

OB REVIEW



Summer 2020
www.obclub.org

- Captain Tom's Sorting Office
- Lockdown Diaries
- Charity Challenges and Adventures
- News from Around the World



WELCOME TO THE 2020 OB REVIEW - what a year it has been!



Photo L to R: Bev Marshall, Gina Worboys, Clara Policella, Hugh Maltby

None of us could have envisaged at the start of the year that, without missing a beat, the school would transform itself into a 'virtual' institution and that all our meticulously planned events would be cancelled.

At a time of crisis, it is heartening to see so many in the OB community step forward to help those who are less fortunate than themselves. We have an abundance of examples, whether it is those on the front line fighting the pandemic, Trustees of the Bishop Memorial Fund, OBs supporting each other in their

career development or even being part of the Capt Tom card-opening operation.

The pandemic will have social and economic implications for many years to come. Particularly hard hit will be those OBs who are currently finishing their academic studies and who face an uncertain and volatile job market. Eagle Connect, our new free online digital networking platform will be invaluable, helping Old Bedfordians to connect with each other in a business and social context. With over 1,300 registered members, we now have a wealth of talent from every imaginable business sector, all of whom are willing to help their fellow OBs.

Please spare a thought for our departing Upper Sixth form who've been robbed of their final term and are destined to become famous in future pub quizzes, as the only year to not physically complete their time at school. We welcome them to the Club.

My sincere thanks go to the BSA team of Gina, Bev and Clara for all their hard work and efforts during the year.

And finally, "For all those finding it difficult: the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away" Capt (Sir) Tom Moore. Well, the sun did shine down briefly on our Kiwi OBs who managed our first gathering since March - in a pub, remember those!

Hugh Maltby (73-83), Director, OB Club

A WORD FROM THE HEAD MASTER

Dear OBs,

It feels a little strange to write an introduction to an annual review, when anything which happened pre-February this academic year seems as if it belonged to a different era altogether. It had all been shaping up so well. We had a very talented year group at the top of the school, who not only were going to put two years of poor leavers' results well and truly to rest, but who were probably going to play the best cricket we had seen for some time. We have also had, happily, increasingly strong interest in the school from prospective families, which means that even after recent events, we are likely to have as full a school in September as we have ever had. But, of course, Covid-19 has rewritten the story, in part at least. A year of leavers will leave for an uncertain immediate future and the school, though in a very strong position in terms of enrolments, finance and general esprit de corps (a theme for the ages!), faces a likely global economic downturn with its eyes very much open.



Your support, as ever, has been wonderful. This term's switch to online teaching saw a plethora of OB volunteers coming forward to take online talks and seminars for our Upper Sixth (who no longer had exams); the Bedford School Trust, who in happy alliance with the Bedford School Foundation, has supported the school so brilliantly over the years, has again come to the fore by providing "Covid-funding" towards the school's IT and bursarial costs (amongst other things); individual OBs have helped the school to respond to the Black Lives Matter protests in a very productive and constructive way; and the OB Club itself, with its new Eagle Connect network and renewed online presence, has never been busier in making links, supporting one another and enriching the current educational experience of the boys.

Simply, therefore, thank you so very much for your support. It is *always* welcome, of course, but there are also a few times in a school's long history when it is even more welcome than usual. This is one of them. It will be a long haul, I suspect – and if, in any way and at any stage, you feel you can support, do please get in touch.

I hope you enjoy the annual review; and that we have the opportunity to meet again in person in the not too distant future.

With kind regards indeed,

James Hodgson,
Head Master

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sitting here on a beautiful day, with not a cloud in the sky and looking over a garden in full Summer bloom, it is hard to believe that the World is in such a mess. I just hope that the OB community is doing well and that you, and your families, are keeping healthy. This, of course, is not universally the case – many OBs are having their educations, training and careers disrupted, businesses and employment are under strain and no doubt some will be more directly affected by the dreadful Covid-19. Let us hope that this is all over soon.

There is good news and we have had plenty to do during lockdown, with some impressive output from Hugh and the team in the OB office. In the absence of many regular events – the Sports' Weekend, the London Networking drinks, Henley, the OB Cricket week and the At Home, to name a few – the Club (and the school) have remained remarkably busy and visible. Hopefully you saw the choir singing Domus Pater, and (a particular favourite of mine) Happy Birthday



David circa 1975 after Sunday morning chapel, wearing his Monitors' tie.



Sir Cyril John Deverell

to Captain Tom Moore. Captain Tom was, of course, everywhere, together with many photographs from the Great Hall. The school, aided by OBs, did a great job assisting in his 100th birthday celebrations.

Many people enjoyed the colourised old photographs of scenes of the school over the years. Also, the collection of memories from OBs of the 1930/40s was a worthwhile project – great stuff and did you know that Bedford had produced a Chief of the Imperial General Staff

(1936 to 1937). Step forward Field Marshall Sir Cyril John Deverell GCB KBE ADC DL. We really should have a portrait of him in the Memorial Hall. There was so much more.

As I write we are just over a week away from our first ever virtual AGM. We have found ways to keep going and stay in touch in an interesting way. I think the Club has done well. Thank you to all who helped in this.

“Boris” (not an OB!) has just announced that the pubs can open soon – so hopefully this will mean we can get really active again as a Club and we will see many of you at the Annual Dinner in November.

Take care and stay safe.

David Murray (69-76), President, OB Club

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Well, it has been quite a challenging time for the Club and beyond. Much of our busy calendar of reunions, sports fixtures and social gatherings has been abandoned. And yet the Club has continued its core mission of keeping OBs connected both to each other and to the school. OBs over 75 with no email have been contacted and support offered whilst the Bishop Memorial Fund has made a number of disbursements to OBs in difficulty during the crisis. There have also been countless ‘virtual gatherings’ taking place. Eagle Connect is the Club's newly established platform for networking and careers support and has been important in helping OBs stay connected and informed.

Many OBs, staff and parents rallied round to help open the 160,000 birthday cards received in Captain Sir Tom Moore's ‘sorting office’ at the school. Seeing the Great Hall adorned with so many cards was an uplifting sight and showed the school in a very positive manner. And we mustn't forget that many OBs have been on the frontline during the pandemic, both as medical or support staff for the NHS and we give our sincere thanks to them for their efforts in helping to keep us safe.

In the heart-warming words of Captain Tom, “tomorrow will be a better day” and next year, of course, sees the 130th anniversary of the formation of the OB Club (as well as the opening of the main school building) and the Club will be hoping to mark the occasion appropriately. I was also

interested to note that in late 1890, just before the Club was formed, the Ousel received an enquiry as to who would be able to style themselves an Old Bedfordian. The editor replied, “the fact is, O.B. is a title of honour, and implies observing the best traditions of the school - and although freely accorded is not a matter of right or exact definition. The question ‘Who is an O.B.’ like many others, *solvitur ambulando*”.

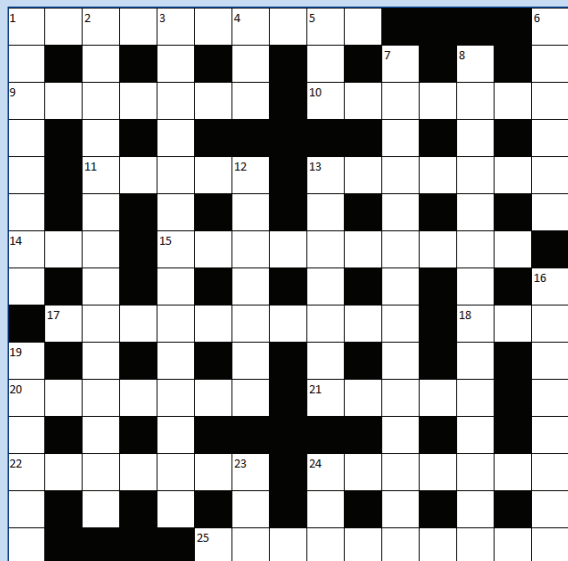
Craig Mitchell (64-74), Chairman, OB Club



Craig in the early 1960s - just before entering the Inky.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Thank you to a select number of masters who teamed up to create this crossword - for the time being they will remain anonymous...



ACROSS

1. Temporarily unemployed student in coarse environment gets into a silly feud. (10)
9. Initially Britain's infection measures overcame disease, albeit later a second peak might be seen in this data (7)
10. Debate the start of school after sporting event. (7)
11. First drop of rain appears as sun departs whilst soloist plays a French number. (5)
13. Top academic award for nonsense in middle of assessment. (7)
14. Say goodbye to book club in a state of distress, it's where many sixth formers want to go! (3)
15. No support in Eastern religious teachings for such elementary decisions. (2-8)
17. Impact? A ton conjured up by this Bedfordshire man! (7,3)
18. A short book and a brief subject. (3)
20. Staff to accept fashionable (and primarily handy) basic type of camera. (7)
21. Latin homework shows limited promise; "Taxi!" (5)
22. Small boy can follow no French: this course could be sticky! (3-4)
24. Old science master was goalie falling to pieces over loss (7)
25. Take particular notice of the old boy after a redundant midweek gesture with tablet (4,4,2)

DOWN

1. Super sub clattered by a foul. (8)
2. Boarding house is making money after halving rent; that's the way we do things at Bedford School now! (6,8)
3. West Brooklyn do organised for former pupil societies. (3,3,8)
4. Cricket side up for get together. (3)
5. The Gordon field ultimately provides finish. (3)
6. Evaluate what is contained in class essays. (6)
7. Master in charge fully engaged in Piazzi Smyth's field initially lost money on a staggering scale! (14)
8. Exclusive social groups in campaign for Champagne. (7,7)
12. High risk mortgage drops price for receipt of student Chemistry teacher's deposit - quite the reverse! (7)
13. Box clever. Switch for on-demand content (5,2)
16. Drastic preventative measures taken before losing hair. (8)
19. Cook starter. (6)
23. Return of Physics teacher's circuit component is key. (3)
24. Oddly grasp the difference. (3)

Answers on page 33

ANNUAL DINNER & Reunion

Last year's Annual Dinner was once again a great hit! It was wonderful to be joined by 45 OBs from the '89 leavers group, many of whom hadn't returned since leaving some 30 years ago. As part of their reunion weekend, they revisited some of their old haunts, much to the delight of the local publicans!



On the morning of the Dinner, OBs enjoyed a guided tour, reminiscing about their time at the school and retracing their old footsteps. They then tucked into a hearty lunch before watching the 1st XV take on Oakham. Just enough time to freshen up and don their black-tie before coming back to the Great Hall for a thoroughly enjoyable evening...and what an evening it was, with over 170 OBs and guests attending, including the Guest of Honour, Phelan Hill MBE (87-97), a reigning Olympic and World Champion who coxed the Great Britain eight to victory.



Please do get in touch with us here at obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk if you would like help organising any kind of reunion with old school friends, we are always happy to assist.



TRAVEL / GAP YEAR

Charlie Hicks (14-19) spent 3 months as a teaching assistant in GilGil, Kenya, helping in the classroom, on trips to Game Reserves, playing sports, and generally enjoying life as an ex-pat in the local Country Club! He then headed for the ski slopes and landed a job as a kitchen porter in Morzine, France, getting in lots of skiing as well. Since coming home Charlie has been on a team deep-cleaning Great Ormond Street Hospital in preparation for Covid-19 patients.



At the start of his Gap year **Joe Fordham** (08-19) did a 3-month internship for Sotheby's auction house in their Madrid office, whilst playing rugby for the Madrid Lions RFC. He then went to Ste Foy in France for a ski season working as a barman/waiter whilst getting in as much skiing as possible and meeting up with fellow 'gappie' James Kneller on the slopes.



Jonathan Hosking (12-19) travelled to Australia and South Africa (where he taught Drama at St John's College, Johannesburg) and then worked at The Odyssey independent cinema in St Albans, including writing and performing speeches before the film! He's also found time for bar work with Polar Events at various large events as well as busking for charity with his guitar round St Alban's and acting as an Ambassador for the National Youth Theatre, in between baking lots of banana bread!

Toby Garrett (10-19) and **Will Kirkup** (10-19) travelled to Ghana and Sierra Leone in West Africa and worked for Miro, a sustainable forestry and timber products business, learning all about the industry and the trees from the cloning process in the nursery, to the felling and processing of the



wood in the workshop. Highlights include: a week on Bureh beach in Sierra Leone (golden sand, clear water, 30 degree heat and locals laughing at the two white boys who were now lobster red with sun burn), They visited Makola Market in Ghana and spent time in the villages with locals who were extremely welcoming and generous despite the extreme poverty they were living in.



Whilst waiting for a place at Flight school **Max Deacon** (13-19) has been working at Halford's learning all about the wonders of retail and honing his knowledge of the course material he hopes to study over the next few months, as well as doing hard labour!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Captain Tom



OBs took part in a little bit of history in April when they volunteered to sort 160,000 birthday cards for Captain (Sir) Tom Moore's 100th birthday celebrations. The school community gladly answered the call for help from his family (Tom's grandson, Benji, is in year 11) by opening the largest sorting office in the country! The Great Hall looked resplendent in the spring sunshine with over 10,000 cards on show which caused a global media frenzy of activity.

The cards included many handwritten messages of hope, encapsulating a nation's mood during the dark hours of the pandemic. Many of the cards included donations ranging from £20,000 down to 52p, the entire contents of a 5-year old's piggy bank!

The display of cards featured across the UK press (including front page of The Times), on the BBC, Sky, British Forces Broadcasting Service, radio stations and in international media. Media reach was estimated at 79 million across the Globe which doesn't include social media! Our particular favourite was seeing the school featured on the front page of the Swindon Advertiser!

*“For all those finding it difficult:
the sun will shine on you again
and the clouds will go away”*

Captain (Sir) Tom Moore.

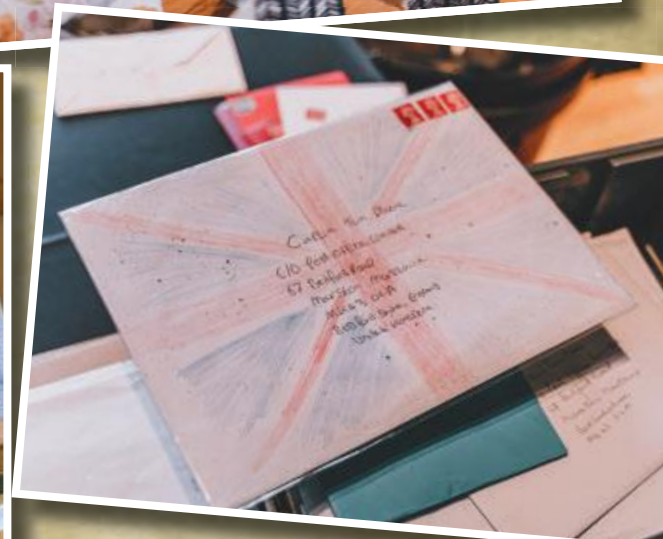
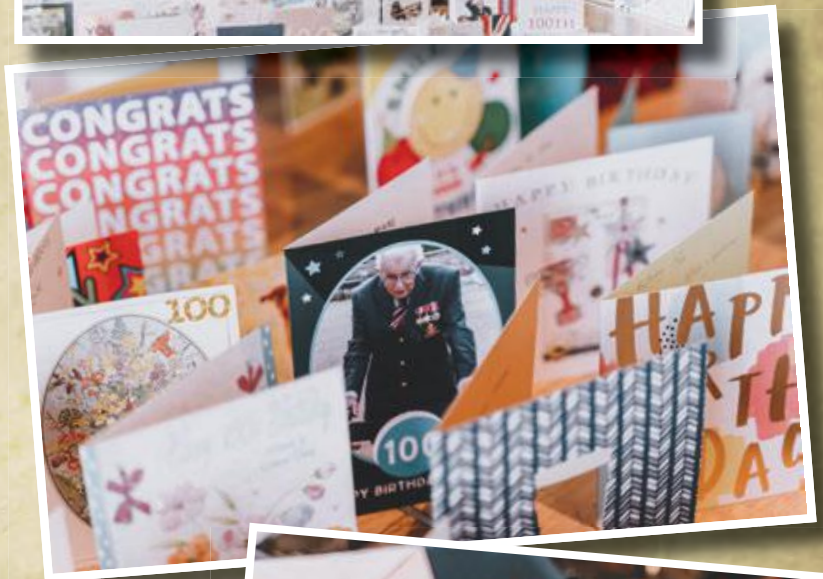




Some 14 OBs helped out, including the Post Office Head of Corporate Responsibility, Mark Cazaly (01-06), who was heavily involved with the massive operation at the Post Office – the scale of which they have not seen for over thirty years. Local police Inspector, Nick Masters (74-81), offered us additional security advice in the light of the school being in the global spotlight!

Long after the media had decamped, our volunteers painstakingly removed the stamps from the envelopes and donated them to locally based Sue Ryder, St John's Hospice and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB).

As the last card was packed away, we all reflected on Tom's wise words and looked forward to another day and his 101st birthday!



LOCKDOWN Diaries

I think that when we went into Covid-19 lockdown on 13th March 2020, those of us in Primary Care knew something bigger than anything we had seen before (certainly in living memory) was on its way.

Over a decade ago, I had been involved with Primary Care Emergency Planning as a PCT Deputy Medical Director - planning for SARS, Swine Flu and Avian Flu; we knew then it was only a matter of time before the next worldwide pandemic, on a similar scale to the Spanish Flu (1918-20), would hit... and here it was! With that in mind, we put our emergency planning into action.

Primary Care will never be the same again. In terms of technological advances, we have progressed further in 12 weeks than we had in the previous 60 years of the NHS' existence. Partly due to the technology already being available - it just needed a level-4 emergency to cut through the bureaucracy. Along with this, a promise from the Prime Minister very early on that 'The NHS will get whatever resources it needs' - essentially proper funding.

Whilst we in Primary Care didn't have the pressures that Secondary Care workers had to endure, we too felt the rising strain that came with a 7-day working week and the need to be available at all times along with an exponential rise in incoming information about how to address this rapidly evolving situation.

I believe we are now at a natural hiatus between peaks, and no doubt there will be another tsunami of this new, to coin a relatively fresh phrase, 'Beast from the East'!

I will be using this website to signpost any NHS workers to psychological help that is readily and freely available at: people.nhs.uk

Personally, I have taken on people.nhs.uk/lookingafteryoutoo and it has helped prepare me - a very experienced (old!) physician now - who is, nonetheless, not immune from the pressures thrown at all of us in the last few months - and still many months to come, no doubt.

Stay safe and see you all on the other side!

Dr Jason Reddy (79-84)
DVP Bedfordshire



David Marson (74-81) demonstrating his 'FeverCam' and 'FeverScan' temperature screening devices to Dr Jason Reddy and Dr Marcus Thomas (76-81)





Unprecedented times, surreal, uncertain - all words used to describe the Covid-19 pandemic. For the medical profession this has been a time for reflection and to have our voices heard. From initial panic and anxiety regarding the lack of preparedness has emerged resilience and resourcefulness. Speaking as an Orthopaedic Surgeon, we have asked ourselves questions of ethical obligation and duty that perhaps we hadn't previously.

How have I made my voice heard? As Co-Founder of Encode Health, we have created an award-winning

innovation for Covid-19 test tracking and tracing and are working with NHS digital to positively impact patient safety.

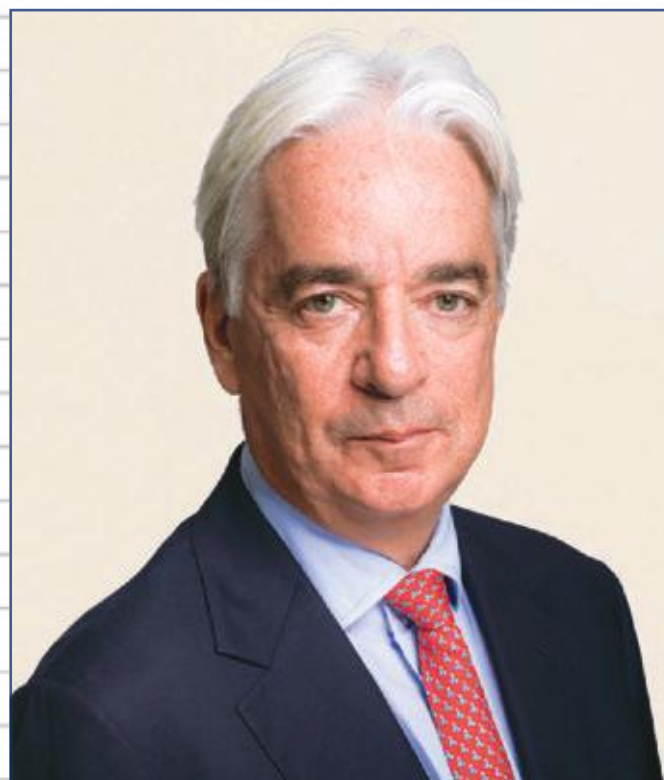
www.encodehealth.com

Mr Carlon Fitzpatrick (91-02)



Working on the acute medical unit through the Covid-19 outbreak has been an extraordinary challenge for me. Seeing patients sitting comfortably with a few litres of oxygen and then in the space of a few days deteriorate rapidly had become the norm; there was sadly very little we could do to help. It was painful to see patients in isolation without their families around them, acting as a mediator between them during daily phone calls, providing an update and passing on their well wishes was at times the best we could do, and this was immensely appreciated. Throughout these months, we were blessed with the public's kindness and thoughts: being delivered meals daily, receiving provisions to avoid queuing at shops, as well as receiving fantastic colourful scrubs to bring some much-needed cheer.

Dr Joshua Enson (04-12)



Ali Malek (68-74), one of the country's leading Commercial Barristers, and his team, had to adapt to fight a case during lockdown whilst he was suffering with Covid-19. The trial played out over Zoom and became the first-ever High Court dispute to be live-streamed on YouTube. Despite this, Ali was convincing enough to help his side gain a favourable judgment. We are pleased to report that he is now fully recovered.

Charity

The Bishop Memorial Fund was created to help OBs and Bedford School members of staff, also their dependents, who are 'in need, hardship or distress'. With the Covid-19 pandemic the Fund has been able to concentrate on helping OBs who have been affected by the lockdown.

OBs in the entertainment and hospitality industries provide examples of individuals who have found themselves without an income over the last three months. It has been particularly difficult for:

- some who have had to wait for furlough to kick in;
- those waiting for Universal Credit payments to commence; and
- the self-employed.

The Fund aims to get payments into the applicant's bank account within 48 hours depending on the information contained in the form submitted via the OB office. To the end of June £20,400 has been paid out in grants, typically the amounts have been £2,000 - £3,000.

In more normal times help has also been given for:

- seed corn funding for projects;
- helping purchase equipment for elderly OBs; and
- gap year travel projects.

The Fund is there to help and is administered via the OB office. Application forms are online at bit.ly/BishopMemFund

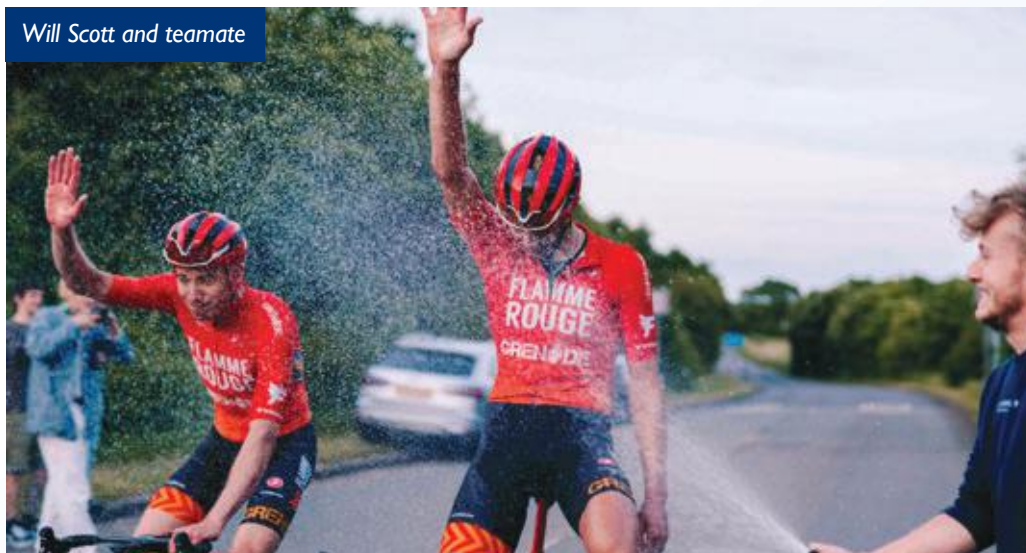
Stay safe and remember you are not alone.



While many of us were tucking into our turkey, stuffing, and pigs in blankets, Captain Alex Walsh RL (00-08) and his crew, Force Atlantic, were rowing 3,000 miles from the Canary Islands to Antigua. The intrepid team pushed off on the 12th December 2019 from San Sebastian de la Gomera, and landed in Nelson's Harbour 37 days, 13 hours and 53 minutes later, on the 18th January 2020. Force Atlantic are the first serving British Army crew to row across the Atlantic Ocean, in a challenge that, until recently, has been little known. More people summit Mount Everest in a single annual season than have ever rowed an ocean, and up until last year, more people had been to space! The purpose of the row was to raise awareness of the opportunities for young people in the Army and raise money for the ABF (Army Benevolent Fund); The Soldiers' Charity.

For more information on the Atlantic row or to donate, please follow @ForceAtlantic on social media, or visit ForceAtlantic.com

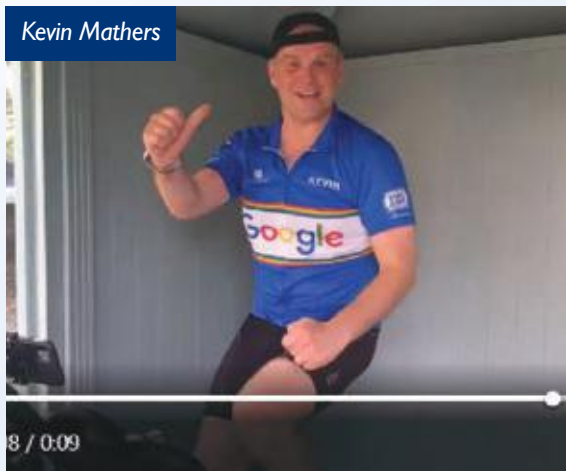
Will Scott and teammate



Will Scott (99-10) and his teammate set themselves the challenge to see how far they could ride on the longest day of the year. They set off on Saturday 20th June at 04:42, on a small 3.5km circuit in Cranfield - crossing the line 16hr 45 mins and 502km later at 21:26. So far, £1,746 has been raised for Mind Charity.

justgiving.com/fundraising/summer-solstice-challenge

Kevin Mathers



Kevin Mathers (84-89) and his colleagues at Google supported Nick Rusling's 26 Challenge as it raised an outstanding **£9million** (and growing) to help save UK charities. They cycled, walked and took part in an epic set of live fitness classes, all revolving around the number 26. Well done to all involved. Find out more: bit.ly/KevinMathers

Matt Gerlach



In honour of Rob Worboys' (98-07) memory, Cushman & Wakefield, along with their clients, participated in The Rob Worboys Arran Challenge. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, this year they were unable to gather on the Isle of Arran to complete the task. But fear not... on 13th June 2020, Arran was brought to them!

Rob's brothers, Jamie (98-05) and Doug Worboys (98-09) rose to the challenge and, together with other participants, either ran, walked or cycled for 1 hour a day for 7 days. The aim was to complete 51.6 miles (the full way round the island). 408 participants took part from across the world including Australia, America and Singapore.

The NHS was the chosen charity this year for their incredible work during these difficult times. bit.ly/RobWorboysChallenge2020



Doug Worboys



Jamie Worboys

Matt Gerlach (97-08) and his cousin, Dan, had been planning on participating in 'Only the Brave', an annual fundraising run held by the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA). Sadly, due to Covid-19, the event was cancelled. So, they decided to create their own challenge - running 5km each day throughout May with the aim of raising £3,500 (the average cost of a helicopter mission). They were especially pleased to see their friends and family getting involved in weekly 'solidarity 5km' runs, helping them reach their target! bit.ly/2CousinsRun

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY



Jamlist is a UK-based hospitality industry marketplace started by **Sanjay Murthy** (79-84). It connects hospitality buyers with the best artisan sellers giving the manufacturers of artisan products a chance to compete in a US\$356bn

global market. Historically, distributors have controlled the supply making it difficult for smaller manufacturers to have access to the same opportunities as the larger ones. www.jamlist.market



NATRL drinks, set up by OBs **Nick Graham** (05-09) and **Nick Johnson** (99-10), has gone live this summer. NATRL drinks are naturally delicious with three simple ingredients, filtered clear alcohol made from sugar beet, pure sparkling water and fruit flavouring from real fruit. This low-calorie alcoholic drink will hit the spot after a long, busy day! Natrldrinks.co.uk

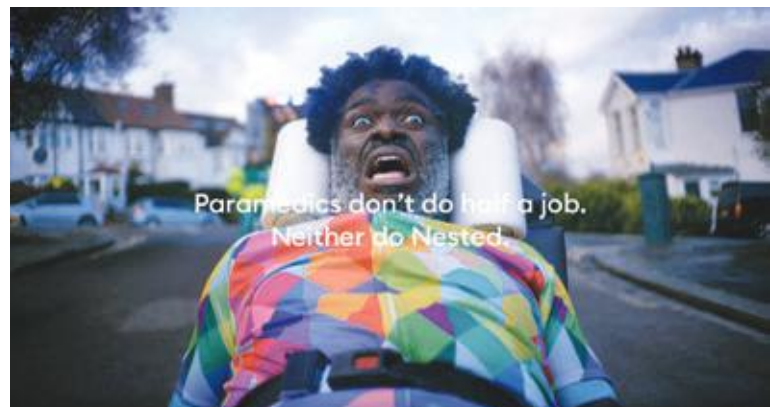


Neil Dawson (78-83) has spent 30 years as a Creative Director. He has worked in top ad agencies in London, New York and Berlin. In 2019 Neil set up his own company. A new type of agency that is more nimble and is creatively led. A company where clients get direct access to the

creative people who create their work. A company where more of the clients' money goes into what is important – the work.

He is currently working with ASICS Europe, Imperial War Museum, Nested Estate Agents and Pernod Ricard.

If you are looking for creative direction to transform your brand, do get in touch at neil@neiladawsonandco.com

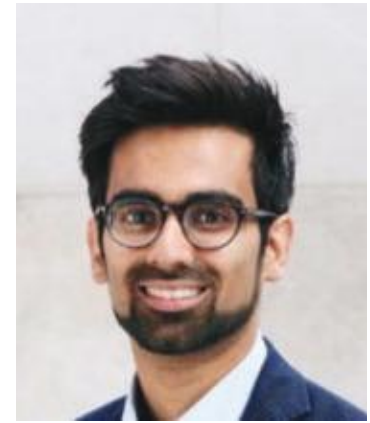
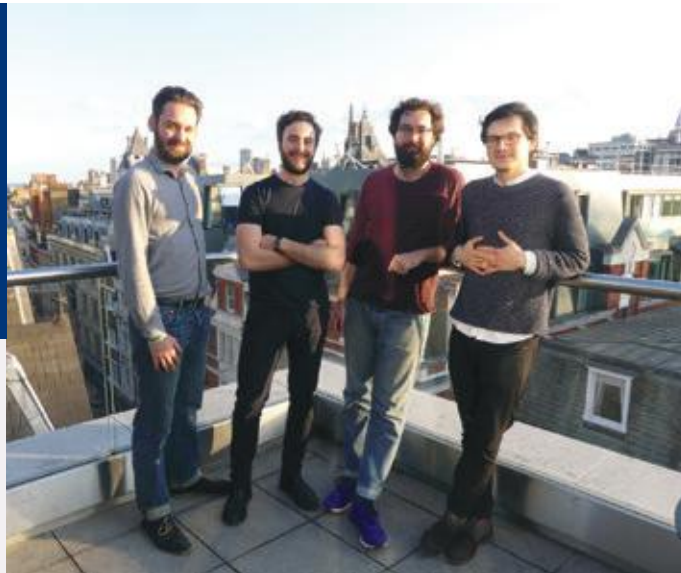


Team

Co-Founder CEO -
Mauricio Vilamizar (first right)

Co-Founder COO -
Yoann Demont (first left)

Product/Interior Design Team:
Plus Three Studio -
William Govoni (second left)
Beatle Gietema (second right)



Dr Imran Mahmud (00-05) is one of the 3 co-founders of NYE Health, a health tech start-up making an impact in primary care with teleconsultations. The Company had been under way as a theoretical project for a while but when confronted with the coronavirus crisis, the team of designers, engineers, and clinicians put the product together over an intense three-day brainstorming session and it was released on 13th March. It means that doctors - whether in hospital or GP surgeries - can have video and audio conversations with patients or with other health workers in a secure way.



William Govoni (07-13) and his team have set-up Pop & Rest, a proptech start-up based in the vibrant Silicon Roundabout in London. They are one of the pioneers in providing modular soundproof pod solutions aimed at tackling issues related to sleep, work and productivity. Their solution is also capable of providing an answer to the current problem of shortage in affordable, sleep-led, and safe short-term accommodation for urban cities.
popnrest.com

Bruno Reddy (88-98) and his team at Maths Circle were delighted to receive The Queen's Award for Enterprise for Innovation in recognition of their award-winning maths education programme, Times Tables Rock Stars. Created ten years ago to solve the perennial problem of young people not knowing their times tables, Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) has now become a household name, with over three

million children playing it all across the world. CEO Bruno Reddy comments: "We were extremely proud and honoured to win the Queen's Award and be recognised alongside the very best in British business. It is a wonderful recognition of the positive impact of Times Tables Rock Stars."

trockstars.com



ARTS

SRI LANKA

Paradise Lost; Paradise Regained.

Marco Polo in 1298 described 'Seyllan' as the most beautiful island of its size in the world. The Greeks and Romans praised 'Taprobane' and 18th century travellers praised 'Serendip' from which name comes the word serendipity - the luck of the unexpected.

Other distinguished people from the West have over the years been captivated by the enchanted Island, known as Ceylon until 1972. Anthony Trollope wrote in 1875 that 'Eden was in Ceylon, a land of loveliness, surrounded by the most perfect scenery the mind can imagine'. In 1897, Mark Twain infused: 'Dear me, it is beautiful! And most sumptuously tropical, as to character of foliage and opulence of it'.

So, it was for Lord Naseby, then plain Michael Morris working in challenging Calcutta, to be told one Monday morning on 10th May 1963 that he and his family must go urgently to Colombo, Ceylon to handle a crisis. This book is a celebration of Lord Naseby's subsequent unique involvement with Sri Lanka, its people and its politics over the last fifty years.

His memories of the stunning scenery of that first visit and of conversations with leading politicians led Michael to establish the first all-party Sri Lanka Parliamentary group in 1975 after his election as Conservative MP for Northampton South. He became Chairman with Betty Boothroyd as Vice Chairman. In an affectionate forward to the book, Baroness Boothroyd writes: 'Michael spent some time visiting the island almost every year. He became involved in every aspect of Sri Lanka life. He saw and knew everyone of importance'.

He has been an official observer at a number of Presidential and General Elections,

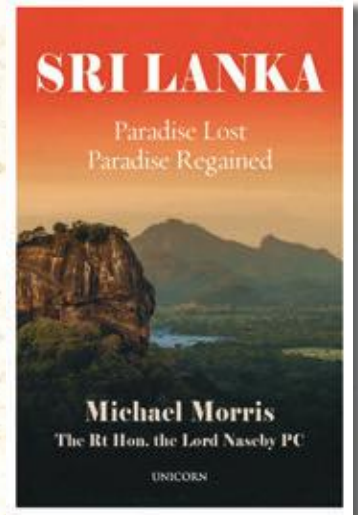


witnessed the opening of the Victoria Dam as an official guest, supported the Sri Lanka Government and people through a near thirty-year civil war and was deeply involved in the UK's aid response to the devastating Tsunami of 2004. Indeed, a year later, the President of Sri Lanka presented him with the nation's highest award for non-nationals, the Sri Lanka Ratna (Titular).

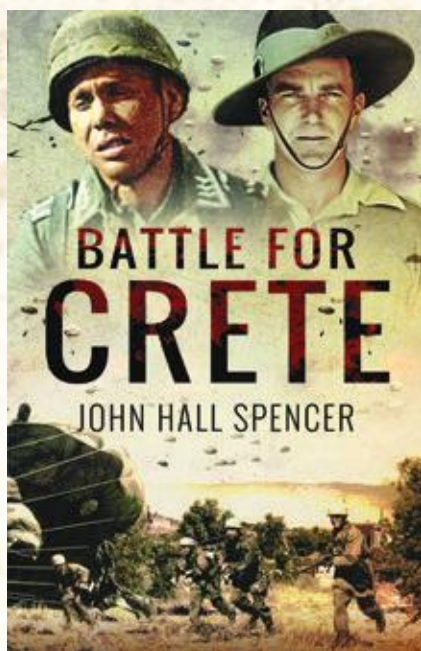
Sri Lanka: Paradise Lost; Paradise Gained,

published by Unicorn, is a powerful memoir of one man's very special relationship with a beautiful island and its people, his recollections from fifty years of the unique friendship between a British politician and the people of Sri Lanka. Today, as president of the all-party Parliamentary group for Sri Lanka, he remains a frequent visitor to the country with excellent links to the politics and politicians of Sri Lanka.

Author: The Rt. Hon the Lord Naseby of Sandy PC, formally **Michael Morris** (50-55), Chairman of School Governors 1988 to 2002.



If you find that you've run out of box sets, and can't find anything to watch on TV, why not settle down to watch the short film 'Man of the Hour' directed by **James Curle** (02-09). Since we featured his story in the 2018 OB Review, the film has completed its festival run, is available internationally and is now available for free on **Amazon Prime** in the UK and US! Look out for fellow OBs **Jonny Rees** (04-09) and **Alex Meredith** (99-09).



John Hall Spencer's (42-45) 'Battle For Crete' has recently been published in paperback. The book uses very varied sources, Allied and German, to build up an exciting account of a bitterly contested campaign. As the late HRH Prince Peter of Greece and Denmark wrote in the foreword: "It is a superb account... a text which is bound to be considered eventually one of the best narratives ever written of this important phase of the last war."

"A swiftly moving account and the confusion of a soldier's battle"

The Times

Get your copy from **Amazon** and **Pen & Sword**



Great to see **Will Vann** (95-00), Director of Music at Royal Hospital Chelsea, who is responsible for the regular music in the chapel, supporting and entertaining Chelsea Pensioners during the lockdown. bit.ly/WillVann



Looking for a series to get stuck into? **Jonno Davies** (01-10) is back on our screens, in Amazon Prime's 10-part blockbuster, **Hunters**, which was released on 21st February. Starring film legend, Al Pacino, **Hunters** tells the story of a diverse band of Nazi hunters living in 1977 New York City, who discover hundreds of high-ranking Nazi officials are conspiring to create a Fourth Reich in the U.S.

chris cottam • 1st
Director US/UK
1w • Edited •

Thank you **BAFTA** for the nomination of The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan.

Huge honour.

Congratulations to **Chris Cottam** (82-92) on his nomination in the BAFTA Television Awards for The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan. Chris' extensive body of work across film, TV, commercials, music videos and documentaries exemplifies his multi-faceted skills as a director.

If you love Zombie Films, then you may be interested to hear that **Caspar Winterfeldt** (81-86) has been involved in producing Dave Matalon's 'The Clearing' which has been officially released on Crackle as a Crackle Original (if you don't have Crackle, it's free to download/sign-up on all your favourite media devices).

THE CLEARING

Back to School

Year 8 Virtual Interviews!

Alastair Cook with the current Y8 boys – who listened to the talk – were in Y4 back in 2016!



Our year 8 boys were excited to watch an interview with none other than England legend and Old Bedfordian, **Sir Alastair Cook** (98-03). Expertly interviewed by the Prep school Head Boy, Will Hayward, Alastair spoke about his time at school, saying, “The experience I got from playing at Bedford School was incredible.” “Everything – if I ever needed it – Bedford School put on for me, as long as I was prepared to work hard to do it.”



OB and England International **George Furbank** (13-15) kindly spoke with our U13 rugby captain, Arthur Proctor, as part of our exciting Y8 post-exam programme. George and Arthur struck up a great rapport during the video interview, discussing everything from George’s experiences of playing rugby at Bedford School to his journey to the Saints and England, and even lockdown hair!



David Marson (74-81) 3rd from the left, gave a talk to The Economics Society on ‘Principles of Investing’. The talk was peppered with anecdotes and there were many questions at the end.



Andrew Keech (73-84) spoke at the Investment Society about his 30 years in business.



Tom Pelling (08-19), who is currently reading Mathematics at Cambridge University, gave a lecture to the Pythagoreans society on "Monovariants and Invariants"



Rich Wilson (04-09), **Alex Schoenenberger (00-09)** and **Jake Duxbury (11-16)** shared their experiences of the International Baccalaureate.



Northamptonshire County Cricket Club OBs, **Alex Wakley (96-07)**, **Charlie Thurston (07-14)** and **Emilio Gay (11-18)** met up with **Barry Burgess (Bedford School, Director of Sport)** during the pandemic, using the opportunity to get some much needed nets practice ahead of the start of the new season.

On Tuesday 26th November, the school held its annual mock Oxbridge interviews for the current applicants. We are very grateful to all those who volunteered as guest interviewers for the evening. The boys found their interviews very helpful and enjoyed meeting mentors who are so knowledgeable in their chosen fields!





Emilio Gay (11-18) spoke to the school's Senior Performance Group Athletes about balancing high-performance sport and academic study, as well as life as a professional sportsman.



Leo, 3rd from left

Leo Tse (13-18), a second year architect student at Bartlett, UCL returned to talk about his experiences on the course so far. He showed his impressive and exciting work relating to various projects which showed the boys just how much work and time is involved on an architectural course. Leo's visit was extremely helpful and inspiring for boys applying to the Bartlett.



Nick Marriot (92-02), head chef at The Mermaid in Ellington and The Snooty Tavern in Great Staughton, was the judge at the annual Staff Bake Off. This year's entries were submitted and judged remotely based on their appearance and, of course, perceived flavour.



James Maltby (03-13) gave a fascinating talk to the Geography Society about the application of a Geography degree to the insurance industry.



l-r: Michael Ruta (00-11), rowing coach, with Hugo Moon

Hugo Moon (00-11) came to help coach the 2nd VIII. The boys really appreciated hearing his words of wisdom.

The Hidden Gems of WORKING IN ICELAND

(BEATS WORKING FOR A LIVING!)



For the past 3 years, **Chris Urquhart** (03-10) has worked as a guide for Arctic Adventures in Iceland. He's undertaken a variety of roles: from Scuba Diving Instructor diving between the continental plates at Silfra; to snowmobiling guide on the glaciers of Langjökull; and as a hiking guide leading multi-day treks. It is this latter role

that has been most rewarding in the near constant daylight of the Icelandic summers. Many tourists hit the hotspots (or rather, cold-spots) but hidden in amongst the waterfalls, glaciers and volcanic scenery lies a less trodden path, hidden deep in the remote Central Highlands. It is in this area that Chris has been lucky enough to lead treks on what National Geographic has called 'one of the top 20 multi-day treks in world: the Laugavegur Trail.'

Chris leads groups on a six day traverse across some of the most dramatic scenery Iceland has to offer, starting with the active geothermal area of Landmannalauger, into the snowfields of Hrafninnusker, through the moonscape-like volcanic deserts of Mælifellssandur and on to the stunning valley of Þórsmörklyng



in the shadow of the infamous Eyjafjallajökull; (which last erupted in 2010). Chris's role covers everything from the route knowledge and geography teacher, to meteorologist dealing with the unpredictable Icelandic weather (it can still snow in June), to PE teacher wading thigh deep in freezing glacial rivers (house cross country was never this bad!) and finally as school-nurse holding the inevitable evening blister clinics. The Icelandic climate, landscape and opportunity for adventure is disproportionate to the country's size.

Being an adventure guide certainly beats working for a living!



CONNECTING US ALL TOGETHER



variety of ways which continues to be built upon through a co-ordinated programme.

The **OB Careers Fair** held annually in the Great Hall, now in its fourteenth year, sees OBs, parents and friends of the school come together to give career guidance to over 200 boys and girls from Bedford School, Bedford Girls' School, and Bedford Academy. From Lawyers and Doctors to Engineers, Publishers and Investment Bankers, it is wonderful to have such a wide range of fields represented. The students gain a great deal from this opportunity allowing them to hone their networking skills, ask searching questions and broaden their horizons in a friendly, informal atmosphere.



Earlier in the year, we welcomed back a number of OBs who kindly offered to present at various school societies on a range of subjects including insurance, accountancy, and mathematics. When the pandemic hit, we adapted and took this support online, hosting a 'virtual' **Career and Professional Skills course** in conjunction with the school Careers Department. Staff developed a structured way to help the boys on their path to university, as well as give them invaluable advice on a range of professions. In typical OB Club fashion, the community rallied

Since its foundation in 1891, the Old Bedfordians Club has always been there to support alumni of Bedford School. It has helped to foster and maintain relationships between the school and Old Bedfordians, and amongst OBs, by hosting events, sharing information and providing regular updates, adapting to new technologies along the way. It has also strived to assist and support members in their careers and lives and has used the OB network to help current schoolboys. Over the years, this support has manifested itself in a

together to help create an enriching course; with OBs and current/former parents offering online seminars on their careers and areas of professional interest. This offering has proven so successful that we plan to run it again next year and hope to extend it to young OBs about to leave university.

Our **London Networking** events continue to attract a strong following with an average of 40 OBs attending each event. They take place after work and provide a relaxed and sociable environment for OBs to catch up with one another over a beer or glass of wine. If you would like to host one of these events at your workplace in London, then please do get in touch.



9th October 2019
St. James's Place Wealth Management
Host: Adam Styler (87-98)



27th February 2020
The Castle, Farringdon



Eagle CONNECT

The 2018 OB Club survey highlighted that OBs wanted to connect with each other digitally, both formally and informally, to help develop their career. To support this objective, the OB Club office introduced the aptly named **Eagle Connect**. Since its launch in November, over 1,300 OBs have signed up to use the free platform.

Eagle Connect is a closed app only open to those who have a shared connection with the school. The platform has a number of key features which include:

- Professional networking and sharing of connections
- Careers / industry advice for those starting out, or at a crossroads
- Finding work experience, from gap year placements, to work shadowing or internships
- Researching companies and job search / post
- Keeping up with news and events from the school and OB Club
- Bringing our communities together overseas - helping people to connect/get together
- Finding out about 'real life' at universities and understanding the courses available
- Connecting with old friends in the Bedford community
- Participating in Sports Clubs and Groups
- Holding online events via Zoom integration
- Advertising businesses in the **free** business directory bit.ly/BSEagleConnect



DVP EVENTS

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic network of District Vice Presidents (DVPs) who volunteer as local representatives for the Club across the globe. Not only do they act as local contacts who can provide advice to visiting OBs, but many also organise local gatherings. We are always on the lookout for proactive individuals who would like to join the DVP network, so please do get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

NEW JOINT DVP FOR CAPE TOWN

We are delighted to welcome **Alex Gitlin** (90-96) to our team of District Vice Presidents. Along with **David Wall** (51-57), Alex will be joint DVP for Cape Town. Alex lives in South Africa with his wife Leanne and two children. He is currently based in Noordhoek, Cape Town, working as College Head of Reddam House Constantia.



SINGAPORE

OBs in Singapore enjoyed a drinks/dinner get-together on Thursday 5th December. As always, a great evening was had by all. Many thanks to **Russell De Chernatony** (98-03) for being such an active DVP for the area and organising so many fabulous gatherings throughout the year.

HONG KONG

Thank you to all our OBs who came to meet the Head Master, James Hodgson, in Hong Kong last October. Everyone had a great time and it was good to welcome some new faces too. A special thanks to our DVP for the area, **Ambrose Wang** (01-06), for sharing this wonderful photo with us.



HAMBURG

The thriving OB Deutschland E.V. group enjoyed its 15th reunion last December in Hamburg. The group met at one of the vibrant Christmas markets and enjoyed sampling some local 'Glühwein'.



AUCKLAND

DVP for New Zealand, **Ted Shorrock** (44-50), organised a pre-Christmas OB get together at Galbraith's Alehouse in Auckland on Friday, 20th December. Enjoying the occasion with Ted were his wife Chiria, **John Wellingham** (60-67), **Chris Sansome** (78-83), **Craig Mitchell** (64-74), his wife Krystyna and their son **Oliver** (97-02). A fun evening was had by all.

OTTAWA

OBs in Ottawa enjoyed meeting for a convivial brunch at the Canal Ritz, alongside the Rideau Canal, commonly known as the longest skating rink in the world. Thank you to local DVP, **Hugh Cartel** (48 - 57), for hosting the event with his wife, Rosemary.





FESTIVE LUNCH

Over forty OBs and guests joined DVP for Bedfordshire, **Dr Jason Reddy (79-84)**, for a delicious pre-Christmas lunch at The Snooty Tavern last December. With great company and food, a fantastic time was had by all – thank you to all those who came and helped make it such a wonderful occasion.

ISLAND HALL CANDLELIT TOUR

The Christmas spirit came early for OBs and their partners as they were treated to a festive tour and candlelit tea at Island Hall, Godmanchester on Tuesday 10th December. The event was hosted by **Christopher Vane Percy (53 – 62)** whose family has lived in the house for nine generations.



OBS IN 'POLDARK' COUNTRY

Last October, a group of OBs, wives and partners visited the grade one listed Chavenage House. Organised by Gloucestershire DVP, **Mark Howson (65 – 74)**, the group enjoyed the wonderful hospitality and culinary delights offered by the Lowsley-Williams family, the current owners. Chavenage House has been used as a setting for various historical dramas including 'Poldark' as 'Trenwith House', 'Wolf Hall' and other BBC productions and films.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

The power of music brought together boys from the school Chapel Choir and a group from the charity Music 4 Memory, with a delightful rendition of 'Bedford by the River'. Included in the group were two Old Bedfordians both of whom suffer from dementia. It was a truly beautiful and heart-warming occasion.



TOUR DE BEDFORDSHIRE

Camaraderie was in abundance as the sun shone down on the inaugural BSA Past Parents cycle event on Sunday 8th December. Richard Banks, Chairman of the Past Parents Association, commented that "despite the lure of Christmas shopping, we had a great turn out, with everyone enjoying each other's company. Buoyed on by this success, we'll be looking to organise further social rides for all cycling abilities in the near future".





FOUNDATION UPDATE



The only thing that seems certain at the moment is continuing uncertainty, and I believe that the Foundation, and the wider community that has supported the Foundation, and hence the school, is and will be more important than ever, as the full financial and other implications of the Covid-19 pandemic become clearer.

We are lucky that the Foundation has always been well supported and the history of generosity from OBs and others has meant that it has been able to help the school with both capital projects and with bursaries and scholarships. The need for this will be even greater over the next few years, and I would encourage those who would like to help, and become a member of the Foundation, to contact Hugh Maltby or myself to discuss possible ways in which this could be achieved. For those who have already contributed, our sincere thanks. You know who you are!

Back in October of last year, we celebrated the Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors. This is a key event which gives us an opportunity to reflect on how fortunate we are to be part of this wonderful institution and to mark its heritage and the generosity of a large number of benefactors over many generations.

As always, the Chapel Service was very special - this was followed by the traditional lunch in the Great Hall; it is always a delight to see everybody come together with a large variety

of connections to the school stretching over many years. My thanks to my fellow Foundation Trustee, **James Godber (82-87)**, for stepping in for me on the day, as I was unable to attend due to a hip operation.

Sadly, we had to postpone our AGM to later in the year when we hope Government guidelines will allow us to meet again, albeit possibly with some ongoing restrictions. We are also keeping arrangements for this year's Founders and Benefactors service under review.

As always, my thanks go to my fellow Trustees, and Hugh Maltby and his team, for all their hard work and efforts supporting the Foundation.

Chairman, Lance Feaver (67-74)





OBS AWARDED HONOURS

Dr Jason Wong (85-89), was awarded an MBE for services to Dentistry and Oral Health. Jason is a General Dental Practitioner and a partner at the Maltings Dental Practice in Grantham Lincolnshire. He also works for NHS England and NHS Improvement as their Dental Local Professional Network Chair covering Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire.

Jason, who has an interest in Oral health promotion and Implant Dentistry, is being recognised for work carried out for the Dental profession where he still serves as the Secretary of Lincolnshire Local Dental Committee. He was instrumental in improving Children's Oral health In Leicester – where the improvement seen since 2012 has been three times that of the national rate. Jason has also been appointed Deputy Chief Dental Officer for England. What a year!



Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust consultant and Endocrinologist, Dr Ian Gallen (72-77), has been awarded a CBE for his services to Public Health. Ian has a particular interest in community diabetes and for treating athletes with diabetes, most notably Sir Steve Redgrave, the five-time Olympic rowing champion. He served as medical advisor to the London 2012 Olympics. Congratulations!

THINKING OF MAKING A GIFT TO BEDFORD SCHOOL?



There is a long tradition of philanthropy amongst the Old Bedfordian community and, over the years, many generations of boys have benefitted from the generosity of others in a variety of ways. Without doubt, this has given boys a great start and hopefully helped them to go on and live a full and rewarding life.

Since 2003 the Bedford School Foundation has had the responsibility for raising funds to support education and enhance school life.

If you feel that you may like to make a donation please do not hesitate to contact the Foundation. Your support would be much appreciated. Please feel free to contact Hugh Maltby on 01234 362255 or

foundation@bedfordschool.org.uk



Small Group Tours for Prospective Families

We are delighted to introduce small group tours on selected Saturday afternoons in September and October for families considering a Bedford School education for their sons.

With a maximum of just five families per tour, booking is essential.

Book your family's place by visiting our website or by emailing admissions@bedfordschool.org.uk.

That they be *good men*



www.bedfordschool.org.uk

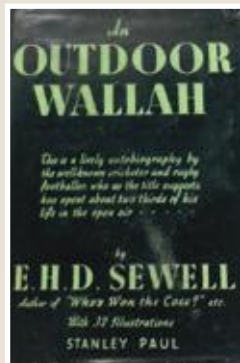
Bedford School is part of The Harpur Trust

NEWS OF OBS

WE ARE ALWAYS THRILLED TO HEAR FROM OBS ACROSS THE GLOBE

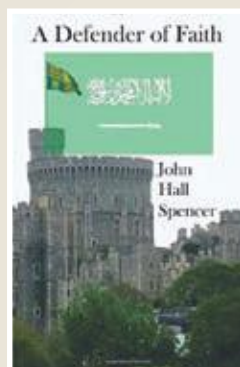
We have been reminded of an interesting book by Edward Humphrey Dalrymple Sewell (1886-1891) - a lively autobiography from 'a bygone age'. For more information see:

www.cricketweb.net/ehd-sewell-a-writer-from-a-bygone-age/



John Hall Spencer's OBE (42-45) new novel, *Defender of Faith* is now available. It tells of the bitter struggle of Prince Charles and his consort, Camilla, to fight off a challenge for the throne of Britain from a Stuart claimant, Count Paolo Sobieski, a descendant of a lost son of Bonnie Prince Charlie. John is currently researching material for his new book, *Hitler and the Pope* and has also starred in a TV documentary ahead of the worldwide release of his republished book *The Battle for Crete*.

It was good to hear from David Stewart-Jones (48-52) from his home on the shores of Lake Alexandrina, South Australia, where he has been self-isolating, sitting on his front deck with his wife, with glimpses of the Lake and sipping the odd glass of South Australian wine – it's not all bad! He is looking forward to meeting up again with Steve



Gordon (52-57) for their twice-yearly reunion.

Richard Shorrocks (45-53) was delighted to get a Diamond Wedding Anniversary card from HM The Queen. Richard married Brenda on a rather cold day in Windsor in April 1960. The Choir and soloist during the service were friends from the Horlicks Operatic and Dramatic Society, Brenda, a trained Mezzo Soprano, having taken many lead parts in their productions.



The couple honeymooned for a week travelling round the Cotswolds.

Foreign Secretary of India and Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Krishnan Srinivasan (47-54) has recently co-authored a new book *Values in Foreign Policy, Investigating Ideals and Interests* (2019). All Krishnan's other books can be found on Amazon. He currently writes / contributes to several leading Indian newspapers.



Tony Wood (43-55) was very happy to meet up with Dr Ian Simpson (49-54) when he was over on a rare visit from Newfoundland, where he

had been a doctor for 40+ years. He had recently lost his wife, Sheila (nee Little) but he and Tony had fun reminiscing about the days when they cycled together from Eversholt to Ampthill to catch the bus to school.



Christopher Barnes (52-57) and Mark Hall (86-91) met for lunch in Pokolbin in the Hunter Valley Wine Region, Australia in December.



Christopher has been President of the Hunter Wine Industry Association for many years in the 1990s and 2000s and Mark was in NSW for family celebrations and works for Nufarm in Melbourne, when not farming in Hertfordshire.

For Anthony Ormerod's (47-57) 80th Birthday the whole family clubbed together to buy him a flight in a Spitfire



which took place from Biggin Hill in Kent and took him down along the White Cliffs and back via Canterbury. An experience of a lifetime and he got to fly the plane including a 90 degree turn over the Kent coast and then experienced a victory roll on the way back to Biggin Hill.

Robin Maris (48-60) has been elected President of Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club. He has had plenty of practice for the role having already been President of Sheringham GC. Robin is a past Captain of Worlington as was his father and grandfather.

Wing Commander **Roy Gamblin's AFC** (56-60) book 'Adventures in Aviation' is due for publication this summer. It describes Roy's many unusual and exciting experiences



over forty years as a military and civil pilot. In the 1960s, after a tour in fighter/ground attack Hunters in the Far East, Roy was sent on loan to the Sultan of Oman's Air Force during the little-known Dhofar War. The 70s brought six years as a fast-jet instructor in Gnat, Hunter and Hawk aircraft at RAF Valley and two years with the Royal Norwegian Air Force on a Northrop F5 squadron. He finished his service on the iconic Harrier.

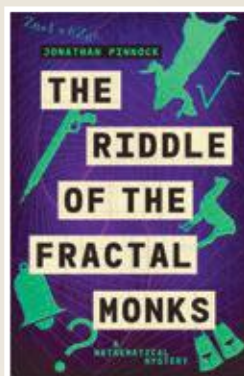
Robert Fuller's (59-68) 25 years of expertise as a specialist in antique silver and jewellery helped his challenge to re-create a delicate vintage tennis brooch and led to the creation of The Silver Tennis Collection in 1998. Robert is passionate about tennis. A former player and expert in tennis history, the company provides high quality tennis jewellery, gifts, accessories and items for the home. www.silvertenniscollection.com



Rob Kendrick (62-71) and wife Jane enjoyed meeting up with **Tony Amberg** (73-78) (DVP for Chile) and his wife Judith when they welcomed them to their home in Santiago. They were joined by **Ed Cook** (85-95).

On a visit to the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, as part of their Theory of Knowledge course, this year's LVI IB students were delighted to be welcomed by the Warden of New College, **Miles Young** (63-72), and later, whilst in the museum, the boys bumped into **Jaynil Patel** (07-18), who is now reading History at Christ Church College.

Jonathan Pinnock (63-73) has written a third book in the Mathematical Mystery Series. *The Riddle of the Fractal Monks*. A mystery lands – literally – at



Tom Winscombe's feet, and another riotous mathematical adventure begins... The other books in the series include *The Truth about Archie and Pye* and *A Question of Trust*.

Canadian based **Mark Yeomans** (74-76) was taking a Panama Canal cruise when the world went into lockdown due to the Coronavirus. He disembarked to a changed world! He tells us that apart from the enhanced hand-hygiene measures, you wouldn't have known anything was going on. It was the healthiest cruise he has ever been on – there was no illness of any kind! It seems the Emerald Princess



was the only Princess ship that didn't have big problems. He flew home from Ft Lauderdale to Calgary just before the borders closed.

Distinguished Professor of History & Philosophy of Science **Colin Allan** (71-78) was delighted



to find that a recent appointment to his department at the University of Pittsburgh was another Old Bedfordian, **David Wallace** (87-94).

Paul Thompson (64-72) visited the school from his home in NZ together with his wife and daughter. They had spent a month travelling round Europe managing to fit in a bit of skiing in France.



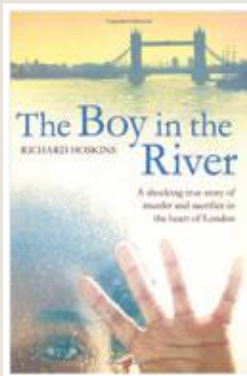
John Hulance (67-76) has been voted President of the Rotary Club of Bedford for the Rotary Year 2020-21, his second time in office.

2019 Best Fantasy Short Film 'The Lossen' has continued to pick up awards with 1st prize in over ten countries and (American) states. Shot in Felmersham, Bedfordshire, **John Lewes** (73-78) was cast as the 'Horse

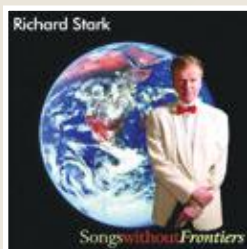


Racing Commentator' and provided the voice-over for this intriguing story which brings together the natural and supernatural worlds. In the dead of night another worldly visitor forces a successful business woman in the final moments of her life to confront her lost dream before it's too late.

We have heard that bestselling author and criminologist, **Richard Hoskins** (80-82) is writing a second book. His first book, *The Boy in the River* was gold winner of the prestigious Crime Writers Association Dagger Award in 2013 and tells the story of his involvement as an expert in African ritual crime in some of Britain's highest profile criminal cases including the Torso in the Thames and the Victoria Climbié case. Interwoven with those is his personal journey starting in Africa as a young man, through to recent cases.



Singer **Richard Stark** (72-82) is looking forward to performing again once the current situation is over. Richard is a classically trained singer who covers Classical, Musical Theatre, Swing, Folk and Popular genres. He sings regularly in Operas and Concerts in the UK, USA and Europe including Opera Holland Park, Dortmund Bach Chor



and the European Chamber Opera. He is also an established Recording Artist. www.richardstark.co.uk

Hugh Elliot (73-83) has been hitting the TV screens in Spain, discussing the whole issue of Brexit. Hugh is the current British Ambassador to Spain and Andorra.



James (72-83) and **Ollie Hind** (06-17) had great fun supporting Fraser Dingwall (03-17) at the 2019 Rugby Under-20 Championships in Argentina last October. After one Under-20s Six Nations campaign, Fraser was named skipper for his second season at that level, captaining the side for the 2019 tournament as well as in Argentina.



Dr Jason Reddy (79-84) collected a National Quality Award at the House of Commons in November on behalf of all GPs in Bedfordshire for an AF Association Healthcare Pioneers project. Jason was the Primary Care Lead for the project which will make great differences in patient care and has saved lives and prevented strokes.



Matt Hardwick (82-87) received the Freedom of the City of London in February, at a private ceremony at London's Guildhall. Matt is currently working as Senior Performance & Improvement Lead for NHS England and has been busy with planning the regional response to the current pandemic.



A group of 1988 leavers met together for a very long lunch at Goodmans with some attendees flying in from France, Singapore and Hong Kong for the reunion. The group included **James Brodie** (77-88), **Andy Crankshaw** (80-88), **Gary Fox** (83-88), **Andy Fearon** (83-88), **Jonny Gordon** (77-88), **Jonathan Jones** (77-88), **Pete Kemble** (78-88), **Stan Lersch** (81-88), **Toby McAra** (84-88), **Sam Martyn** (83-88), **Mike Pagan** (83-88), **Chris Rodwell** (83-88), **Andy Sinfield** (83-88), **Mike Simms** (83-88), **Jason Smith** (81-88) and **Hamish Wakes-Miller** (77-88).



It was good to see **James Beard** (88-95) and his son **Ben** on a trip south from their home in Tyne and Wear where Chris is COO for the tech company, Tombola.



Aviculturist **Richard Switzer** (87-92) has been involved with the remote Gough Island Restoration Programme in the South Atlantic. Richard had previously been the Curator of Birds at Bristol Zoo.

Rohan Srinivasan (93-95) moved back to India in 2010 to open and start operations for a UK-based PR agency. He has now joined one of India's leading Communications Groups as the Chief Marketing and Communications Officer looking after the entire Southern India Market.

A group of '96 leavers squeezed in a reunion in Bedford just before lockdown to watch the rugby and do a bit of pub crawl.... The Mill was much the same 25 years on, but much quieter!



Ir **Dave Phillips** (89-96), **Matt Smith** (91-96), **Jules** (86-96), **Rachel Endersby**, **Nick Sims** (91-96) **Charlie Gray** (88-96) and **Pete Phillips** (91-96)

David Massiah (94-96) won the annual ESU Global Best Teacher Prize, beating teachers



nominated from across the globe. The ESU (English Speaking Union) is a prestigious society that was founded in 1918 for the advancement of education in the English-speaking countries and has 55 branches around the world. David is Headmaster of Redland school in Santiago, Chile.

Alex Gitlin (90-96) took the opportunity to meet up with **Simon Lincoln** (94-96) and the Prep school cricket tour when they played at a school in Cape Town in February.

Alex is the College Head of Reddam House, Constantia and hopes to arrange future fixtures with the Prep school.



Timpanist of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, **Chris Ridley** (90-97) conducted a special charity concert performed by the Bedford Great Ouse Orchestra and Choir in February at an unforgettable evening of music-making, raising money to support the Bedford Homeless Partnership.

Malenge Ngondo (93-98) is the primary member of Bomb Shelter Entertainment an active multimedia and entertainment organisation based in Lusaka, Zambia.

Joe Sylvester (87-98) **Chris Clark** (93-98); **Peter Crews** (93-98); **Mark Lowten** (93-98); **Tom Bull** (93-98); **Paul Wheeler** (89-98); and **James Houghton** (93-98) had their plans thwarted by the lockdown. The group were training hard to raise money in memory of Harry Shaw, son of **James Shaw** (90-98) who died of cancer last year, and the plan was to cycle 130 miles from Bedford to Southampton, then fly to Jersey the next day to complete the Round Jersey Race, 48 miles on foot. The third day was to be a 5-mile sea kayak into St Helier in time to carry the match ball onto the pitch for the Bedford Blues vs Jersey Reds game. As soon as the rescheduled fixture is announced, the challenge is on! www.justgiving.com/fundraising/harrysgiantjerseychallenge



Chris Stearn (96-98, staff 06-09) has moved to be Head of Geography at Ballarat Clarendon school in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

Tim Proudlock (99-01) undertook the 4 Trails Challenge in October to support local charities Love 21 Foundation, Chicken Soup Foundation and International China Concern. The challenge involved running a total of 298km with cumulative climbing of 14,500m in less than 60 hours over 4 days. Tim is Head of Department - Asia Risk and Compliance for St. James's Place Wealth Management. Unfortunately, tropical rain during the event meant that Tim was only able to complete 200km, but was able to raise over £25,000, and is tempted to give it another go if anyone is interested to put on their hiking boots and join him!



Stubble & Co have developed a tough, durable, highly functional, Go-anywhere-do-anything Adventure Bag. **Ben Watkiss's** (92-02) company has created a bag that makes travelling as easy as possible, that's built to last, built for adventure, and made from recycled plastic.



Richard Young (99-04) met up with **Martin Bayfield** (80-85) at the Legends of Rugby dinner in London in support of Nordoff Robbins Charity. We'll let you guess which one was the Rugby Legend...





Jamie Worboys (98-05) married Michaela Leach at Shuttleworth House in November. Jamie works for Barclays Investment Bank and Kayla is a Client Relationship Manager. OBs at the wedding included **Doug Worboys** (98-09), **Alec Gibson** (00-05), **Phil Cai** (00-07), **Ben Watt** (94-05) and **Nick Turner** (94-05).

It was good to see **Sergeant Simon Miller** (97-06) on parade for the 2019 Bedford Remembrance Day Parade on the Embankment.



Mark James (96-07) married Izzie Pickering, in December 2019. Whilst the couple had met at a joint Bedford School/BHS event they only got together when working in London where they both work in Marketing, Mark for ROI Hunter and Izzie for Lloyds Bank.



Ed Kent (99-07) married Alexandra Bryant, only daughter of Sir Simon and Lady Helen Bryant in September 2019, in the Henry VII Lady Chapel of Westminster Abbey. Ed, a former professional touring golfer is MD of the Golf Foundry, whilst Alexandra works for The Daily Mail Group where she is a Head of Finance. Ed's brother, **Stuart Kent** (01-11), was Best Man.



Northamptonshire CC Captain **Alex Wakely** (96-07) and his wife Tash, are delighted to announce the birth in October of their second daughter, Rosalina Florence, a sister for Bella.

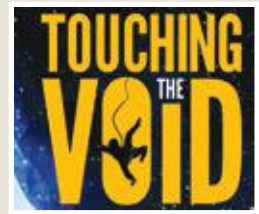
Schroders Business Development Director, **Alex Schoenenberger** (00-09) has become engaged to Sophie Collin. Sophie works at CBRE as an Investment Analyst and the couple are getting married in London in May 2021.



Will Knight (98-09) and **Brian Bircham** (98-09) set off on their third annual motorbike adventure in November ...this time to leafy Kerala. The 2,000km round trip was filled with fast starts, tea tasting and backwater cruising. The highlight of the trip was an early start from hill station Munnar, weaving through the western Ghats and waving goodbye to friendly locals! A full cultural immersion!



Theo Green (01-10), stage name Theo St Claire, has been gracing the West End stage at the Duke



of York's, as understudy to the main character in the stage version of the bestselling memoir, 'Touching the Void' which charts the climbers struggle for survival in the Peruvian Andes.

Rodrigo Hernandez Canteli (08-10) has been involved in initiating a project to help people in Venezuela and invest in the country once it stabilises by selling fine chocolate made in Switzerland with Venezuelan cacao beans. The beans are cultivated by local farmers who had been active in the trade for generations, and who remain true to their own culture. See regenerate.org for more details.

Nick Hoare (01-12) married Jacob Hayes on the 19th December in snowy Central Park, New York City. OBs at the wedding included **Andrew Foulkes** (01-12) and **Tom Gouldesbrough** (01-12). The happy couple met whilst both were studying at Nottingham University. Nick works in Digital Communications and Marketing at The Fund for Global Human Rights, a non-profit based in Washington, DC and London, whilst Jacob works for the UK Mission to the UN in New York. Both have their sights firmly set on Brooklyn, NY as their new home.



It began with a simple sketch which he submitted for the Red Bull Soapbox challenge 2019, but little did **Tristan Brown** (10-15) and **Dan Gardner** (10-15) know they would be hastily assembling a soapbox over a 2-month



period on a student budget! Despite having a crash on the day in front of the cameras and thousands of people and only making it halfway down the track, it was worth every penny and neither would change a thing!

Congratulations to **David Lewes** (08-15) who has achieved a First in his second year studying Sociology at the University of Birmingham.

In November a group of OB's came together to cycle 80 miles from Bedford around where the map marks "England", so aptly named Tour de England, and raised over £4,000 for the "Movember" campaign. The OBs hadn't seen each other for a while so they met with a mixture of excitement and trepidation as none are seasoned cyclists.



L-r Alex Shepherd (07-17), Jono Malindine (07-17), Dan Lewis (12-17), Toby King (06-17), Joshua Garrett (08-17), Jacques Bell (06-17) and Ed Zwetsloot (06-15)

VMWare Intern **Jasper Tsao** (13-17) spent the summer of 2018 as an Actor/Producer working for the Enzo Hui Studio in Hong Kong and contributed to the making of the short film 'I've Looked At Clouds That Way' which was the semi-finalist at the Los Angeles CineFest.

Ollie Graham (07-18) is making the most of his time at the Berklee College of Music in Boston MA and has already done several arrangements for concerts and plays. He was pleased to spend a bit of time with **Ollie Dwight** (15-20) who was visiting Boston to see his uncle in concert. Ollie met 'the man' himself, who was interested to hear about his Berklee experience.

Congratulations to **Alfie Orchard** (13-18) who has been elected Captain of the 1st XV team for a second year for the University of Nottingham's Rugby Club.



SUBSCRIBING Membership

ONLY
£25
PER YEAR



The OB Club is powered by the support of our members. Your help allows us to engage with and support more fellow OBs, host alumni events and programs, and build the Bedford School brand around the world.

For less than the price of a cup of coffee per month, you get:

- Copies of the primary annual OB communications, the Ousel magazine, full of school and Old Bedfordian articles, news, obituaries, event write-ups and photographs.
- Discounts to some key Club event, such as the Annual Dinner and 'At Home' lunch.
- Access to the Heritage site, with a searchable database of digitised Ousels back to 1876 and back copies of the OB Review.

**Help us to support you by joining us today.
Find out more on our OB Club membership page**

bit.ly/OBClubMembership

In Memoriam

E C L 'Terry' Allen	1947-1954	Gerard M A Kinneen	1968-1974
Dr Ray H Andrews	1930-1936	Ross A Lee	1959-1965
Richard Arnold-Roberts	1948-1956	C Derek Lester	1936-1939
Michael Avens	1944-1949	Richard H C Lindley	1945-1954
Nick R Ayrton TD	1943-1952	MBE	
Dr W Joe Baker	1950-1959	Richard T Lines	1954-1957
G Ewan Bayley	1944-1948	B Howard MacNay	1906-1941
Richard A Beechener	1941-1945	Maj C D E (Dusty) Miller	1941-1950
Charls R C Bevis	1939-1950	Ali I Mills	1961-1967
Robert J Blore	1984-1987	Christopher P Money	1954-1966
J Michael L Brunskill	1935-1945	Jim R A Muller	1946-1952
Dennis J Buck	1940-1947	Roy Nicholls	STAFF 1954-1963
G R Clive Burton	1948-1953	Tristan R Nokes	1967-1974
Peter M Camfield	1962-1969	Edward J R Noy	1941-1943
Robert (Bob) G Caple	STAFF 1967-1997	Brian Parkinson	1947-1954
William (Bill) J Carr MBE	1942-1947	Peter J Payne	1939-1942
Olly V Chapman	1979-1984	J Michael Peacock	1930-1940
Tim D Clifton	1972-1978	David C F Phillips	1961-1966
Paul E Coles	STAFF 1965-1988	J Michael Ramsden	1941-1945
John Darlow	1945-1951	Charles A Randall	1962-1966
Richard S Dawes	1949-1961	John M Read	1947-1953
Robert E Elphick	1941-1948	Rev Anthony F Richards	1934-1945
Stuart J Endersby	1962-1969	Dr Christopher A Rosevear	1955-1965
R Michael Evan-Jones	1958-1962	B N 'Rusty' Rustomjee	1944-1952
George F Felton	1936-1940	Kevin J Shortis	1953-1955
Pauline Fletcher	STAFF 65-77	E Douglas Simms	STAFF 1958-2004
John C M Franklin	1943-1949	Lt Cdr John A Smart	1940-1947
Peter A Gair	1942-1950	RN (Rtd)	
F N W (Bill) Gamman	1944-1953	Jack Smith	1949-1954
Gerry G Garner	1946-1955	William S smith	1948-1954
John M Gordon	1934-1942	Roger Squires	1945-1952
John H Goulden	1942-1945	OBE TD JP DL	
The Revd Canon Bruce Grainger	1948-1955	John Stanton	1948-1953
G Barry Greaves	1944-1954	Dr Gareth J Suggett	1959-1969
Prof Tony A Greenfield	1944-1949	Prof Paul R Swyer	1932-1938
John S Hart	1938-1945	Maj Alan R Taylor RE	1937-1943
Richard G C Hill	1944-1956	John B Tennant	1963-1971
Dr Derek R Holmes	1937-1945	Haydn (Agag) R T Thody	1939-1945
James Hope-Simpson	STAFF 1955-1970	Tim R Thom	1948-1958
Peter M Howlett	1951-1956	John W Thurley	1938-1943
Derek W Huff	1936-1940	Richard J Wallis	1941-1949
The Revd Martin C Hughes	1947-1958	Robin F Watkin	1953-1961
Richard W E Jackson	1947-1954	John F Webb	1953-1955
T G Michael Keall	STAFF 1957-1962	Lt Col John C Weston MC	1942-1945
Chris J R Kettler MBE	1946-1958	Grant B Williams JP	1943-1951
		David R Wynn-Williams	1947-1952

Remembrance - One Soldiers' Story

Last November, Old Bedfordians, boys and staff gathered for a special Remembrance Service in the school Chapel. It is always a moving service as the wider school community comes together to remember and pay their respects to those who courageously gave their lives in service for their country. We are also honoured to share the story of Old Bedfordian Major Charles Pulley, who was fatally wounded just 11 months into the Great War. Thanks to the generosity of Major Pulley's family, we are humbled to learn of his story through his wartime unit diary, which provides a first-hand account of his extraordinary story.



Born: 14th September 1881
Regiment: 68th Battery Royal Field Artillery
Bedford School years: 1897-1898
Wounded: Near Ypres, Belgium
Died: 26th July 1915, aged 33,
at Lady Mountgarret's Hospital, London
Buried: St. Mary's Churchyard, Speldhurst, Kent

Major Pulley's first diary entry was written on 30th July 1914 when, during a short spell of army leave, he had been asked to "Rejoin at once". After hurrying back to Woolwich, where he was stationed, he soon discovered that all officers and men

Woolwich-
I was on leave at Langton Green for eight days, and at about 9.30 am. received this day a wire from C.O. 134th. Batt. "Rejoin at once." I hurried back by first train and found arrival at Woolwich that all officers and men on leave and pass, had been recalled and that 'precautionary measures' were being taken. All ranks confined to Woolwich Garrison. Everyone very anxious to see what Govt. will do. Mobilization fully expected. Half a battn. of Scots Guards marched into camp to Arsenal, moving into camp on Plumstead Marshes later.

Routine duties at Woolwich as usual. Men all had to be in by 10 pm. No passes granted. Many rumours but no reliable news as to how affairs really stand. Everybody very keen to know what is to happen.

'Precautionary measures' still in force and people getting rather tired of them. Everyone hoping for one thing or the other and the sooner mobilization is ordered the better. Work carried on at Woolwich as usual.

The ordinary church parade took place. Much excitement owing to orders to Navy to mobilize. At 11.30 am. all men were confined to barracks and out of the 32nd. Bde. emergency batteries were formed, presumably to resist raids if necessary. The scheme was changed three times before evening and eventually it was decided to hold three 3 gun batteries in readiness. Still no order to mobilize but everyone certain it would come soon. We packed our ammunition in limbers and arranged about rations.

Her (5 guns) in the morning on Woolwich Common. The B.A. Band played in various parts of the stable hours. Much appreciated. Many were packing up and a private effect to stand why mobilization. When orders became very clear. "The

at Woolwich. Just before lunch in Ad Rod for S.B. Mat and reconnoitred, reported up and I went to Blackheath in town giving me his telephone to mobilize! Everyone hard to get orders at last.

started work at 5.30 am. day packing up property etc.. Maturin left end of Bde. Ammn Column at Chorncliffe. Had not to say 'Good bye', but wrote. No news today. The B.A. full of reserve officers. Everyone in service dress. We all went to office after dinner and I was there signing pay books until midnight.

the Germans and the British soldiers put down their weapons, met half-way, and talked.

“Some 2/300 Germans came out of their trenches in the morning and several hundreds of ours did the same. They met halfway between the lines unarmed and talked together for about an hour and a half. Barclay says it was a sight he will never forget.”

27th June 1915: “Canal bank shelled again and a good many men wounded. The flies are now awful, we can't get rid of them. We did not fire at all today, no targets.”

Just one month later Pulley passed away as a result of injuries. Evacuated to London, he was able to propose marriage to the woman he loved, and their engagement was announced just a couple of days before he died on 26th July 1915.

His body was taken by train to Speldhurst, near Tunbridge Wells, where he was buried with full military honours.

bit.ly/MajorPulley

on leave had received the same message. This day marked the start of Major Pulley's incredible journey, which tragically led to the ultimate sacrifice...

His entry on Christmas Day 1914 is particularly poignant. Christmas cards were given out and, "All the men were cheery. They ate an excellent lunch", and in fact, "ate too much!" Perhaps the most heart-warming entry of the diary, he describes how

l-r: Major Stuart Gilbert (99-04), Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89) and the Head Master.



FROM PAGE 4

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS

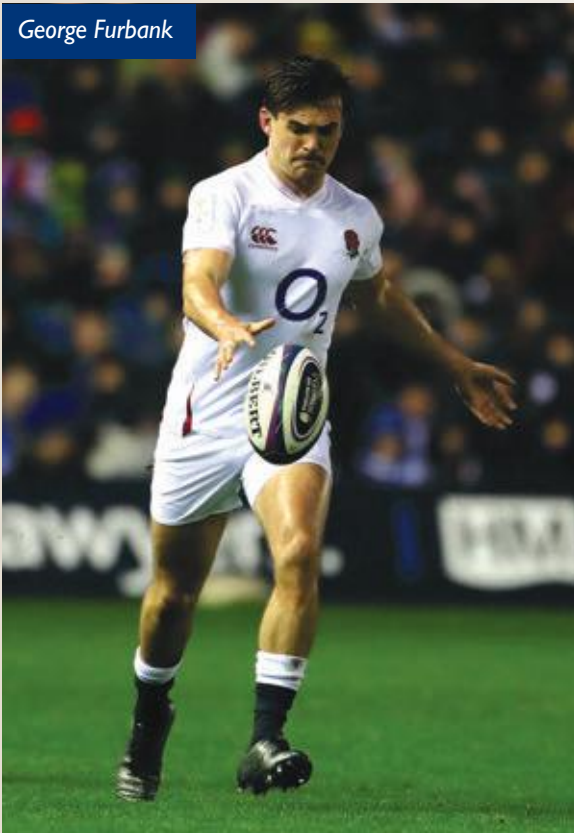
1. FURLOUGHED
9. BIMODAL
10. DISCUSS
11. TROIS
13. STRIPES
14. UCL
15. NO-BRAINERS
17. CAPTAIN TOM
18. BIO
20. PINHOLE
21. VOCAB
22. NON-SKID
24. GALILEO
25. CLAP EYES ON

DOWN

1. FABULOUS
2. REMOTE LEARNING
3. OLD BOY NETWORKS
4. GEL
5. END
6. ASSESS
7. ASTRONOMICALLY
8. SUPPORT BUBBLES
12. SUBLIME
13. SMART TV
16. LOCKDOWN
19. OPENER
23. DEL
24. GAP

SPORTS

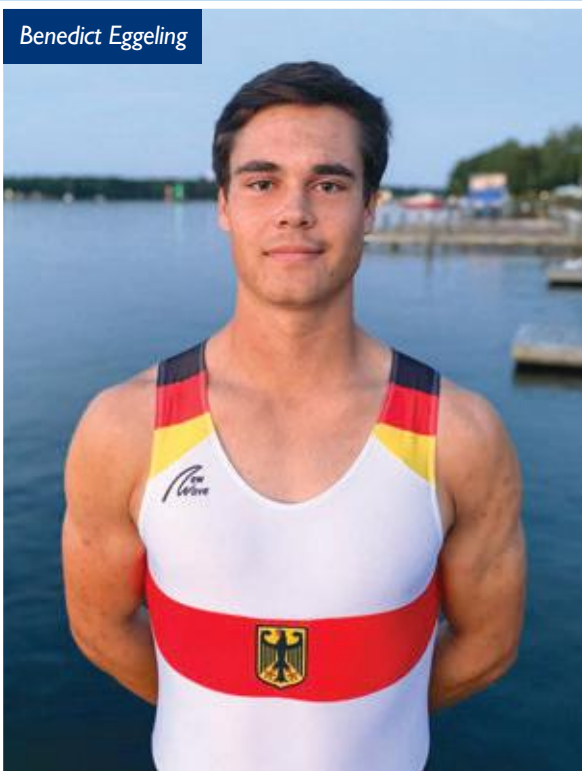
George Furbank



It was great to see two OBs, **George Furbank** (13-15) and **Fraser Dingwall** (13-17), selected for Eddie Jones' England squad in this year's Six Nations Championship. George made his international test debut when England took on France in Paris. His fairy tale rise to international rugby continued as he made his second consecutive Six Nations start for England against Scotland in Edinburgh.



Benedict Eggeling



Congratulations to **Benedict Eggeling** (14-17) on a great performance at the German Winter Trials. He finished as the fastest U23 pair on top of breaking the 6-minute mark on his 2K ergo.

Despite Covid-19 preventing the new season from starting, **Rupert Riley** (79-89) and **Andy Barnes** (76-83) have been selected for the England Target Rifle Team to tour South Africa and Kenya in March 2021. Also selected was Paul Sykes - son of **Andy Sykes** (62-73) and a member of the Bedfordians RC. The club has always allowed family members since its inception in the early 1970s, hence not *Old Bedfordians RC*. Any school leaver interested in progressing on to competitive full-bore Target Rifle shooting would be very welcome to join what they should consider their 'home club'. Contact details are available from the OB Club office.



Bedfordians team after the Imperial 150th Match; (L-R: Phil Dawes; Paul Sykes; Peter Lumley-Wood; Andy Sykes; Andy Barnes; Robin Hatcher; Nigel Penn.



Ethan Vernon

It was great to see **Ethan Vernon** (07-18) representing the Great Britain team at the UCI Road World Championships in Yorkshire last September. Ethan is part of a strong contingent who represents Britain in the various age group disciplines.

Ed Lamb (10-17) has been selected as the Oxford University Lighthouse Club President for the 2020/21 season. Having started his rowing career at Bedford School, Ed has excelled since his arrival at OULRC. He rowed in the 4 seat of this season's victorious Blue Boat, as well as winning a silver medal at EUSA European University Sports Association last summer.



Ed Lamb

Sam Roberts (85-96) produced a series of podcasts with top flight rugby players, examining how they think about rugby and their mindset whilst playing a game. It's a pretty straightforward premise where he speaks to one player about one important match in which they took part. The podcast is called "One Game at a Time"; the first one (of many!) was with Tom Curry, the current England back rower.

[Bit.ly/SamRobertsPodcast](https://bit.ly/SamRobertsPodcast)



Sam Roberts



Ed Lamb (4 seat), racing for Oxford University Lightweight Rowing Club, victorious against Cambridge in the 2020 Lightweight Boat Race. Ed is looking forward to racing the Phoenix alongside his brothers Chris (10-17) and George (02-09).

We are delighted to have received approval from British Rowing for the resurrection of the **Old Bedfordians Boat Club – Phoenix**.

This reconstitution of the club is in response to a growing interest from recent school leavers who want to race for the Club domestically with aspirations of competing at Henley

Royal Regatta in due course. It is an exciting development and testament to the longevity of rowing in the school community.

We've created a new **Rowing Group** on *Eagle Connect* which will be used to share current news of Phoenix and the school Boat Club. In addition, we'll be sharing historical memorabilia, pictures and stories of our great Club...watch this space!

Kayde Sylvester (18-20) has signed to move up to the Northampton Saints Senior Academy on a full-time contract ahead of the 2020/21 season. Kayde, who is one of our newest OBs, joined Bedford School on a rugby scholarship when he was 16 years old after being spotted by the school's sports department while playing for the Saints Junior Academy. Talking about Kayde in an article on the Saints Academy site, the club said, "His strengths are his aerial skills and his athleticism, plus he's a really humble individual, and even having seen less of him than some of the other lads, I know he has the attributes to do well with us."



Kayde Sylvester

Opening batsman, **Emilio Gay** (11-18), was awarded his first professional contract with Northamptonshire County Cricket Club, at the end of 2019 on the back of a run-heavy season in the Second XI and club cricket. Emilio was ultimately rewarded with a first-class debut in the final Championship fixture of the season.

During the winter season, Emilio played in Australia to further develop his game and enjoyed meeting up with his old master in charge of cricket, **Pete Sherwin** (Staff 06-15)



Emilio (centre) with Pete and his son

- Editor: Clara Policella
- Production: The Lavenham Press Ltd

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