Greenwich Theatre in the Bulletpoints Festival with Ricochet Theatre.

Actor **Harun Ćehović (15-17)** ran a specialist workshop in February for our drama scholars providing boys with hands-on experience of physical theatre techniques.

England and Northampton Saints rugby player, **Fraser Dingwall (13-17)** returned in May for a Q & A session in the Great Hall to help raise funds for the rugby and hockey tours to South Africa.

Rich Man (11-17) was the guest of honour at Spring Boarding House dinner. Rich is a co-founder at AllMarkOne, a high-quality media production agency specialising in the sport of rowing as well as a Consultant Analyst with PA Consulting.



◀ **Conor Hilliard (11-18)** recently starred in 'And Then There Were None' by Agatha Christie at the ADC Theatre, Cambridge. Conor played Philip Lombard reportedly giving a standout performance, offering a masterclass in slow and measured character building.

▶ Assistant Youth Pastor at Soul Survivor, Watford, **Jonny Hosking (14-19)** got engaged to Sophie in May. Formerly an actor, Jonny is currently studying Seminary with Crosslands with the hope to convert to an MA in Christian Ministry.



Congratulations to **Trystan Coveney (17-19)** who achieved a First in Physics from Imperial and is now at Queens College Oxford studying for a DPhil in Particle Physics.

▼ Lighting Director **Olly Walker (10-19)** has been making a name for himself with some fantastic acts including the Chase and Status Arena Tour 2025.



L-R Ben, Elijah, Jonathan and Joe.

▲ Sandhurst saw 4 OBs at the Commissioning Parade in August. **Ben Sporton (13-20)** was passing out whilst **Elijah Cooke (14-19)** and **Joe Fordham (08-19)** were going into their final term and **Jonathan Blake (17-19)** into his intermediate term. Ben will be joining the Royal Anglian Regiment.

▶ Graduate engineer at Mammoet, **Austin Roberts (17-19)** has undertaken his first ever triathlon, the Ironman 70.3 Bolton in June, followed by the Great North Run, all in aid of Movember.



◀ Huge congratulations to **Will Watson (15-20)** who fought his way to gold in boxing, representing Bristol University at the National University BUCS Championships.

Emmanuel Adeyemi-Abere (13-20) returned to school in March to talk about his experiences in football journalism, including his work experience with The Guardian last summer.



◀ Congratulations to **Sam Garrett (13-21)** who has graduated from Newcastle University with a combined honours degree in Business and Geography.

▶ **Ethan Galbraith (17-22)** graduated from Newcastle University in May where he was a member of the Geography Society Football. He is also a Referee for the Football Association.





◀ **Nathanael Hylton (15-22)** is President of the Debating Society at Birmingham University whilst he is pursuing a Master's in creative writing, and spent his summer as part of a small contingent of students from different UK universities visiting and learning first-hand how politics shape lives, communities and policies in St Lucia.

▶ Senior Men's Captain for the Swansea University Rowing Club, **Oscar Whitcombe (13-22)**, was delighted when his crew were victorious in the Welsh Varsity Boat Race against Cardiff University.



▼ It was great to see so many OBs at Durham University getting together for a drink, organised by **James Cutler (13-22)**.



◀ **Will Maltby (11-22)** ran the London Landmarks half Marathon in April in aid of Movember.

▶ **Jonathan Huggins (11-22)** has been helping Bedford Cricket Club reach the top of Division One and win promotion to the Bedfordshire County Cricket League Premier Division.



In September **Daniel Hutchins (18-23)** (Royal College of Music), **Feyi Okusanya (17-22)** (Leeds University), and **James Watson (17-22)** (Newcastle University), returned to School and shared their experiences and insights into life as music students with the Adrian Boulton Society.

▼ **Jonny Cummins (18-23)** took part in a charity boxing match at the Wilder Fight Night in Durham to raise money for the OddBalls Foundation.



Louis Montgomery (15-24) gave a talk to the Architecture Society in January about his decision to study Architecture at Sheffield.

Louis Cooke (19-24) returned to school to share with the drama students about how drama has helped him with his role as an apprentice at Christie's.

Charlie Lawrence (15-24) spent his summer working as a counsellor and lifeguard for Camp America based at Camp Turk within the Adirondacks in New York State.

▶ **Aiden Ainsworth-Cave (15-24)** was awarded the Hudson Powell Sports Scholarship at the University of Bath for the 2024-2025 academic year.



▼ It was the end of a dynasty when the Robertson twins left in 2025. Five members of the family have been at the school since 2001!



L-R James (16-25) George (15-20); Harry (15-20); Will (01-10) and Michael (16-25)

OBs BACK TO SCHOOL

This year, we were delighted to once again open our doors to welcome OBs back for visits and tours of the school. It's always a privilege to help OBs relive cherished memories and reconnect with Bedford.

To ensure someone is available to greet you, please email us at obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk to arrange your visit.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK SOON!



Richard Shorrock (45-53)
Somerset

Budge Rogers (49-57) with
Sally Alden, daughter of Col
Stanley Harris (1906-1910)

Mark Easson (58-62) New
Zealand

Tony Dumpleton (53-62)
Sweden



Richard Hockley (65-69)
Buckinghamshire

Jonny Howard (57-65)
Suffolk

Martin Maltby (61-71)
Bedfordshire

David Percival (68-72)
Surrey

Matt (75-81) and Roddy Orr
(71-75) USA and Oxford

Peter Geier (74-75),
USA

Nigel Hardwick (80-85)
Australia

Mark Quartermaine (76-85)
Australia

Robin McCandless (83-92)
New Zealand

Richard Evenson (86-97)
Switzerland

Atsushi Yamada (94-99)
Japan

Phil Elam (89-99)
Nottingham

Will Skinner (91-02)
Switzerland

Kelvin Chan (02-04)
Vietnam

Muammar Gambo (96-05)
Nigeria/London

Ryan Chan (08-13)
Hong Kong

Alex Watson (10-19)
Bedfordshire

Joe Huang (20-22)
China

Jonny Cummings (18-23)
London

Robert Menhart (17-22)
Bedfordshire

IN MEMORIAM 2025

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Michael J Appleton | 1943-1951 | Chris N W Jones | 1948-1957 |
| John T Asher | 1946-1952 | Dr Barrie E Juniper | 1939-1949 |
| Simon A Barker | 1968-1979 | Chris J Lloyd | 1964-1969 |
| Dr R John Bennett | 1944-1950 | Robert J MacDowell | Staff 1988-2003 |
| Tom C Billing | 1954-1961 | Peter D R Maltby | 1939-1950 |
| Ashley H Boddy | 1941-1952 | Sean A McConville | 1983-1987 |
| Anthony (Tony) V Bradshaw | 1933-1940 | Andrew Mence | 1977-1982 |
| Terry R Brewer | 1950-1957 | Andrew B Miller | 1941-1950 |
| Peter R Brewin | 1951-1962 | Michael Minter | 1950-1955 |
| Denis A Briggs | 1939-1950 | Michael R Mooring | 1965-1969 |
| Andrew Brown | 1950-1958 | Peter T Muckle | 1977-1983 |
| Dr Patrick G T Bye | 1943-1946 | Robert N Orme | 1953-1963 |
| Lt Col Noel H Carding MBE | 1953-1961 | Tim V F Papé OBE DL | 1950-1957 |
| James E Carr | 1965-1976 | I John Pendrigh AM FAICD | 1940-1946 |
| Nick B Chapman | 1950-1957 | Paul B Pickering | 1948-1960 |
| Wg Cdr R Alan Collinge MBE | 1948-1952 | Professor Charles V Phythian-Adams | Staff 1961-1964 |
| Dr Alec Crowe | Staff 1973-2012 | Charles J Rice | 1966-1970 |
| Edward (Ted) F Davison | 1946-1950 | Malcolm J Ross-Macdonald | 1945-1950 |
| Professor Christopher S Day MBE | 1956-1960 | Dr Victor C Runeckles | 1941-1948 |
| William H Eaton | 1960-1970 | Richard D Salt | 1952-1960 |
| Gary K Evans | 1952-1962 | The Revd Christopher R Seaman | 1943-1953 |
| M Robin Fenton | 1955-1959 | Edward (Ted) T Shorrock | 1944-1950 |
| John Fleming | Staff 1983-2013 | Janice Skerman | Staff 1982-2021 |
| Andrew W C Fraser | 1960-1971 | J Jason Slee | 1972-1974 |
| H F Alan Gillespie | 1939-1943 | John A Staniforth | 1943-1950 |
| Debbie Gunn | Staff 1987-2017 | Richard W Struck | 1957-1964 |
| Anthony (Tony) G K Hart | 1954-1958 | F Stephen C Thomas | 1948-1952 |
| F Chris Hawkes | 1955-1959 | Robert W Tompkins | 1952-1959 |
| Richard N Holmes | 1958-1961 | Derek F Turner | 1947-1954 |
| Wg Cdr Robert (Bob) S Hutchinson | 1939-1948 | Col T A (Tony) Winton OBE | 1948-1958 |
| Leo W Iles | 1945-1955 | His Hon Christopher G Young | 1946-1950 |
| John G Inskip | 1944-1954 | Dr David A Young | 1942-1952 |
| Peter W Jennings | 1977-1982 | | |

A HISTORIC EVENING AWAITS: JOIN US AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 2026

Bedford School boasts a long list of illustrious Old Boys who have walked the halls of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Perhaps one of the most influential was Sir Thomas Erskine May (1826-1831), who served as Clerk to the House of Commons in the mid 19th century. Sir Thomas became the first Clerk to formally record the various procedures of the House in his seminal work *Parliamentary Practice*. It remains the privilege of every subsequent Clerk to update the book, which has been translated into some 18 languages. Known simply as *Erskine May*, the book stands as a reminder of the importance of procedures, rules, and

regulations in the functioning of a democracy.

Fast forward to 2025: upholding the tradition of involvement in the legislature, we have Lord Naseby (50 - 55) and Lord Taylor (57 - 61) in the Lords, and Sir Desmond Swayne (70 - 75) and Neil Coyle (92 - 97) in the House of Commons.

In 2026, the Club will hold its Annual Dinner on **Thursday, 12 November**, in the House of Commons, the last time being back in 2005. The venue is impressive and memorable, but as with all such reunions, the most important elements are the camaraderie and conversation. We do hope that you can join us for what will be a very special evening. ■

THE BISHOP MEMORIAL FUND – HELPING OBS

The Bishop Memorial Fund, founded in 1970 through the legacy of Lt Commander Richard John Daynes Bishop (OB 1898–1901), who attended the school from 1898 to 1901, went on to have a successful career in the Royal Navy.

The fund, managed by a set of Trustees as a separate charity, offers assistance to OBs in cases of economic distress, reflecting the Club's commitment to supporting OBs who find themselves in difficulty. Since 2020, the Trustees

have helped more than twenty OBs in need of support.

Applying to the fund is straightforward, and the Trustees aim to process requests as quickly as possible - normally within 48 hours of receiving the necessary information. ■

For more information, visit the Club's website using the following QR code.



LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT VENUE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?



Bedford School offers a range of stunning spaces for hire, ideal for gatherings from 10 to 800 guests.

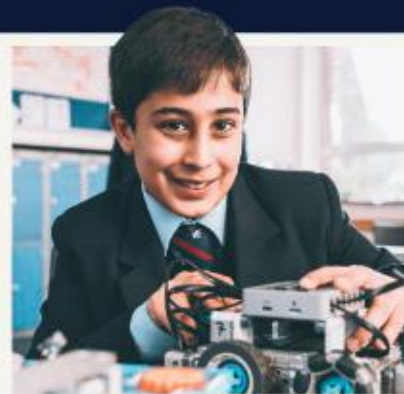
To find out more or make a booking, simply scan the QR code.

*Come and explore an
award-winning
education for your son*



Bedford Prep in Action

Prep School
Friday 6 March 2026



Bedford School in Action

Upper School and Sixth Form
Friday 20 March 2026

Open Morning

Whole School
Saturday 9 May 2026



That they be *good* men.

Book your place



OB EVENTS 2026

Our calendar of events for 2026 is open to all OBs and their families.
You can find out more information about the events and book online on the OB Club Website.
More events will be added throughout the year.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT AN EVENT SOON!

- **January 24th** – Bedford Blues vs Coventry
– Exclusive OB Club Hospitality
- **February 5th** – Private Viewing of the Noel Carrington Exhibition, The Higgins, Bedford.
- **February 26th** – Joint OB Club and BGS Alumnae London Drinks
- **March 3rd – 5th** – Careers Convention
- **March 19th** – London DVP event
- **March 21st and 22nd** – OB Sports Weekend
- **April 13th – 17th** – Trip to Gallipoli
- **April 30th** – BSA Connection event
- **May 9th** – Bedford Regatta and BBQ
- **June 20th** – Prep School Fun Day
- **June 18th** – St Albans Summer Drinks
- **June 23rd** – OB vs school tennis
- **June 30th** Henley Royal Regatta Pimms reception
- **July 3rd** – Cricket Lunch
- **July 4th** – At Home with reunions for 2016, 2006, 1996, 1986, 1976, 1966 and 1956 leavers
- **September 18th** – Harvest Festival supper
- **October 4th** – Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors
- **November 8th** – Remembrance Chapel Service
- **November 12th** – OB Club Annual Dinner at the House of Commons, London