

OB REVIEW

2024



PARC DES
CHAMPIONS

PARIS 2024



OLD BEDFORDIANS CLUB

© 2024



FULL TEAM AHEAD

The Club has once again enjoyed a vibrant year, both here in Bedford and across the world, with a varied programme of activities. We aim to cater to everyone—whether through gathering with contemporaries, business networking, historical tours, learning experiences, and much more.

At the Club's AGM in July, we saw a change in leadership as the chairmanship transitioned from **Craig Mitchell (64–74)** to **Oliver English (07–12)**. Craig's enthusiasm and guidance during his six-year tenure have been invaluable, especially as we navigated the challenges of the pandemic. The Club survey, initiated by him in 2018, led to several key initiatives, including the introduction of Eagle Connect, which now boasts over 2,300 members. It continues to thrive and has helped several OBs find new job opportunities. If you haven't joined yet, details on how to do so can be found later in the review.

As part of our "Connecting Beyond Bedford" initiative, we've once again focused on helping our younger OBs, particularly as they take their first steps on the career ladder. I hope this initiative will continue to grow and lead to many future success stories.

One of the highlights for me this year was our battlefield tour to Normandy. We followed in the footsteps of OBs, learning about the many ways they were involved in the landings. Craig's piece later in this review highlights how OBs played a crucial role in the Mulberry Harbours, which made the invasion possible.

The Paris Olympics saw **Ethan Vernon (07–18)** win a silver medal in the velodrome, adding to the twelve Olympic medals that members of the Club have already won. Our cover photo features Ethan displaying his silver medal at the "Champions Park" in front of the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris.

We were delighted to welcome Broné Kenningham as our new Communications Manager earlier in the 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 would like to thank everyone involved in the OB community for their support over the past year. I look forward to the future with optimism as our Club enters its 136th year! ■

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

OB CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Richard Northern

I really enjoyed meeting so many OBs and their families at events in Bedford, London and elsewhere in the UK this year. These events demonstrated to me how much you value the Club not just for professional networking and career support but also as a chance to meet up with friends. The number and range of events we have held has been extraordinary. For that, we are grateful for the enthusiasm

and hard work of Hugh Maltby and his team in the School/OB Club office and of our network of DVPs. I look forward to meeting even more OBs and DVPs on my travels in 2025.

The relationship between the School and the OB Club remains close and strong, which is not always the case at other independent schools. The School provides invaluable support to the Club, and we have regular access to the Headmaster and his management team. In return, the OB community has given generous support to the School and its development over recent years. I was reminded of this at the recent Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors, when a recipient of a bursary funded by benefactors gave an eloquent and moving account of how life-changing the opportunity to study at Bedford had proved for him and his family. This generous support will become even more important, as the School confronts the challenges of the next few years, including implementing ambitious and exciting development plans at home and overseas in a challenging economic climate.

Of course, not all OBs have fond memories of their time in Bedford. After an OB wrote to me about his experiences as a boarder at the school in the 1950s, I invited him and his brother to our annual 'At Home' lunch in July. After touring the school, they told me that they found the place had transformed. They were astonished by the quality of the facilities and of the pastoral care provided today. They also commented on the opportunities and encouragement the school gives to boys to develop their talents and potential in all areas – not just on the sports field, as they remembered. If you have not visited the school for many years, why not sign up for the OB Club At Home lunch and school tours next July?

I was glad to have the opportunity at our AGM and At Home in July to pay tribute to **Craig Mitchell (64-74)**. Craig stood down after completing six years as Chairman of the OB Club. Aply supported by his wife Krystyna, Craig has been tireless in his support of the OB Club and has made a tremendous contribution to its governance. So, we are pleased that he will continue to serve as a member of the Governing Council. Meanwhile, we welcome **Oliver English (07-12)**, who has taken over from Craig as Chairman of the

Club. Ollie also brings energy and strategic vision to the role. This fills me with excitement and optimism about the possibilities for the OB Club, the Bedford School community and the alumni network in the coming years.

Richard Northern (63-72)
President, Old Bedfordians Club

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Ollie English

The Old Bedfordian Club has enjoyed another remarkable year, with achievements worldwide highlighting our international reach and the diverse pursuits of OBs. The strength of our Club lies in its wide-ranging interests and active, supportive network, making us one of the country's most successful alumni organisations. I hope we can continue building on this success in the years ahead.

Social events thrived, with over 200 attendees at the Henley Royal Regatta drinks reception and a gala dinner in the Memorial Hall marking the 60th reunion of the 'Great Eight' crew, joined by guest **Jim Davidson (staff 1954-1987)**. London networking is strong, with a recent event hosted by **Mark Rogers (88-99)** at Vitesse, while the OB Curry Night, hosted by DVP for Bedfordshire **Dr Jason Reddy (79-84)**, was a great success with OBs of all ages attending the event at the Royal Gurkha in Bedford.

OBs were recognised for public service, with **Lt-Col James Allen (87-97)** and **Bruno Reddy (88-98)** awarded an MBE and OBE respectively in the King's Birthday Honours. **Matthew Orr (75-81)** hosted OBs at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office for the Robson Orr TenTen Award ceremony, and he and his wife Sybil will judge entries for next year's Detweiller Art Competition.

In entertainment, OBs shone: **Joel Beckett (80-91)** appeared on EastEnders, **Jonno Davies (01-10)** premiered in Better Man as young Robbie Williams, and **Al Murray (77-86)** will once again star in his Pub Landlord act coming to the Bedford Corn Exchange in March.

A key priority going forward is supporting younger OBs, who represent the Club's future. Our efforts will focus on enhancing communication, engaging pupils and young OBs, and strengthening the Eagle Supporters programme.

Our strategic vision centres on connecting, engaging, and supporting OBs as they transition from school to further education, to work, and beyond. A key initiative is the introduction of University Vice Presidents (UVPs), who will act as links between the Club and OBs at their universities. UVPs will lead communication, organise annual networking events, and support new OBs as they settle into university life, fostering a sense of community. This initiative will be supported by Eagle Connect, our online social and business networking hub.

This is just a snapshot of the talent and determination that OBs bring to their fields. We encourage all OBs to stay in touch, participate in our events, and continue inspiring future generations.

Ollie English (07-12)
Chairman, Old Bedfordians Club

CONNECTING BEYOND BEDFORD

We are excited to announce new developments in our Connecting Beyond Bedford initiative, built around the mission to: Connect, Engage and Support our OB community.



EAGLE CONNECT –

With a fresh look and new features, Eagle Connect serves nearly 2,300 members as a platform for OBs to stay connected, network, and keep up with news from Bedford School. If you're not already a member, it's easy to join—simply scan the QR code to sign up today.



UNIVERSITY VICE PRESIDENTS (UVPS) –

We're excited to introduce UVPs, who will operate as dedicated contacts between the Club and OBs at their universities. UVPs will lead communications, organise social events, and support new OBs as they transition to university life. If you're in your second or third year and would like to become a UVP, please contact us at obclub.org.uk



OB PATHWAY TO SUCCESS WORKSHOP SERIES –

To support OBs entering the job market, we're introducing a new series focussed on practical career advice and growth resources. If you'd like to be a guest speaker or share insights from your own career journey, please get in touch—we'd love to hear from you!



WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO JOINED US FOR THIS YEAR'S NETWORKING AND SOCIAL EVENTS.

These events were originally created to offer Old Bedfordians of all ages a relaxed, inviting space to connect and expand their networks. It's always inspiring to see the strength of the OB community across generations and to witness the shared experiences and camaraderie that bridge diverse career paths.

We're always in search of venues with OB connections. If you have any recommendations or can offer a space, please contact the OB office - obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk

THIS YEAR'S EVENTS

4TH JANUARY - MASTERING SELF-EXPRESSION: THE ART OF LEAVING A LASTING IMPRESSION WORKSHOP

OBs joined fellow Old Bedfordian **Jonathan Hooley (89-96)** for a career-building workshop. Drawing on his varied experiences, Jonathan helps others to redefine their presence, confidence, and purpose. Supported by a playbook he developed, the workshop guided OBs in capturing key concepts as they explored the core qualities employers seek. Jonathan demonstrated how to weave values, motivations, and mindset into a compelling personal narrative for interviews. A special thank you to Jonathan for sharing his valuable knowledge and insight.



7TH MARCH – 9TH MARCH - CAREERS CONVENTION

This year's OB Careers Convention, held during National Careers Week, was once again a resounding success. More than 500 students from across the borough joined online to hear insights from a panel of 60 experts from the school community. Now in its seventeenth year and held online, the event took place over three evenings and featured twelve sessions covering a diverse range of fields. A huge thank you to all our fantastic representatives—who generously shared their time and expertise. If you would like to participate in our next Careers Convention, please get in touch at obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk. Your insights could inspire young people into exploring your profession.



16TH MAY - OB LONDON NETWORKING - VITESSE

OBs from various industrial sectors, were welcomed by host, **Mark Rogers (88-99)** at his offices, Vitesse PSP Limited for the first OB networking event of the year. Mark shared his experiences of receiving guidance from senior members of the Club when he was starting out, highlighting the importance of these events for mentorship and career support. It was a vibrant evening filled with new connections and reunions of old friends. Thank you for having us, Mark!



5TH OCTOBER - OB LONDON NETWORKING - R3LOCATION

Many thanks to everyone who attended our most recent OB Networking event at R3Location in Belgravia, hosted by former OB Club staff member **Clara Policella (16-23)**, now Head of Business Development at R3Location. The evening's atmosphere was lively, with conversations flowing easily between drinks and nibbles. Many attendees took advantage of the relaxed setting to exchange ideas and build relationships, underscoring the benefits of networking in a friendly and supportive environment. A heartfelt thanks to Clara for hosting us and for a wonderful evening.

Reflecting on the evening, Clara shared: "Bedford School holds a special place in my heart—my son is also an Old Bedfordian! It's wonderful to see such a thriving, supportive community."



OB EVENTS

OB CLUB ANNUAL DINNER 2023

Old Bedfordians and their guests gathered in the Great Hall for the OB Club Annual Dinner on Saturday, 18th November, celebrating their enduring bond with the school over a lively evening of drinks, a three-course meal, and engaging speeches. Club President **Richard Northern (63–72)** opened the event and welcomed guest speaker **Ali Malek KC (68–74)**, one of the UK’s leading commercial KCs. Ali, a keen supporter of the school and a member of the governing body for the past decade, spoke passionately about the importance of community support for the school while also sharing amusing anecdotes from his time as a student. The speeches gave way to the happy sounds of guests reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. The festivities carried on late into the night, with many attendees even continuing the celebration in town!



FOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES, SO WE COULD LIVE OURS

On Remembrance Sunday, we paid tribute to the sacrifices made by many OBs during our annual service in the chapel. The Head Master carried on the tradition of reading out some of the names of those OBs who had paid the ultimate sacrifice. He was now reading those from WW2, having completed the nearly 500 names from WW1 over the past 12 years.

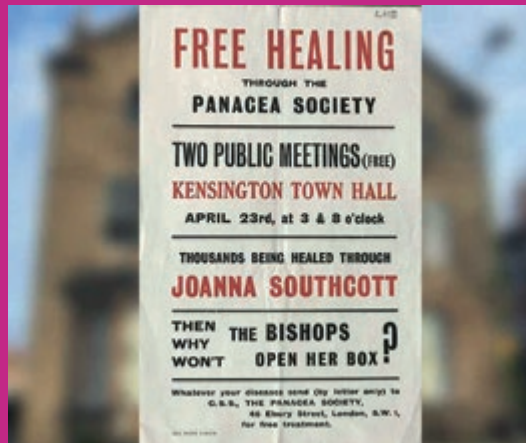
Major Tony Kironde-Strain (05–10) of the Royal Welsh laid the wreaths on behalf of the Old Bedfordians Club in memory of the Old Bedfordians who had lost their lives in armed conflict.



Thank you to Major Tony Kironde-Strain for laying a wreath on behalf of the Old Bedfordians Club

THE SECRETIVE WORLD OF THE PANACEA SOCIETY

Members of the OB Club visited the Panacea Society Museum in Castleside, a Victorian house that served as the community’s headquarters and part of a larger campus, which included a boarding house owned by Bedford School.



Ivan Barltrop, son of the well-known Panacea Society founder, Mabel Barltrop, attended Bedford School from 1906-1911. The museum details the Society’s 90-year history of living, working, and worshipping together. Although secretive, the Society gained national attention through its campaign to open “Joanna Southcott’s Box,” a cultural icon of interwar Britain. The Society ceased to exist with the death of its last member, Ruth Klein, in 2012. However, a charity continues to research prophetic movements and support poverty and health initiatives in Bedford.

THE RETURN OF BEDFORD SCHOOL’S HARVEST SUPPER

We were delighted to welcome current and former parents, along with OBs, to the return of Bedford School’s Harvest Supper—an evening dedicated to bringing together friends of the school involved in farming, food production, and land management. The event centred around two key themes: community and friendship, providing an opportunity for those in rural industries with ties to our school to connect over fine food and engaging conversation.



OBs AT HOME 2024

Despite the rain, spirits remained high as OBs and their guests gathered on Saturday, 6th July, for the Club's annual "At Home" event. The day began with various year group reunions, including those who left in years ending in a '4'. This was followed by tours of the school, the AGM, a drinks reception, and finally a delicious three-course meal in the marquee, with grace led by former Captain of Boats, **John Beresford (59-64)**.

It was wonderful to welcome back OBs from across the decades.



L-R Ben Bardner (79-88), Bob Smith (76-85), Ed Moore (81-86), Jeremy Woods (76-86), Andrew Murphy (75-86), Hugh Maltby (73-83) and Richard Mitchell (77-87)

'RIGHTING A WRONG'

A chance conversation at the Club's "At Home" between **Bob Smith (76-85)** and **Hugh Maltby (73-83)** led Bob to point out that his name didn't appear on the 1st XV board, despite having played the whole season for the team. Unbeknownst to Bob, Hugh organised to have the board updated and invited several of his contemporaries to an impromptu unveiling, along with a few glasses of bubbly. Following the unveiling, the group adjourned to a local curry house and continued to put the "world to rights" long into the night.

THE GREAT EIGHT REUNION

Seven members of the victorious 1964 Bedford Regatta 1st VIII crew gathered at the school for their 60-year reunion, having previously celebrated their 50th in 2014. Flying in from Australia, South Africa, the U.S, and closer locales, the crew quickly began swapping stories about their glory days. Four members, accompanied by **Hugh Maltby (73-83)**, braved the river to paddle the town course, letting out an "ERP" as they passed under the Town Bridge. After much debate, it was agreed that "ERP" stood for "Extra Rowing Power", a phrase often shouted when crews entered the Town Bridge, helping them emerge ahead of their competition. Except for **Mike Goodfellow (61-65)**, most crew members hadn't rowed in years, but they quickly picked up where they left off—with no one ending up in the water!

That evening, the crew and their partners gathered for dinner in the Memorial Hall. They were joined by the OB Club President, **Richard Northern (63-72)**, the Head Master, and special guest, former staff member, **Jim Davidson**.

Jim gave a heartfelt speech reflecting on his old friend and the crew's coach, **Neville Andrews**, who sadly passed away last year. Neville was instrumental in the crew's success, and the group enjoyed reading his personal diary, which chronicled their training leading up to Henley. Unlike today's 1st VIII, the crew had no telemetry, relying purely on the feel of the boat and their determination to pull hard!

At the end of the dinner, each crew member reflected on their fond memories of rowing together, toasting absent members **John Osborne (60-65)** and **Peter Harpham (60-64)**.

We look forward to welcoming all the crew members back for their 70th anniversary in 2034.



L-R Mike Goodfellow (61-65), Richard Harrison (59-64), David Warbrick-Smith (59-65), Andrew Peake (55-65) Mike Harper (60-65), John Beresford (59-64), Tony Joseph (60-64)

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS (DVPS) - CONNECTING THE OB COMMUNITY

A meeting of the Old Bedfordians Committee chaired by Sir Maurice Craig in 1926 reviewed and approved the suggested duties of District Vice Presidents (DVPs), which were:

- To act as the Club's representative in their chosen location.
- To organise regular social gatherings for OBs and their spouses.
- To provide news of OBs back to the old school.

DVPs (District Vice Presidents) are a dedicated network of volunteers across the UK and internationally who connect and support Old Bedfordians (OBs) and their families. Serving as key contacts in their regions, DVPs help maintain the strength of the OB Club community, creating a welcoming network for OBs, whether they are new to the area or just visiting. Their work ensures that OBs stay connected to the school and to each other, fostering a sense of belonging and engagement, no matter where life takes them.



WELCOME RICHARD STOUT

We are delighted to welcome Richard Stout (88-95) to our team of global DVPs. Based in Johannesburg, Richard will be joining Alex Gitlin (90-96) and John Wall (51-57), who are both in Cape Town. You can contact Richard at rich.stout@gmail.com.



DVP OPPORTUNITIES OPEN IN:

- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Channel Islands
- Durham
- Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire
- Staffordshire and West Midlands
- And More - see the full list on the OB website

**IF YOU ENJOY MEETING
NEW PEOPLE, BUILDING NETWORKS,
AND WANT TO HELP FOSTER
THE OB SPIRIT IN YOUR AREA,
PLEASE EMAIL US AT:
OBCLUB@BEDFORDSCHOOL.ORG.UK
TO LEARN MORE AND JOIN
OUR DVP NETWORK.**

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR RECENT DVP EVENTS!

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS
TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED OUR RECENT DVP EVENTS:

DVP Drinks –
New York

12TH OCTOBER 2023

DVP Eastern
Counties
Christmas Lunch

14TH DECEMBER 2023

OB Drinks
Reception in
Hong Kong

21ST MARCH 2024

OB Sports
Weekend DVP
Curry Night

22ND MARCH 2024

OB Drinks
Reception
in Singapore

26TH MARCH 2024

OB Drinks Reception in
Singapore with Marketing
Director, Joanna Dickson.

1ST NOVEMBER 2024

BROADENING THE HORIZON: THE BEDFORD SCHOOL BURSARIES PROGRAMME



Vincent Gaten

Last year, we shared exciting updates about our Estate Master Plan – a comprehensive vision to modernise and enhance Bedford School’s campus. Among these ambitious plans was a state-of-the-art academic building that was set to be the pinnacle of the next evolution of our campus. However, while this vision remains central to our long-term goals, a new financial reality has emerged that

requires our immediate attention.

The recent government decision to apply VAT to Independent School fees, beginning in January 2025, presents a significant challenge. Especially so for those families who already make considerable sacrifices to provide their children with an independent education. For some, this increase may not cause disruption, but for others, it could present a very real barrier to accessing schools like Bedford. This change, coming with little notice, is likely to affect current students and may also impact families considering Bedford School in the future, questioning whether such an education is financially viable.

This increased cost will also likely further exacerbate the socio-economic divide that already exists between those who believe in the power of Independent Schools, and those who simply don’t think it is a system they can ever access. We don’t believe this is fair, and so we have taken the decision to pause work on the focal point of our Masterplan, while we make every effort to open our doors to as many young men, from diverse backgrounds, as possible.

THE JAMES SURTEES PHILLPOTT’S BURSARIES PROGRAMME

The James Surtees Phillpott’s Bursaries Programme is designed specifically to provide significant financial assistance to families who would otherwise never consider Bedford. It is entirely funded by philanthropists rather than fee income, and it exists solely to bring new opportunities to students with the potential to thrive here but without the financial means to make it possible. For these students, a bursary makes an otherwise unimaginable education accessible, opening up a world of academic, artistic, sporting, and personal development opportunities.

In light of the new financial pressure, expanding our philanthropically funded

Bursaries Programme has become an immediate priority. The Phillpott’s Bursaries Programme will enable more young people from lower-income families to study here, ensuring that financial barriers don’t prevent deserving students from accessing a world-class education.

While our vision for the Estate Masterplan remains steadfast, the expansion of our Bursaries Programme speaks to our commitment to making Bedford School as accessible and diverse as it has always been. By focusing on this financial provision, we can ensure our community remains inclusive, with students from all backgrounds benefitting from the values a Bedford education provides.

For those interested in the impact of the Phillpott’s Bursaries fund, I am happy to provide more information on how your support could help make a difference in transforming young lives - vgaten@bedfordschool.org.uk.

As we face these financial challenges together, Bedford School remains dedicated to offering an outstanding education to future generations. Through the Bursaries Programme, we can ensure that more students have the opportunity to realise their potential and thrive within our vibrant and supportive community. ■



Parampreet Thiara (11-18)

I am greatly appreciative of the opportunity I was given to attend and study at Bedford School. As such, the opportunities I have since had would have been far less likely and so therefore, the

Bursary I received has had quite a significant impact on my life and career so far.



Alexander Papp (12-17)

I would never have been able to attend Bedford School without the bursary, and so I have to say it did change my life. Bedford School gave me opportunities and it gave me imagination.



Josh Jackson (06-13)

Moving to Bedford School put me amongst people who were all focused on getting into university, getting a good job etc. Now, at 29 years old, I am financially secure, work in a job that I love as a

Product Manager and have a great set of friends. Life could have been very different.



Kraig Green (12-17)

Bedford School instils a sense of ambition, and I think that remains long after. It’s given me the confidence to take any opportunity I can, and to make the most of it.

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR
IMPACT



BEDFORD SCHOOL – A GLOBAL VISION



Iwan Lloyd

I am delighted to introduce myself as Iwan Lloyd, the newly appointed International Development Director at Bedford School. This is an incredibly exciting time for our community as we seek to extend Bedford's educational excellence by establishing new international campuses, sharing our rich heritage and values with students around the world.

The demand for British curriculum schools continues

to grow globally. Families are increasingly seeking the academic rigour, tradition, and holistic education that British schools are renowned for, and Bedford School is uniquely positioned to meet this demand.

However, our ambition extends far beyond merely opening new schools; we aim to create a global family of Bedfordian institutions that will carry forward the ethos, values, and educational standards that have defined Bedford for generations.

Our vision is clear: to ensure that every Bedford School, wherever it may be located, reflects our unwavering commitment to academic excellence, character development, and a strong sense of community. These core principles have shaped countless Bedfordians over the years and will continue to do so as we expand our presence internationally.

While each new school will be adapted to its local context, the spirit of Bedford – which fosters curiosity, resilience, and global awareness – will remain central to every campus. This global initiative is not simply about growth; it is about sharing what makes a Bedford education so distinctive. Our international schools will become integral parts of the broader Bedfordian family, linked by shared values, a unified purpose, and the same dedication to nurturing well-rounded, thoughtful individuals.

As we embark on this journey, I would be delighted to hear from our Old Bedfordians and welcome your involvement. Whether you are interested in learning more about our international development plans or supporting these endeavours, I encourage you to reach out to me directly at illoyd@bedfordschool.org.uk.

Together, we can build a global community of Bedfordians, connected by our traditions and united by a shared vision for the future. ■



BEDFORD, THEN AND NOW

At Bedford School, we take great pride in our illustrious history, having been dedicated to education since 1552. Our long-standing traditions continue to shape and inspire the way we work today. A cornerstone of preserving and celebrating Bedford School's heritage is the Old Bedfordians Club, established in 1891. This vibrant

global community fosters lifelong connections among Old Bedfordians and the school, nurturing enduring friendships and a profound sense of belonging. Together, this continuity and community enrich our legacy and strengthen the future of Bedford School, ensuring that the values and spirit that define us are carried forward for generations to come.



THE ARCHIVES

The School Archives, an important part of our history, have recently relocated to the Galbraith Building, alongside St Cuthbert's Day House. The archives feature four dedicated storage areas and an office on the ground floor, where members of the school community and visitors are welcome to access the archives for research or personal interest.

KEY DIGITAL RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- **Archive Virtual**, a fully searchable online catalogue that details all materials stored in the archives, such as memorabilia, correspondence, books, magazines, registers, and photographs.
- **Bedford School Heritage**: A digital collection dating back to the 1850s, which includes magazines, registers, photographs, books, newsletters, and more. Access is free, and no password is required.
- **Planet eStream**: A video archive featuring school history, events, Old Bedfordians, staff, and performances in drama and music.

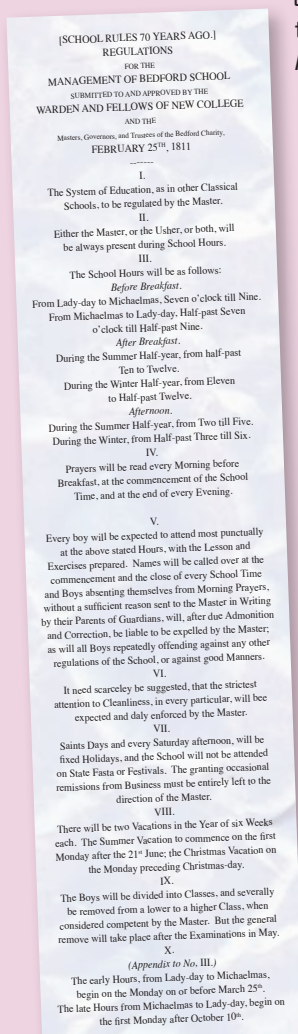
For more information, visit our online archives at <https://heritage.bedfordschool.org.uk/>

SCHOOL RULES

The evolution of Bedford School's rules provides a fascinating glimpse into the values and discipline that have shaped the institution over the centuries. It was back in 1811, under the rigorous oversight of the *Warden and Fellows of New College* and the *Masters, Governors, and Trustees of the Bedford Charity*, that the first formal *Regulations for the Management of Bedford School* were approved. Their aim was to create not just scholars but gentlemen, with rules covering everything from early-morning prayers to strict standards of cleanliness. Punctuality was non-negotiable, and lessons were to be prepared with military precision—though, as we'll see, perhaps without actual military gear!

A notable rule from 1811 prohibited “stone throwing, catapults, spring guns, air guns, pea shooters, firearms, playing with gunpowder, and the like.” Apparently, young Bedfordians had such a penchant for projectile-related mayhem that it warranted a full ban. After all, one can only imagine the chaos of a recess where powder kegs might outnumber packed lunches!

As the years rolled on, the school evolved, and so did its rules, adapting to meet the changing times while honouring its rich history. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, new rules highlighted the importance of character development alongside academic achievement. Today, the school has embraced modern values whilst preserving a sense of tradition.



OB TIES

The story behind the two distinct designs of the OB tie often sparks curiosity, and the answer lies in a letter from 1946 by **Gen. Sir Sidney Kirkman (1910-1914)**, the then President of the Club. A view at the AGM of that year was that Club ties with stripes were generally going out of fashion and that a new or possible alternative design, along the lines of the OB golfing tie, of small white eagles on a blue background, should be adopted. Opinions clashed, with some disputing it would be too conspicuous, whilst others argued it would not be conspicuous enough but, in the end, the striped tie was retained.

Sir Sidney reminded those present that the design had been changed after the First World War, the tie prior to 1914 being a knitted type, of uniform width with horizontal blue and white stripes.

Seeds of doubt must have been sown, for at some stage in 1948 the golfing tie was adopted and in its place their tie now has a green background. Both styles—the traditional stripes and the eagle-dotted design—endure today as symbols of OB pride.



Both ties are available, along with other distinctive OB regalia, at the School shop, NoLimitz <https://www.nolimitz.co.uk/>



OB OLYMPIC LEGENDS

In a remarkable journey from childhood BMX racer to world-class cyclist, **Ethan Vernon (07-18)** secured his inaugural Olympic medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics. As a member of Team GB, Ethan clinched silver in a nail-biting Men's Team Pursuit final on the 7th August. En route to the final, the team broke the national record by a staggering three seconds before going head-to-head with Australia—the favourites to win—in a gripping showdown for gold. Ethan led his team in an intense race that tested their endurance to the fullest.

His Olympic achievement not only cements his legacy but also marks a historic moment for Great Britain, as it represents the nation's 1000th medal across both Summer and Winter Games in modern times. Ethan's success is a testament to his unwavering dedication and tireless hard work. He stands as an inspirational figure not only for young athletes at Bedford

School but also for aspiring sportsmen across the nation. His accomplishments serve as a powerful reminder of the legacy left by the many Olympic heroes who paved the way before him, reinforcing the value of perseverance and the pursuit of excellence in sport at Bedford School.

Remarkably, two other Old Bedfordians triumphed at the Olympics exactly a century earlier in Paris. Track and field athlete **Harold Abrahams (1908-13)** won the blue riband event of the 1924 Paris Olympics—the 100-metre sprint—in a time of 10.6 seconds, a feat depicted in the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*. Harold also secured a second Olympic medal at those games, a silver as the opening runner for the 4 x 100m relay team.

Meanwhile, across town on the River Seine, **Jack Beresford (1913-17)** won his first Olympic gold medal in the single scull, which led him to become the most decorated



Ethan Vernon



Jack Beresford



▲ Ethan Vernon with Team GB - Men's Team Pursuit



Harold Abrahams

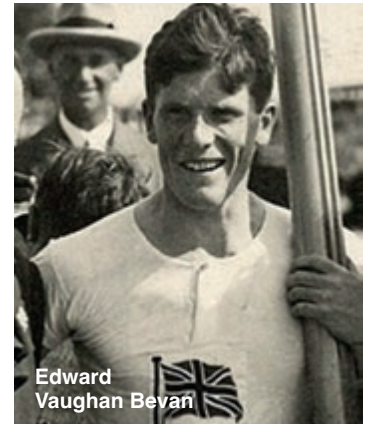
Olympian, competing in five Olympic Games and winning medals in all of them—a record only surpassed by Sir Steve Redgrave some 92 years later.

Ethan's silver contributes to Bedford School's total count of thirteen Olympic medals and places him among our



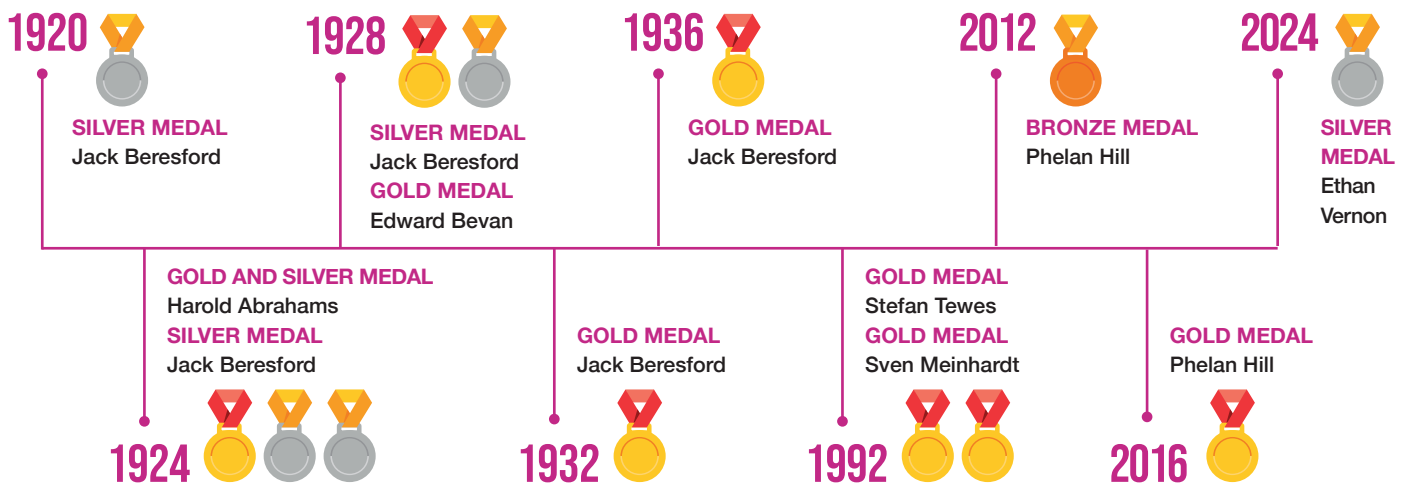
Phelan Hill

esteemed list of Olympic Old Bedfordians. This distinguished group includes Jack Beresford, who led the way with five medals in rowing (three gold, two silver), followed by Harold Abrahams with one gold and one silver in athletics. **Edward Vaughan Bevan (89-90)** added a gold in rowing, while **Sven Meinhardt (1914-26)** and **Stefan Tewes (83-84)** each secured gold in hockey. **Phelan Hill (87-97)** earned one gold and one bronze in rowing, and now Ethan Vernon brings home a silver in the Men's Team Pursuit.



Edward Vaughan Bevan

As we celebrate this rich Olympic tradition, we look forward to which OB athlete will bring home the next medal, continuing the legacy of excellence on the world stage. ■



Sven Meinhardt

THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION

Sometimes, a single email can spark a powerful journey of remembrance. A chance exchange between **Hugh Maltby (73–83)** and Sara Robinson, daughter of **Gilbert Cook, MBE, CBE (1922–29)**, reconnected the Cook family with memories of **Alec Cook (1927–38)**, the youngest of the four brothers.

Gilbert's legacy within Bedford School endures through a scholarship in his name, supporting boys pursue their athletic passions. After leaving Bedford, he represented Ireland in cricket and England in rugby, debuting at Lord's in 1935 for Irish cricket and joining the English rugby squad in 1937. Alec followed closely in his older brother's footsteps, showing similar prowess on the field. At school, he captained the 1st XI in cricket and played in the 1st XV rugby team, admired for his dedication, skill, and leadership, which earned him an exhibition to Brasenose College, Oxford. Yet Alec's life, like so many of his generation, was tragically cut short during World War II.

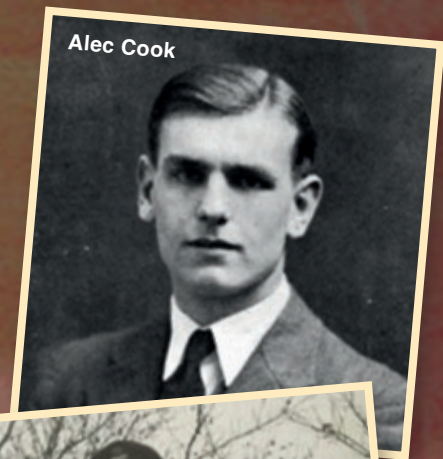
On 14 August 1944, Acting Squadron Leader Alec served alongside Flight Lieutenant Stanley Pyrah when their Mosquito HR139 went missing, believed to have crashed off Île-aux-Moines in Brittany, France. Both Alec and Stanley lost their lives; their bodies were later recovered and laid to rest in Île-aux-Moines Communal Cemetery. Alec was just twenty-five years old at the time of his death.

Through correspondence with Hugh, the Cook family learned about ongoing research into Alec's life and his final mission. This discovery led to an invitation for the family to attend a remembrance ceremony on 14 August 2024, marking exactly eighty years since Alec and Stanley's last flight. Held on Île-aux-Moines, the small island where they were laid to rest, the ceremony united seventeen members of the Cook family with over 300 local residents to honour the two fallen airmen. The event reflected the enduring impact of Alec and Stanley's story on this close-knit community.

British and French dignitaries attended, including the British Naval Attaché to Paris, who read a letter from King Charles, paying tribute to the bravery of the two airmen. The mayor of Île-aux-Moines also spoke movingly in French, later translated for English speakers. Charles Byam-Cook, Alec's nephew, shared words of gratitude in French, underscoring the respect shared between the local community and the family.

A significant aspect of the event was the presence of local residents who still vividly recall the crash. Among them was a 93-year-old woman who had witnessed it as a child. These preserved memories highlight the lasting impression Alec and Stanley's story left on Île-aux-Moines.

A plaque dedicated to Alec and Stanley was unveiled, accompanied by a sculpture symbolising the propellers of their aircraft, surrounded by seaweed in homage to the sea that



Alec Cook



Gilbert Cook



The Cook brothers

now holds their memory. After the dedication, the Cook family and other guests took to boats to lay a wreath of hydrangeas in the waters where the plane went down. To their surprise, a Lockheed C-130 Hercules of the French Air Force performed two low-level passes over the assembled boats, honouring the two airmen who never returned home.

This reconnection across generations highlights the profound power of communication in bridging time and distance. An initial exchange of information became a journey of remembrance and rediscovery, showing how closely we remain connected to the past. Through this journey, the Cook family participated in a powerful act of collective remembrance, honouring not only Alec but all who served during the war.

Reflecting on the day, members of the Cook family shared, "We are deeply grateful to all who facilitated this incredible journey. It was an exceptional day, and we feel honoured to have been part of this moving tribute to the past. It's a reminder of the strength of historical bonds and the significance of reconnecting with those who share our stories." ■



A LASTING MELODY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

This year, Bedford School received an extraordinary gift that will leave a lasting legacy for generations of musicians. **Richard Kerr (52–62)**, the accomplished songwriter and proud Old Bedfordian, generously donated the very Kawai piano, on which he composed some of his most famous songs, to the Music School through his will. This remarkable act of generosity reflects his desire to give back to the school that helped shape his early passion for music. Now housed in the Turnham Room, the piano stands as a symbol of musical excellence and inspiration—much like the timeless melodies Richard created throughout his illustrious career.

Richard’s music has filled homes around the world. From chart-topping singles to ballads, his hits have included “Mandy,” famously performed by Barry Manilow, and “I’ll Never Love This Way Again,” recorded by Dionne Warwick. It is only fitting that the piano, on which he wrote many of these iconic songs, returns to the place where his musical journey began.

For current and future students, the Kawai piano will not only enhance their musical journeys but will serve as a constant reminder that the power of music, paired with dedication, can lead to greatness. Richard Kerr’s legacy lives



Richard Kerr

on, not just through his songs, but through the gift of music he has passed down to the next generation of aspiring artists.

As students sit down to play this magnificent instrument, they will know they are following in the footsteps of one of the most popular songwriters of our time—proof that Bedford School will always be a home for those who love music. ■

TO THE SAHARA AND BACK ON A DUCATI MOTORCYCLE

Earlier this year, **Mark Aldridge (57–67)**, fuelled by a thirst for adventure and a desire to push his limits, embarked on an epic journey aboard his Ducati Multistrada V4 Rally—a trip that would take him through the stunning landscapes of Spain and Morocco, all the way to the Algerian border and the edge of the Sahara Desert.

Mark just happens to be 74 years old and only passed his motorcycle test when he was 70 – he had already had three Multistrada's before and completed some lengthy trips including to the Himalayas in 2022 and around most countries in Europe. This trip though was perhaps going to be the toughest because the bike was heavily laden and much of the mileage through Morocco was going to be off-road.

To make life easy, he took the Plymouth ferry to Santander. The following day, he rode down through Spain to the port of Algeciras – just over 1,000km, to catch the ferry to Tanger Med. That's when the adventure really began!

Morocco passport control is conveniently located at a booth on board the Tanger Med ferry, but there are three important things to do on arrival at the port – that's after tiresome repeat passport and customs checks that



Mark Aldridge and his
Ducati Multistrada V4 Rally



Chefchaouen – the blue-washed walls of the old town

consume at least a couple of hours. First, exchange some € for Dirhams – Morocco is essentially cash only, so credit cards are only any good for getting cash out of an ATM (of which there are plenty). Next is to buy 3rd party insurance cover for the motorcycle because no UK insurer will provide cover – fully comprehensive is not available, so if the bike is incapacitated, it is probably going to be a total loss situation which adds a certain edge to taking care. Finally, if you want to use your mobile phone, you will need to buy a local SIM card because your UK SIM won't work.

That all being done, the plan was to overnight at modestly priced hotels that he had booked up some weeks before. Outside the large cities like Fes, Casablanca and Marrakech that he stayed clear of, these were really the only hotels available – usually family owned, with the cheapest €11 a night, and the most expensive €35 – including en-suite and breakfast! Morocco is not a pricey place to visit and most of the hotels were of an acceptable standard if you are not too

picky about the detail.

Food is monotonous – breakfast is always the same, a sort of fried egg or omelette combo with lunch and dinner always a Tagine with chicken, goat, lamb or camel, or skewered meat cooked over charcoal. Being an Islamic country, there is no alcohol available anywhere except at a handful of Carrefour supermarkets with a liquor store at the back of the food hall – consumption of alcohol is tolerated if you are discrete and keep bottles or cans under the table.

The roads are absolutely superb – even the minor roads have near perfect surfaces, smooth - no potholes, and hardly any traffic. However, there are police roadblocks everywhere – he probably went through 5-10 every day – some with speed cameras, but generally visiting bikers are waved through without being stopped.

Mark pre-planned his route beforehand with 200-300 miles riding each day (Morocco is a big place). Most of the organised tours cover the same routes, so it was straightforward to make plans. Particularly worth going to is the old town of Chefchaouen with its blue-washed buildings; Ouarzazate, known as Morocco's Hollywood, where a visit to the film studios is well worthwhile; and Dadès Gorges, a spectacular wadi gorge carved out by a river. There are fabulous sights to be had in the high Atlas Mountains with hundreds of miles of superb twisty biking roads, deep ravines, high passes, towns and villages and shockingly through the still-evident devastation of the worst hit areas of the 2023 earthquake where thousands of people died.

Mark did a total of about 400miles off road – mainly in the mountains. You can often see on the Satnav a minor tarmac road that leads towards a mountain top and a road on the other side that leads down with an unmarked off-road section that joins them – typically 40-60miles long. Taking these diversions off the main roads provides a challenging excursion with some rewarding views. The surfaces are generally stone, but occasionally turn to rock, mud and sand. Even with the heavy bikes, it was all navigable with care.

His plan was to head down to M'Hamid, a small town close to the border with Algeria and on the edge of the Sahara Desert. As he headed south, the landscape became more arid



with little vegetation, and eventually the brown coloured rocky soil gave way to sand with the occasional drift across the road that had to be negotiated at snail's pace.

The bike was left at M'Hamid for three days and a 4x4 with driver rented to go to the Erg Chigaga camp several hours drive into the desert. This was an incredible experience – overnighting in a yurt in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by colossal wind-sculptured sand dunes, a star-spangled sky, incredible sunsets and zero light pollution.

From there, he completed a grand tour of Morocco via the coastal strip and headed back through Portugal and into Spain with a couple of days in the Picos, before taking the ferry back to Plymouth, and home.

In total, Mark covered a staggering 4,400 miles in just 3.5 weeks! The journey was physically demanding and mentally taxing, but he felt an immense sense of accomplishment. "Morocco is definitely worth the considerable effort of getting there" he remarked. His Ducati Multistrada performed flawlessly on its Pirelli off-road tyres, despite returning home caked in sticky Moroccan mud. ■

As he reflects on this incredible journey, Mark is already making plans for his next adventure—a tour of Bolivia next year. He is proof that the road ahead is always open to those willing to take the ride!
A Story from Mark Aldridge (57-67)



THE SOUL OF BEDFORD SCHOOL: THE EVOLUTION OF OUR CHAPEL

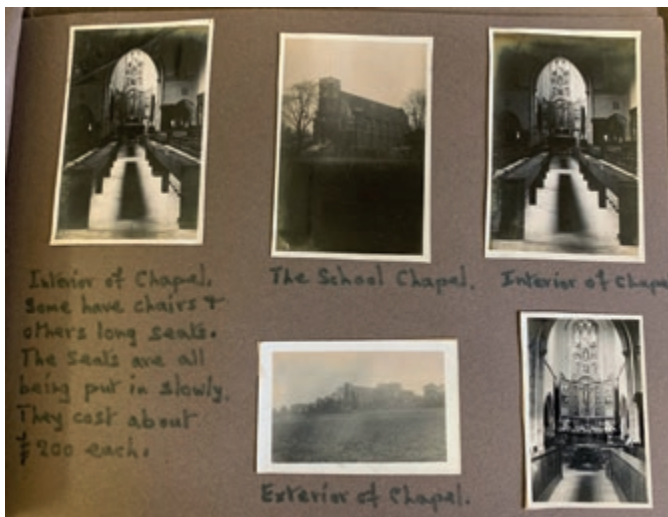


Bedford School's Chapel stands as a testament to architectural excellence and historical significance, holding a prestigious Grade II* listed status within the UK's national heritage register. Built in 1908, the chapel is the work of the renowned architect **George Frederick Bodley**, who was a student of the celebrated Sir George Gilbert Scott—designer of the iconic Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station, the Albert Memorial, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. Bodley himself is widely regarded as a leading figure in the evolution of 19th-century church architecture, noted for his refined sensitivity to form, furnishings, and colour.

While the chapel's interior has undergone certain modifications over the decades, the essence of Bodley's vision remains largely intact. Its beautifully crafted stalls

and panels pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the First and Second World Wars, preserving the chapel's role as a space of remembrance and reflection.

One of the building's most captivating features is its original organ, constructed by the distinguished firm of Norman & Beard, who rose to prominence in the late 19th century. By the Edwardian era, they had become one of England's leading organ builders, famed for their distinctive "Imperial" style. This "Great Organ," as it was then known, was installed in memory of the former Headmaster James Surtees Phillpotts, who led the school from 1875 to 1903. Initially powered by a hand-operated blowing plant—of which a portion still survives—the organ was later modernised with an electric blower unit, most likely added in 1926. Although small in specification, the organ was robustly designed



to fill the chapel's acoustics and support the rousing sound of congregational singing.

However, as is often the case with historic instruments, changing tastes and musical philosophies have led to periodic modifications. The most transformative changes occurred in the mid-1960s, when Hill, Norman & Beard Ltd, the successor to the original builders, reimagined the organ according to the then-popular Neo-Classical style. This involved a complete overhaul of the instrument's tonal characteristics, striving to emulate the grandeur of 17th and 18th-century French and German organs. The traditional Norman & Beard tubular-pneumatic action was replaced with an electro-pneumatic mechanism, significantly altering the organ's character and sound.

Over the past two decades, the organ's condition has steadily declined, leading to a series of reports outlining its mechanical failings. By 2009, concerns were raised that the instrument was "mechanically on its last legs," with the soundboards, bellows, and transmission in urgent need of attention. The growing awareness of the organ's fragility culminated in a pivotal 2016 report, which considered

the options of renovation, replacement, or doing nothing. Ultimately, it was concluded that a new instrument would not only preserve the musical heritage of the chapel but also attract talented music scholars, ensuring the future of high-quality music-making within this historic setting.

Replacing an organ in a listed building is no small undertaking. Securing approval from English Heritage and the local council planning department was a crucial first step, which was successfully achieved in July 2024. The next challenge was finding an organ builder capable of designing and constructing an instrument in harmony with the chapel's distinctive character. Following extensive research, William Drake Ltd, a renowned organ maker based in Buckfastleigh, Devon, was chosen for the task. With an illustrious portfolio that includes projects for St Paul's Cathedral, the Palace of Westminster, and the late Queen's personal collection, William Drake Ltd is a master of bespoke craftsmanship and traditional hand-finishing.

Financially, this ambitious project has been made possible by the generous support of Old Bedfordian **Robin Stainer (58-66)**, who has agreed to fully fund the new organ. This remarkable gesture ensures that future generations of Bedford School students and visitors alike will be able to experience the rich sound of a handcrafted organ within the chapel's surroundings.

William Drake's order book is already filling up, so work on dismantling the current organ and installing the new instrument is not expected to commence until early 2027. Nonetheless, work has already started on the project, with the oak purchased and pipework for the choir Cremona and the swell oboe already underway. Completion is anticipated before the start of the autumn term that same year, heralding a new chapter in the life of Bedford School Chapel.

This project is more than just an organ replacement—it represents the continued evolution of a building that has stood at the heart and soul of Bedford School life for over a century. ■

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HEROES

A VISIT TO NORMANDY

In July, a group of Old Bedfordians and friends embarked on a five-day visit to the beaches and battlefields of Normandy, shortly after the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. During a guided tour, they explored the meticulous planning, and the pivotal roles played by Old Bedfordians in creating the Mulberry Harbours, essential to the mission's success. Poignant reflections from the trip included visiting Pegasus Bridge, where gliders landed with pinpoint accuracy to surprise the Germans, and stopping at the Café Gondrée, where the owner, who had been a little girl welcoming troops during the landings 80 years earlier, now serves coffee to visitors. A particularly emotional moment came when **John Ward (52–63)** laid a wreath on his father's grave, **Captain H.W. Ward (1921–26)**, who was killed just before his birth.

Craig Mitchell (64–74) attended; here, he describes the historic tales he learned during the remarkably moving trip to Normandy.

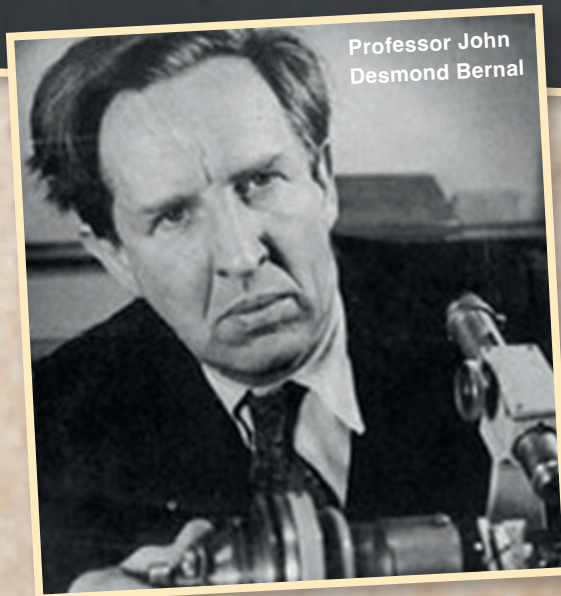
“One particularly interesting day was spent at Arromanches-les-Bains, where we learned about the artificial Mulberry Harbours that contributed to the success of the Normandy invasion. Three Old Bedfordians—**John Bernal (1914–1919)**, **John Hughes-Hallett (1909–1915)** and **Mervyn Walter (1914–1924)**—played crucial roles in their concept, design, installation, and operation. For context, Mulberry Harbours were temporary structures built by the Allies during World War II to support the D-Day invasion in June 1944. These artificial harbours allowed for the rapid offloading of troops, vehicles, and supplies onto the beaches without the need to capture a major port. Two were constructed: one for the British at Gold Beach and one for the Americans at Omaha Beach, comprising concrete caissons, floating piers, and breakwaters. Their success was vital in maintaining a steady flow of resources to Allied forces during the early stages of the liberation of Western Europe.

Vice Admiral John Hughes-Hallett played a significant role in developing the Mulberry Harbours. Recognising the need for artificial support after the Normandy landings, he suggested that if the Allies could not capture a port, they should “take one with them.” His vision was to create portable, prefabricated harbours that could be towed across the English Channel and assembled off the French coast. His persistence ensured the concept gained support from military and political leaders despite early scepticism. He collaborated with engineers and logistics experts to turn this ambitious plan into reality, ensuring the harbours could withstand the harsh conditions of the English Channel. The success of the Mulberry Harbours, particularly at Gold Beach, enabled a continuous flow of supplies and equipment, making Hughes-Hallett a key figure in this innovative wartime achievement.

Vice Admiral John Hughes-Hallett



Professor John Desmond Bernal



Professor John Desmond Bernal, a renowned British scientist, was another joint inventor of the Mulberry Harbour. As part of the scientific advisory team, he assessed the technical feasibility and contributed to the structural design of the harbour components. After the Dieppe Raid in 1942, John was determined to avoid repeating past mistakes. He

OBs Battlefield Tour, on the hill above Arromanches.

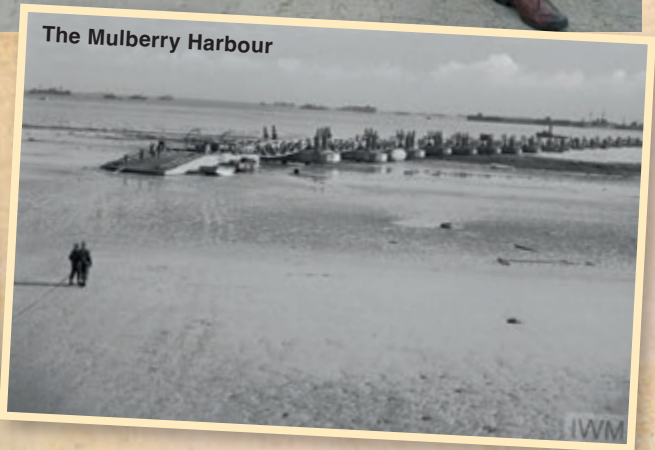


Brigadier Mervyn Walter



Mulberry Harbour Aerial View

Photo credit: IWM



The Mulberry Harbour

famously demonstrated the harbours' importance to Prime Minister Winston Churchill and senior military officials using a bath, paper boats, and an inflated life ring to illustrate how sheltered waters would protect the fleet. This simple yet effective demonstration convinced leaders of the need for artificial harbours.

Brigadier Mervyn Walter played a crucial yet often understated role in the development and construction of the Mulberry Harbours. His logistical expertise was vital during the planning phase, overseeing the coordination between military engineers, construction crews, and naval personnel. Mervyn ensured the concrete caissons and floating roadways were built to exact specifications and could withstand the unpredictable conditions of the English Channel. His pragmatic approach and leadership during deployment were instrumental in securing a reliable logistical pathway for the Allies after D-Day. In his own words, Mervyn recounted his adventures shortly after D-Day in the *Royal Engineers Journal*. He described arriving at Gold

Beach, where he narrowly avoided a minefield and captured four surprised German soldiers with an empty revolver—an example of both luck and boldness.

“To walk in the footsteps of those who played such vital roles in our history was both humbling and inspiring.”

The Mulberry Harbours were a triumph of logistics and innovation, enabling the Allies to maintain a steady flow of supplies during the critical early days after the landings. As I stood in Normandy, I felt profound respect for the three Old Bedfordians whose ingenuity shaped such a vital chapter of history. Their contributions ensured the success of one of the most remarkable engineering feats of World War II. ■

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT (AND IMMERSIVE!)

Rob Hetherington (88–00) is making waves in the entertainment industry as the founder and CEO of Spider Entertainment, a company he launched in 2019 with a vision to transform ordinary spaces into vibrant social hubs. Recognising the rising demand for premium experiences even before the pandemic, Rob assembled a team of specialists in location-based entertainment to create dynamic venues that blend cutting-edge technology, live events, and an engaging social atmosphere.

Spider Entertainment stands out not only for its own experiences but also for collaborating with others to address the growing market need for innovative, scalable entertainment solutions. One flagship project is the recently launched Spider Box in the heart of Manchester, set to redefine the city's nightlife. The venue offers a unique blend of immersive music, competitive social games, live performances, and a top-notch food and drink selection.



"We're taking the absolute best explosion of competitive socialising and focusing on immersive music, which hasn't been done before," explains Rob. Guests can look forward to interactive music quizzes, state-of-the-art karaoke booths, and a high-energy digital DJ space—all designed to deliver an unforgettable experience. ■



You can find out more at
<https://www.thespiderbox.com/>





CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Before he leaves Bedford School, our aim is for every boy to have made a meaningful contribution to the local community. Our Community Partnership Programme fosters connections with groups and organisations in the Bedford area.

Through these mutually beneficial partnerships, our boys engage more fully with the world around them, learning about their local town and how to be responsible citizens. As a school community, we are proud to support the valuable work being done in Bedford, both educationally and socially.

OVER THE PAST YEAR BEDFORD BOYS HAVE...

 <p>Organised clubs and activities at local primary schools, establishing</p> <p>35 CLUBS clubs that benefit more than 1,000 CHILDREN.</p>	 <p>Visited care homes and collaborated with</p> <p>FRIENDS FOR LIFE to combat loneliness among the elderly.</p>	 <p>Promoted the</p> <p>READY2LEAD PROGRAMME encouraging self-leadership through seminars and discussions with pupils from eight secondary schools.</p>	 <p>Helped to provide access to the school's facilities for adult groups and local charities.</p>
<p>Participated in national and international initiatives, including raising nearly</p>  <p>£20,000 for <i>Movember</i>, a campaign for men's mental health.</p>	 <p>Assisted in maintaining a partnership with the</p> <p>BHUBESI PRIDE FOUNDATION in Malawi, where boys help with reading and educational activities.</p>	 <p>Established the</p> <p>BEDFORD DEVICE BANK for digital inclusion.</p>	

With this ongoing programme in place, it seems certain that future editions of the OB Review will be filled with stories of OBs supporting their local communities and raising money for worthy causes.

POSITIVE SOCIAL IMPACT - OB SPOTLIGHT



While working with marginalised communities in Rajasthan, **Tarun Sarwal (77–81)** realised the isolation faced by those who cannot hear or speak. "I understood that without the ability to hear or speak, you're cut off from humanity, and we had to do something about it," he shared. This led to the creation of SignAble Communications, India's first on-

demand Indian Sign Language interpretation service. The app, developed by his team, supports 12 languages and helps over 50,000 users across India communicate. Tarun's commitment

to empowering the deaf community is transforming lives, bringing us closer to an inclusive world.

BISHOP MEMORIAL FUND

We take great pride in giving back and helping those in need, including members of our OB community. Established in 1970 from a legacy left by **Lt. Commander Richard John Daynes Bishop (1898–1901)**, the fund enables us to support Old Bedfordians, their dependents, and former staff facing financial hardship or distress due to challenging circumstances.

For more information on eligibility, please visit: <https://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/association/ob-club/bishop-memorial-fund/>



OB ARTS

Stars of the Screen, Stage, and Artistic Expression. OBs continue to shine across the arts, making their mark in film, television, music, and fine arts, here are just a few of this year's highlights.

FILM AND TV

Actor **Jonno Davies (01-10)** features in the anticipated film *Better Man*, in which he stars as the young Robbie Williams. Released in the UK on 26th December 2024, the film, directed by Michael Gracey, offers a unique and candid portrayal of the pop star's life. It vividly captures Robbie's journey from being the youngest member of Take That to becoming a record-breaking solo artist, highlighting his meteoric rise, dramatic fall, and inspiring comeback. Jonno also featured in the upcoming series *Gandhi Before India*, where he portrays Henry Polak. The series explores Gandhi's early life and his career as a lawyer, shedding light on lesser-known stories that played a crucial role in shaping him into the Mahatma.



Photo credit: Instagram - Gettyentertainment



Joel Beckett (80-91) returned to the British soap *EastEnders*, reprising his role as Jake Moon after nearly 18 years away from Albert Square. Speaking to the Radio Times, Joel shared, "It felt lovely to be back. Although it was a new set, it felt really familiar, like I'd never been away. You never forget Albert Square." Fans were stunned by his reappearance, sparking speculation about what his character's return might mean for the show.

Photo credit: BBC Media

Jonny Hosking (12-19) has been busy starring in multiple theatre productions, including *A Rude Awakening* by Vaughan Evans, *Lark Rise* by Keith Dewhurst - from the book by Flora Thompson, and *Barn Dance* by Mike Bartlett.



Photo credit: Instagram - Jonny Hosking

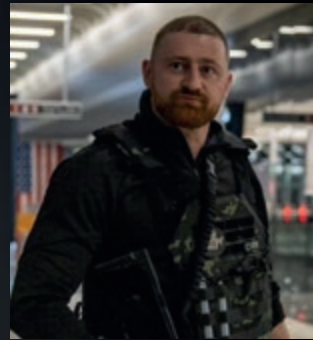


Photo credit: Instagram - Teddy Linard

Actor and stunt performer **Ed (Teddy) Linard (04-09)** appeared in the action-thriller film *One More Shot*, the direct sequel to *One Shot*, as character Campbell. He also took on the role of Farmer in the Jacobean horror feature film *Hang*, which is yet to be released.

Henry Regan (03-08) starred as a paramedic in Channel 4's thriller *The Couple Next Door*. The series follows a young couple who move to an upscale neighbourhood to start a family, only to become entangled in a complex web of desire and betrayal with their new neighbours.

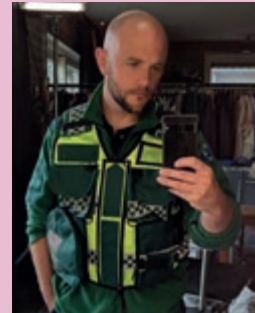
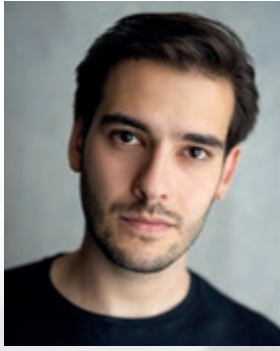


Photo credit: Instagram - Henry Regan

Actor **Simon Chandler (62-71)** was spotted as a judge in BBC One's *The Gold*, a drama inspired by the true events of the 1983 Brink's-Mat robbery and the remarkable story that followed. He was also featured in the series *Slow Horses*, playing the role of a doctor. The Series follows a team of British intelligence agents relegated to MI5's 'dumping ground' department after career-ending mistakes. Additionally, Simon appeared in two episodes of the Netflix drama *The Diplomat*.



Photo credit: BBC



Harun Cehovic (15-17) has had the opportunity to showcase his acting skills in a variety of feature films and series over the last year, most recently as character ‘Huey’ in the upcoming tv series *The Librarians: The Next Chapter* which explores a travelling librarian from the past that unfortunately finds himself trapped in the present.

Photo credit: Before and Afters



George Mitchell (99-04), a VFX editor has recent recently contributed to theatrical releases including: *Argylle*, *Luther: The Fallen Sun*, *A Boy Called Christmas*, and Apple TV+’s *Swan Song*. As a VFX editor, he connects the production’s editorial team with VFX vendors to complete visual effects.

George’s interest in film began at school, where he founded a film club to shoot and edit short films. Post-university, he worked in TV and corporate videos around London and took extra roles in feature films like *Captain America: The First Avenger* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. His entry into film production came through *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* where he started as a runner and progressed to Assistant Editor and then VFX Editor.

Sam Rayner (01-12), Joint Artistic Director of the theatre company Voloz Collective, took the production *The Man Who Thought He Knew Too Much* to New York. This multi-genre cinematic caper blends elements of Wes Anderson, Hitchcock, and Spaghetti Westerns. Set in 1960s New York, the story follows Roger, a Frenchman whose predictable life is upended when a minor delay saves him from an explosion, leading him on a chaotic chase after would-be assassins.

The Man Who Thought He Knew Too Much has since won multiple awards, including the Carol Tambor Incentive Award and Playbill’s “Pick of the Fringe,” following sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe, a European tour, and an Off-West End engagement before its NYC debut.



Actor and voice actor **Richard Summers-Calvert (99-10)** wrote, directed, and starred in the post-production feature film *Welcome to Paradise*, a fantasy film that follows a woman who finds herself stranded on an extravagant island of pure entertainment—will she escape this paradise or embrace it? In addition, he voiced the video game *Skull & Bones*, a pirate-themed action adventure.

Photo credit: IndieGoGo



Giles Pitman - Photo credit - gilespitmanphotography

Giles Pitman (06-13) is producing a documentary titled *Bison Resurgence: From Białowieża to Blean*. This short film explores the return of the European bison to the UK. While the Rewilding European Network has highlighted successful rewilding efforts in Poland and Europe, the story of bison returning to the UK wilderness has yet to be told.



Jack Murphy (08-18) produced and directed the short film *Trace*, which follows Daniel, a retired private investigator. After a spree of killings, he is drawn back into the mob life to investigate and find the killer.

Photo credit: IMDb

Pete Devaney (02-11) was the assistant producer on the docuseries *Lift The Ice*. The series follows six intrepid experts as they embark on a global mission to investigate the incredible discoveries emerging from our thawing ice. It aired on Curiosity Stream and Apple TV last year.



Photo credit: IMDb



Jon Wild (91–96) directed a documentary series for the New Zealand Rugby Team, *In Their Own Words*, which tells the story of the All Blacks' 2023 World Cup journey. Jon shared, "Yes, they did not win the trophy, and some might call that a failure, but their journey to that point is nothing but an incredible success, and it's been an honour to tell their story over the past two years." This year, he also worked on *Race to Survive: New Zealand*, a harrowing adventure gameshow in which challengers must rely on a combination of endurance racing, survival skills, and intuition as they navigate 150 miles of New Zealand's harshest terrain, all to be the last team standing to claim the \$500,000 prize.

Photo credit: TV Insider

Comedian Al Murray (77–86), best known for his comedic alter-ego The Pub Landlord, returned to the stage this year with his hit show *Guv Island*. He also made a special visit to Bedford School for an exclusive workshop with our drama scholars. Held in the Quarry Theatre, Al led a lively discussion, reflecting on his journey into comedy and taking a nostalgic look back at his own time at Bedford. He credited his drama teacher, Mike Morrison, for nurturing his love of performing, sharing how the immediate reward of making people laugh sparked his passion for comedy. We look forward to joining fellow OBs at Al's show on 16th March 2025 at Bedford's Corn Exchange.



COMPOSERS

Composer Peter Wood (11–16) has ventured into film and television, with his latest project being *Last Flamingo of the Red Summer Sunset* by Across the Channel Productions Ltd. Initially known for his large-scale orchestral works and ballet scores, Peter has now embraced the world of cinematic sound design, adding a new dimension to his creative repertoire.



Photo credit: Peter Wood, LinkedIn



Photo credit: Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Andrew Manze (75–82), widely celebrated as one of the most inspiring conductors of his generation, has been appointed the next Principal Guest Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra for the 2024–2025 season. Andrew's long-standing contributions to classical music include being a

Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music and a visiting professor at the Oslo Academy, as well as contributing to new editions of sonatas and concertos by Mozart and Bach, published by Bärenreiter and Breitkopf & Härtel.

Alexander Papp (12–17) has made significant strides in the world of classical music, with his compositions being performed internationally by orchestras and ensembles across Germany, Italy, and Spain. Alexander's talent shone at notable festivals like Spitalfields and Cheltenham. Looking ahead, a double concerto he is currently composing is set to be recorded and broadcast by Deutschlandfunk in Cologne in 2025.

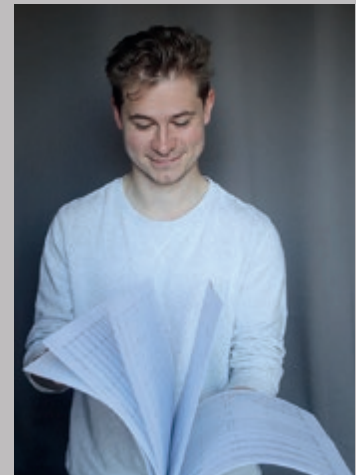


Photo credit: Anjullie Chen

AN EVENING IN WESTMINSTER

The OB Club Office were delighted to receive an invitation from **Matthew Orr (75–81)** to attend a reception announcing the winner of this year's 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.

The awards evening took place at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in Westminster on Tuesday, 8th October. **Freddie Peacock (10–21)**, **Louis Cooke (19–24)**, **Jean 'Jacques' Bell (06–17)**, and **John Holroyd (11–16)**, all of whom studied 'A' Level Art under Mr Croker and Mrs Whiteman, were excited to join Bev Marshall from the BSA team at the reception.



▲ L-R: Freddie Peacock, Matthew Orr, Louis Cooke, Jean Jacques Bell and John Holroyd.

ARTISTS

Freddie Peacock (10–21) was named a finalist for the 2023/2024 Dubel Prize, an award dedicated to celebrating and elevating emerging British artists. Freddie is rapidly becoming a rising star on the London art scene as a contemporary artist and designer. In addition to securing his spot as a finalist, he also won the coveted People's Choice Award!



Photo credit: Freddie Peacock, Instagram

Ben Wilshaw-Quinn (07–18), a portrait and wildlife artist, recently showcased his skills on Sky Arts' *Portrait Artist of the Year*. Appearing as a featured artist in Series 11, he painted actor Layton Williams in just four hours!



Photo credit: Ben Wilshaw-Quinn, Instagram

Max Eckhardt (03–05) has been exhibiting his paintings in the AquabitArt Gallery showcase in Berlin. Max currently prefers to paint people, creating clear, abstracted portraits in oil that, despite their uniqueness, also represent archetypes.



Photo credit: <https://maxeckhardt.com/>

SPORTSMEN IN BRIEF



Photo credit – Instagram: @durhamcricket_



CRICKET

▲ **Emilio Gay (11–18)** has joined Durham Cricket Club on a three-year deal after completing his ninth year at Northamptonshire. Reflecting on his journey so far, Emilio shared, “Northampton has given me my childhood dream of becoming a professional cricketer, and for that, I will always be grateful.”

► **Sir Alastair Cook (98–03)** announced his retirement from professional cricket. Over the course of his stellar career, Alastair became England’s most-capped specialist batsman, captaining the team in 59 Tests and 69 ODIs. He is the leading run-scorer in Test matches for England and the youngest player to score 12,472 Test runs. He scored a record 33 Test centuries, including one in his debut and final Test matches, and was the first England player to win 50 Test matches! Most recently, he was inducted into the International Cricket Council Hall of Fame, becoming the latest England Test cricketer to receive this honour.

▼ **Gus Miller (15–20)** has had his contract with Northamptonshire County Cricket Club extended until at least the end of the 2026 season. He began the season captaining the 2nd XI, where he impressed with a standout 158 against Glamorgan 2nd XI in April. He later made his T20 and List A debuts in July, excelling in the Metro Bank One Day Cup, where he scored a maiden List A half-century against Middlesex and finished as the Steelbacks’ fourth-highest run-scorer.



Photo credit – Instagram: Gus Miller



Photo credit – Instagram: @uacricicketofficial



Photo credits: Instagram: Oli Hind / Instagram: Fraser Dingwall

► **Ones to watch!** **Aiden Ainsworth-Cave (15-24)** and **Jonny Weimann (18-24)** have been named in the England Under-20 Men's Elite Player Squad (EPS) for the 2024/25 season, which features 50 talented players. Aiden, a forward and former Head of School, joined the Northampton Saints Academy at the Under-14 level and recently signed with Northampton's Senior Academy ahead of the new season. Scrum-half Jonny made his senior debut for the Saints as a substitute in a friendly against Sale Sharks in March. Both players aim to continue their development within the England setup, with the EPS campaign kicking off on Thursday, 30 January 2025, against Ireland.



▼ **Gabriel Mann (11-22)** and **Ryan Apps (09-20)** represented Great Britain in the Men's 7s Championship. The Rugby Europe event saw both Gabriel and Ryan competing in Hamburg.



Photo credit - Instagram: @capturebyelitch



Photo credit - Instagram: Gabriel Mann



RUGBY

▲ **Fraser Dingwall (14-17)** made his full England debut in the opening weekend of the Rugby Six Nations Tournament against Italy and marked his home England debut with a try. Fraser had some familiar faces and support from Old Boys throughout this year's Saints games, with OBs including **Oli Hind (06-17)**, **Dom Blore (07-18)**, **Conor Finch (13-18)**, **Jack Chapman (12-17)**, **Felix Iles (13-18)**, and **Will Barrett (07-17)** cheering him on from the stands.

► **George Furbank (13-15)** made a notable impact during the Six Nations, scoring in both the Scotland and Ireland matches. Most recently, he has been named Northampton Saints' newest Club Captain ahead of the 2024/25 season, a role he embraces with pride. "It's pretty surreal, to be honest. Being named Club Captain is a massive privilege and an honour," George said. The Saints enter the new season as defending Premiership champions—a title they hold for the first time in a decade!

Photo credit - Instagram: George Furbank





Photo credit – Matt Dawson



◀ **Callum Smyth (20-22)** was selected to represent the Scotland U20s Rugby team in the 2024 Six Nations. Since leaving school in 2022 he has gained a place with the Macphail Rugby Scholarship and spent six months in South Africa, at Stellenbosch University. Most recently Callum has been playing with the Glasgow Warriors as one of the 15 FOSROC Scottish Rugby Academy players and trains with and plays for the FOSROC Future XV – the newly formed FOSROC Super Series side which is built upon the next generation of young Scottish players.

▲ The England rugby legends who clinched the 2003 World Cup victory reunited in style at Twickenham for a celebration to remember. Among the team was **Andy Gomarsall (88-93)**, joining his former teammates to relive the glory and camaraderie of their historic triumph.

▶ **Faysal Olabooye (15-17)** represented Nigeria in the annual Rugby Africa Men's 7s, which this year was held in Mauritius. The tournament concluded with Uganda emerging as champions after maintaining a perfect record across both legs of the competition. Despite this Faysal shared on his Instagram "It was an experience of a lifetime, I learnt so much on and off the field and I'm beyond grateful. Gutted about the rugby but lots to learn, we'll keep building and we'll come back stronger."



Photo credit – Instagram: Faysal Olabooye



Photo credit – Steve Lyon

SPORTS CONTINUED

Photo credit – www.paddock-motorsport.com



◀ **Alex Walker (10-19)** achieved success in the 2024 British GT Championship, driving a McLaren Artura GT4 for Paddock Motorsport. Partnering with Blake Angliss and Adam Hatfield, Alex secured two consecutive podium finishes. Highlights included a second-place finish at Donington Park, where he excelled in difficult conditions, and a third-place podium at Spa-Francorchamps after starting 11th.

Photo credit – Instagram: @whncofficial



◀ **Tom Crowson (11-16)** is making his mark as a forward/midfielder for Hampstead & Westminster. His impressive hockey journey includes playing for Almeerse HC in the Hoofdklasse in Holland and representing England U21, where he played a crucial role in their run to the European Final in

2019. Recently, Tom became involved in Great Britain's Elite Development Programme, further developing his skills and contributing to his team's success.

Photo credit - Harding State University



◀ **Finlay Cummings (10-21)** has made a name for himself in the US collegiate golf scene. As a student at Harding University in Arkansas, his second-round score of 71 helped his team qualify for the NCAA Division II National

Championships. Finlay has achieved top 10 finishes in the renowned Faldo Series, named after six-time Major champion Nick Faldo. He is also the Junior Club Champion at Woburn and has won numerous county championships in the UK.

▲ Well done to **Steve Lyon (73-84)**, who was selected for the England Field Target Rifle Team and competed at the World Championships near Phoenix, Arizona. The three-day event took place in mid-November, and the team was awarded first place, followed by USA in second and Wales in third.

▼ **Fernando Vega de Seoane (89-91)** was hailed Winner of the Spanish Handicap Champion of Adapted Golf and Champion of the Spanish Cup Alicante 2024.



Photo credit – LinkedIn: Fernando Vega de Seoane

OLD BEDFORDIANS SPORT

GOLF SOCIETY WRITTEN BY TOM LANGLEY-POOLE (96-06)

2024 marked an historic year for Bedford in the Halford Hewitt tournament, as the team achieved its best-ever performance during the event's centenary. Displaying remarkable resilience and skill throughout the competition, the team earned a favourable first-round draw, facing St. Paul's at Royal Cinque Ports. The match was tightly contested, but Bedford emerged victorious 3½-1½, with notable wins from **Iain Pratt (83-93)** & **Lee Dinmore (86-89)**, **Tom Langley-Poole (96-06)** & **Simon Blundell (84-89)**, and **Henry Wilson (04-11)** & **Will Notley (92-03)**.

In the second round, Bedford went up against Chigwell, dominating with a 5-0 victory, securing impressive wins across all five matches. This set up a quarter-final clash with previous winners, Winchester. The match proved challenging, with Bedford holding a slim advantage going into the final holes. It was Henry and Will who secured the win, triumphing 2&1 on the 18th hole, marking Bedford's first-ever quarter-final success in the competition.

The momentum carried Bedford into the semi-finals, where they faced Repton, who had eliminated the previous three tournament champions. The match was an intense battle, with Bedford initially falling behind in some key games before rallying to clinch the win.

Bolstered by a positive mention during the Masters coverage, Bedford then faced Cranleigh in another thrilling contest. Despite losing some early games, Bedford fought back to level the score at 2-2. Tom and Simon, trailing by two through 12 holes, mounted a strong comeback, forcing extra holes with a birdie on the 18th and ultimately sealing the win in the extra rounds. This victory sent Bedford to its first-ever final in the tournament.

The final against Eton proved to be a tough battle, with Bedford struggling to gain the upper hand. Several key matches slipped away, with Ian & Lee losing 5&4, and **George Wilson (03-10)** & **George Scott (99-09)**, along with Henry Wilson & Will Notley, also suffering 4&3 defeats. Despite Tom & Simon holding a 1-up lead going into the 18th, and **Colin Beesley (90-98)** & **Tim Martin (11-17)** earning a half point, Bedford was unable to overturn the deficit, allowing Eton to emerge victorious.



▲ Left to Right: **George Wilson (03-10)**, **Tim Martin (11-17)**, **Simon Blundell (84-89)**, **Tom Langley-Poole (96-06)**, **Henry Wilson (04-11)**, **George Scott (99-09)**, **Colin Beesley (90-98)**, **Lee Dinmore (86-89)**, **Iain Pratt (83-93)**, **Will Notley (92-03)**, **Adam Wilkinson (87-92)**.



Although they fell short in the final, the team's performance in the Centenary year was seen as a major breakthrough. Their journey to the final showcased the depth of talent within the squad, and their potential for future success is undeniable. The 2024 Halford Hewitt will be remembered as an historic and proud moment for Bedford, laying a foundation for even greater achievements in the years ahead.

RIFLE CLUB WRITTEN BY RUPERT RILEY (79-89)

If ever there was a reason for the Bedfordians Rifle Club to exist, it is now, and in the direction it is heading. During the lean years, when the School stopped shooting altogether, there was an assumption that the Club would eventually die out, as no more boys would join its ranks.

Two things happened that mitigated this grim sense of inevitability. Firstly, the Club decided some decades ago to allow family members to join, particularly the offspring of OB members. Secondly, when the School started shooting competitively again under **Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89)**, there was once again a source of new intake from the School and recognition that the Club could once more play its part in coaching and mentoring the School's rifle club.

A case in point, as a 'double-tap' example this year, was the appearance of **James Lumley-Wood (14-23)**, Peter's eldest son, who shot for the Club at the Imperial Meeting in July. He impressed hugely by delivering very creditable scores in team matches, despite this being only his second time shooting fullbore.

The Club has committed to increasing the support it offers to the School by hosting coaching days at Bisley, which will hopefully become a regular part of its programme. Earlier in the season, there was a very successful 'Bedfordians Day', where a team of Bedfordians coached a group of boys at the shorter ranges (300 and 600 yards) and formed mixed teams for a friendly competition. The day was rounded off with a dinner at the North London Rifle Club, with prize-giving and encouraging words from both senior and junior Bedfordians, extolling the virtues of Target Rifle shooting and the decades of sporting friendship the Club has fostered.



Fast forward to the Imperial Meeting at Bisley in July and the two days of team shooting, where the Bedfordians Rifle Club aimed to prove its mettle in two highly competitive events: the Schools Veterans Match and the Astor County Championship (where the Club represents its home county of Bedfordshire).

The Club fielded two teams of five for the Veterans match, and both performed well. The A Team, with a wealth of experience, came 13th out of 44 old school Club's (a respectable effort, considering some Club's are brimming with international-standard shots). Notably, top scores of 50/50 were achieved by **Robin Hatcher (69-76)**, **Andy Barnes (76-83)**, and **Rupert Riley (79-89)**. The B Team matched the A Team's placing: 13th out of 27 teams, with solid shooting against a competitive field of second teams.

Even better performances followed the next day, when two of the six-person team were under 25: Nyree Barnes (daughter of Andy and an established junior Welsh shot) and James Lumley-Wood, who earned his selection over more senior Bedfordians with his solid shooting the previous day. Both Nyree and James delivered stellar performances, scoring 102.11 and 101.13 out of 105.21 over 300, 500, and

▲ **The Bedfordian Teams in the Schools Veterans Match: L-R Nick Hudleston (78-83); Rupert Riley (79-89); Martin Ebbetts (70-74); Andy Barnes (76-83); Phil Dawes (63-72); James Lumley-Wood (14-23); Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89); Robin Hatcher (69-76); Nick Hart (70-75).**

600-yard distances. The senior members didn't disappoint either, with **Paul Sykes (son of Andy Sykes (62-73))** producing a perfect 105.17; Andy Barnes, just one point behind with 104.16; **Stuart Dawes (son of Phil Dawes (63-73))** impressing with 103.9; and **Martin Ebbetts (70-74)** contributing a very respectable 102.9. This resulted in one of the best performances in decades: 7th out of a highly competitive field of 19 teams, only four points shy of a podium finish, and competing against some highly fancied County Championship-winning teams—a result to be proud of.

The rest of the Imperial Meeting saw some excellent individual Bedfordian performances and numerous representative selections. Paul Sykes topped many prize lists, finishing 23rd in the Grand Aggregate (the total of the main individual competitions over all ranges), qualifying for the King's Prize Final, and being selected for England in the



The Bedfordians with the School rifle club party at Bisley in the Spring



Martin Ebbetts (70-74) receiving the Stickle-down trophy at Prizegiving



▲ **Rupert Riley (79-89) coaching James Lumley-Wood (14-23) in the Astor County Championship.**



Paul Sykes being coached to a maximum score by Robin Hatcher (69-76), with Nyree Barnes plotting

Mackinnon long-range match.

Nyree Barnes capped off a superb year, having previously toured South Africa with the UK Armed Forces team. She gained senior Welsh caps in both the National (Home Countries short-range match) alongside her sister, Nia Barnes, and the Mackinnon. Nyree also topped the scoring in the Army Inter-services Teams (she is a Reservist soldier in the RLC) along with Rupert Riley (a Regular Lt Col). Both Nyree and Rupert helped the UK Armed Forces team win their annual match against the Home Countries later in the week.

Phil Dawes shot a magnificent 50.7 in the Alexandra (600 yards), placing 14th out of over 700 competitors. Martin Ebbetts raised a cheer by winning the Stickle-down Trophy (900 yards) for the second time, with a commendable score of 49.8.

As the season concluded this autumn, there was more glory. Rupert Riley was selected to shoot for England in the European Long Range Championships, helping the team pip Scotland at the last distance by a single point after two gruelling days at 900 and 1,000 yards.

Not content with representing Wales, Nia and Nyree Barnes have recently been selected for the National Rifle Association team to tour the Channel Islands next spring—a notable first for sisters to be selected together on such an important and high-profile development tour.

All in all, it was a great season. The Club is looking forward to recruiting more young talent and capitalising on the strong shooting cohort at the School. Anyone interested in shooting with the Bedfordians should visit the excellent website set up



by Marc Smith (86-93) and Julian Hilton-Johnson (79-82), both active Bedfordian shooters.

You can find out more at bedfordiansrc.org



CRICKET CLUB WRITTEN BY GEORGE WOOD (83-94)

This year marked significant change for the OB Cricket Club.

Will Aitkenhead (04-09) stepped down after a decade as captain. Will has done a superb job in further developing the Club and ensuring that it is a welcoming and enjoyable environment for OBs, young and old, to enjoy their cricket. Getting the Club into the prestigious Cricketer Cup, captaining the side to a semi-final in the same competition, reducing the average age of the team, and ensuring a strong return after the pandemic are all notable achievements. At the lunch during the OB vs School match, the Club offered a heartfelt thank you to Will, whom we hope to see as a player in future seasons.

The Club is very excited to announce that not one but two young OBs have been elected co-captains – namely, **Dilan Sheemar (17-22)** and **Charlie Blythman (12-23)** – and we look forward to progressing once again under their leadership.

Christian Davis (00-11) has also relinquished the Cricketer Cup captaincy due to relocation, and we thank him for his determination and drive in pushing forward our blue-riband team. He was replaced this year by **Charlie Thurston (07-14)**, another exceptional cricketer. The Cricketer Cup side moved comfortably through the first round, beating Hurst Johnians by 5 wickets. Three wickets apiece for **Alex Rennie (10-19)** and **Vedant Somal (16-23)**, along with frugal bowling throughout, saw the opposition post 144. A shaky OB start was steadied by Charlie Thurston, who reached 51* to seal the victory. The second round saw a visit to eventual finalists Bradfield Waifs. A high-quality game saw **Rohan Mehmi (17-22)** score a century and Charlie Thurston another 50 in a competitive total

of 255/7. Unusually for the OBs, we were one spinner short, which did allow former Northants skipper **Alex Wakely (96-07)** to turn his arm over, though to no avail as Bradfield got home by 5 wickets.

OB Week saw a spectacular win over the MCC in an ODI-format match. Charlie Blythman led the OB team and, having chosen to bat, he and Dilan Sheemar showed the way as both scored strong half-centuries. An eventual score of 270 set a good target, and parsimonious early spells from Dilan Sheemar, **Will Barford (16-21)**, and **Anish Katechia (15-22)** put the MCC under pressure. Christian Davis scored a classy hundred for the MCC, but the run rate from the other end was less ambitious. Scrambling for two to stay on strike at the death, Davis was run out by the OB President, and **Luke Adams (08-13)** and **Jeremy Woodrow (83-93)** then ensured that the final ball did not go for four, securing a superb victory.

The T20 match against the Ousels is always the social highlight of the week and saw **Connor Adams (10-14)** join brother Luke, Jeremy join brother **James Woodrow (74-84)**, and **Ollie Gregory (14-21)** make an appearance alongside 'all-weekers' Barford, **Ben Barnes (12-21)**, **Jonny Huggins (11-22)**, and Dilan Sheemar. The groundstaff and the Ousels did brilliantly to get the game on in the rain, and a huge thank you goes to **Simon Lincoln (94-96)** for the organisation. The Ousels emerged as close winners on a really enjoyable evening.

The final games of the week were against the School. The second-team game once again attracted more than 11 OBs (around 14!), which is a fantastic testament to the enjoyable nature of the day. Ben Barnes skippered superbly to ensure



▲ Alex Rennie receiving the man of the match award from the opposition skipper in round 1 of the Cricketer Cup
 ◀ Back Row - L - R: J Huggins, W. Barford, A. Rennie, H. Gouldstone, C. Thurston, S. Patel, V. Somal
 Front Row - L - R: D. Sheemar, C. Blythman, R. Mehmi, O. HindPeter Lumley-Wood (84-89); Robin Hatcher (69-76); Nick Hart (70-75).

everyone got a chance to contribute, and we were privileged that **David Wilson (79-84)** joined us from overseas to open the batting with James Woodrow and re-form the School opening partnership from 1984! The School won the match, having set a good score that was under threat for a while until the inevitable OB collapse arrived! A high-quality (and young) OB 1st team led by Dilan Sheemar took on the School 1st XI. Tons for Mehmi and Blythman put the OBs in a strong position, but the School responded well, and the two-dayer ended with rain intervening, with the boys needing 45 from 5 overs – a shame that we were denied a grandstand finish.

Thank you to **Peter Rowe (76-81)** for scoring once again, and to all the players who made it a thoroughly enjoyable OB season. We would love to see even more OBs join us for some cricket next year.

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

The annual OB's Tennis Match consisted of some great games on the court and for the first time in many years, the boys managed to beat us - the sets were close, but we'll need to up our game for next year's tournament!

On a personal note, I was very proud to have my son, **Bryn O'Dell (14-23)**, who is a new OB, join the team this year alongside his school friend, **Josh Stewart (12-23)**. It is wonderful to see younger players coming through from the school. Let's hope some of the boys who beat us this year will soon join us as OBs in the near future.

After the matches, a refreshing tea in The Pavilion was enjoyed, with the boys celebrating their success!

We were so pleased to welcome **Peter Devaney (02-11)** to our team this year, and are always keen to encourage new players to join us, if you are interested please contact me - beautmontfarming@gmail.com

Sadly, **Graham Saunders (58-64)** passed away this year. He was a dedicated member of the team for many years and captained us successfully before passing the baton to me. He was never short of an amusing story about his time at school or his experiences playing tennis. A wonderful serve and volley were his strength, and he will be sorely missed by the Team. We send our deepest condolences to his family.

I would like to thank everyone for attending and the school for hosting yet another wonderful afternoon of sport.

Thank you to this year's players: **Andy Willsher (80-87)**, **Peter Devaney (02-11)**, **Josh Stewart (12-23)**, **Duncan McLaren (61-68)**, **Bryn O'Dell (14-23)** and **Geoffrey Farr (50-56)**.



L-R Josh Stewart, Bryn O'Dell, Toby O'Dell, Peter Devaney, Duncan McLaren, Freddie Whittaker, Seb Elder, Max Collins, Ben Mclurg, Jackson Wang and Michael Sin.



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

With a love for rowing fostered at school, it's great to see so many OBs continuing to row after leaving, staying actively involved with Phoenix Boat Club, and taking a keen interest in the School Boat Club.

Benedict Eggeling (14-17) was the star of the show, racing for Germany in the Paris Olympics. Benedict, rowing bow, competed in the hotly contested blue-ribbon event—the men's eights. The crew raced well and were in the hunt for a medal but were pipped to the bronze by the USA.

At the 2024 British Rowing Junior and Senior Club Championships, **Mark Hadaway (89-99)**, **Will Garner (10-21)**, and **George Christian (08-18)** took home the gold medal in Open Club Eights, rowing for Star Rowing Club.

Three OBs were selected to row in the Home Countries International, held in Strathclyde at the end of July, where they enjoyed a gold rush with all three winning in their respective events. George Christian won sprint gold in the men's eights, while **James Deardon (11-22)** coxed the Scottish eight to victory over the full 2,000-metre course. Recent leaver **Rupert Apps (22-24)** joined current upper sixth-former James Sprange to win the junior pairs and eights events. Rupert, during his gap year, has recently started training with Leander

▲ (L-R) Rupert Apps (22-24) bow and James Sprange

as part of their development programme and is already making his mark in the recent u21 national trials.

While at the University of Birmingham, George Christian teamed up with Paralympian Josh O'Brien, who was born with Talipes Equinovarus. As a child, Josh had operations to help correct the defect in his foot and ankle. As a result, he no longer has any movement in his ankle and has reduced strength in his leg. George and Josh raced at the GB Paratrials in November 2022 at Caversham Lake, finishing third in the pairs competition. This, along with his ergo scores, earned Josh a place in GB's Talent ID programme. In 2023, George and Josh raced together in a pair, winning at Worcester, Peterborough, and Reading Amateur regattas. In 2024, Josh focussed on the Paralympics in Paris, where he went on to become Paralympic Champion in the PR3 Mixed Coxed Four (PR3 Mix4+), helping to maintain the boat's 14-year unbeaten run.

OBs VS THE SCHOOL

The annual OB vs. School races took place during the OB Sports weekend. Prior to the races a small ceremony took



▲ (L-R) Josh O'Brien and George Christian (08-18)



▲ Brian Cawley (60-69) naming the new 1st VIII boat



place to name the new first eight boat after **Brian Cawley (60-69)**. Through Brian's generosity a new rowing scholarship has been established to attract top athletic talent to the School Boat Club.

Unfortunately, due to the race falling on the same day as the Head of the River Race, the OBs were slightly down on numbers. However, in the first race against the 1st VIII, the OBs made a swift start, taking an early lead which they extended down the course, winning by clear water. The second race saw the tables turn, with the 1st VIII livelier off the start, outracing the OBs. Despite a spirited effort during the middle of the race, the OBs couldn't make up the deficit from the start, narrowly losing and leaving the honours even.

Following the OB race, some fifty crew members and their guests attended the inaugural Phoenix Boat Club dinner at the Embankment Hotel, organised by **Ally Satchwill (01-12)**. The guests of honour were Linton and Yvette Guise, with whom everyone enjoyed catching up and reminiscing about old times. Given the success of the dinner, we're hoping to make it an annual event following the OB races.

BEDFORD REGATTA

At Bedford Regatta in May, there was a bumper entry, including a crew from Phoenix Boat Club (the OB boat club) entering the senior eights event. The crew drew Latymer Upper School in the first round. After a good start, the crew had an altercation with the bank after Brewery Bend, from which they never recovered.

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA 2024

Despite the early threat of rain, over 200 members of our community, including Olympic Rowing Gold Medallist **Phelan Hill (87-97)**, joined us at the School and OB Club Drinks Reception for a glass (or two!) of Pimm's. Prior to the reception, everyone gathered on the riverbank to cheer on the 1st VIII, who were drawn against a very strong Eton College Crew. Despite losing by a third of a length, the crew put in an excellent performance of which they should be



▲ The Phoenix crew racing at Bedford Amateur Regatta



▲ Phoenix Boat Club Dinner at the Embankment Hotel

extremely proud. Later in the day, it was the turn of the 2nd VIII, who were drawn against Oxford Brookes University. Again, despite a gallant effort, the crew, made up of 16, 17, and 18-year-olds, were no match for the university crew. This was the first time in recent history that both the 1st and 2nd VIII qualified for Henley, making it a really special day, especially for those boys and parents who were experiencing it for the first time.

A LARGE CONTINGENT OF OBs COMPETED AT HENLEY:

- **George Christian (08-18)** – The Wyfold Challenge Cup for London
- **Boris Batine (98-00)** – The Wyfold Challenge Cup for Barcelona Club, Spain
- **Will Garner (10-21)** – The Thames Challenge Cup for Star RC
- **Charlie McCutcheon (17-22)** – The Temple Challenge Cup for University of Birmingham
- **Alex Gates (16-21)** – The Thames Challenge Cup for Vesta RC
- **Josh Lyon (10-20)** – The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup for Reading University Boat Club
- **James Deardon (11-22)** – The Prince Albert Challenge Cup for Edinburgh University Boat Club
- **Seb Iles (15-22)** – The Britannia Challenge Cup for Agecroft Rowing Club
- **George Whitcombe (11-20)** – The Ladies' Plate for Thames Rowing Club
- **Jacob Bailey (11-22)** – The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup for Loughborough Students' Rowing Club
- **Oscar Whitcombe (13-22)** – The Temple Challenge Cup for Swansea University Boat Club
- **Ben Giles (13-20)** – The Temple Challenge Cup for University of Bristol Boat Club
- **Trent Abraham (10-19)** – The Prince of Wales Challenge Cup for Reading University Boat Club

If you are still racing and enjoying the sport, The OB Club would love to hear from you – obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk

PHOENIX 7'S RUGBY TEAM

WRITTEN BY CONOR FINCH (13-18)

In their third season, the Phoenix Sevens faced challenges with many players called up to representative sides and others off travelling, limiting their tournament participation to just two events. Victims of their own success, the team has seen a recent spate in players being poached for semi-professional teams and the interminable call of an Australian summer. Despite this, the team showcased resilience and cunning, clinching victory in the Olney 7s, marking their first win in this tournament after three attempts. Later in the summer, they continued their success by securing the Social Cup at the JF7s.

This season was particularly notable for the emergence of younger players who stepped up admirably and often at late notice. A few standout performances deserve special mention: **Charlie Hicks (14-19)** finally saw the light and joined his true team, **Matthew Johnston (12-19)** brought his signature physical presence and infectious energy constantly throughout the season, and **Tendai Allen (11-18)** kept spirits high with his humour (that some would no doubt label facetious). Newcomers **Eldon Craven (14-23)**, **Freddie Drake-Lee (20-24)**, and **Archie Tomblin (17-20)** made their Phoenix debuts, contributing to a promising future for the team.

Not a vintage year for Phoenix Sevens, nonetheless showing characteristic grit and camaraderie, setting a solid foundation for the seasons ahead!

▼ Phoenix 7's Team - Olney Social Winners





BEDFORD FIVES

BEDFORD	OBs 3d IV	[Pouces] 4 th V	OBs 2d IV	OBs 1st IV
FILICA	0	WT3 - 11 A/T	Rob M	Al. J
CHARLIE	11 3		James S	Tyrone B
WILL	3		Chris D	Henry V
TOBY	1		Dan S	Logan J
MILLAN	2	Hari K	M&E 4-15-19&P	
GILES	1	David D		
ETHAN	11 2	Laurance P		
SEANUS	1	Richard K		

NEWS OF OLD BEDFORDIANS

► **Brian O'Brien (45-49)** was pleased to meet the current Head of Chapel Choir, Pui Lam Ng, at the Founders and Benefactors service. Brian had been Head of choir 75 years before!



► **James Kelly (42-50)** has been awarded his orange shirt for having completed 250 Park Runs. He was also presented with a medal for completing 12 different events, walked in 31 days, by Great Run Solo. All at age 92! Keep it up James.



◀ **David Marchington (48-51)** celebrated his 90th birthday in style near his home in Le Var, France, with members of his family, including his granddaughter Alessandra Marchington, who flew out from London for the event.

► **David Burdett (48-54)** has collaborated with the author, Sarah Burdett, to publish the book: *Osborne House Stable Block (Not Only for Horses)*, which details the history of this nationally important building over two and a half centuries.



Geoffrey Farr (50-56) has very kindly donated one of his pianos to Bedford Academy.

Prof John Allan (49-59) writes from Western Canada where 3 generations of the Allans were out on the picket line protesting fossil fuel expansion. John is worried that Governments are not meeting IPCC guidelines and Canada's glaciers and huge permafrost areas are rapidly melting and releasing complex carbon molecules and vast amounts of CH₄(Methane), all while ocean temperatures continue to rise.



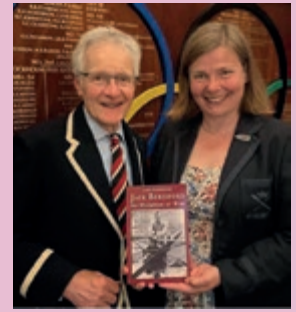
◀ **Finn Longinotto (57-62)** enjoyed meeting up with **John Perera (56-60)** and his Norwegian wife, Helen, at a concert near their home in the Loulé hills in the Algarve, Portugal, in April.

Richard Hemsley (57-62) was astonished when he was contacted by the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) with news that remains discovered at the site of the Battle of Passchendaele

had been identified as those of his missing grandfather, **Lieutenant Francis Henry Hemsley (1890-1897)**, of the 16th Battalion (Manitoba) Regiment, Canadian Infantry, who was killed in action on August 16, 1917. A burial is planned for spring 2025 at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Loos British Cemetery.

► **John Beresford (59-64)**

has released a new book titled *Jack Beresford: An Olympian at War*. John was also interviewed by Peter Sheridan, who wrote about the film "The Boys in the Boat", which tells the story of the 1936 U.S. Olympic team. In the interview, John expressed disappointment that the film made no mention of the Great Britain pair, including his father, **Jack Beresford (1913-17)**. Jack caused an even greater upset at the Games, defeating the German team in the double sculls final and enraging Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.



► Actor **Andrew McCulloch (57-64)** visited the School in September together with his wife, actress Amanda Reiss. Amanda was interested to see the school as she is related to former Head Master, **James Surtees Phillpotts (staff 1874-1903)**.



◀ Documentarian and Broadcast Executive, **Rupert Macnee (60-65)**, son of Patrick Macnee, has written the foreword of the new biography about Diana Rigg, who, along with Patrick as John Steed, found fame as Mrs Emma Peel in the 1960's series, *The Avengers*. *One Tough Dame*, traces Rigg's career.

► **Andrew Randall (61-66)** held his 6th annual Car Party at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club in July.



The weather was poor, but a full house turned up with 11 pre-war cars, 13 post-war classics, and a handful of moderns. OBs attending included **Richard Charnley (59-70)**, **Ian Walrond (1959-64)**, **Stuart Wilkinson (59-66)**, **Howard Dingwall (64-69)** and **Mark Oddy (53-61)**.



▲ **Julian Dalzell (55-67)** was proud to showcase his old school when he led a group of his graduate students from the University of South Carolina to share the British school system. The icing on the cake was that the 1st XI had just beaten Oundel!



◀ **Tim Marshall OBE (58-67)** has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Buckingham New University for his services to the University. Tim was previously Chair of the Resources Committee.

Robert Fuller (59-68) visited the school in October 2023 from his home in France. A former player and expert in tennis history, Robert was on his way to Riverside Tennis Club to donate some memorabilia. Robert is also a numismatist and medal collector.

► The new 1st VIII boat has been named after **Brian Cawley (60-69)**. Brian has generously established the *Brian Cawley Rowing Scholarship*, which aims to attract top-class athletes to the Boat Club. This initiative enables them to row alongside our existing oarsmen, with the ultimate goal of restoring Bedford to greater prominence in the world of rowing.



◀ **Philip Smith (61-69)** visited the school in November 2023 from his home in California. He was in the UK for a special reunion with colleagues he had started working with in the insurance industry 50 years earlier!

Rex Elliot (59-69), Rory MacArthur (59-67), Brian Cawley (60-69), David Fletcher (58-69) and **Tim Marshall (58-67)** got together at the Bedford Blues for lunch in the marquee before the Bedford v Cambridge match. Some had not seen each other for a long time so there was plenty of laughter and shared memories. Bedford also won the match, with some great running rugby, which made a perfect day.

Anthony Abrahams (60-70) raised £400 for Beds & Herts Historic Churches when he cycled 75km and visited 18

churches in September. A demanding challenge when you're in line for a hip replacement!



◀ Leather and footwear manufacturer **Martin Pebody (63-72)** married independent charity consultant, Deborah Dow in June.

▼ A group of '72 leavers met up for lunch at The Windmill pub in Mayfair, in February, to remember ex Head of the Lower School, Michael Timpson, who would have been 100 years old. Unfortunately his daughter Annis May Timpson was only able to join them via a video call.



▲ L-R **Richard Bromilow (62-72), Tim Bridges (61-72), Bill Skinner (65-72), Jim Sloane (67-72), Alistair Gray (66-72)** and **Jerry Arnott (67-72)**



◀ **Paul Askev (67-74)** was delighted when his partner's artwork was displayed in an exhibition at Bedford School. Alison Head has painted in Bedford most of her life, but the couple have recently moved to the Isle of Skye.

▼ 3T Classmates from 1968/9 met up in May near Bath. It was the first time some of them had met in 50 years! Another reunion is being planned.



▲ L-r **Tim Wilshire (66-74), Jonathan Pinnock (63-73), Stuart Thyne (67-73), Martin Schwarz (67-73), Stuart Seath (67-74), Peter France (67-73), David Giles (67-73), Andrew Simmonds (64-74)** and **David Dance (67-73)**.



◀ **Brooks Newmark (72-76)** has been presented with a military medal 'for valour' by the military commander of Donetsk, Ukraine, for the work of his charity, Angels for Ukraine. The charity evacuated over 11,000 women, children and wounded soldiers from the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions in 2022 and 2023.



◀ Founder of Yonder Berries on Dartmoor, **Nick Hewison (71-76)** was spotted on Channel 4's rerun of the programme 'The Secret World of ...Chocolate', where they looked at the rivalry in the British chocolate industry.

▼ **Robin Hatcher (69-76)**, **Nick Hudleston (78-83)** and **Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89)** organised some full-bore target rifle shooting coaching for some Upper School boys at Bisley.



◀ **Andrew Gilbert (69-77)** met up with former classmate **Paul Haggqvist (74-76)** whilst on holiday in Italy. Paul has retired from his career in dentistry and now produces his own olive oil from his estate in Puglia.

▶ **Martin Bonner (70-77)** married Alison Goodrick in August 2023 at Launcells Barton, Bude, Cornwall, where they now live. Martin is a retired Regional Director at Barclays whilst Alison is a Programme Manager also at Barclays. **Neil Bonner (72-79)** was best man.



▼ **Malcolm Wilson (73-81)** was a very proud father when his daughter was made a Freeman of the City of London.



◀ **Matthew Orr (75-81)** and his wife Sybil have been recognised for their significant contributions to US society, by being awarded the 2024 Ellis Island Medal of Honour, which celebrates inspiring Americans who selflessly work for the betterment of the US and its citizens.

Multi award-winning creative director, **Neil Dawson (78-83)** was interviewed by 'Little Black Book', the global platform for advertising professionals and companies to share news, creative work, awards, events and jobs, about his life's biggest lesson and explained why one 'should always trust one's gut'!

▼ **Mark Davies (78-83)** is still enjoying his rowing in Sammamish, Washington State, and took his crew to the Head of the Charles race in Massachusetts.



◀ **Chris Sansome (78-83)** was delighted to meet up with old schoolfriend **Tim Furbank (82-87)** in July when the England Rugby team toured New Zealand as part of the 2024 Summer International. Tim was supporting his son

George (13-15) and **Fraser Dingwall (13-17)** who were in the England squad. He had lunch with **Ted Shorrocks (44-50)**, **Richard Walshe (85-87)** and **Marc Proctor (75-85)**.

▶ **Dr Jason Reddy (79-84)** took the opportunity when in Florida to meet up with **Finn Longinotto (57-62)** and **Chris Blackman (52-57)**.



◀ **Andrew Keech (76-84)** was honoured to present the 'Man of the Match' award at Goldington Road to Bedford Blues player, Michael le Bourgeois.

▼ **Hiram Mok (80-84)** got together with some old schoolfriends on a recent trip to London from his home in British Columbia. L-r **Hiram**, **Rob Abington (76-86)**, **Mike Abington (75-84)**, and **Philippe Riley (78-83)**.



Guy Lavender (81-85) has now left his role as Chief Executive and Secretary of MCC and will assume the position of CEO at Cheltenham Racecourse in early 2025.

James Wrench (75-85) has recently turned his hand to script writing and his first film *'The Evil Fairy Queen'* was released in the US in April. This family-friendly horror about evil fairies was shot partly in and around Bedfordshire.

Phil Rees (78-86) is still playing hockey and is proud to play for Wales Masters Hockey over 55's team.



◀ **Paul Scully (79-86)** ran the London Marathon 2024 in aid of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. The former MP also met up with **Rob Kendrick (62-71)** at the Conservative Party Conference.

It was great to hear from **Jon Teubner (86-86)**, who, while attending a 40-year reunion of a cricket tour in Adelaide, was reminded of the undefeated 1st XI season in 1986. Jon was the opening batsman for the XI, despite only attending the school for two terms!

▼ **Al Murray (77-86)** returned to Sky HISTORY in Autumn 2023 with the new UK commission, *Al Murray: Why Does Everyone Hate the British Empire?*, which explores the origins of British rule, its impact upon each country and how its legacy continues to influence governance, culture, and attitudes. Al will also be appearing at the Bedford Corn Exchange in March 2025 as the Pub Landlord.



▼ The 1986 1st VIII crew got together for a mini reunion at Henley this summer and were joined by Andrew and Hugh.



▲ L-r Luke Freeman (77-87), David Mann (77-86), Andrew Murphy (75-86), Richard Young (79-86), Nick Stillwell (81-86), Nick Joy (82-87) and Hugh Maltby (73-83).

▶ **Jeremy Dood (77-88)** and his wife were invited to a Royal Garden Party after being nominated by the Department for Education for his services to education. Jeremy is the Headteacher at The Avenue Centre for Education and also serves as a member of the Department for Education's Use of Reasonable Force Reference Group.



▼ Some old Kirkman's boys got together for a pre- Christmas drink in December 2023.

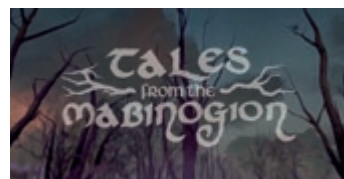


▲ L-R: Mark Hadland (84-89), David Morgan (85-90), Matthew Walker (83-89), Richard Morley (84-89), Rob Morgan (84-89), Phil Dawes (84-89), Phil Stott (84-89), Simon Blundell (84-89), and Barney Webster (84-87)



◀ L-r - **Will Shorten (84-89)**, Eamon O'Donovan (past Parent), **Hugh Maltby (73-83)** and **David Pinkney (78-89)** took the opportunity in May, to get out on the open roads in Northamptonshire.

▶ **Jason Wong MBE (84-89)** has been appointed England's new chief dental officer by NHS England and will act as the national professional lead for oral health strategy and dental care in England. He was pleased to celebrate the Lunar New Year at Downing Street!



◀ After making games for other people for 25 years, Montreal based **Stevan Anastasoff (82-90)**, took the plunge to do his own thing, and make a game

about Welsh mythology, in the Welsh language. *Tales from the Mabinogion* was reported on the BBC TV News in August and is about a vengeful sorcerer who unleashes a cursed fog upon the ancient Kingdom of Dyfed, and the warrior-king who embarks on the quest to thwart the curse. It will be available in the Stream Store soon.



◀ **Colin Rowe (85-90)** visited Washington State DVP **Mark Davies (78-83)**, in Sammamish, where they were joined by **Matthew Izzard (79-88)**. Mark took his life in his hands when he let Colin take the controls of his light aircraft!

Freelance Filmmaker and Director **Dan Magee (83-91)** was the skate co-ordinator for an Apple Türkiye iPhone 14 Film, shot on location in Istanbul.



◀ A special moment unfolded at the Dulwich match, where three current parents, **Will Tongue (81-91)**, **Robin Simmonds (81-91)**, and **James Barker (84-91)**, stood side by side,

reminiscing about their own days on the rugby field. Having played together throughout their school years, they were now watching their sons carry on the legacy, playing together in the 1st XV.

▶ Madrid based **Fernando Vega de Seoane (89-91)** was pleased to meet up with the British Ambassador to Spain and non-resident Ambassador to Andorra, **Hugh Elliott (73-83)** in January, before Hugh moved on to a new post in September. Fernando is the current Spanish Handicap Champion of Adapted Golf and Champion of the Spanish Cup Alicante 2024.



Chris Alexander (86-92) (aka Chris Aslan) has published a new book, *Unravelling the Silk Road*, which made several of the 'top ten travel books of 2023' lists. The book not only touches on **Sir Frederick Burnaby (1851-1859)** and Chris's own journey to Khiva, but also explores the way textiles have transformed Central Asia.



◀ **Karl Winrow (83-93)** was overjoyed to show his family his photo on the walls in the Sports Centre in the 1993 1st XV, who had had an undefeated domestic season. Karl now lives in Western Australia and works in IT.



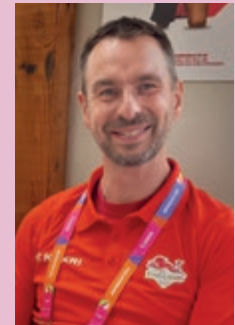
◀ **Andy Gomarsall's (88-93)** company, Bioscope Technologies, has been crowned Net Zero Innovator of the Year at the fourth Technology Supply Chain, 2024 Innovation Awards. The company research sustainable processes for metal recovery from the fastest growing waste stream in the world, e-waste! Andy was also proud

to represent n2s & Bioscope Technologies at the House of Lords in July with CGI & Digital Leaders as they announced their Top 50 Net Zero list.



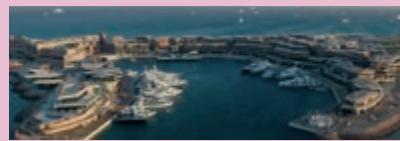
◀ **Col Mark Beynon MBE (85-93)** is currently the British Defence Attaché to Egypt. He will be posted there until summer 2025.

▶ **George Wood (83-94)** has recently been appointed Sport Development Director at Badminton England. He is looking forward to returning to work for this fantastic sport after a decade working with a variety of organisations across the sector, most recently spending six years as Sport Development Director at Swim England, where particular highlights were preparing and launching the organisation's ten-year strategy and seeing the England Swimming and Diving teams perform so well at the spectacular 2022 Commonwealth Games.



Arts Collections Consultant, **Nick Skipp (86-94)**, took part in his first London Art Fair at the London Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square in December 2023 with his collection of fine art and antiquities for sale.

Master Chef winner, **Dhuv Baker (89-94)**, was delighted to announce that his charcuterie company, Tempus Foods, is now available in the Harrods Food Hall.



◀ After 15 years with the Shangri-La Group, **Nick Smith (88-94)** has moved to Saudi Arabia as Executive

Director and General Manager of Sindalah Island, NEOM's first luxury island and yacht club destination.



◀ **Chris Bolton (88-95)** ran the London Marathon 2024 in aid of The Lord's Taverner's.

▶ **Tim Kirby (84-95)** set himself the challenge in March, to get in the water every day and try to swim in all the 14 ocean pools on Sydney's Northern Beaches! Well done, Tim!



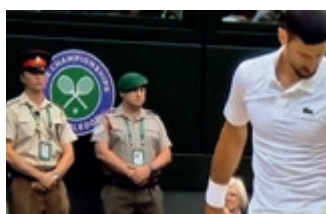
◀ Determined not to be thwarted by the weather when the Zermatt Ultra Marathon was cancelled due to floods, **Charlie Gray (88-96)** instead took part in one in Derbyshire. Not quite the same scenery but at 48km with 1,000m verticals it was just as challenging.

Charlie on the left.

▼ A group of 1994 leavers descended on Bedford in October 24 for a long overdue reunion!



▲ L-R Simon Lincoln (94-96), James Wills (89-96), Jon Wild (91-96), Giles Thorne (91-96), Jonno Hooley (89-95), Gerard Whiteley (87-96), Richard Jackson (89-96), Alex Ballard (88-96) and Sam Kamyar (94-96)



◀ Sgt Rowan Boddington (89-96) was spotted getting up close with the stars at the Wimbledon Championships 2024. He had previously been part of the Honour Guard for HM The King at Royal Ascot.

► Will Turner (87-96), Chief of Staff at Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust, got a bird's-eye view of London when he took on the St Thomas's Abseil, descending 160 feet down the front of St Thomas's Hospital.



◀ Mark Darbon (87-97) recently stepped down after seven years as Chief Executive Officer of Northampton Saints Rugby Club to take up a new role as Chief Executive and Secretary of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

Lieutenant Colonel James Allen (87-97) was recognised in the King's Birthday Honours List and awarded an MBE.

The Meadows at Polehanger, run by Andrew Foster (90-98), won the regional finals in Beds & Herts the Muddy Stiletto Awards 2024, in the 'Best Boutique Stay' category. The win was for their beautifully crafted glamping cabins, set within the meadows at Polehanger Farm, Shefford.



◀ Lt Col James Shaw (90-98) was honoured in the New Year's Honours by being appointed a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order, on the occasion of the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and The Queen. James was also very

proud to read the BBC CBeebies bedtime story on behalf of the UK Armed Forces! He has now left the army and is looking to embark on a career in Strategic Planning and Event Management.

► Andrew Foster (90-98) ran the London Marathon 2024 in aid of Oasis Charitable Trust.



◀ Creator of Times Tables Rock Stars, Bruno Reddy (88-98) has been awarded an OBE in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours list for services to Education.

► Jon Lamb (90-00), National Sales Team Manager at Well Pharmacy, is engaged to Agnes Melgies, a care home manager. The couple plans to marry at Clearwell Castle in the Forest of Dean in the summer of 2025.



A big thank you to Adrian Adaramoye (93-00) who helped the Quarry Theatre claim back their Facebook page when it had been hijacked by the Clint Eastwood fan page! New York based Adrian used to work for Meta and was able to put the Quarry in touch with someone who could help in the 'rescue'!

Parithad Petampai (96-01) has set up a finance company in Thailand and in the recent IAA Awards, Parithad's business achieved Best CEO, Best CFO, and Best IR for finance companies in Thailand.



◀ Ed Young (94-02) ran the London Marathon 2024 in aid of The Felix Project.

► Lead vocalist, and one half of the Indie Electronic duo, Laikipia, Xander Rawlins (92-02) released an EP of original songs, 'Alive I Dream (The Lost Songs)' in March 2024, as well as releasing the first single 'Midnight Love' from Pally Ink.

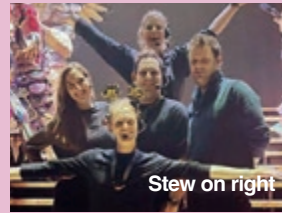


◀ Jay Vitale's (92-02) company has been making waves in Southeast Asia. 'Air For Life' was part of the 1st UK SEA Tech week held at the British Embassy in Bangkok and Jakarta. Jay came into the school to talk to the Entrepreneur Society, sharing his experiences and answering great questions from the boys.

Hywel Mills (93-03), based in Washington, DC, has started a new venture. *The Signal* is a current affairs brand that covers

a wide range of topics, including the economy, democracy, technology, culture, health, and education. The free newsletter and paid membership provide access to a full archive of interviews and articles dating back to 2021.

► **Stew Stealey (93-03)** is currently the Stage Manager for *Phantom of the Opera* at His Majesty's Theatre in London. He was previously the Stage Manager for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.



Stew on right



Neil 2nd from rt

◀ **Neil Guess (93-04)** took part in the Federation of International Touch 2023 European Touch Championships in Vichy. Neil who plays for Bedford Eagles Touch Rugby Club and had been part of

the England Touch M35 team, took part in the M30s.

► Film Cameraman, **Sam Lewis (97-04)** has been spotted on Planet Earth 3, this time in Peru, for the 'Forests' episode.



Ali Watkiss's (94-05) sunglasses company SunGod has been named as the official Eyewear licensee for Williams Racing. They are already the official licensees for McLaren and England Cricket, amongst others.



◀ **Maj Duncan Couchman (94-05)** took part in the Ironman European Championships in Tallinn in August and was amazed to learn that fellow OB **Connor Sheridan (07-18)** was snapping at his heels all the way round, coming in just one minute behind him!

▼ **Max Thiel (03-05)** was proud to wear his 3rd XV rugby shirt at the Hong Kong Sevens in April, seen here with 2 legends of the game! (Dan Carter and Brian Habana)



Tom Bartrop's (00-05) company, SuperFi, was in the list of the top 4 'Rising UK FinTechs to Watch' in 2024.

► **Stephen Elms (95-05)** was elected Councillor for Sunderland City Council in the May 2024 elections. Musician and presenter Stephen is also a Rugby League player and was proud to be selected for the West Indies side for their match v South Africa in 2004 and has presented his shirt to the School.



◀ **Ed Waite (00-05)** and **Alex Wakely (96-07)** were delighted to be playing together in the Rob Keogh charity T20 match v a Courtney Lawes XI side from Northampton Saints, as part of Rob's Testimonial year. The match raised money for the Ruth Strauss Foundation.

Outside of his day job as a service delivery manager, England Squash Level 2 Qualified Coach **Sam Morris (96-05)** has been coaching the Bedford Squash Academy at Club Towers, with four of his players selected for the County Development squad.

Sustainability Consultant at PwC Deutschland **Nicolas Albert (04-06)** sailed across the Atlantic Ocean at the beginning of the year, from the Canaries to the Caribbean, in just 16 days.

► **James Simkins (97-07)** married Amy Davies in Weybridge and afterwards at Balcombe Place, West Sussex on the 31st August. Ushers included James's brothers **Richard (95-06)** and **Will (98-09)**, **Ben Johnson (97-07)** and **Joe Burton (96-07)**.



▲ L-R : Berlin, Derek, Floyd, and Vince

◀ New DVP for Shanghai **Berlin Ng (03-07)** met up with **Floyd Wu (06-08)**, **Derek Gao (06-10)** and **Vince Xu (03-07)** in January, at Berlin's restaurant in Shanghai, 'Thai Gallery' which is located inside Jing An Park.

► **Nick Castleman's (03-07)** company, Labyrinth Events, promoted the Boris Brejcha 2024 tour at OVO Arena Wembley in November.



◀ Congratulations to **Harry Sinfield (01-08)** who has passed his ATP check ride with Sky West Airlines and is now a First Officer. He still holds a maritime licence from his time with Royal Caribbean International - so he can now legally fly an E175 in the morning and sail a cruise ship in the afternoon!

Alex Walsh (01-08) has been recognised as one of the Governance HOT 100 for 2024 in the ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) champion category, for those

that have positively influenced culture, sustainability & environmental impact within their company.



◀ **Josh Clark (04-09)** married Sam Kilner at 'Fins at Plantation House', Duranbah, New South Wales. The flower girl was their daughter Arlo. Josh is a Director at No Limits Sports in Moore Park, NSW whilst Sam is a Community Outpatient Manager for the Alcohol & Drug Service with St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney.

▶ Hong Kong based Food & Beverage Entrepreneur **Clement Wong (04-09)** became engaged to Gwen Lau, Head of Commercial, at Vivienne Court Trading Pty Ltd, in September, in Okinawa, Japan.



◀ The Travel Whisperer **Dan Jackson (03-09)** married Angel Investor, Steph Frayne, in Bedford in June. The couple honeymooned in Rwanda and will be having a wedding blessing in South Africa in Spring 2025.

▼ Senior Brand Manager for World Foods, **Brian Bircham (98-09)** married Rajie Bhart in April. OBs at the wedding included L-R **Jawad Safdar (02-09)**, **Rob Dudley (00-09)**, **Brian, Will Knight (98-09)**, **Bhavesh Panchal (98-09)**, **David McReath (03-09)**, **Rishi Mehra (00-09)**, and **Dan O'Connor (99-09)**.



◀ **Kaspar Ochsenfeld (07-09)** had dinner in Vienna, with **Father David Lawrence-March (staff 98-09)** when Father David was visiting the City and Salzburg at the beginning of the year, and then met again in March at Belvedere Palace.

▶ **Ryan Hudson (00-09)** ran the London Marathon 2024 in aid of Asthma + Lung UK.



◀ **Fred Steinmeyer (07-09)** is finishing up his MBA at the University of Cape Town and was amused to find 'Bedford' on a recent road trip!

▶ **Doug Worboys (98-09)** ran the London Marathon 2024 in aid of CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), in memory of his brother **Rob (98-05)**. He bumped into **Matt Cloke (09-14)** running on behalf of Hospice UK, at the finish line.

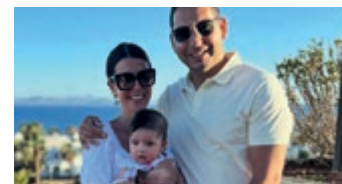


◀ **Matthew Ayres (00-10)** was invited to No 10 for a meeting with Sir Kier Starmer and other small and family business owners, charities and apprentices. Matt is Group Managing Director at BENNIE, a 4th Generation Family Business.



◀ Former 1st XV teammates **Jamie Elliot (03-10)** and **Andrew Ince (01-10)** reunited after 12 years for a one-off match at Bedford Blues for the Mobbs Memorial Match, resulting in a 38-10 victory over The British Army.

▶ **Ryan Tanna (05-10)** and wife Emilia are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Penelope Rose on the 22nd January 2024.



◀ **Theo St Claire (Green) (01-10)** has been in the ensemble in *The Big Life* at the Stratford East Theatre and understudying Ferdy, where the story of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* meets that of the Windrush generation.

▶ **Ben Cawood's (04-10)** team at SourceWhale won 'the treble' at the TALint Partners awards! They were awarded the 'Talent Tech Innovation Award', the 'Talent Tech Growth Award' and the 'Champion of Champions Award'.



◀ **Ben Holt (00-11)** and his father both took part in the Clipper Round the World Race and went head-to-head in Leg 7. Ben, who is an emergency doctor living in Fremantle, Australia, was racing in *Our Isles and Oceans* whilst his father was sailing in *Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam*, the eventual overall winner.

▼ **Hugo Moon (00-11)** got together with some old 1st VIII friends when he paid a flying visit to Bedford. Hugo is currently Assistant Coach for the University of Tulsa's rowing team, having moved there from Gainesville Area Rowing, where he had coached GAR athletes to numerous district, state and regional titles, as well as a bronze medal in the Men's U19 1x at the 2022 National Championships.



▲ L-R Ali Satchwill (01-12) Hugo and Michael Ruta (00-11)



◀ Client management in the sport and entertainment industry for Bolt 6 in Sydney, **Sam McLean (02-12)** got engaged to PR, Marketing, and Events Manager, Ellie Nicholas, at Palm Beach, NSW in November.

► **George Humphreys (01-12)** on left, took part in the HYROX Doubles Championships in Berlin in April. HYROX combines both running & functional workout stations, where participants run 1km, followed by 1 functional workout station, repeated eight times. The workouts include sled pushes and pulls, ski ergs, rowing, sandbag lunges, wall balls, farmers carry and burpee broad jumps. Not for the faint-hearted!



◀ **James Hicks (01-12)** has moved to Sydney and is working for Kimberly-Clark as their Grocery National Account Manager. Since moving there, he and girlfriend Sophia, have undertaken their first triathlon, hyrox and various other sporting challenges, fundraising for CRY in memory of **Dom Conolly (03-09)**, who died in

2023. Father **Simon Hicks (71-79)** and brother **Oliver (00-09)** are hoping to visit them in Spring 2025.

► L-R **Joshua Enson (04-12)**, **Harry Beale (98-09)**, and **Vinay Shah (05-12)** have all ended up training as orthopaedic surgeons in North London. They met up at the Stanmore Rotation Annual Dinner. There are only 40 orthopaedic



surgeons on the training rotation, which is made up of graduates from across the UK, so for 3 of them to be OBs is remarkable!



◀ DJ, Producer, Multi-Instrumentalist & founder of B.Y.O.V Nights, **Alex Dickinson (02-13)** (aka Tom Shanx) regularly plays sets all around the UK and Europe, including some rather chilly gigs in the Alps and even on the beach in Devon in Winter!

► **Kieran Olds (04-13)**, **James Maltby (03-13)**, "Jeffrey the dog" and **Freddie Dixon (04-13)** got away from it all on a walking tour in the Lake District where Kieran used to live before he joined Norwich City Football Club as Partnerships Delivery Lead.



◀ Senior Account Manager at M&C Saatchi Sport & Entertainment, **Sam Assim (03-13)** became engaged to On-Screen-Journalist at ITV News Central, Rosie Dowsing, on the Island of Naxos in Greece.

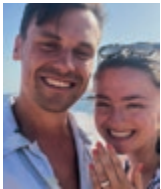
► **James Maltby (03-13)** completed the London Classics, an iconic sporting challenge featuring the London Marathon, Prudential RideLondon and Swim Serpentine.



◀ Director of Wealth Planning at Investec Wealth & Investment UK, **Tim Graham (08-13)** has got married to Alicia-Kate Leader.

▼ Corporate Finance and Tax Advisory accountant with FTI Consulting **George Cox (09-14)**, got engaged to Jessica Thorne in the Lake District in August.





◀ Senior Analyst at Keyhaven Capital Partners, **Matt Cloke (09-14)**, became engaged to Shelby Hawksworth (BGS 10-14) in July 2024.

▶ Actor **Matthew Gouldesbrough (03-14)** starred in *Odd Jobs* at The Hope Theatre, Islington in April, an electric series of short plays excavating our relationship with work. He has also become engaged to theatre Director/writer, Madison Gerring.



◀ **Dan Frossell (05-15)** is sailing around the world, crossing the Atlantic, the Pacific, and then navigating through the Pacific Island chain. He encountered some very wet and windy weather in the Pacific and had to wait for a weather window to sail on to the Cook Islands, Tonga, and then to Fiji. New Zealand is his final destination, where Dan hopes to find a job with law firms or legal NGOs specializing in environmental and human rights law.

Rio Rosano (11-15) recently had an exhibition of his work, in collaboration with Charlie Sheard, at the Olsen Annex Gallery in Woollahra, Sydney, NSW.



◀ **Shiv Patel (04-15)** played in the Last Man Stands Cricket World Cup in Nairobi, Kenya. Last Man Stands connects amateur cricketers from all over the world through its global ranking system. Whilst in Kenya, Shiv took part in a session playing cricket with local kids and listening to their stories, organised by the East Africa Character Development Trust.

Cancer Research PhD student **Philip Gebing (13-15)** was delighted that his PhD project was selected as an abstract in the prestigious journal 'Blood' and was featured at the ASH Conference (American Society of Hematology).

▶ Architect **James Robinson (05-15)** returned to school to speak with the architectural society. While walking through the DT Department, he was amazed to see a project he had worked on: a "sleeping policeman" that lowered when a vehicle passed over it, generating electricity.



◀ **Jared Sheridan (07-16)** cycled from Lands' End to John O'Groats (1,450km) in 4 days! Cycling roughly 350km per day it is the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest – twice! He was cycling in aid of Bowel Cancer and raised over £3,500. He also went to Estonia with his brother Connor in August, and undertook the European Championship Ironman 70.3, completing it in an amazing time that led to him coming in the top 3 of the GB and Irish Athletes.

▼ **Colin Baker (staff 79-16)** and his wife Jackie had the trip of a lifetime when they visited Vietnam in December 2023.



◀ After completing his two-year compulsory military service in Armenia, **Zory Davoyan (12-16)** returned to the UK to study Physics at UCL, securing a place on the prestigious Dean's List. He then did an MPhil degree at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge and has just been accepted to do his PhD at Trinity Hall College from October 2024.

▶ **Josh Garrett (08-17)** ran the Edinburgh Marathon in May in aid of the St John's Hospice in memory of his father **Richard Garrett (staff 10-18)**. Josh is currently teaching English at Queen Ethelburga's College, York.



▼ **Oli Hind (06-17)** took part in the Peak District Challenge in July, raising money for Cancer Research UK. The run is a 73km race in the Peak District, with more than 1,500m of elevation to climb – not for the faint-hearted!



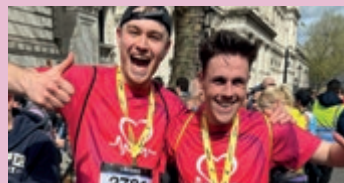
▼ **Toby King (06-17)** ran the London Marathon 2024 for the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation in aid of WellChild.



▼ L-R **Oli Hind (06-17)**, **Max Humphreys (06-17)**, **Ted Hicks (12-17)**, **Ben Kight (12-17)**, **Connor Finch (13-18)** and **Felix Iles (13-18)** decided to support **Fraser Dingwall (13-17)** in style when he made his England debut in Rome on the opening weekend of the Six Nations in February. What an amazing place to watch rugby!



► **Tom Liggins (12-17)** and **Harry Walker (12-17)** ran the London Landmarks Half Marathon in April, raising money for the British Heart Foundation



◀ **Connor Sheridan (07-18)** completed his first triathlon at the Ironman European Championships in Tallinn, Estonia, doing the full distance, incorporating a 3.8km swim, 180km bike and a full marathon. All done with just 4 months training! Amazingly he came in, unknowingly, just one minute behind **Duncan Couchman (94-05)**!



◀ Composer **Ollie Graham (07-18)** and his girlfriend Emma returned to school for a brief visit. Ollie was keen to meet up with his former teachers in DT and the Music Departments. While at school, he and **Ollie Walker (08-19)** wrote a song *Hummingbird* which has now had over 2 million hits on Spotify.

► **James Kneller (08-19)** has started a new position as Third Officer at James Fisher and Sons plc, having passed his OOW Unlimited exams. (Officer of the Watch in the maritime industry). It allows him to become responsible for the safe navigation and operation of a vessel on the bridge.



◀ **Austin Roberts (17-19)** graduated from Newcastle University in July with a Master's in civil engineering and is now working for Dutch engineering giants, Mammoet.

► **Matthew Johnston (12-19)** took part in the Snowdonia Trail Half Marathon, one of the toughest trails with over 1192m of ascent, most of which is up Wales's highest peak. He came an amazing 47/400 with a time of 2:35. Matthew is currently teaching at the Swiss International Scientific School in Dubai.



◀ **2Lt Rory Boylen (17-19)** passed out of RMA Sandhurst in December 2023, joining the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. He is currently based in Tidworth, Wiltshire.

► **Max Deacon (13-19)** has passed his Commercial Pilots Licence in Florida.



◀ Sports Performance Analysis student **Ben Wood (12-19)** was delighted to be an intern at Northampton Saints when they won the Gallagher Premiership at Twickenham in June.



◀ **Flik Feng (15-20)** has completed his MPhys in Physics and Astronomy at Durham University and will now be undertaking a PhD placement at Cambridge in Psychiatry. Whilst at Durham Flik performed regularly as a choral scholar, as well as performing at the Edinburgh Fringe as part of the Foot Notes A Cappella.

Congratulations to Lancaster University graduate **Emmanuel Adeyemi-Abere (13-20)** who was selected for the Future

Leaders magazine as one of the top 150 African and African Caribbean students and recent graduates in the UK. Outside the classroom Emmanuel has worked in freelance journalism, writing about football for several platforms and was selected for the Positive Action Scheme as an intern at The Guardian.

► **Kayde Sylvester (18-20)** has joined Cambridge Rugby from Northampton Saints. He is returning to Granchester Road, where he began his rugby journey as a Blood & Sand Mini & Youth player.



Congratulations to **Harry Dowrick (16-21)** who has gained a first-class degree in Maths and Physics from Durham University. Harry is now embarking on a Masters in Maths at Downing College, Cambridge.



◀ L-R **Ted Walker (17-22)** and **Tom Allen (12-21)** celebrated the end of the rugby season at Swansea University Rugby Club in fine style.

► Congratulations to **Tom Allen (12-21)** and friends for their incredible achievement of cycling from London to Paris on a 4-person tandem bike! They took on this amazing challenge to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



◀ **Ben Barnes (12-21)** has graduated from Durham University with first-class honours and is now embarking on a MPhil at St John's College, Cambridge. Whilst at Durham Ben had been awarded the Bishop's Robertson Exhibition Prize and captained the University College 1st XV.

► Loughborough University Graphic Design student **Alex Edun (15-22)** represented English Universities Sport in 2023. He was fortunate to be one of four from Loughborough selected to play Rugby Sevens. In addition to this, Alex has signed on as a sports model with Forte Sports Talent and continues his business of customizing sports footwear.



◀ American Football player **Henry Flatt (17-22)** has been signed by the Dresden Monarchs. He was part of the Great Britain U19 junior national team that played against Italy in March 2023 and had been playing for Loughborough University where he is studying architecture.

▼ Engineering student **Rob Menhart (17-22)** took time out in May to welcome the School's 1st IV Fives team for their annual fixture against the Cambridge University team.



◀ **Rob Parrish (12-23)**, **Charlie Blythman (12-23)** and **Freddie McPhail (12-23)** were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards.

▼ **Tom Godber (12-23)** spent an amazing gap year working at Geelong Grammar School, Victoria, Australia where the Headmaster is former member of staff and Pemberley Housemaster, **Pete Sherwin (staff 06-15)**.



A special thank you to OBs who have returned to the school during the past year to share insights into their careers and experiences with the boys. These OBs include: **Nick Hudleston (78-83)**, **Matt Rickard (86-89)**, **Jay Vitale (92-02)**, **Doug Worboys (98-09)**; **Jordan Legg (10-15)**; **Oliver Mitchell (13-18)**, **Oliver Graham (07-18)**, **Jordan Legg (10-15)**; **Riki Msindo (07-17)**, **Thomas Pelling (08-19)**, **Sami Haroon (15-22)**, **Oscar Calvert (15-22)**, **Reuben Glenville (20-22)**, **Robert Menhart (17-22)**, **Nathan Sankersingh (18-22)**, **Alex Watson (10-19)** and **Connor Hawthorne (12-23)**.

OBs BACK TO SCHOOL

THIS YEARS OB VISITORS

This year, we once again opened our doors to welcome back OBs for visits and tours of the school. We take great pride in welcoming OBs back to their old school, giving them the chance to relive cherished memories and rekindle their connection with Bedford.

To ensure someone is here to welcome you, please email us at: obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk to arrange a visit.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK!



Chris Greenwood (62-71), Chris Hartop (61-70), Tony Mullinder (61-71), Michael Palmer (62-71) and Paul Thompson (64-72)



Andrew Ashworth (81-89) California, US



Andes Lee (14-19) and Artin Lee (16-22) Hong Kong



Alex Achba (12-17), Georgy Kharzaliya (11-17) and Alikhan Bekov (13-17), Russia



Billy Kong (09-14) Birmingham



Chris Tarrant (71-76), Cheshire



Daniil Dulgeru (12-19) Dubai, and Eddie Tian (11-19) Hong Kong



Hiram Mok (80-84) California, US



Imad Husain (77-79) Massachusetts, US and Tarun Sarwal (77-81) London



James Lyon (55-66) NSW, Australia



Mark Fairhurst (71-76) New Jersey, US



Tolu Omotoso (07-10) Canada



Sebastian Liu (17-20) Hong Kong



Sem Kyegombe (92-99) East Sussex



Simon Cordingley (78-83) Lancashire



Simon Howse (90-01) VIC, Australia



Tom Moore (63-68) Devon



Phil Cai (00-07) Edinburgh



Tim Oliver (70-75) Bath



Andrew Tusting (63-72) Buckinghamshire



Boris Batine (98-00) Spain



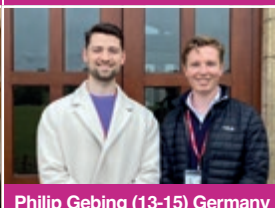
Hywel Mills (93-03) Washington, US



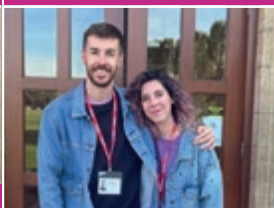
Muazzam Mokht (94-97) Brunei



Phil Coggins (staff 73-06) Bedford



Philip Gebing (13-15) Germany & Joshua McNulty (10-15) London



Phil Salvesen (05-10) Spain



Mark Brazier (50-59) Gloucestershire



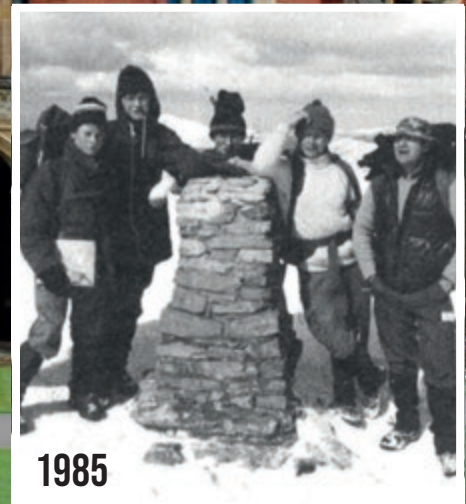
Richard (57-67 and Simon Wood (62-70)

IN MEMORIAM

Michael W Alcock	1943-1950	Charles Matthew	1943-1954
Neville M Andrews	Staff 1958-1968	Brian J (Joe) Mitchell	1956-1960
John T Asher	1946-1952	Michael J H Mortimer	1948-1955
Nigel G Barker	1967-1977	John O Murray-Clarke	1946-1952
Peter Brichta (aka Peter Brett)	1942-1945	Dr Conolly (Con) S Norman	1950-1954
W A E 'Bill' Canvin	1954-1961	Ian J Northern	1967-1977
Andrew J Clark	1942-1950	David J O'Meara	1954-1963
Alan M Coates	1939-1944	Ian R Pell	1972-1981
John P Crofts	Staff 81-04	Robert (Bob) I Penlington	1944-1949
Richard J Cundall	1964-1969	The Revd Peter L Pickett	1941-1947
Colin H B Day	1943-1952	Frank A Pinguet	1941-1948
Sonia Dee (Spivey)	Staff 1986-2011	George S Pink	1947-1952
Roger T Eddleston	1963-1967	Robert A Plumtre	1939-1950
Henry L Ensor	1945-1951	John E Pullinger	1936-1941
Col Donald N Faithful-Davies	1958-1963	Malcolm Rae	Staff 1985 - 2001
Richard Faulkner	1963-1969	F John Rawlins	1942-1951
Peter C Firmin	1945-1951	Chris M Reynolds	1962-1967
Lt-Col John Garton Jones MBE	1939-1949	Paul W Ripley	1956-1959
Peter W G George	1940-1949	Angus G Robertson	1943-1955
D Charles Gorer	1947-1950	Robin E R Rumboll	1952-1957
Philip M Gorton	1940-1946	Graham P C Saunders	1958-1964
A J Michael Grant	1942-1951	Dr David R Sayers	1951-1956
Robert (Bob) HJ Gray	1946-1952	Mrs Joan Schoenenberger	Staff 1971-1976
The Revd Nathaniel (Neil) B Hall	1944-1950	Barry Sharp	1951-1958
Derek A Hammond	1943-1951	David A Shephard	1978-1982
K Neil Harper	1953-1960	R Patrick F Shorten	1941-1950
Sir James P I Hennessy KBE CMG	1937-1941	John H W Steedman	1959-1963
Col Ben J Herman RM LVO	1946-1953	John K Turner	1942-1948
Maj Peter B L Hoppe	1939-1948	Stuart L Viner	1945-1955
Michael J Jennings	1943-1951	Peter B Voisey	1946-1948
Richard B Kerr	1952-1962	Patrick D Vulliamy	1940-1945
Simon N S Kimber	1958-1965	John T Wagstaff	1959-1966
Michael C Kish	1951-1958	Christopher N Ward	1974-1979
David J Lockett	1937-1947	David A H Wells	1952-1957
John M B Long	1945-1951	Robert F Willson	1941-1947
Harry W A Loxley	1937-1943	Julian B Wolfendale	1975-1979
Brian L Marsh	1944-1954		

THE YEAR OF 5 A GLIMPSE THROUGH TIME

As we welcome 2025, we are filled with optimism and anticipation for the exciting year ahead for our OB community. We look forward to welcoming you back to our events, especially those who left school in a year ending in a 5. We encourage you to attend the At Home and Annual Dinner, where we will celebrate and commemorate your school leaver anniversary. It's a special opportunity to reflect on the memories, achievements, and friendships that have shaped your journey. In the meantime, enjoy these photos from years ending in a 5, capturing moments of nostalgia, growth, and milestones from the past.

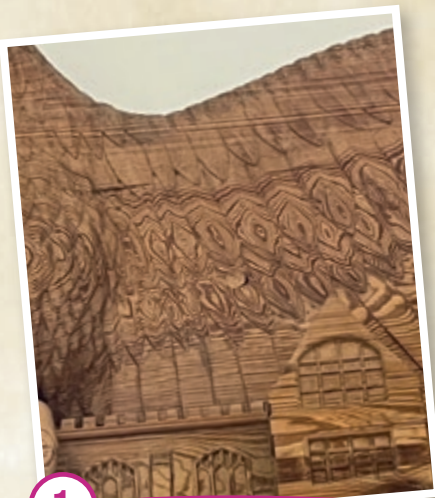


HUGH'S CLUES

Welcome to *Hugh's Clues*! In this new feature, we're putting your memory to the test with a series of close-up photos taken within the school and around the school grounds.

Each photo captures a detail of a familiar spot—perhaps from the places you once roamed daily. How well do you remember the hidden corners, well-worn steps, and unique architectural characteristics of Bedford School?

Can you identify what and where it is? Take a guess and email us with your answers - obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk – Best of luck! The answers will be published shortly on our social media channels and in our January newsletter.



1 STANDING WATCH OVER ALL WHO ENTER.



2 CASTING COLOURFUL LIGHT ON COUNTLESS PAGES.



3 GUIDING CURIOUS MINDS AS THEY EXPERIMENT AND CREATE.



4 WHERE VOICES UNITE IN SONG.



5 A CHARMING, THATCHED RETREAT QUIETLY NESTLED NEAR A PLACE OF AUTHORITY.



6 CREATIVITY FLOWS BEHIND THESE.

Come and explore an
award-winning
education for your son



Book your place



*Bedford
in Action*

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY

13+ and 16+ entry
(Years 9 to 13)

*Bedford
in Action*

FRIDAY 21 MARCH

7+ and 11+ entry
(Years 3 to 8)

*Open
Morning*

SATURDAY 17 MAY

Whole School
(Years 3 to 13)

That they be *good* men.



OB EVENTS 2025

JANUARY



BEDFORD SCHOOL WINTER GOLF WEEK

Monday 13 – Friday 17 January



GOLF DINNER

Saturday 8 February

MARCH



OB CLUB CAREERS CONVENTION

Tuesday 4 – Thursday 6 March



SPORTS WEEKEND

Saturday 22 – Sunday 23 March

JUNE



10 YEARS ON NETWORKING KINGS CROSS

Thursday 5 June

JULY



HENLEY

Tuesday 1 July



AT HOME

Saturday 5 July

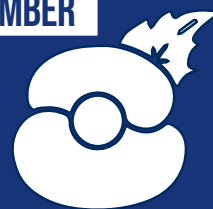
OCTOBER



FOUNDERS & BENEFACTORS SERVICE

Sunday 5 October

NOVEMBER



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 9 November



OB CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday 15 November

Scan the QR
code to see our
full list of
upcoming OB
Events.

