



Old Boltonians' Association 1895 - 2026

# THE BUGLE



Spring 2026

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## Development Team

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*Director of Development, Alumni Relations and Marketing*

**Lisa Hilton**

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## Stay Connected

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

## Stay In Touch

	<a href="http://www.boltonalumninetwork.com">www.boltonalumninetwork.com</a>
	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/boltonschoolalumni">boltonschoolalumni</a>
	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/bolton-school-alumni">Bolton School Alumni</a>
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/boltonschoolalumni">Old Boys and Old Girls (Official)</a>
	<a href="https://twitter.com/boltonschoolalumni">Bolton School Alumni</a>
	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...">boltonsch</a>
	<a href="http://boltonschool.me/">boltonschool.me/</a>
	<a href="mailto:bsalumni@boltonschool.org">bsalumni/albums</a>
	<a href="http://www.boltonschool.org">www.boltonschool.org</a>

## Bolton School Merchandise

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

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



Scan Me

# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Fresh from the unforgettable excitement of the Winter Olympics – and especially the spectacular snow events in Livorno – we have much to celebrate as a Bolton School community.*

It was a proud and emotional moment to see so many Old Boys, Old Girls and friends of Bolton School cheering on Team GB. For me personally, the Games will forever hold special significance. Watching my 24-year-old nephew, Huw Nightingale – who began his educational journey at Bolton School – stand atop the podium was simply magnificent. Competing alongside Charlotte Bankes, he helped secure Team GB's first-ever gold medal on snow in the 102-year history of the Winter Olympics.

What an extraordinary achievement. What an inspiration. That spirit of belief and shared success flows directly into one of the key missions of my presidential year: mentoring.

Working closely with Rachel Allen, Chair of the Old Girls' Association, we have placed mentoring at the heart of our efforts – and the response has been tremendous. We are seeing real traction from experienced Alumni stepping forward to offer their guidance, alongside growing enthusiasm from our 'younger' alumni who are actively seeking mentorship support. This is a brilliant opportunity for those who have built careers and gathered experience to give something back. The commitment is modest; just a few hours each month can make a profound difference. I am personally mentoring four Old Boys and two Old Girls, and I can see first-hand that the guidance

and conversations are demonstrably adding value to their career progression and personal development. Please see page 9 for details of how to get involved.

Finally, I am hugely looking forward to the inaugural Bolton School Northern Dinner on Friday 15th May, which promises to be a fantastic evening. Open to all members of the Bolton School community, partners and friends, it will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, celebrate and enjoy a truly memorable night together. Please see page 18 for details of how to book. I hope to see many of you there.



**Barry Nightingale (Class of 1979)**  
*Old Boltonians' Association President, 2025-2026*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF BOYS' DIVISION

*As I read through this edition of The Bugle, I am struck not just by the widespread achievements of the various Alumni it records, but by the thread that runs quietly through so many of the stories: connection. Across decades, across continents and across very different walks of life, there is something unmistakably 'Bolton School' about them all.*

In School, the term has been characterised by ambition and innovation. From the continued national recognition of our commitment to social mobility to the exciting plans for the new sports dome, we are reminded that Bolton School has never stood still. The Open Futures campaign continues to gather pace, driven by the belief that talent and potential should never be limited by circumstance. It is heartening to see how strongly that belief resonates across our Alumni community.

Over the past term I have had the privilege of meeting a number of Old Boys when they have returned to School; some to speak at events, others to mentor students and some simply to walk the corridors again. What always strikes me is how quickly the years seem to fall away. A classroom, a photograph, a snippet of conversation about a particular teacher and suddenly the School feels both timeless and immediate. The Grey Book, held in such affection by Old Boys, reflects this timelessness (see page 28). Generations of boys have pored over its pages to find their own names, and, years later, the names of friends. The Grey Book is a simple publication that quietly captures the continuity of School life across decades, and it was no surprise to see it voted in second place in the '100 Objects of Bolton School'.

The feature on Alumni working in artificial intelligence particularly resonated with me, given my own interest in emerging and innovative technologies. Here are Old Boys from the 1970s, 80s and 90s grappling with questions that would have seemed like science fiction when they were in B4 or the Great Hall. And yet, as they reflect on their work, they return not to technology, but to the habits of thought taught and developed in School: curiosity, scepticism, persistence, innovation. The tools may have changed dramatically; the foundations have not.

This edition also carries poignant moments of reflection. The tributes to Harry Jackson, in particular, prompted both a smile and a lump in the throat. The consistency of tone in those memories – respect, affection, a certain awe – reminds us how deeply teachers can shape lives. There is no doubt at all that Harry Jackson changed lives.

What *The Bugle* captures so well is that Bolton School is not simply a place we pass through. It is something we carry with us. Whether at a reunion dinner, on a mountain rescue call-out, in a boardroom, a laboratory or a local community group, that shared experience continues to bind us all together.



**Nic Ford**  
*Head of Boys' Division*



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## A Message from the Head of Foundation

**The great joy of working in a school is the sense of energy, optimism and future. This week we have had many costumes, events and competitions for World Book Day. It is possible to be envious of young people finding the great books for the first time that we enjoyed and still do.**

We have had county netball success for the Year 7 team in Girls' Division and we had a gripping penalty shootout in an ISFA Trophy semi-final that sees the First XI in Boys' Division heading to the national final at the end of March.

Meanwhile the University and degree apprenticeship offers for Year 13 come in and Year 11 ready themselves for GCSEs this Summer. The work we do on 'Futures' (careers and next steps beyond School) is very significantly supported by our Alumni - my thanks for all so many of you do in that regard, from one-to-one mentoring, to talks at School and, I am quite sure, much informal support School will never know about, but which you offer to one another because of a shared starting point at School.

This year sees the 50th anniversary of our Open Door philanthropic bursary campaign. The original campaign was characterised by the idea that many people, regularly giving a little, can achieve a great deal. One Alumnus has

now given for 30 of those 50 years and slowly and steadily has donated more than £10,000 to the School. 150 Alumni giving £25 a month would, within a year, fund four full Sixth Form bursaries. The cumulative impact can make a tangible difference to how our School feels in the future and what it stands for. To celebrate the 50th year we wish to increase the number of regular donors by 50 from 200 to 250.

I very much enjoy working with the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations. Conversations, whether about the issues of the day or School life in the past, are always stimulating. Our events have larger attendances this year than ever before and we are bucking the trend in that way. This is linked to the detailed organisation from the Development Office, but also the sense of community which Rebecca Brayshaw and her team have built. The Associations also rely on Old Boys and Old Girls to volunteer. It was an enormous pleasure to present Distinguished Service Awards to Margaret Allen, Maureen Jones and David Shaw at the recent lunch. Thank you to them for all they have done and I look forward to meeting many more of you in future.

**Philip Britton, MBE DL**  
*Head of Foundation*

## Join the Bolton School Alumni Network



**CONNECT**

Explore ways to connect



**LEARN & GROW**

Develop relationships



**VOLUNTEER**

Offer your time and experience



**ATTEND AN EVENT**

Keep up to date with events



**KEEP IN TOUCH**

Share your contact details



Scan Me

## DID YOU KNOW



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

**3,119**

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

**1,653**

Are willing to offer advice

**1,266**

Have offered to help review CVs

**68%**

Are willing to help

**1,810**

Are willing to answer industry specific questions

**1,506**

Are willing to introduce other Alumni to their connections

## Alumni Business Directory

The free Bolton Alumni Business Directory allows self-employed Old Boys and Old Girls to promote their businesses and services to a global network of over 3,000 members, while also offering opportunities for networking, recruitment, mentorship and sharing career resources within the Alumni community. Over the previous six months 35% of those who have visited the Business Directory page have gone on to click on the offer page, while 19% of those have gone on to interact with the offer.

**Roger Milne (Class of 1976)**, Director of Independent Merchant Services Ltd, the UK's leading reference point for

card processing, has taken the opportunity to feature his business on the Bolton Alumni Network.

He says: "The UK's unique and free service helps businesses minimise their card processing costs, whilst upgrading their payment technology, reporting, and the consumer payment experience.

"Since 2012 we have been giving free guidance and advice to thousands of businesses (including Bolton School) about the best routes to take when choosing your next card payments provider."



# CONTINUING SUPPORT

Throughout the past half-century, Bolton School's continued success has been made possible thanks to the collective generosity of many hundreds of Old Boys and Old Girls. In turn, their generosity has benefited the many thousands of students who, generation after generation, pass through the School before heading off into the wider world.

Last year was no different: during the 2024-25 academic year, the School community gave donations totalling £2.28 million to support the School and its pupils.

This tremendous total included £1.77m given to safeguard the future growth of the bursary scheme, £91,500 given to provide hardship funding for fee-paying families experiencing financial difficulties and £420,838 donated to support a wide range of other projects and activities benefiting the School and its Alumni.

Every gift we receive makes a difference to our pupils. Last year, your support made it possible for the School to:

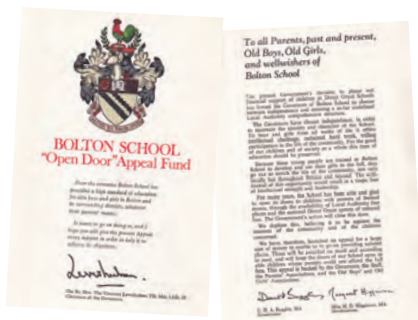
- **Spend £3.7m on means-tested bursary funding**, enabling 379 children – one in five students in the two Senior Schools – who would otherwise have been unable to join us to study here;

- **Make 113 extracurricular funding grants to bursary students**, enabling them to take part in trips and activities alongside their classmates;
- **Grant hardship funding to 22 fee-paying pupils**, alleviating financial pressures upon their families during challenging times;
- **Award 25 young Alumni a university scholarship** to support their studies; and
- **Present 117 Boys' and Girls' Division pupils with 171 separate prizes**, recognising their academic performance and commitment to the wider life of the School.

We are grateful to each of our donors for the support that they offered last year: Thank You.

## 50 Years of Support – from Open Doors to Open Futures

2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the Open Door Appeal – launched by the Governors in 1976 in response to the Labour Government's withdrawal of the Direct Grant scheme.



The Open Door Appeal was the School's first formal, public fundraising campaign. Borne out of necessity, it received a warm response from Old Boys, Old Girls, Parents, Governors and others – who all shared the School's belief that its doors should remain open and offered their support to ensure that might be so.

Reflecting on that response, David Buxton, a Parent and Governor who served as the Chairman of the Appeal Committee, wrote:

“The door to equal opportunity at Bolton School is ajar – we hope that it will be opened wider year by year.”

That hope continues today – and the door to equal opportunity remains ajar. The ambition of the Open Door Appeal mirrors exactly that of the Open Futures Campaign, which was launched by the School last May to bring back into view the expansion of the bursary scheme to support one in three pupils at the School.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Open Door Appeal, this year our goal for the Open Futures Campaign is to increase the number of regular donors supporting the bursary scheme by at least 50.

A regular donation of any value – through a Direct Debit or Standing Order – is a way in which everyone can play a part in widening access to the School. As Philip Britton notes in his Head of Foundation message on page 4, the combined impact of many people regularly donating a small amount can be transformative.

If every Old Boy and Old Girl with whom the School is in contact were to commit to donating £25 a month, with Gift Aid, within seven years our goal to begin supporting one in three senior school pupils would be achieved.

Since it was first founded, the Bolton School ethos – that we should be accessible to all children who would thrive here – has endured. Philanthropy, particularly from Alumni, has always been at its heart. By helping us mark this special milestone, you will play your part in widening access to Bolton School for another 50 years and more.

**If you believe in the positive impact of a Bolton School education and have not yet offered your support to the bursary scheme, please consider doing so now. That support has never been more vital.**

**Every gift, of every size, makes a difference:**

- By making a **one-off donation**, you can demonstrate your belief in the School's ambition to widen access to one in three pupils;
- By setting up a **regular donation**, you can provide a reliable source of funding for bursary places for deserving children; or
- By **remembering the School in your will**, you can ensure the School's social mobility ethos continues to benefit future generations: a lasting legacy.



To learn more about supporting the Open Futures Campaign for Bursaries, simply scan the QR code on the left. If you would like to discuss your intentions in more detail, or would like to learn about other projects which you might support, please contact Laura Firth,

Director of Development, Alumni Relations and Marketing, by calling **01204 434718** or by emailing [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org).

**However you choose to offer your support – thank you. You will be making a real difference to the lives of each bright child who will be granted the opportunity a bursary places provides.**

# SCHOOL NEWS

## The Glorious Chickmans

*In December, Bolton School staged a special Joint Production of The Glorious Chickmans, a new play commissioned through the 'Write the Girl' initiative founded by Sophie Torrent, which addresses the lack of strong female roles in school drama.*

Joining the programme in 2024, the School worked with playwright Ben Cain on this whimsical comedy set in a faraway land, where sisters Aldawig and Brinda Chickman challenge tradition by selling eggs and learning lessons about ambition, capitalism and community.

The production, which involved 55 students from Years 7 to 13 across performance and technical roles, was a resounding success, enjoyed by large and supportive audiences.



## Year 7s Compete for Century-Old Gymnastics Cup



*Each year in January, a group of talented gymnasts at from the Boys' Division compete to win the Gymnastics Cup, which is over 100 years old and one of the oldest pieces of silverware awarded by the School.*

During the Autumn Term, the whole of Year 7 takes part in the opening rounds of the competition before being whittled down to a group of seven finalists. These boys go on to show off their skills in front of the judges and the rest of the year group in the Gymnastics Final.

At the event each of the boys completed a series of floor movements and balances, for which the judges awarded points. After a brief deliberation, medals and certificates were awarded for first, second and third place, and the cup was presented by the Head of Boys' Division, Nic Ford.

## Farewell ... but Not Goodbye

*In March Development Assistant Lorraine Dewhurst took up a new position as School Administrator in the Girls' Division.*



Lorraine joined the Development Office in September 2023 and has since been a valued member of the team. Over the past few years, she has been a welcoming and supportive presence for many of our Alumni and the wider community. Her professionalism, warmth and readiness to assist have been greatly appreciated.

Although she will be much missed within the Development Office, we are pleased that she is not going far! We wish Lorraine every success in her new role.

## Welcome to Lisa!

*In January the Development Office welcomed a new team member, Lisa Hilton, following her appointment as Development Assistant.*



Lisa joins School following an extensive career across the financial sector and will be responsible for the maintenance and of the team's fundraising records.

## Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week

*During National Apprenticeship Week in February, Bolton School celebrated the benefits of apprenticeships for students and recent leavers.*

The Futures Department provides personalised guidance for students exploring Degree Apprenticeships as an option, offering one-to-one support at every stage of the application process, while Alumni connections offer real insight into different industries as well as allowing students to start building their future professional networks.

The School's Futures Department supports ambitious Sixth Formers with one-to-one guidance, applications, interview preparation and Alumni insights to build professional networks.

So far this year, six students have secured Degree Apprenticeships: two in Engineering and four in Finance. Mr Deane Lamb, the School's Degree Apprenticeship Lead, praised their hard work, resilience and potential to make a positive impact.



## Sustained Success in Social Mobility

*Bolton School is proud to be featured in The Social Mobility List 2026, organised by social mobility charity Making The Leap. The School has been recognised for its longstanding commitment to ensuring financial circumstances never limit access to an exceptional education.*

This follows two awards in 2025: 'School/College of the Year' at the UK Social Mobility Awards and 'Independent School of the Year for Contribution to Social Mobility' at the Independent School Parents' awards.

Partnerships with OnSide Youth Zones and The Bursary Foundation are helping to identify and support bursary candidates, while the Open Futures Bursary Campaign aims to increase support from one in five to one in three pupils.



Scan here to find out more about the Open Futures Bursary Campaign



*The School's Partnership Team*

## Partnerships

*The Independent Schools Council (ISC)'s Partnerships Week in November provided a super opportunity for Bolton School to celebrate its wide-reaching impact on the local community.*

Over the past year, the School has supported 83 schools, colleges and youth programmes, delivering workshops in Music, STEM, Classics, Maths, Theatre, and the Arts to 3,000+ young people. Over 2,000 pupils visited for events such as STEM Day, Football Festivals and the Bolton Children's Fiction Award.

The School's outreach, bursary scheme and equitable admissions work earned it School/College of the Year at the SOMO Awards and Independent School of the Year for Contribution to Social Mobility.

**Jane Mees (née Davies, Class of 1987)**, Bolton School's Bursary Support and Outreach Manager, highlights the importance of nurturing potential from all backgrounds.



Scan the QR code to read more at Bolton School's new Partnerships page.

## Sports Dome



*Computer images of the proposed sports dome*

*Bolton School has submitted a planning application to Bolton Council for a multi-use indoor sports dome at the south end of the Levels.*

If approved, the 722m<sup>2</sup> facility will include retractable sides and a connecting pavilion with classrooms and storage. It will expand indoor provision for curriculum PE and extracurricular activities, including tennis, basketball, badminton and netball, for pupils from Primary Division to Sixth Form.

Construction is planned for the 2027-28 academic year. The project, long prioritised by Governors, was launched following two generous Old Boy legacies dedicated to future sports facilities.

# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

## Tillotson Lecture: Character, Courage and Curiosity

The guest speaker at the 53rd annual Boys' Division Tillotson Lecture was Old Boy **David Williams (Class of 1999)**.

David read Geography at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, before beginning a career in public relations, corporate affairs and investor relations. He has worked across a range of industries, building expertise at the intersection of business, public policy and communication. Known for his strategic thinking and strong communication skills, he is now Director of Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations at The Rank Group, where he leads on reputation, stakeholder engagement and corporate strategy.

In his Tillotson Lecture, David reflected on the profound impact of Bolton School on his life and career, drawing inspiration from the Boys' Division motto *Mutare Vel Timere Spero* - "I spurn to change or to fear". He spoke powerfully about the importance



of character over personality, resilience in the face

of adversity and the value of embracing change rather than avoiding it. Through stories of School life, sporting setbacks, career uncertainty and a life-changing experience during his gap year, David illustrated how challenges shape strength, perspective and integrity. He encouraged current students to take responsibility, to value their friendships, to seize opportunities and not to take themselves too seriously, leaving the audience with a compelling message about courage, constancy and the lasting influence of a Bolton School education.

*Prior to the lecture, Year 12 student **Zainab Jiva** interviewed David about his experiences at Bolton School and how they helped to prepare him for success in both life and work. Zainab writes:*

"Bolton School Alumnus David Williams looks back on his time at the School with a strong sense of gratitude and fondness, describing it as a formative period that shaped both his character and his future career. His experiences as a student, leader and sportsman played a crucial role in developing the values, confidence and curiosity that have guided him throughout his professional life.

"During his time at Bolton School, David found the academic environment both challenging and inspiring. Geography was always his favourite subject - and in the Sixth Form, he studied Geography alongside French and English Literature at A Level. He is grateful to a number of Bolton School teachers who had a lasting impact on him, most notably his Geography teacher, Mr Chris Rigby. Mr Rigby taught David throughout Sixth Form and was also his football coach, a combination David recalls fondly. By successfully combining academic learning with sport, Mr Rigby made lessons engaging and enjoyable. This showed David that learning did not have to be confined to the classroom. The approach left a lasting impression and helped foster David's enthusiasm for both Geography and teamwork.

"Alongside his studies, David was deeply involved in School life and embraced all of the opportunities available to him. He served as School Captain, an experience he describes as a great privilege. Being a member of the School Council taught him valuable lessons that still apply to his career today, particularly the importance of understanding your audience and communicating effectively, skills that are essential in his current role. One moment that stands out vividly for David is the School Council announcement made in the Great Hall on 2nd April 1998, a day he remembers with an enormous sense of pride and gratitude.

"Bolton School also played a key role in shaping David's character. He recalls how the School taught him "the importance of character over personality". As he explained, personality is how you show up on ordinary days, whereas character is what shows through when times are tough. The values consistently promoted at Bolton School - honesty, integrity, courage and loyalty - have remained

central to how David approaches both life and work. During his time at the School, he formed deep and lasting friendships, which he still regards as one of the most valuable aspects of his education.

"Sport was another significant part of David's School experience. A keen footballer, he has many memories from his time on the pitch, including the ISFA Cup Final on 11th March 1997 - a defeat he jokingly admits he is "still not over"! Despite the disappointment, experiences like this taught him resilience and perspective, lessons that proved invaluable later in life.

"After leaving Bolton School, David went on to study Geography at the University of Oxford. His choice of degree was a natural progression from his School studies and reflected the lasting influence of his teachers and academic experiences. After that, he pursued a career in public relations, corporate affairs and investor relations. He is now Director of Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations at The Rank Group plc, a role that demands strong communication skills, strategic thinking and integrity, qualities he attributes in large part to his education at Bolton School.

"Reflecting on his journey, David offers insightful advice to current students. He encourages them not to worry if they do not yet know what they want to do in the future, and instead to focus on understanding what they stand for and what their values are. He believes that if you get this right, opportunities will more often than not follow. He also emphasises the importance of "leaning into every opportunity", choosing to say yes rather than avoiding challenges, and recognising that a Bolton School education is a privilege with incredible resources.

"Ultimately, David Williams views his time at Bolton School as something to which he owes "an enormous debt of gratitude". The lessons he learned, the friendships he made and the values he developed continue to influence him today. His story highlights how Bolton School is about far more than buildings or academic results. Rather, it is about shaping character, nurturing ambition and preparing students for life beyond the classroom."

## Careers Carousels

Year 8 pupils in both Divisions enjoyed Careers Carousel events featuring six Old Boys and Old Girls, each leading interactive activities linked to their professions and offering valuable insights into future pathways.

### Charlie Jones (Class of 2020)

Charlie described his journey from Bolton School to the Royal Navy. After attending Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College and completing his Admiralty Interview Board at 15, he joined as a Warfare Officer in January 2024, having studied Mechanical Engineering at Aston University as a Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme student.



### Cian Spencer McDermott (Class of 2021)

Cian, a former First XI Football Captain and ISFA representative, now works as a personal trainer at FitBox, coaching clients using his elite sporting experience.



## Find Your Path

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

Mentees receive guidance from Alumni across sectors, benefiting from tailored advice on transitioning to work or advancing careers, with mentors leveraging their professional networks for added insights.

The Find Your Path scheme welcomes applications from young Old Boys considering their next steps – please email [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org) to find out more.

A recent beneficiary of the scheme is **Neeraj Singh (Class of 2023)**:

"I joined the Find Your Path programme in my second year of university. This was an important time for decision-making regarding my future career, and so the scheme came at a really good moment for me.



"What has stood out most to me so far is how personalised the programme is. My mentor, Simon, has been happy to speak with me as little or as often as I've needed. Even when I have not had anything specific to ask, I was able to catch up with him to get a balanced external opinion on my career trajectory and goals. Simon also provided me with interesting ideas about how I could make the most of my unique degree combination and find relevant work experience, which has been very eye-opening for me.

"Overall, the scheme is an incredible opportunity to learn and develop under the guidance of an experienced mentor and I want to thank Simon and the Development Team for facilitating it."

## Sixth Form Entrepreneurship Scheme

*Last year, Year 12 pupils from both Divisions took part in the Sixth Form Entrepreneurship Scheme, established by **Rob Dobson (Class of 1982)**.*

The scheme develops students' business and entrepreneurial skills through Alumni mentorship, skills-based presentations and a Dragon's Den-style pitch.

After 'Meet the Founder' sessions, pupils applying for 1-2-1 mentoring were matched with Rob, **Pran Arya (Class of 2011)**, **Juhi Gore (Class of 1993)**, **Shweta Sharma (Class of 2001)**, **Rik Thwaites (Class of 1977)**, and **Rob White (Class of 1992)**. Together, mentors and students refined business plans, built models, and explored opportunities to enhance their ideas.

We are immensely grateful to all six mentors for their time and guidance this year.



*Students with, L-R, Juhi, Shweta, Pram, Rob and Rob at the pitching event*

## World of Work

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

**Alastair Ahamed (Class of 2016)** is a barrister at Erskine Chambers in London, specialising in company law. He was previously a lecturer at Somerville College, University of Oxford. He continues to teach tutorials in Company Law at Oxford. Alastair holds a Distinction in the Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford and is a qualified solicitor, having previously trained at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.



## Alumni of the Year Awards

The Alumni of the Year Awards recognise Old Boys and Old Girls who embody the School's ethos of producing people who go out into the world and make a difference for good.

The 2025 nominees came from a huge range of careers, with broad interests and experiences, but what links them all is their sense of dedication, passion, determination and willingness to work hard for something. Pupils in the Boys' Division, Girls' Division and Junior Schools had read about the achievements of all of those nominated for the Awards ahead of casting their votes for the winners.



The 2025 winners were **Rob O'Kane** and **Francesca Johnson-Harding**, coincidentally both from the Class of 1994. Rob and Francesca were invited to a special assembly where they received their awards and delivered passionate and heartfelt speeches reflecting on their time at Bolton School. They spoke about how the leadership skills and commitment they developed at Bolton School became the foundations for their later accomplishments. Their stories offered pupils a clear message about the lasting influence of hard work, resilience and taking advantage of the experiences available to them.

### Rob O'Kane (Class of 1994)

Rob joined the Royal Navy in 1998 and has risen through the ranks from Cadet at Britannia Royal Naval College to the prestigious rank of Captain, serving with distinction in a wide range of roles and locations.

As a Fleet Air Arm Observer, his early flying career was dominated by support to operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, before specialising in Search and Rescue operations with 771 Naval Air Squadron in Cornwall. He has also deployed to Bahrain and held leadership positions at Britannia Royal Naval College and Navy Command HQ. Most recently, he was Commander of the Merlin Helicopter Force at RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall.

Alongside his naval career, Rob has pursued his lifelong passion for rugby. After discovering his love of the game at Bolton School, his sporting ability was quickly recognised when he joined the Navy. He won his first Royal Navy Rugby Union cap in 2000, playing

fly-half in the iconic Navy vs Army match at Twickenham Stadium. In 2020 he was appointed Director of Rugby for the Royal Navy, and he continues to inspire the next generation of players.

*"I am truly honoured to be nominated for Old Boy of the Year. Leaving Bolton School in 1994, I aspired to study medicine and become a surgeon. However, my A Level results led me down a different path. Now, 27 years into a Royal Navy career, I've travelled the world, been to war and experienced opportunities I might never have had in medicine."*

### Runners-up for the Old Boy of the Year award were:

**Michael Ainsworth (Class of 1977)**, a distinguished public servant and advocate against hate crime, has had a career spanning senior roles in the UK Prison Service, international humanitarian and war crime work in Kosovo, as well as leadership positions in charities promoting tolerance, rehabilitation, and support for disadvantaged communities, alongside his national advisory work on hate crime.

**Andrew Jameson (Class of 1970)**, a triple Chartered Engineer, has had a pioneering career in broadcasting and technology - designing the world's first fully automated TV playout system, leading the UK's digital transition, founding software and language-learning ventures, mentoring the next generation of engineers and promoting education and community integration across continents - demonstrating the transformative power of opportunity, education and resilience.

**Thomas Relph (Class of 2005)** combined his lifelong passion for rugby with remarkable determination to raise over £11,500 for The Christie Charity by running six half marathons in memory of his father, turning personal loss into an inspiring testament to resilience, friendship and purpose.

Old Girl of the Year award winner **Francesca Harding** has spent 22 years building the North East's largest animal care business while simultaneously championing women's and girls' rugby - founding clubs, developing national pathways, supporting disadvantaged players, and earning multiple national and regional awards for her impact on both animals and sport.

The other nominees for Old Girl of the Year were: **Beth Allen (Class of 1986)**, **Val Marshall (Class of 1974)** and **Gill Moss (Class of 1984)**.

The Alumni of the Year Awards at Bolton School were launched in 2022 to celebrate the many varied contributions that Old Boys and Old Girls make to society. Their achievements are a source of continued pride within the school, and an inspiration to the current generation of students.

**During Rob's visit to School Year 12 students Jenson Lomas and Lohith Ramesh took the opportunity to interview him to find out more about his career and how Bolton School has influenced his life choices.**

*When Rob O'Kane looks back on his time at Bolton School, he most fondly remembers that feeling of belonging. School, he says, felt like a family: a place where teachers made learning relevant and interesting, friendships were made for life and there were endless opportunities.*



Rugby sat at the heart of that experience. Lunchtimes were spent practising kicks – often staff supported his love for rugby by leaving a bag of balls ready for him. Yet it was more than sport. From early camps like Saundersfoot, to ski tours and trips across Europe in his senior years in School, the chance to travel broadened horizons and built confidence. However, underpinning it all was a culture in which everyone was encouraged to thrive.

A number of teachers left a lasting mark, such as his first team rugby coach **Caspar Joseph (Boys' Division Staff, 1986-2022)**. Rob recalls another rugby coach, **Jack Stables (Boys' Division Staff, 1967-1994)**, who felt like a friend and someone you could take any problem to, who brought rugby to Bolton School in the first place and was Rob's woodwork teacher – he once secretly built Rob's GCSE drama props to help him succeed. Second Master at that time, **Harry Jackson (Boys' Division Staff, 1972-1997)**, was also like a friend to Rob: even though he was an austere man, his authority was matched with kindness, giving up his own lunch to a hungry pupil. Looking back, Rob did not only value those who praised him, but also those who challenged him. Together, they helped shape the person he would become.

Leadership came early in Rob's life, as Captain of the Rugby First Team and also of his local club. He learned to speak up and bring people together and take responsibility; at the time he thought little of it, but those experiences formed the foundations of a leadership journey that later defined his career.

However, not every moment went his way: despite his contributions to School, he was disappointed not to be appointed a Monitor. When he asked why, he was told that others might need the badge more than he did. The lesson stayed with him, that decisions are sometimes made for the development of others, not as a judgment on you.

## Thank You!

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

Rob left Bolton School determined to study medicine. However, when his A Levels fell short, he chose a different path, reading Chemistry at Newcastle University. While there he was offered a gap year working in industry. So, during his undergraduate studies, he took a place at ICI Wilton outside Middlesbrough, where he did research on polymer chemistry. He repeated laboratory experiments day after day for about a hundred days, and later he realised he wanted something else from life. A visit to his friend's passing-out parade at the Royal Navy college opened his eyes to a career that combined travel, teamwork and challenge – and so he applied. Aspiring to be a pilot in the Navy, Rob undertook many tests to assess the different qualities he would require. He did not pass – but this did not stop him: he discovered he could still fly as an observer, directing missions. He joined the Royal Navy in 1998, beginning a career that has now spanned nearly three decades.

The most rewarding chapter came during six years in search and rescue in Cornwall. Rob flew hundreds of missions, saving lives in treacherous conditions and bringing injured sailors and fishermen home. Nothing else, he says, has matched the pride of knowing your actions made such an immediate, human difference. Throughout his service, the importance of relationships has remained constant. Whether working with international partners or supporting those under his authority, success depends on trust, communication and respect. Those qualities, he believes, he learnt from School: through sport, travel and the examples set by teachers. Service, to Rob, extends beyond uniform; it is about contributing to the community, looking out for others and small acts, repeated across society, that make a profound difference.

A huge part of Rob's life, rugby, continued to run alongside his naval career; after representing the Navy, he later returned as a coach and then Director of Rugby, overseeing multiple men's and women's teams. He continues to enjoy the role, helping young men and women find belonging and purpose. Seeing some continue in the sport they love can be as rewarding as producing elite players, he said.



Rob's message to today's students is that life is a journey: rarely straightforward, there will be setbacks and doubts, but hold on to your goal and don't let anyone tell you that you cannot achieve it. As he said as he accepted his Alumni of the Year award: "Shoot for the moon; even if you miss you'll land among the stars."



HMS Cornwall Flight

**Zuhayr Adia (Class of 2014)** spoke to Medical and Dental School students about their applications and preparations for the MMI tests.

**Ross Mathieson (Class of 1984), Arif Chhabu (Class of 2009), Chris Warner (Class of 2013) and Zuhair Patel (Class of 2015)** all hosted a station at the mock MMI event for dentistry and medical school applicants alongside staff and current and former parents.

**Matthew Walmsley (Class of 2003)** spoke to MedSoc.

**Julian Butterworth (Class of 1990)** spoke to Year 12 pupils about alcohol abuse.

# Alumni in the AI Revolution

With AI becoming evermore prominent in our daily lives, five Old Boys who work in the tech industry reflect on their journeys into the world of artificial intelligence, sharing insights, challenges and the innovations they are helping to shape.

## Andrew Gray (Class of 1998)

*Andrew is a former lawyer who has transitioned into political technology.*



As anyone of the Class of 1998 will remember, Bolton School had plenty of politically-minded teachers. They challenged and provoked you. Disagreement felt healthy.

“Back then, I was extremely shy. I never performed in a play or made it as a Monitor. Rarely put my hand up. I was an unlikely candidate to run a law firm, lead my local Law Society – or become one of the first to use AI in an election. The most memorable thing about me at School – in the eyes of other students – is that I wasn’t memorable. I remember going to debating club – run by the legendary Caspar Joseph (Boys’ Division Staff, 1986-2022) and saying nothing ... but loving it anyway, especially the balloon debates.

“One of my clearest memories is 2nd May 1997. The teachers put on the TV so we could watch Tony Blair walk into Downing Street. I wasn’t cheering – but it felt momentous. Like history arriving in the classroom. We Sixth Formers had only ever known Conservative

government. And with the Assisted Places Scheme being scrapped by New Labour, politics wasn’t abstract; it was real and immediate and was being talked about constantly.

“I now run Suffrago: a politically neutral civic tech platform. Think YouGov meets SurveyMonkey, fused with AI, and with a team of video journalists. We’re trying to build digital democracy infrastructure – something that helps people express views safely, and helps decision-makers understand what people actually think, without everything turning into a culture war.

“AI is a key part of what we do, but I try to keep it in its place. LLMs are trained on the past. School – at its best – encouraged us to create the future. Given the North West’s political history, and the growing toxicity of much of Big Tech, any major political tech category leader probably should come from our neck of the woods.

“I work with two other Bolton School Alumni at Suffrago (albeit two decades younger) and we are backed by a Bolton School Alumnus investor. We also have a Suffrago video journalist covering Bolton. Do check it out on TikTok and YouTube. It’s local democracy content, where it matters, in the place that shaped us.

*“It feels like Bolton doing what it does: producing people who go on to build things.”*

## Andrew Jameson (Class of 1970)

*Andrew is still an active software developer, with a background in broadcast engineering. In his day-to-day work he now uses AI as an intelligent scratchpad for exploring ideas, testing approaches and unblocking problems.*



*Andrew Jameson – an AI-generated image based on a sketch of him as a ten-year old drawn by his Art Teacher in 1962*

“AI can be an extremely powerful assistant, but is no substitute for understanding. In practice it still produces unreliable code, mistakes and subtle errors. In my creative experiments it sometimes gives people six fingers. In software, the errors are harder to spot – which is why education, logic and critical thinking matter more than ever.

“Earlier this year I completed a personal project using generative models to re-imagine modern images through a Victorian photographic aesthetic. Victorian Virtuosity – A Digital Reverie, inspired by memories of my late wife, is a collection of over 80 images: a paradoxical archive of family pictures that are neither real nor fake, but imagined.

“I’ve also been experimenting with AI-assisted ‘watercolours’. The results are often indistinguishable from traditional painting – yet they still require human taste, editing and restraint. This may indeed be art – created by me, using tools akin to those of an artist ... or am I?

“As I approach 74, I joke that the day may come when my own mental abilities are finally on a par with AI – but how would I know? As John Cleese once remarked, recognising the limits of

your own thinking actually requires a fairly high level of mental capability in the first place. The unfortunate outcome is that stupid people don’t know they are stupid – a well-known psychological pattern now called The Dunning-Kruger Effect.

“There’s also an older lesson here. Before calculators, we were taught mental techniques that helped us predict the likely scale of an answer when using slide rules and log tables. That meant we could sanity-check the result. Calculators removed much of that thinking. A few keystrokes and there’s the answer – but make one wrong press and how would you know? The machine is only as reliable as the understanding of the person using it.



*A view from our sitting room window in Pechón, Spain*

“It’s a light-hearted thought, but there’s a serious message underneath it. Watch AI closely. Enjoy its power. But rely on your education, not on a machine. The future will belong to people who can think clearly, question outputs and recognise when a system is wrong.”



*Hoshika on the beach in Pechón in 2015*

## Richard Paget

(Class of 1998)

*Richard is the Head of UKI Technical Account Management (Telco, Media and Entertainment) for Google Cloud.*



“Google has been using AI for many years, although only recently became widely known more in relation to chatbots using generative AI using LLMs (large language models).

“My first experience of using generative AI chatbots early on in their development did not fill me with inspiration. The answers to some of the questions I asked were incorrect and there was an abundance of hallucinations (made-up responses). The ability to summarise or help to write a document was useful, but after a while, you could tell what AI had written. Regardless, it was evident this technology was in its infancy and, with more training, would become much more impressive.

“The rate of those improvements is unprecedented. In 2025, my perception of AI changed hugely. Major strides were made to give the option to ‘vibe code’ – the ability to describe an app or idea to an AI agent and watch it create that app for you from scratch. The first time I used this it blew my mind!

“I saw early AI demonstrations translating video call meetings in near real-time and mimicking responding voices as a native speaker. I saw it generate mind maps from lengthy documents and discuss them, providing accurate, detailed explanations and answers. Thus AI can help and break down barriers, providing opportunities to learn new skills, share and collaborate more easily, regardless of one’s location, background and interests.

“It is likely in years to come that AI will help with advances in medicine, weather prediction and other global scale problems – it feels like only a matter of time before these breakthroughs happen.

“There are of course concerns over AI: deepfakes, harmful content, security, the quality and diversity of the data the LLMs are trained on, how it may affect jobs, not to mention ethics. This is where Bolton School has helped me greatly – and will continue in the future – the ability not to be scared to actively and critically question: Is this correct? Where did that information come from? How can I work out if this is true? These skills have always been required, but in this brave new world in which we find ourselves, questioning the information we’re presented with will be of paramount importance.”

## Rik Thwaites

(Class of 1977)

*Rik is a professional technology consultant with over 40 years’ experience in technical computing businesses.*



“The 1970s may not be associated with technology and AI, but when I left School I took up an engineering degree with German at Coventry University. This move enabled me to drive business at a global level. It also made me appreciate the ‘once in a lifetime opportunity of AI’ (Jensen Huang, CEO of NVIDIA) when I was working more recently at NVIDIA. NVIDIA is often described as the engine of AI. It did not invent it, but it provided the performance (initially from its gaming graphics cards) and software to drive business and research covering almost all aspects of our lives today.

“Looking back, my time at Bolton School helped my career in technology and AI in several ways. Firstly, being able to speak German (School exchanges to Germany helped me boost my language skills) helped me make a significant career move from a local UK engineering firm to global, blue-chip, IT company, Hewlett-Packard. Working in HP’s manufacturing and development centre near Stuttgart enabled me to appreciate many different cultures, approaches and business practices.

“Secondly, my exam experiences at Bolton School definitely helped me through studying for my postgraduate Intensive Diploma in Marketing at CIM which helped further accelerate my career.

“Thirdly, a member of staff, who did not directly teach me at School, inspired and drove me greatly. The late Terry Butterworth (Boys’ Division Staff, 1969-1977), who encouraged me to get involved in challenge fellwalking, instilled persistence, motivation and self-belief in a teenager (me!). Terry became a lifelong friend and someone I could turn to for advice.

“A few years ago, I presented AI basics to some pupils at Bolton School. AI has moved on since then, but I wonder how many of them are now involved in this exciting area of technology? All of us are using AI every day, although we may not realise it. AI presents us with a plethora of amazing opportunities to build a successful career and improve our world. I am excited when I hear of a new, beneficial application of AI. The AI era has only just begun.”

## Dr Riyaz Aziz Patel

(Class of 1997)

*Riyaz is an Executive Director at Morgan Stanley.*



“Technology is no longer a support function – it is reshaping entire industries. At School, Maths and problem solving were not just subjects; they were ways of understanding how complex systems fit together. That curiosity led me to study Electronic Engineering and complete a PhD.

“During my doctoral research, I worked with FPGAs – programmable electronic circuits that can be configured to perform specific tasks – effectively designing and testing digital systems at a fundamental level. Coding became more than a skill; it became a disciplined mindset: define the problem clearly, test assumptions and refine relentlessly.

“Working as a Senior Technical Architect and Manager in an Investment Bank I lead teams that design and deliver automation platforms within fund administration. It is operationally intense, involving high volumes of transactions, strict regulation and zero tolerance for error. Historically, much of this work relied on large teams executing detailed manual processes. That model is changing rapidly.

“Artificial Intelligence is now embedded in how we build and operate technology. My teams use AI to accelerate system design, generate and test code, analyse production issues, summarise requirements and draft documentation. Tasks that once absorbed hours can now take minutes. We are also exploring AI ‘agents’ capable of automating structured workflows – performing checks, monitoring exceptions and supporting operational decision-making.

“This is not an incremental change; it alters how financial services are delivered.

“However, AI is a tool – not an autonomous thinker. It can generate outputs confidently, but it does not understand accountability, context or consequence. In a regulated environment, human judgement and ethical oversight are essential. As automation increases, critical thinking becomes more valuable, not less.

“Across industries, AI will reshape roles and expectations. The organisations and individuals who thrive will be those who understand it and use it responsibly.

“My time in the Boys’ Division Sixth Form reinforced that mindset. High academic standards and rigorous teaching encouraged intellectual discipline and confidence in tackling complex problems – foundations that remain invaluable in a fast-changing world.

“AI is here to stay. Be curious. Learn how systems work. Build strong analytical foundations. The future will belong to those who combine technical understanding with sound judgement and adaptability.”

# EVENTS

## Alumni Oxford Dinner

Pembroke College, Friday 21st November 2025

*A record number of Old Girls and Old Boys attended this year's Oxford Dinner, including many new faces, and an impressive range of year groups were represented. It was wonderful to see our Alumni community come together in such a beautiful setting and the warm, lively atmosphere in the hall reflected just how strong and vibrant the Bolton School network continues to be.*



**1.** Gary Battersby (1976), Helen Battersby, Nick Battersby (1978), Wendy Johns (née Battersby, 1974), Michael Johns, Jonathan Battersby (1982), Joanne Battersby, Elisabetta Battersby **2.** Vivienne Hall (2025), Rishi Narla (2023), Tom Boardman (2023), Laurence Britton (2023), Ramez Ailo (2025), Hannah McKee (2023) **3.** Mick Wallwork (1989), Ria Wallwork, Lisa-Jane Grey, James Bennett (1997), Jeremy Taylor (1996) **4.** Ernest Ryder (1976), Philip Britton **5.** Charlotte Bird, Marcus Crompton (2020), Rachel Crompton (née Allen, 1983; OGA Chair, 2025-26), Ernest Ryder (1976) **6.** David Griffiths (2009), Erik Johnston, Amy Robinson, David Robinson (2008), Duncan Leary, Alex Hopkinson (2016), Lucy Nolan (2010) **7.** Stephen Parry (1974), Georgina Irvine (1979), Stephen Lintott (1989) **8.** Peter Knowles, Roger Smith, Rosemary Claxton (née Lunn), Anne Galloway, Janet Griffiths, Elizabeth Newton (née Whyatt), Janice Leech, Catherine Kneafsey, Barry Nightingale, Judith Peel, Gwithian Doswell (all 1979) **9.** Barry Nightingale (1979; OBA President, 2025-26), Rachel Crompton **10.** Thomas Britton (2021), Thomas Higham (2021), James Hopkinson (2022), Charlotte Rumney **11.** Richard Duncalf, Matthew Phillips, Mike Ward, Jane Livingstone, Bill Owen (all 1988) **12.** Gary Battersby (1976), Jonathan Battersby (1982), Nick Battersby (1978), Barry Nightingale **13.** Andrew Kaye (1979), Sarah McKeown, Thomas Underwood (2017) **14.** Levi Higham (2024), Rishi Narla (2023), Hannah McKee (2023), Thomas Boardman (2023), Laurence Britton (2023)

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## Old Boltonians' Association Dinner

### Bolton School, Friday 5th December 2025

*The Association's annual dinner had an impressive turnout, featuring a good mix of regular attendees and new faces. It was great to see both familiar and new participants enjoying the event.*

1. Clive Nightingale (1983), Barry Nightingale 2. Chris Carley, Chris Taylor (both 1973) 3. David Shaw (BD Staff, 1964-2002), Peter Tonge (1952) 4. James Chadwick (1998), Liam Watkinson (2009; BD Staff), Huw Dixon (1994), Martin Wadsworth, Tom Liversedge (2005) 5. Jordan Harrison-Twist (2010; BD Staff), William Martin (2025), Chris Brownlow (2016; BD Staff) 6. Martin Wadsworth 7. Rob O'Kane, Anthony Page, Stewart Williams (all 1994) 8. Rick Kirkby (1996), Stewart Williams 9. Phil Riding (1978), Barry Nightingale, Jon Twist (1992) 10. Roland Wild (1961), Jeff Lofthouse (1967), Peter Nightingale (1961), David Jenner (1960) 11. Benjamin Fletcher, Teddy Clarke, Jonathan Ratcliffe (all 2020), Rob Lees (1996; BD Staff, 2010-2018) 12. Dan Bowles, James O'Reilly, Chris Norman, Neil Yardley, Sanjay Kotegaonkar (all Class of 1996)



## Cambridge Dinner

St Catharine's College, Friday 6th February 2026

*This year's Cambridge Dinner drew an impressive turnout, bringing together a vibrant mix of guests in the college's historic and elegant setting.*



1. Krishnan Ajit (2020), Ines Marcal 2. Ananya Ajit, (2023), Giri Nandekumar (2016), Rohit Bagewadi (2017), Anchit Chandran (2016), Krishnan Ajit, Ines Marcal, Neha Bagewadi (2020) 3. Alex Smith, Adam Hall (2018), Nancy Craven (née Gaskell, 1983, John Craven (1982), Barry Nightingale, 1979) 4. Neha Bagewadi (2020), Rohit Bagewadi (2017), Ella Worsley (2023) 5. Suzanna Simmonite (2024), Isaac Simmonite (2022) 6. William Miles (2022), Ben Rimmer (2024), Alex McKie (2024) 7. Lionel Price (1964), Stephen Parry (1974), Sara Price, John Roe (1963), Christine Roe, Ann Jenkinson, Seth Jenkinson (1961), Janet Jenkinson, Mark Jenkinson (1960) 8. Richard Footitt (1965), Judi Gaskell, Artie Gaskell (1970)



## Alumni London Dinner

HMS Belfast, Friday 6th March 2026

*Over 140 Old Boys and Old Girls enjoyed an evening of good conversation, good food and good company aboard HMS Belfast, all connected by the thread of Bolton School*

1. Iain Sawbridge, Adam Birley, Nick Abrahams, David Williams, Nicholas Bennett (all 1999) 2. Chris Grundy (1992), Andrew Banister (1993), Marc Dickinson (1993) 3. Thomas Britton (2021), Mar Penalva Lozano, Omar Hasan (2021), Tristan Hughes (2025), Jake Mayor (2025) 4. Tristan Highes (2025), Jake Mayor (2025), Julian Gregory-Judd, Yaqeen Alkabi (2023) 5. Peter Acton (1971), Christine Dootson, Andrew Dootson (1976) 6. Mel Morris, Will Jackson (2021), Richard Morris (1986), Henry Speakman (2021), Archie Seddon (2021) 7. Neil Handley, Scott Hamer, Sarah Scales (née Boardman), Rachel Parsons (née Fielding), Gary Bent (all 1991)



# Joint Old Boys' and Old Girls' Lunch

**Bolton School, Friday 13th February 2026**

*Seventy-five guests attended the annual Joint Old Boys' and Old Girls' Lunch, which brought former pupils together and featured Head of Foundation Philip Britton presenting this year's Distinguished Service Awards for service to the Old Boltonians' and Old Girls' Associations.*



**David Shaw (Boys' Division Staff, 1964-2002)** was selected to receive the award in recognition of his six decades of service to the School and the Old Boltonians' Association (OBA). David's career with School spanned several Headmasters and saw him rise from Physics teacher to Deputy Headmaster. He was also very much involved with the extracurricular life of the School: his love of badminton led him to coach School teams for 38 years, he was a member of the Choir and was a stalwart of the Saundersfoot Camps. After retiring, he continued to serve the OBA as an Honorary member, holding the roles of Liaison Officer, Committee Member and serving as President (2017-18).

As David looked back at more than 60 years' involvement with Bolton School, recalling many happy times, he said: "If I'd known in 1964 how it would all end up, to quote what people would have said when I was a boy where I lived: 'I'd be reyt chuffed!'"

There were two Distinguished Service Awards for service to the Old Girls' Association (OGA), the recipients being **Maureen Jones (née Wardle, Class of 1958)** who was recognised for decades of outstanding service to the OGA and to Bolton School, including 32 years as Secretary to the Headmaster of the Boys' Division, and **Margaret Allen (née Brookes, Class of 1957)** who received the award in recognition of six decades of devoted service to the OGA and her family's longstanding, multi-generational connection to Bolton School.



1. David Jenner (1960), Frank Millhouse (1961)
2. David Shaw, Clare Shaw, Mike Shaw (1988)
3. Keith Washington (1963), Brian Craven (1958), Catherine Bankes (née Chadwick, 1960), Frank Hodgkiss (1965)
4. Carol Forshaw (née Rigby, 1972), Philip Rothwell (1971), Ann Rothwell (née Bradshaw, 1972)
5. Siblings Margaret Allen (née Brookes, 1957), David Brookes (1961)
6. David Shaw, Steve Capstick (1976), Chris Pendlebury (1972)

## Bolton School Connect

The SE Bolton School Connect series continued in January with a thought-provoking networking event held at the offices of Goldman Sachs, courtesy of **Adam Crook (Class of 1992)**, at which **Elizabeth Newton (née Whyatt, Class of 1979)** hosted a 'fireside chat' with **Charlotte Morley (née Maddrell, Class of 1999)**, founder and CEO of circular clothing company *thelittleloop*. Charlotte shared insights into her work within the sustainable economy and demonstrated how her experiences in the Girls' Division continue to influence everything she does.

**Roger Draper (Class of 1988)** was the guest speaker at the NW Bolton School Connect event in February. Now a global

business advisor he was previously the Chief Executive of Sport England and the Lawn Tennis Association.

Roger shared his passion for both business and sport, speaking about the five principles of competitive sport that shape his approach to business and leadership: Vision, Planning, Focus, Seeking Opportunity and Execution. He also reflected on his guiding values — staying true to yourself, following passion over pay and embracing the importance of learning to fail and to fail fast.

Old Boy and Governor **Stewart McGuffie (Class of 1986)** hosted the chat with Roger which was held at the offices of Clyde & Co thanks to **Stephen Lintott (Class of 1989)**.

*Elizabeth (left) and Charlotte chatted about the sustainable economy*

*Roger (left) chatted to Stewart about his passions for business and sport*

*L-R: Roger, Stephen and Stewart*



# Alumni Events Calendar

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



## 2026

Friday 1st May	Old Boys' and Old Girls' Scottish Dinner	University of Edinburgh, 7pm
Tuesday 5th May	Primary Division Hulton Lecture	Girls' Division Great Hall and Online, 5pm-6pm
Friday 15th May	Alumni Northern Dinner	Science and Industry Museum, Manchester, 6.30pm
Thursday 21st May	Old Boys' Lunch and AGM	Bolton School, 12 noon
Tuesday 9th June	Middle East Zoom	4-5pm UK, 7-8pm GST, 8.30-9.30pm UST, 8pm-9pm PKT
Friday 12th June	Alumni Cumbria Lunch	Lindeth Howe Hotel, 12 noon
Monday 22nd June	Recent Leavers' Reunion: Class of 2025	Bolton School, 2.30pm-5pm
Thursday 25th June	MCC Match	Bolton School, 10 am onwards
Thursday 25th June	Boys' Division Prizegiving	Boys' Division Great Hall and Live stream, 7pm
Friday 26th June	Foundation Former Staff Lunch	Bolton School, 12 noon
Saturday 19th September	'6' Class Reunion	Bolton School, 11am-4.30pm

## Zoom in for a Chat!

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

Zoom calls will be held annually for Alumni in Australasia and Oceania (October), the USA (January), Europe (March) and the Middle East (June). All Old Boys and Old Girls across the time zones are welcome to join, regardless of where they live, so look out for further details!

## '6' Class Reunion

*Did you leave Bolton School in a '6' year (1946, 56, 66, 76, 86, 96, 06, 16)? If so, please join us for your decade School reunion to be held at Bolton School on **Saturday 19th September 2026** for these year groups. Former Staff are also very welcome to attend, as are Alumni from other years, and partners and families are welcome too.*

If you have not received an invitation, but would like to attend, please visit the 'Alumni and Giving Back' section of the School website ([www.boltonschool.org](http://www.boltonschool.org)) to book online or contact the Development Office to pay over the phone.

We hope to see as many of you as possible, so please get in touch with your classmates and make sure you all have this date in your diaries!

## Alumni Northern Dinner

*There are still some places available at the inaugural Bolton School Northern Dinner which will be held at the Science and Industry Museum, Manchester on **Friday 15th May 2026**.*

Tickets cost £80 (£50 for Undergraduates and Alumni under 25) for a three-course dinner with wine and coffee – to book please scan the QR code at the top of this page.

## Alumni Ambassadors

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

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

## Historical Association

The Bolton Branch of the Historical Association meets monthly in the Girls' Division from September to March, with lectures on a wide variety of topics offering historical enrichment to a wide variety of people in the local community.

Recent speakers have included Old Girl **Fiona Edmonds (Class of 1998)**, an Early Medieval historian, and a recent lecture told the Story of Operation Freshman and the role of **Flight Lieutenant Donald Higson**, an Old Boy of Bolton School who was killed in action in October 1942.

Old Boys are welcome to attend any of the lectures. For further details please contact Branch Secretary Melissa Wright ([mwright@boltonschool.org.uk](mailto:mwright@boltonschool.org.uk)) or Girls' Division Head of History Craig Owen ([cowen@boltonschool.org.uk](mailto:cowen@boltonschool.org.uk)).

## Alumni Authors

### Soviet Georgia in Twenty Objects

by Mark Doel (Class of 1969)



This short book is beautifully presented and illustrated. Each short biography relates to a significant object in the life of a Georgian in the period following the creation of the USSR, its dissolution in 1991 and continuing to the present time. The writer has frequently visited Georgia where he has many friends and the different entries, first-hand and second-hand, express an ease of communication, based on friendship and trust, which gives life to the narrative.

Each story is attached to the speaker's name and the speakers belong to a variety of generations. Ochi, the youngest, was only six years old when the Soviet Union broke up. His object is a door bell, imagined rather than real, which reminds him of the anxiety of his grandparents whenever it rang, recalling a family history of arrest, confiscation and disappearance. His translation

of his grandfather's memoirs is the disturbing record of visits by security police and the retrieval of confiscated property years later.

Marina, who was a member of a comfortable family, is reminded of her mother by a bottle of perfume. They enjoyed social life, holidays in the mountains and by the sea, but when the USSR fell apart there was no heating "and you had to be up at five in the morning to queue for bread". School was excellent and she enjoyed dancing in the Palace of Pioneers in Tbilis.

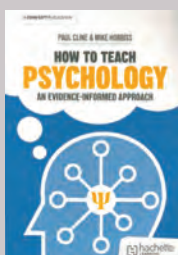
The much-travelled Tamar, granddaughter of an archaeologist, speaks in detail about the annual international camp for which membership of the Pioneers was a qualification and she gives a vivid impression of dancing, concerts, swimming, sports and the "fantastic" setting in the mountains.

The recollections are accompanied by photographs, of people, groups and objects. There are interesting reflections on language, politics and international relations – Salome's family felt privileged to entertain an exotic creature, a visiting Welshman. *Soviet Georgia* is notable for its colour, variety and economy of presentation.

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

### How to Teach Psychology: An Evidence-Informed Approach

by Mike Hobbiss (Class of 2003) and Paul Cline



The British Medical Association, other professional and government bodies, TV and social media have regularly reported that mental health problems have become more prevalent in the UK in recent years. The percentage of adults with a common mental health disorder reached 22.6% in 2024 – up from 17.6% in 2007.

The rates of probable mental disorders in children aged 8-16 increased from one in eight in 2017 to one in five in 2023. This increasing prevalence has been reflected in a growth in demand with two million people in contact with mental health services by January 2025 – an increase of 71% since 2016. These longer-term trends were accelerated by Covid-19.

This period of growth has stimulated a greater awareness of, and interest in, mental health, the causes of ill-health and responses which might be most effective in understanding and promoting good mental health and treating illness.

The need for skilled staff to meet the demand has stimulated a growth in the numbers of mental health practitioners and this is clearly reflected in the growth in the study of Psychology at

GCSE, A Level through to undergraduate and post graduate levels of learning. In 2024 around 78,500 UK A Level students chose Psychology, second only to Maths. Around 75% of these Psychology students were young women.

The need for modern and effective approaches to teaching is evident. Paul Cline and Mike Hobbiss's book, published by Hachette Learning in 2025, meets this need comprehensively and with a confidence based on personal experience in the field and a well researched evidence base of good practice.

The book provides an excellent structure for trainee teachers at the beginning of their careers and for more experienced teachers in supporting their curriculum/lesson planning, teaching practice and supporting their own career progression as further roles and responsibilities, for example as Heads of Department, emerge.

The great strength of the approach is the focus on the inter-dependent relationship between the student and the teacher and demonstrates how the wider learning framework for learning can be expressed in the detail of practical methods of delivery for students. The reader's confidence is consistently supported by the range and depth of the evidence base on which the suggested approaches are based.

*How to Teach Psychology* will be an essential 'go to' text for teachers of Psychology and those studying or simply interested in the subject, but, I suggest, has much to offer teachers of other disciplines as an example of structured best practice for teaching and learning.

*Stephen Parry (Class of 1974)*



## The School Magazine

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

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

# OLD BOYS' NEWS

## Class of 1950-1959

### Norman Longworth

(Class of 1955)

Still alive and kicking at almost 90, Norman spends his time writing poems and transforming them to music using AI. The music is ethereal. He is looking forward to big celebrations in March both in the UK and France with family and friends from all over the world. After 70 years of working for a better education system worldwide, Norman is proud to see Bolton School thriving.

## Class of 1960-1969

### Mike Ainscough

(Class of 1962)

Seven years ago, at the age of 75, and after 60+ years of drawing and painting conventionally, Mike started to paint digitally using an app called Procreate on an iPad. He now exhibits locally in venues in Sussex, and has sold many prints in person and online: [www.mikeainscoughart.co.uk](http://www.mikeainscoughart.co.uk).

Mike is sharing this news not to blow his own bugle, but to pay tribute to a man who started him off on the right track in his first art lesson at School in 1955 (a lesson he can recall to this day): Art Master George Higginson. A lovely artist of the old school, Mike was pleased beyond measure to see one of his pencil drawings gracing the cover of the Spring 2025 edition of *The Bugle*.

### Michael Hancock

(Class of 1968)



The Autumn 2024 edition of *The Bugle* featured Mike's exploits playing for England in the 2024 World Cup, where he was a member of the first England senior team to win since 1966!

In October last year Mike travelled to Japan to play in the 2025 World Cup. After battling through to the final, Team England was beaten by a well organised German team consisting of six ex-professionals, including one who is still the Bundesliga second division all-time record goal scorer!

Still, gold and silver World Cup medals in his first 14 months playing for

England is quite an achievement!

Mike also plays walking football and heartily recommends it for anyone over 50 - please email him at [michael.hancock7@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.hancock7@ntlworld.com) for more details.

### Mark Doel

(Class of 1969)



Mark's book, *Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in Social Work Practice*, is published by Bloomsbury in March 2026. His long-standing interest in the

relevance of ethical theories to social work practice is given expression in this book, co-authored with Paula Beesley. A variety of specific ethical dilemmas are explored and each chapter opens with an object that symbolises the particular ethical dilemmas raised in that chapter. Mark and Paula also consider broader social and political dilemmas (*Bigger Pictures*) that parallel those in social work practice.

## Class of 1970-1979

### Andrew Craston

(Class of 1970) and

### Nick Lefel

(Class of 1977)

These two Old Bolts missed out on being School contemporaries by a mere six weeks, but ended up living just seven kilometres apart in the North German state of Schleswig-Holstein. Having finally met up in person several years ago, they have now formalised their get-togethers by setting up a British Dinner Club along with another local expat, Chris Pyne. With scintillating conversation - both Nick and Chris are e-mobility nerds - and good food guaranteed, this Dinner Club will be meeting quite regularly in future. And if any Old Bolt living near would like to join us, feel free to get in touch: [andrew@craston.de](mailto:andrew@craston.de).

### Nigel Slater

(Class of 1972)

Nigel is a team mentor for the Davidson Inventors Challenge, an annual innovation competition run by the University of Cambridge. Nigel was pleased to support the Challenge in

recognition of John Davidson, his first academic mentor, who encouraged his early interest in biotechnology. With over 170 teams involving 700 school students taking part, the competition stimulates many creative ideas. Nigel hopes that one day a team from Bolton School might take part.

Nigel also continues his work with Zhejiang University, spending several months each year in Hangzhou where he teaches about biomedicines, mentors his last PhD student and collaborates with colleagues to spin out a new cat flu vaccine.

### Martin Thompson

(Class of 1973)

Martin managed to retire in 2016, having been a member of the Board of the Supreme Court from its establishment in 2009.

However, he is finding it trickier to extricate himself as the Member for Trophies on the Committee of the Metropolitan Amateur Regatta.

The regatta's spiritual home dating from 1866 was on the Thames Tideway at Putney but, since 2001 and still as a mainstay event of the sport nowadays involving 2500 rowers and scullers, has been held on an end-of-May weekend at Eton College's international-standard Dorney Lake course which was the venue for the 2012 Summer Olympics rowing.

The Met's first Honorary Secretary was Charles Dickens Junior - son of the famed Victorian author - and two of the original high-Victorian trophies were showcased at the 1992 V&A Sporting Glory Exhibition.

Last year, and in unexpected circumstances, Martin had the privilege of presenting the Champion Cup for Open Eights - which stands all of 38" tall - and bespoke medals to the Cambridge University Boat Race crew, which included five members of his other *alma mater*, Peterhouse. And on a particularly personal note, given the CUBC coach, Rob Baker, had also coached Martin's elder son who was in Gonville & Caius College's Head of the River Cam crews in the Lents and Mays of 2003 and 2004, he was able to take the opportunity to tell him how his late father, Tony Baker, who was known as the Caius Boat Man, had invited him to join him and his wife, Joy, in the Umpire's launch following his son's race in 2003 at Henley Royal Regatta.

## David Borkin

(Class of 1975)



David has recently been sworn in as a Magistrate. He retired from paid employment in 2019 after 40 years working in IT software

solutions in both the public sector and multinational corporations. Since retiring, he has volunteered with the Samaritans as a listening volunteer and also serves as a Deputy Director, responsible for the local branch's IT, building maintenance and office management, while being heavily involved in recruiting new volunteers.

On retirement David also joined the local U3A guitar group for casual playing and now leads one of their groups, participating in informal sessions and the occasional charity concert. He plays guitar, ukulele and drums with three bands ranging from folk to rock, performing in local pubs and clubs, and also performs solo at open-mic nights.

David considers himself to have had a blessed life, attributing much to the strong educational and character-forming foundations provided by Bolton School, alongside 49 years of steadfast support from his wife.

### Class of 1980-1989

## Philip Ratcliffe

(Class of 1981)



Phil graduated from the University of Liverpool (Economics/Economic History) in 1985 and chose a career in Marketing.

Following a failed attempt at pop stardom which peaked with a debut single mastered at Abbey Road, he was forced to look for gainful employment, and after enjoyable spells in the textile and automotive sectors, found his forever career in the toy industry. Starting with Waddingtons Games as Product Manager, and Mattel Inc. as Marketing Group Manager, Phil then spent over 25 years working for MV Sports/Tandem Group plc as Managing Director/Group Commercial Director. Along the way he gained a Fellowship from The Chartered Institute of Marketing and was honoured to serve voluntarily The British Toy and Hobby Association for over 20 years, eventually being elected Chairman and President, representing the interests

of the Toy Industry both at home and abroad.

Now working as a semi-retired consultant, Phil reflects on a career in a fun, dynamic industry, involving well known brands and long-term relationships with global entertainment companies such as Disney, Warner Bros, Universal and Paramount.

In 2025 he was honoured to receive an Outstanding Contribution Award from the British Toy and Hobby Association.

Married to Anne-Marie since 1997 with three children, Phil and his family have lived in Oxfordshire since 1999. He is in regular contact with several classmates and they meet up in Bolton at least twice a year. An avid Bolton Wanderers supporter he still goes to watch them whenever he can.

Phil is indebted in particular to Charles Winder and George Lancashire who kept faith with him during his time at School. He adds: "I can smell and taste the tarmac and Fairy liquid as I type!"

## Richard Morris

(Class of 1986)



Back in January Richard stepped down as a Director of The Bury Black Pudding Company Ltd, marking his retirement from day-to-day involvement after 23 years. This

followed the sale of his shares two years earlier to the Panicum Group, owners of three other artisan food businesses.

Richard will continue in an ad-hoc advisory role as the company builds on remarkable growth, expanding from six tonnes of weekly production in 2006 to 104 tonnes last year, with turnover reaching £11.5 million and 60% market saturation. The brand is now the world's number one English black pudding, produced at the only SMART black pudding factory in the world at Heap Bridge, Bury, using his grandfather's original seasoning recipe.

Looking ahead, Richard is planning further fundraising ultra-running challenges, including a 330km event in South Africa later this year.

## Andrew Heath

(Class of 1989)

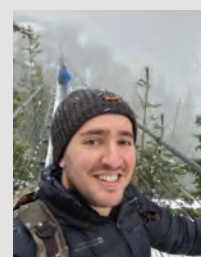
Andy has recently taken up the role of Operations Manager for Landmark Theatres in North Devon, ensuring the show stays on the road and in the bar. He also serves in an executive role with the newly-formed Independent Pub Alliance, challenging government

policy and championing independent publicans who often find themselves overshadowed by large corporate operators. Andy is also in his second year on the investment committee of the CAMRA Members Investment Club, helping oversee a £17m fund on behalf of 2,700 members. This coincides with the launch of a forthcoming podcast with beer writer Adrian Tierney-Jones, *Don't Just Drink It, Own It* – a project inspired, at least in part, by extended field research in Devon's pubs. It combines sensible investment with the firm belief that good beer, like good theatre, is best enjoyed live and properly supported.

### Class of 2010-2019

## Dan Hyams

(Class of 2011)



Travel Counsellor Dan, founder of Zuri Adventures, has been shortlisted in two categories at the Luxury Travel Awards in March, a UK-wide programme

recognising excellence across luxury travel consultants and designers. Dan has been named among the final five in both Luxury Adventure Travel Designer of the Year and Responsible Travel Designer of the Year, placing him alongside some of the most respected specialists in the industry.

The shortlisting comes at an exciting time, following the launch of Zuri Adventures, his rebranded travel business focused on tailored, experience-led journeys and responsible travel. These nominations reflect Dan's expertise in designing unforgettable adventures, combined with a strong commitment to sustainability, ethical partnerships, and meaningful travel experiences that go far beyond the ordinary.

## Billy Morrison

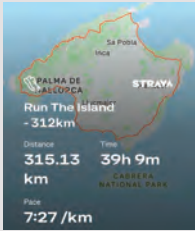
(Class of 2014)

Congratulations to Billy who married Rosa Hall on 20th September last year at Heaton House Farm in Macclesfield. The guest list included a number of Old Boys and Old Girls: Patrick Hesson, Georgie Barrow, Corin Barrow, Andrew Wilson and Ellie O'Connell (all Class of 2014).



## George Lilleywhite and David Price

(Class of 2017)



George and David formed a strong friendship during their time at School, from Park Road to playing rugby, water polo and athletics together. Since leaving, their shared love of the outdoors and taking on new challenges has only grown.

In honour of George's father, Simon, who passed away in 2018 and would have celebrated his 60th birthday this year, the pair set themselves the mission to run the island of Mallorca - one of the Lilleywhite family's favourite holiday destinations.



Pals at Park Road

Over seven consecutive days they ran seven marathons, circumnavigating the island and covering 312km and more than 385,000 steps, all to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

On 7th March 2026, supported by family and partners, they successfully completed the challenge, but the mission continues ... and donations are still being accepted on their JustGiving page. If you would like to support them, please visit: [www.justgiving.com/page/runtheisland-312](http://www.justgiving.com/page/runtheisland-312) or scan the QR code.



## George Hill

(Class of 2018)



Project Together is a purpose-driven endurance initiative created by George Hill. Built from personal

experience and a desire to turn adversity into action, the project

uses extreme physical challenge as a platform to raise awareness and funds for mental health support.

In 2026, Project Together will see George lead a team of runners on a 291km ultra-relay from Manchester to London, completed in under 48 hours. The route will be broken into structured legs, with runners rotating continuously through day and night, supported by a dedicated crew managing logistics, pacing and welfare. The scale of the challenge reflects the reality of the message behind it: resilience is built through discomfort, and no one overcomes hardship alone.

For George and the team, Project Together represents more than a run between two cities. It is a commitment to community, accountability and open conversation around mental health.

If you would like to support George and his team mates in their ultra-relay, please visit: [gofund.me/ff783842a](https://gofund.me/ff783842a).

## Peter Johnson

(Class of 2019)



Having met **Sir Ian McKellen (Class of 1958)** during his time as a pupil, Peter has come face to face with acting royalty before. However, for the first time in his career as a radio presenter and journalist, he found himself chatting to a star of the big screen with the cameras rolling.

Peter joined the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) last July, hosting the daily afternoon show on the local BFBS Colchester station, but in January was given his first major assignment - interviewing Pierce Brosnan and his co-star, Amir El-Masry, about their new film, *Giant*.

The movie, dubbed 'the UK's answer to Rocky', charts the real-life story of the relationship between former boxing world champion Naseem Hamed (El-Masry) and his trainer, Brendan Ingle (Brosnan).

Besides chatting to the pair about their new project, Peter's main takeaway was the strength of Pierce's handshake - it was every bit as firm as you'd expect from a former James Bond.



Watch Peter's interview here

## Class of 2020 onwards

### Nikhil Maini

(Class of 2020)



Congratulations to Nikhil who has completed a Masters in Real Estate Development at the University of Manchester, graduating with a Distinction. He

was also awarded prizes for the overall highest grade across all Real Estate Master's programmes at the University.

Nikhil is now working as a Graduate Commercial Surveyor within the Business Rates team at global commercial real estate firm Avison Young in Manchester, with a view to sitting his RICS (the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors APC) in early 2028.

### Matthew Houghton

(Class of 2021)

After graduating from the University of Nottingham with a first-class degree in Computer Science BSc - his undergraduate dissertation was published at a conference - Matthew began working for Imagination Technologies on their CPU-Modelling team, creating software simulations of their CPUs so the testing departments have things to test against. After that team was dissolved, Matthew transferred to the Graphics Research team where he is involved in finding new solutions to various computer graphics problems. His first patent was filed at the end of last year.

### Anthony Johnson

(Class of 2021)



Congratulations to Anthony who has graduated from the University of Birmingham with a 2:1 in Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences with Philosophy. He is

now undertaking a Psychology Master's at the University of Liverpool.

# Mini Reunions

## Bridging the Great Divide

Having not met up as a group since leaving School in 1976, Tim Wild, Peter Leatham, Peter Moss and Adrian Long finally made the effort to catch up and had a great time reminiscing. With two having 'emigrated' over the Pennines the four caught up in Skipton last July and again in December, and they plan to attend their 50th anniversary reunion at School later this year.



L-R: Tim, Peter L, Peter M and Adrian

## Don't Mention the Cricket!

Back in December, Nick Howarth, Gary Fitzpatrick and Asif Zaman (all Class of 1989) met up in Brisbane and Adelaide (Nick emigrated to Australia and lives in Melbourne), taking in two Ashes Test Matches. The three School pals had a great time, although the cricket didn't go too well!



L-R: Asif, Nick and Gary



L-R: Carl Gardner, Chris Williams, Peter Watson, Ian Nuttall, Roger Johnson and Harry Richbell

## Sixty Years On

A group of 1966-67 leavers met up recently at the Peveril of the Peak on Great Bridgewater Street in Manchester. Most of them meet regularly, but it was a first time for Carl who now lives in London. There was a lot of ground to cover as he hadn't caught up with the rest for 60 years. Hopefully it won't be as long next time!



L-R: Victoria, Alfred, Alexander, Tristan, Glory and Gabriella

## Christmas Catch-Up

Six former pupils reunited over the Christmas break, each having taken a different path since leaving School. **Victoria Cook (Class of 2022)** is now halfway through medical school, while **Alfred Norse (Class of 2025)** is studying AI and Data Science at MMU alongside building his own rocketry business. **Alexander Cook (Class of 2025)** is in his first year of an Engineering degree, and **Tristan Hughes (Class of 2025)** has begun an apprenticeship with MBDA. **Glory Steer (Class of 2022)** is in her final year of an Accounting degree and **Gabriella Cook (Class of 2027)**, currently at college, is exploring her options for life after A Levels.

The group enjoyed a lovely evening catching up at a local pub – and took advantage of the Development Team's offer to contribute to University Drinks!

Standing, L-R: Harry Lane, Alan Nimmey, Peter Harding, Ernie Marsh, Michael Haworth, David Fielding, Ted Wood, Phil Westhead, Robin Magee, Keith Washington, Robin Simmons. Seated, L-R: Genevieve Fielding, Janet Wood, Aracelis Nimmey, Ann Magee, Christine Lane, Jean Marsh, Caroline Simmons



## Mini Reunion of the Class of 1963 (plus!)

A group of Bolton School leavers, mainly from the **Class of 1963**, have continued to meet every two years since the School's Grand Reunion in 2015, with their latest gathering held last Autumn attended by 23 Alumni travelling from far and wide. The former classmates hope to meet again this year and would welcome any others who wish to re-connect – please contact the Development Office.

## 70th Birthday Gathering

On 7th March (half way through the academic year to accommodate all birthdays), 34 leavers from the Class of 1974 met up to mark their seven decades.



An impressive 16 of them braved a trek up Rivington Pike, with some exploring the restored Terraced Gardens and Pigeon Tower, before joining the others for lunch at The Blundell Arms and a long afternoon of exchanges. Tales of old School memories, catch-ups on the lives they have lived and diverse experiences led to some fascinating conversations and great reconnections to be maintained going forward.

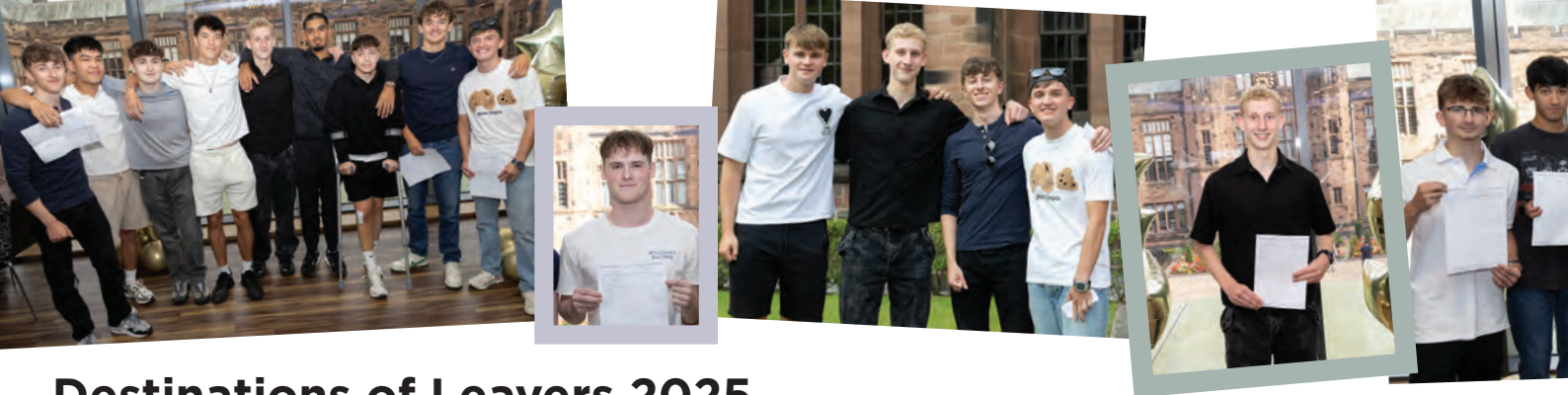


let's Drink to that

Fancy a drink on us? Organise a mini-reunion with other Bolton School Alumni at your University and we'll pay £10 per head towards the cost. just send us a photo and any news!

To arrange something near you this academic year, please get in touch with the Development Office.

email : [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org)



## Destinations of Leavers 2025

Owan Ahmad	Gap Year	
Rayaan Ahmed	University of Lancashire	Biomedical Science
Umair Ahmed	Gap Year	
Shabaan Akram	Manchester Metropolitan University	Law
Ahmad Aleid	Durham University	Economics
Ramez Alio	University of Oxford	Biochemistry
Yash Anand	University of Nottingham	Mathematics
Ali Arshad	University of Wolverhampton	Pharmacy
Subhaan Aslam	University of Manchester	Psychology
Emillio Atherton	Employment	
Thomas Atkinson	Durham University	Mathematics
Muhammed-Yahya Bax	University of Bradford	Clinical Sciences and Medicine
Adam Berisford	University of Warwick	Economics
Harry Brown	University of Manchester	Politics and International Relations
Jerry Chen	University of Leicester	Biological Sciences
Hashim Choudry	University of Leeds	Medicine
Aleks Clayden	Lancaster University	French Studies and Philosophy
Alexander Cook	Newcastle University	Mechanical Engineering
Ryan Coombes	Queen's University Belfast	History and Politics
Finley Corrigan	University of Salford	Mechanical Engineering
Ted Danson	Lancaster University	Nuclear Engineering
Adam Davenport	Degree Apprenticeship	
Dimitrios Demertzis	University of Sheffield	Electronics and Computer Engineering
Alex Dorsky	Loughborough University (2026)	Finance
Gregory Dorsky	Loughborough University	Economics
Jack Entwisle	Employment	
Sam Entwisle	Leeds Beckett University	Acting
Emmanuel Eze	Manchester Metropolitan University	Computer Science
Dominic Farrell	Lancaster University	Chemical Engineering
Adam Faulkner	University of Glasgow	Medicine
Jonathan Frank	University of Leeds	Natural Sciences
Khushal Gola	Gap Year	
Henry Goodwin	Liverpool John Moores University (2026)	Business with Digital Marketing
Toby Greenwood	Durham University	Computer Science and Mathematics
Sebastian Gregson	University of Leeds	Business Management
George Griffiths	Nottingham Trent University	Sport Science and Management
Yoji Haddow	Newcastle University	Mechanical Engineering
Mubasher Hafeez	Gap Year	
Thomas Hatchett	Lancaster University	Mechanical Engineering
Oscar Horrigan	Newcastle University	Chemistry
Tristan Hughes	Degree Apprenticeship	
Ammaar Ibraahim	Manchester Metropolitan University	Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Huzayfa Ismail	Gap Year	
Maria Jones-Brosed	University of Nottingham	Liberal Arts
Muhammad Kapadia	Gap Year	
Ashton Kay	Degree Apprenticeship	
Muhammad Khan	University of Lancashire	Pharmacology
Zack Thomas Kitson	Manchester Metropolitan University	Mechanical Engineering
Soumil Kumar	Gap Year	
Jonak Laha	University of Lancaster	Mechanical Engineering
Mark Lintott	University of York	Accounting and Finance



James Logan	Newcastle University	Mechanical Engineering
Isaac Lucas	Cardiff University	Business Management
Benjamin Maher	Degree Apprenticeship	
Harry Maher	Buckinghamshire New University (2026)	Aviation Management with Pilot Training
Yusuf Malek	Gap Year	
Abdur-Rahman Maljee	Gap Year	
William Malley	University of York	History/Politics
Freddie Marshall	University of Sheffield	Psychology
William Martin	Durham University	Modern European Languages and History
Jake Mayor	Degree Apprenticeship	
Calum McAndry	Bangor University	Marine Biology
Lucas McGann	University of Leeds	Business Management
Jake Minshall	University of York	Economics/Mathematics
Muhammad Mirza	University of Lancashire	Pharmacy
Amritansh Mishra	UCL (University College London)	French and Philosophy
Samarth Misra	University of Birmingham	Mathematics and Computer Science
Joshua Moffitt	Lancaster University	International Business Management
Zainulabidin Mohmed	Degree Apprenticeship	
Rayyaan Munshi	Gap Year	
Riley Ng	University of Leeds	Ecology and Conservation Biology
Alfred Norse	Manchester Metropolitan University	AI and Data Science
James Parfrey	University of Glasgow	Politics
Adam Patel	Gap Year	
Anish Patel	The University of Edinburgh	History
Arun Patel	University of Sheffield	Mechanical Engineering
Nikhil Patel	Leeds Beckett University	Business and Management
Mohammed-Yusuf Patel	Degree Apprenticeship	
Arran Patel	University of Liverpool	Product Design Engineering
Ziyad Patel	Degree Apprenticeship	
Danyal Qadir	University of Liverpool	Economics
Amaan Razaq-Aziz	Gap Year	
Haoming Ren	University of the Arts London	Fashion Buying and Merchandising
Matthew Roberts	University of York (2026)	Architecture
Alex Rowley	Gap Year	
Oliver Rowley	Gap Year	
Fraser Sackfield	University of Leeds	Modern Languages and History
Suliman Sadiq	Degree Apprenticeship	
Charlie Smith	Degree Apprenticeship	
Joseph Stead	Durham University	Ancient History and Archaeology
Michael Stivaros	University of Liverpool (2026)	Mechanical Engineering
Mohammed Ali Sunni	University of Sheffield	Biomedical Engineering
Muhammad Thagia	University of Manchester	Computer Science and Mathematics
Abdullah Vaza	University of Lancashire	Biomedical Science
Tarun Velmurugan	University of York	Actuarial Science
Amruthesh Vijaya Kumar	University of Manchester	Economics
Marlon Wen	Imperial College London	Computing
Ethan Wong	UCL (University College London)	Mathematics
Kik Wong	University of Nottingham	Financial Mathematics
Tony Yang	University of Sheffield	Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering
Luke Yates	Degree Apprenticeship	

# THE MAIL BAG

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

## Star Letter Chemistry Class

**David J Openshaw (Class of 1961)** was surprised to see himself on the back cover of the Autumn edition of *The Bugle*!

David refers to the uncaptioned photograph of Form 5A in a Chemistry class in 1957 and writes: "I am the tall guy near the back on the left-hand side with my pal Geoff Wane next to me. On the back row are Ian Entwistle and Geoffrey Howgate. In front of me are possibly Middleton and Bingham and then definitely Robert Howard. Sitting in the front is Steve Wood.

"This would have been in the old lab on the top floor of the main wing and so before the new Chemistry Block was built. What would health and safety think, with no thought for lab coats or goggles and the like? As to what we were supposed to be doing is anyone's guess – just look interesting for the camera I suppose! Dr Eccott would have been our teacher, but he has stayed safely out of shot."

**Tony Shuttleworth (Class of 1959)** was also delighted to recognise some boys in the photo and corroborates David's identification of those featured. He has also identified David Prag, Martin Ward, Alan Holgate and Jack Whittaker.



## Scotsman's Stump

Whilst recently sorting through thousands of slides with a view to any which may be of future interest, **Alan Tetlow (Class of 1966)** came across these photographs of Scotsman's Stump being maintained by the Senior Scout Group. Alan writes:



"It prompted me to investigate further, as this was the kind of history I have always been interested in. Was it still there, what condition was it in and what was this man doing walking over the highest point in West Lancashire?"

"The answer was clear, and it was not just to avoid wet land. I would refer anyone interested in this to the copious writings on all these subjects.

"Suffice it to say they are almost all answered. It is still there and superbly maintained by the Horwich Lever Park Group (who are renovating the Bird Cottage and the replica of Liverpool Castle amongst others). They investigated and took on the Stump. If you get this far in your research the other questions and many others will be answered.

"My connection goes back to approximately 1965. At that time, I would have recently passed my driving test. A road had been opened which led to the newest transmitter and we took it. The technicians at the transmitter showed us around and the music being transmitted was Sibelius. That was the signature tune for a current affairs programme and that has stayed with me throughout my life, together with a love for Scandinavian music.

"These few photos have triggered many memories of those times. I am uncertain who the Scout in the photos is – perhaps someone will recognise themselves!"

## Old Boys Beyond Bolton

**Stephen Rigby (Class of 1965)** was featured in the 'Old Boys Beyond Bolton' article in the Autumn edition of *The Bugle* and would like to add to the thoughts of fellow contributors **Jon Simkin (Class of 1977)** and **Mark Hodson (Class of 1980)**. Steve writes:

"I live north of Chicago, and can attest to the brutal winters. However, with climate change, winters are getting milder. This winter we only got down to -26°C with about three weeks of sub-zero temperatures. Jon didn't mention that, unlike the UK, houses are designed for these weather conditions, with central heating and central air conditioning.

"Mark's points are very valid about the changes in the UK. Last time I was there I, too, felt like a tourist. In fact, on one of my trips I went to purchase something from a local shop, and in the change were one pound coins. I had never seen these before, and asked the shopkeeper what they were. His comment was: "Where have you been, in jail?" Last year my wife visited her sister in the UK to visit her sister. When she returned I asked her if she wanted to move back. Her response was: "No way – too crowded and too expensive!"

"One downside of traveling the world is being disconnected from family. While in New Zealand our son started university, so we had to leave him behind. He now lives and works in Australia. My wife visited him last year. The total flight time was 24 hours with a nine hour layover in Qatar. She will not be doing that again. Our daughter came with us to US, and we have grandchildren here.

# SPORTS

## Long to Rain Over Us

*It is February as I write; it is raining as I write; it has been raining since my previous Summer report – or so it seems. The general wet gloom has added to a season which, for the men's teams, has been, if not a washout, certainly a damp squib.*

The newly-split junior teams hoped to have bloomed, but their parade is very damp as both struggled and are in the lowest echelons of their divisions. Whilst this might suggest the split was inopportune, several players have played up into the Saturday afternoon open-age teams and more players have been able to don the black and white shirts.

It poured on the veterans side; they have sunk to the bottom of the top division in the Bolton Over-35s league – they missed the boat escaping to more appropriate leagues, were promoted, but, unfortunately, with three teams dropping out mid-season, games have been few and far between and success has been elusive.

When dodging the flood of postponements, the reserves peaked in the top three, but are midway in their division as it stands. All hands to the pump have been their watchwords and many have heard the call in a feisty season; consolidation in this third tier is now likely.

The Firsts' reign as ever-present top flighters has been under threat at times. It has been so difficult to maintain and build a successful side with matches so intermittent and the squad in a state of flux; however, half the season's rota of fixtures remains and the management are confident that they will fight like cats and dogs to consolidate their premier league position.

The Ladies' move into the Lancashire FA league has seen them ride the waves of this new voyage to a magnificent top spot with every league match won at this point. Aficionados of a good old-fashioned football match were lucky to be in the hundred or so on the ground in early February to see the Ladies beat the other unbeaten side in the league. Praise gushed from all sides for the

quality of the match, and we hope their chasing the rainbow of promotion can see them reach the pot of gold on offer.

Plans for the now regular and much anticipated high spots of end of season matches are well under way with the Bill Stevenson memorial and the Ron Manager's star A team of the noughties celebratory now firmly fixed for consecutive mid-May Saturdays. The end of season presentation and get-together returns in a big way on 1st May. We are back at School with a formal dinner format and a World Cup theme! Anyone wanting further information or to participate in any of these events should contact any club official or let the Development Office know.

The biggest change for many a moon comes at the end of the season when, as promised or threatened, Dave Lee's long reign ends as he retires as groundsman, maintenance man, pavilion manager, caretaker, kitman and font of all knowledge in matters of local amateur football. Our appreciations of his six OBAFC decades will be many, and your correspondent fully intends to participate in such by penning a paean for the Autumn *Bugle*. In our heart of hearts, the committee knows he is irreplaceable – nonetheless, the club still has many irons in the fire hoping to succeed in this monumental task of recruiting a coterie of talents to continue to maintain the pitches, decorate the pavilion, repair the mowers, facilitate the range of multi-venued matches for the four, five or six teams etc, etc, etc.

In whatever form, with however many teams, and by whatever means, we are confident that we will continue, Leeless, to sail the OBAFC vessel further into our second century.

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

## Huw is Olympic Champion!

*Congratulations to **Huw Nightingale (Class of 2020)** who won gold for Team GB at the 2026 Winter Olympics.*

Huw, alongside teammate Charlotte Bankes, claimed victory in the mixed team snowboard cross, the pair becoming Great Britain's first ever Olympic gold-medal winners on snow following a stunning performance in the final.

Huw is an Old Boy of Bolton School, having attended Beech House before a family relocation. The Nightingales have multi-generational connections to the School, including Huw's father, **Clive Nightingale (Class of 1983)**, and uncle, **Barry Nightingale (Class of 1979)**, who is the current President of the Old Boys' Association.

Everyone at Bolton School is incredibly proud of Huw's achievement and the inspiration he brings to our community.



## Old Boltonians' Golf Society Report | Spring 2026

With daffodils appearing and the days slowly getting longer, many of us will be searching the back of the garage for our golf clubs and wondering whether we still remember how to swing after the winter break. Those who have continued through the rain, wind, mats and winter greens deserve great credit.

This year's Taylor Trophy will take place at Bolton Golf Club on Wednesday 24th June and is open to Old Boys, Old Girls, past and present staff, current pupils and parents. The event is always enjoyable and offers a great opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces. Details will be sent to the usual mailing list soon, but if you have not previously taken part, please contact the Development Office for information.

As ever we will be sending a team to Huddersfield Golf Club in May in an attempt to qualify for The Grafton Morrish finals at Hunstanton and Royal West Norfolk in October.

Please contact me for further details:  
markm@pmdbusinessfinance.co.uk  
or 07711 594030.

**Mark Millhouse (Class of 1994)**  
Golf Secretary



# ARCHIVES

## Grey Books

*As the School approached its Quincentenary Alumni were asked to nominate the 100 Objects which, in their view, best typified their Bolton School experience, whether artefacts, events, people or memories. The aim of the project was to commemorate the rich variety of life at Bolton School, and when the votes were cast the Grey Book was voted into second place – telling evidence of the extent to which the Grey Books resonate with Old Boys.*



The first edition was produced in 1926, on the initiative of Mr Eric Percival Smith, who had been appointed as Headmaster in 1924. The 2026-27 edition will therefore be the centenary of the publication. The archive holds a large number of Grey Books, with the earliest edition held being that dated 18th September 1930. Copies of every edition since 1972-73 are held, but there are quite a few editions missing from the pre-war years, copies of which are now unlikely to be still in existence. In addition, we are lacking nine editions since 1942. The years in question are: 1942-43, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1947-48, 1949-50, 1951-52, 1956-57, 1964-65 and 1965-66. Should any Old Boys who retain such copies be prepared to donate them to the archive, they would be most gratefully received.

When first produced the Grey Book provided more comprehensive information than is currently the case. Then, as now, the book was primarily a record of every boy in the School, detailing each boy's name not only alphabetically, but also by Form and by House, supplemented by each boy's date of birth, date of entry to School and pupil number. In addition, it recorded a list of Monitors, full details of the staff, the names of those who had been awarded School Certificates, Higher School Certificates and university

examination scholarships, the names of staff and boys with sports and society responsibilities and the School Calendar. The content remained virtually the same until 1974/75 which was the last edition to include the pupil numbers.

In subsequent years the range of information has gradually reduced, due in part to information being available from other sources, including the School website, but also due to the restrictions of GDPR. The Grey Book has thus evolved over the years, but continues to be an integral part of School life in the Boys' Division.



## Meet the Archivist

### Eric Fairweather

If you have a question about the School's history or would like to donate to the Archive any photographs or artefacts from your time at School, Eric would love to hear from you.  
E: [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org)

## Friends' Choir Returns

**The Friends' of Bolton School are considering reviving the Friends Choir and would like to gauge enthusiasm.**

It is envisaged that the choir will run for one term per academic year, with weekly evening rehearsals leading up to a concert at the end, either alongside School choirs at an existing School event or at a standalone concert in aid of a local charity.

To join the mailing list please email [Friends@boltonschool.org](mailto:Friends@boltonschool.org). You must be able to read music, but you will not be required to audition! Please also indicate which part you sing (soprano, alto, tenor, bass). Anyone connected to Bolton School (parents, former parents, staff, former staff, and Alumni) is welcome, so please spread the word!

## Bolton School Opens Doors to Business Sponsorships

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

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

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

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

## Freemasonry

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

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

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

### If you would like to hear more, please contact:

David Poppitt – The Lodge Secretary  
Email: [DPoppitt@aol.com](mailto:DPoppitt@aol.com)  
Tel: 07785 728700

# Memories

## Gracie and Trek Camps

*Jonathan 'Jed' Livingstone (Class of 1975) recalls a visit to a celebrity's swimming pool in what was an extraordinary occurrence even by the infamous trek camp standards!*

*"Gracie smiled as she tousled our friend Chris Lowe's hair. She was talking with Clifford Ingham - our tour leader - who had telephoned the day before to invite our party to her villa on the Isle of Capri. This was Gracie Fields - 'Our Gracie' - one of the highest-paid music hall singers and film stars in Britain in her day.*



Gracie Fields

Her villa was a luxurious and upmarket location, visited by Hollywood actors during the 1950s. I remember it was on several levels, with glorious sea views and a large inviting swimming pool. It was a hot day and we were keen to jump or dive in the pool.

"For some reason I can remember how the arrangement was made. I wasn't on the call or, as far as I can remember, within earshot; so, it must have been relayed to me. Clifford, whom we always knew as 'Butch', Ingham had telephoned from the mainland to say that we were a party of schoolboys from Bolton. We were in the area ... and could we come over to Capri to spend the afternoon at her villa? Whilst Gracie may have been surprised by the proposal, she was either relaxed about it, or could not find a reason to say no, and must have gone along with it.

"In truth that was often the way with Butch's arrangements on these trips. If a flatbed lorry was needed to transport our young party from a railway station in Italy, Greece or Turkey to a campsite in the nearest town or village, it would appear as if on cue. If a coach, boat or train was needed, then the same. We camped where we arrived at the end of a travelling day. Over the years this included beaches, fields, an orchard, the British Consulate in Turkey and, reputedly, the lush grounds of a Spanish convent, to be served bread, milk and honey by the nuns in the morning.

*"Butch had the knack of making things happen, with informal and impromptu approaches which insurers for school trips would not allow today. As a Classics teacher, he could engage in conversation in Ancient Greek, or Latin, and make himself understood in pretty much any country in Europe.*

"We were a party of around 30 schoolboys ranging in ages from 13 to 17. Gracie was happy to be surrounded by us excitable youngsters. She may have enjoyed hearing Lancashire accents again in her adopted home of Capri. An accommodation must have been reached, and we were permitted to use the pool. The other guests were noticeably less keen. Unlike ourselves, they were paying for their day at the villa.



Butch Ingham

"We were on a School holiday, known as a Trek Camp. These were relatively inexpensive camping holidays to some of the greatest sites of the ancient world. On another trek camp, we walked under the Lion Gate at Mycenae; and sat together on the steps of the Parthenon. Butch Ingham was wearing 1940s World War Two issue canvas shorts, beneath which the Elgin marbles were unmistakably on display, much to our amusement. He declaimed Latin verses few if any of us understood from the centre of amphitheatres, folded a drachma or lira note (before Euros) in the middle of the stage and enabled us to wonder at the acoustics as the sound can be heard in the top row of these incredible buildings.

*"It was the Summer of 1974. The intention had been for the trip to be split between Greece and Turkey. This changed to Italy as tensions between Greece and Turkey escalated that year over the status of Cyprus. A Greek coup to unite the island with mainland Greece led to invasion by Turkey. Cyprus remains divided between the two countries today.*

"We were camping outside Naples on a supposedly dormant volcano field. This was populated with alarming gaping cracks that emitted sulphur, so that the whole place stank of bad eggs. It was a relief to wake in the morning, having not disappeared down a new crevasse opened up during the night. We must have travelled to Capri by boat. We also went to Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius whilst in the area. We visited the Vatican in Rome and spent some days on the Lido beach by Venice. Cooking was conducted over open fires, in large 'dixie' pans we carried with us from place to place in square wooden boxes. Other campers marvelled at the rudimentary nature of our fires, provisions, cooking arrangements, food and just about every aspect of our camping life. We practised drinking in the camping site bars, largely without excess, enjoyed levels of independence not experienced until then, we talked, mooched around and generally had a good time. It was a great experience and privilege."

*Paul Sweeney (Class of 1975) is on the left looking directly towards the camera. I am standing behind what looks like an E I R lectern. Pete Hughes (Class of 1975) is on the right enjoying the sun. From our ages, the photo was probably taken on the 1974 Trek Camp. I have no recollection what occasion or national event we were celebrating. The flag is made up of the wooden boxes in which we carried the cooking utensils and food around Europe for four weeks' iconic and unforgettable camping.*



## Brathay Hall

Recently, whilst trying to write up a synopsis of his life for his children and their children, Neil Marsden (Class of 1961) stumbled across a reference to Brathay Hall where he had been on a course in 1961. He had a memory of having to write report for School, but did not have a copy and so got in touch with Eric Fairweather, the School's Archivist.

*After initially being sceptical that he would find anything, a trawl through the archives revealed a copy of Brathay Magazine with Neil's name written on the cover. Bingo! It was a 'nth' typewritten copy of the original and difficult to read. Neil has retyped it and a clearer copy now also resides in the archives.*

"I left School at Christmas 1960. Early in December I was called in to see the Head, the inimitable Mr Poskitt (aka Joe Boss due, I believe, to a resemblance to Stalin), for once not to be sentenced for any misdemeanour! Apparently School had been allocated a space on a course at Brathay Hall near Ambleside in the Lake District. I was asked if I would like to go on it. I accepted with alacrity.

"I was on Course 1 in 1961 which ran from early January into February.

"I travelled from Bolton by bus and was collected in Ambleside by Mr Doogan who was the warden at Brathay Hall.

"On the course there were three groups of lads, one from the Ford works at Dagenham, one from an iron works in Derbyshire and one from the dockyards in Sunderland as I recall. Initially there were two of us from schools, me from a grammar school, the other from a private school. (The boy from the private one couldn't stand the pace and left in the second week. I think he must have led a sheltered life and couldn't cope with the working lads.)

"We were all split up into the various dorms, which were named after local lakes. It was funny initially because the three groups couldn't understand each other (very regional accents) and I ended up interpreting between them - I suspect they had never been outside of their local environment much. After a few days they began to understand each other.

"We were up at 7am every day and went for a run followed by either a dip in Windermere or a cold shower. At first this was bit of shock to system, but we soon got used to early rising and the cold dip or shower certainly woke you up.



The schooner

two-masted schooner, a sailing boat of a fair size, which the dorms used in turn. Not many of us had been on the water previously and initial efforts at rowing and sailing evoked much embarrassment and merriment. The original *Windermere* whaler boat is still in use - I visited Brathay Hall a couple of years ago and there it was in the boat shed. The

"I was in Windermere dormitory. Each dorm had a whaler, a large boat (holding some six or eight people I recall) which could be set up as either a rowing boat or a sailing boat, which we used on Windermere, with inter-dorm races being held between Low Wood and Brathay. There was also a



Neil with the Windermere whaler

schooner, however, is long gone.

"We spent a lot of time in the mountains, sometimes for the day and then on a two-day and a three-day hike with all the necessary gear to combat winter weather.

"Several of us were chosen to go out on two mountain rescues, on Great End and on Saddleback (now Blencathra). We had lots of snow that year. The Saddleback event ended with the tragic death of a local boy who had gone missing from a hunting party.

"Free time was very scarce. In addition to outdoor activities, we had various talks in the evening, a music one springs to mind, and art lessons. There was also a small theatre on site and each dorm had to put on a play towards the end of the course for the other dorms, the staff and invited guests. This involved quite a lot of rehearsals.

"The course was a month in duration - an incredible experience and fantastic fun.

"In the years that followed I used to go back fairly frequently and often went out hiking with a group for the day, sometimes being asked to take them myself.

"After Brathay I worked as a bus conductor for Ribble before going on to obtain a degree in Civil Engineering at Nottingham University. I then got a job with the British Antarctic Survey and spent two years in Antarctica surveying unexplored territory and driving a sledge with a team of nine huskies. Again, great fun - and career defining."



Brathay Hall, 1961



Neil in the theatre at Brathay Hall



Brathay Hall, 2026

# An Eccentric and Enterprising Group: Memories of the 1960s

David Shaw (Boys' Division Staff, 1964-2002) was invited to review a book for *The Bugle*, but did not complete the task as the book was not available for public sale. However, he had recognised in the photos a number of events from his first three years teaching at Bolton School and was prompted to write this article instead.

"The first event was reported in the Bolton Evening News of 27th November 1964. A group of boys led by Roger Lees (RL) had clubbed together to buy a 10-ton steamroller for £60 and would work on restoring it until they were old enough to drive. On the day that Mr Poskitt retired in March 1966, an obliging adult drove it to School for them and FRP rode in the cab when it came through the Main Arch.



L-R: John Martins, David Hodgson, Ted McAvoy, Roger Lees, Andrew Park, John Anderson (Nick Holding was missing)



The steamroller at School



The boy standing on the ladder is Chris Topp

"At the time of the Spring Sports team photos in 1966, several of the same group had their photo taken as a croquet team.

"On Speech Day 1965 I watched from the Physics corridor as a large hot air balloon, designed by Roger Lees and assembled for £2, was launched from the Boys' Quad to the sound of a gramophone playing an Elgar march. It was followed by car, but was lost near Abbey Village. The next day, the School had some awkward questions from Manchester Air Traffic Control!



Back, L-R: David Hodgson, Ted McAvoy, Andrew Park, Andrew Hilton, Roddy Thompson. Front: Guppy Taylor, Roger Lees, John Martins

"John Martins and David Hodgson were also involved in three revues put on with the help of Mr DJ Walton, a Russian teacher. These were in the style of the current alternative comedy and were very funny and not a little controversial. Reviews of them, written by WE Brown, GR Grasby and Mr Walton himself can be found in the *Boltonian* archives for 1965, 1966 and 1967.

"Meanwhile, several of the group were developing a life-time obsession with industrial archaeology. In the *Boltonian* archives there are reports of School holidays being spent volunteering on restoration work involving the Ffestiniog Railway.

"The group also took to visiting local mills to see the steam engines and built up such expertise that some of them continued voluntary work, using the title Industrial Steam Preservation Group (ISPG) that they had invented at School. Their first project for which they were paid was to transfer a 120-ton steam excavator from Hessele Chalk Quarry, where it was redundant, to Beamish Museum, where they were paid for several weeks' work. The deal was that Beamish would pay for a low-loader between the two sites, but they must get it out of the quarry, along a mile of very rough roads. They first had to get it working, and then drive it over the hazardous route. That they managed that said much for their determination and ingenuity.



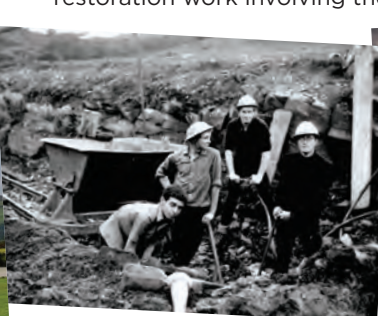
"In 1974, four of the group (Roger Lees, David Hodgson, Ted McAvoy and Chris Topp) formed a new company called Dorothea Restoration Engineers Ltd, in which they worked full-time and expanded their reputation. They worked up and down the country, especially at

the well-known museums such as those at Ironbridge. The name Dorothea came from Dorothea Slate Quarry in Wales where they had found a Cornish beam engine, soon to be scrapped. Roger Lees continued to work there voluntarily throughout the 1970s. Dorothea Restorations went from strength to strength, bringing in experts from other parts of the country and eventually having a northern and a southern section. Chris Topp, who was a highly skilled traditional blacksmith, broke away to form his own very successful company, and Ted McAvoy and his wife set up a street furniture business in Derbyshire. David Hodgson, who controlled the finances of the company, became the manager of the Northern Section until his retirement. One of his final deeds was to win the contract, in Bolton, to restore the Dobson Bridge over the River Croal that he had crossed many times as a boy when he walked home through Queen's Park with his girlfriend.

"Eventually, the company was sold, but the original group kept control of the workshops in Whaley Bridge, and the survivors still work there regularly on their own projects.

"In January 2026 I had a most enjoyable visit to Whaley Bridge, meeting with David Hodgson, Roger Lees and John Martins, and including a visit to the workshop."

This photo was taken at the Northern Works in Summer 2022. It shows the late Ted McAvoy, the late Chris Topp, David Hodgson and Roger Lees



ISPG volunteers at work on the Ffestiniog Railway deviation



This run-about was built in the metalwork room with Mr McIvor - it was powered by a motorbike engine and was designed to run on rails when they were working on the Ffestiniog Railway

## RIP Mr Jackson

*Second Master Harry Jackson (Boys' Division Staff, 1972-1997) died earlier this year. He served as an inspirational Geography teacher, was instrumental in the development of pastoral work in the Boys' Division – and was a somewhat mythical figure for several generations of Old Boys and former staff, many of whom took to social media to offer their condolences and share their memories.*

"A great teacher who didn't take any nonsense, but also knew when to smile and relax with the pupils – top bloke."

"The word 'legend' is over-used, but it definitely applies to Harry J. He and Doug Wardle are the reasons that I read Geography at university, became a teacher and went into senior leadership in schools. His quizzing of me and others after parties to find out what had gone on, or more likely to corroborate what he already knew (!) was also the stuff of legend. What a loss! A star has gone out in the Geography, teaching and leadership firmament of heaven."

"The smile, the moustache, a sigh and then a resignation that he had to then administer a punishment in a way that made you understand that you'd done wrong."

"He once shared his roast beef sandwich with me during a Geography lesson to keep my energy levels up."

"I've thought about Harry many times over the 35 years since I left School. Although he could be polarising as a character, you knew where you stood with him and his firm approach created a structure for the smooth running of the School as well as a template for success in our own lives. For that, and my A in Geography, I will always be grateful."

"As a 15-year-old lad moving from Westhoughton High School to Bolton School Sixth Form, I was both inspired and intimidated. I have fond memories of Harry J taking my parents and me around the School after my interview with Dr Chambers ... he was instrumental in my decision to go to Bolton School. Even though I was only 'passing through' for the two years of my A Levels, the School and Harry J have left a lifelong impression."

"What a teacher this absolutely lovely man was! Admired and feared in equal measures by us all. The man was a crack shot with either a piece of chalk or the board rubber, with many leaving class covered in chalk dust."

"It's a measure of the man that, although it was approximately 50 years since I had the privilege to be taught by him, the news of his passing saddened me."

"The best teacher. I hope his family realise how fortunate we were to spend so much time in his company, and I'm grateful they shared him with us boys. I chose A Level Geography because of him alone – not because I needed it for medical school, but because I genuinely loved the time spent with 'Harry J.'"

"He once suspended me from School with the explanation: 'I'm not 100% sure that you were the one who did this, but you've done other stuff and got away with it. Five days suspension.' I hadn't done it, but he wasn't wrong. RIP Harry – you taught me so much more than Geography."

"A really nice bloke! He was passionate about his subject and that came through in his teaching. His approach led me to love Geography even today, 50 years on."

"Infamous Geography field trip to Tunisia c 1978, taking his walking cane to ward off any beggars! Part of the Geography Trinity of Shaw, Allen and Jackson!"

"Of all my teachers there, he's the one I miss and respect the most."

"Only had Mr Jackson for one year of Geography. Found myself in B4 once or twice through the years. Genuinely one of my favourite teachers/characters from Bolton School, fondly remembered."

"I remember serving my detention and Mr Jackson was on duty. Once released, I had the audacity to walk across the grass out front on my way to the bus stop. He spotted me from a window high up, and shouted: 'Howard! Walking on the grass?! Detention. Same time, same place tomorrow!'"

"He once condemned one of my better efforts as 'erudite waffle'. A brilliant teacher."

"I can still picture his gait as he stalked the corridor."

"B4, now! Before we start, I just want you to know that I'm aware of everything that has happened, I just want your version of events."

"He was a true legend and inspirational in many ways. Of all the staff who taught me at Bolton, it's Harry Jackson, George Grasby and 'Killer' Dawson who will be forever etched in my memories for all the right reasons."

"It makes me smile remembering him."

"I can still see his writing in my head – he used to write out all the detention slips."

"The man. The legend. The flying board duster."

"I was fortunate enough to be ... taught brilliantly by Derrick Shaw and Harry Jackson. They were both great guys and we had some fun trips to Tunisia and to Berlin (before the Wall fell) and Holland. In later life you come to realise just how dedicated and impressive professionals they were."

Harry's nephew commented on behalf of the Jackson family: "Thank you so much to everyone on here for these amazing memories. Reading through them brings a tear to my eye. My uncle was a truly fantastic man and like many of you here inspired me to take my studies down the geographical route. He will be sorely missed by me and my entire family."



**A formal tribute to Harry Jackson will be featured in the Autumn edition of *The Bugle*.**

# LIVES REMEMBERED

## Stephen Ashcroft

(Class of 1960)

A prominent biochemist known for his research on insulin production and its regulation, Stephen John Haslam Ashcroft (Steve) was born in Bolton on 27th January 1942.



His education at Bolton School was successful in every way and led to him reading Natural Sciences at Cambridge where he took the Natural Science Tripos in 1963, reading Biochemistry for Part

II. Following a short period in Switzerland he joined the newly formed Biochemistry department at the University of Bristol, where he took his PhD and became a Lecturer in Biochemistry. In 1975 he moved to Oxford, where he was appointed Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry and Tutor in Biochemistry for Magdalen and Worcester Colleges. He was made Reader in Clinical Biochemistry in 1990, before retiring in 2002.

His research concentrated primarily on investigating the mechanisms that regulate insulin production. He contributed to numerous papers and publications and co-authored, or edited, books on the subject. At School he was well known as a gifted musician and, in particular, was a skilled and sensitive pianist, regularly taking part in impromptu musical sessions in the music room over lunchtime and performing in the Great Hall on Speech Days. He had a love of jazz, in particular jazz piano. In retirement, in Sweden, he was a member of several jazz groups. Often, he would also reveal an interest in, and a deep informed fascination with, fine art and painting in particular.

The theatre was his other major interest. From his days in Oxford, he was actively involved with the Eynsham, Bartholomew Players, being one of their longest serving members, and this continued even after he moved to Sweden.

A matter particularly dear to his heart were the yearly reunions with his former schoolmates from Form 5 Alpha and he was intimately involved in their organisation. Sadly, because of his illness, Steve was unable to attend the 2025 reunion on Anglesey.

He was married twice, first to Barbara, with whom he had two sons, and secondly to Anna, who was Swedish. Consequently, he spent much of his time, particularly after he retired in 2002, in Sweden, where he had a lovely house on the island of Valen in Lake

Hjalmlaren in Sweden. There he kept a boat, being a skilled and experienced sailor.

Steve was a quiet, kind, gently humorous man with a genuine interest in people and life in general. Liking people as he did, he was good company and always ready to reach out to anyone who needed comfort and support. In short, he was a thoroughly nice man.

Anna died in 2024 and it was not long afterwards that Steve started showing the symptoms of the disease which was to bring his end, Motor Neurone Disease. This was diagnosed early in 2025 and he died peacefully in Orebro in Sweden on 28th November 2025 in the company of his sons, Anton and Mike, together with his stepdaughter, Torun, who had been by his side for much of his illness.

Steve is survived by his first wife, two sons and three stepchildren.

*Ian Entwisle, Alan Marsden and Ian Marshall*



## Brian Clayton

(Class of 1961)

Brian died at home in Colchester in March 2025. He started at Bolton School in 1955.



He was always proud of his days at Bolton School and often talked about his school days to family, colleagues, friends and a few Old Boys he met too.

After leaving Bolton School Brian joined the Royal Insurance Company in Manchester gaining his FCII. In 1973 he was promoted to work at their UK Head Office in Liverpool. He also spent a few years at British Engine, a subsidiary of Royal Insurance. In 1986 he joined Royal Reinsurance in the City of London where he was Manager and Chief Underwriter, Engineering. This move down South unfortunately meant that his son, Matthew, had to decline his place at Park Road.

After ten years in the City of London Brian took early retirement, but kept busy as a Prince of Wales Trust Business Mentor, part-time Business Consultant in Brussels, local junior school Vice Chair of Governors and Church Treasurer to name but a few.

For the last 20-plus years he enjoyed



travelling the world, mainly by sea, with his wife, Hilary. He really did have a long and happy retirement.

He is, and always will be, greatly missed by us all: Hilary, son Matthew and his wife Kate, and three wonderful grandchildren.

*Hilary Clayton*

## Ronald Dovaston Edge

(Class of 1947)

Dr Ronald Dovaston Edge died, at age 96, in St Paul, Minnesota.



Ron was preceded in death by his parents, James and Mildred, his wife, Gertrude, first wife, Margaret, and two grandchildren. He is lovingly remembered by his two sons, Christopher and Michael,

as well as by his four stepchildren, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Born in Bolton, England, Ron was a founding professor of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He enjoyed teaching physics to people of all ages, even taking students to the State Fair to explore the science behind its attractions. In the late 1960s he hosted the weekly public television programme, *Science Talks*. He went on to host *Monty Python's Flying Circus* for South Carolina audiences, introducing and explaining the series' distinctive British humour.

A champion of physics education, Ron organised the first American high school team to participate in the International Physics Olympiad, and he brought several teams to international competition over the years. He served as president of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) and contributed a monthly column, *String and Sticky Tape Experiments*, to its journal. These articles provided lesson plans for high school teachers, using everyday household objects to introduce physics concepts through simple, hands-on experiments. The collection was eventually published as a book, which became one of AAPT's bestsellers.

Described as the "Forrest Gump of Physics", Ron crossed paths with many of the famous figures we know today - including, for example, J Robert Oppenheimer - and he was often present at historic moments, even if he was not the one making the discovery. He sat with Crick and Watson for years, sipping tea as they worked out DNA in their lab next door to his. For those intrigued by names such as Maxwell, Bragg, Dirac or

Stephen Hawking, or by discoveries like the positron (anti-matter), DNA, haemoglobin, or continental drift, Ron's book *Tea at the Cavendish* (which was reviewed in the Spring 2017 edition of *The Bugle*) offers entertaining anecdotes from his remarkable experiences.

Whether playing accordion at Soda City Market, sharing stories or setting off on new adventures, Ron brought a sense of lightness and delight to everyday life. We are grateful for the time we shared with him. He will be deeply missed in our corner of the universe.

*Christopher D Edge*

## David Bouic Hawkins

(Class of 1967)

David was always very proud to be an Old Boy of Bolton School and often said how much he enjoyed and appreciated all the opportunities the School afforded him, providing good preparation for life in the real world later. He maintained a continuous interest in all aspects of the School and was a committed member of the Old Boltonians' Masonic Lodge 5814 for over 50 years.



Upon leaving Bolton School, David went on to study at UMIST and thereafter went to work in the steel industry for his father. In his twenties he rekindled his love of photography

and became not only an award-winning photographer, but also a great teacher and coach. It was during this period that he also joined Bolton Camera Club, where he remained a valued member for over 50 years, playing different roles, including Vice President and auctioneer: raising money for Bolton Hospice along the way.

David loved getting lost in the world of tech. As such, he became a keen digital photographer and went on to develop his own very distinctive style. His motto: "Look how the light falls; a good picture is all about the light."

David enjoying running and walking as well as photography. It was whilst out with his local walking group that he met his wife, Eunice, with whom he was to share the next 45 years. Whilst having no children, David was a proud uncle to his two nieces, Rebecca Morris (Girls' Division Class of 1999 and Head Girl) and Rachel Morris (Girls' Division Class of 2001 and Prefect), and adoptive niece, Emma, with whom he had wonderful relationships, providing humour and quiet guidance when needed. That said, David and Eunice did become 'parents' when their beloved dogs Flo and Carly came along. 'The Girls' (as they were affectionately known) brought David much joy and laughter, as he enjoyed taking them for long walks, always capturing their antics on camera whenever they unfolded.

His love for adventure and travel also led him to set up his own travel agent business in the 1980s, specialising in Mauritius (his mother's homeland) and The Seychelles.

On retirement, David left travel agency behind and ... carried on working! David continued to be Church Warden at Rivington Church (a post he held on and off for 25 years) where he was also treasurer, and an active member of the Freemasonry movement, making lifelong friendships. His voluntary contributions to *Money Skills* (a scheme designed to help people in dire circumstance to manage their bills and give advice on debt) also saw others benefit from his kindness and wisdom. He found this hugely rewarding and loved meeting a good cross section of people, always helpful, coaching and serving others to the best of his ability.

David will be forever remembered for his compassionate, unassuming nature, where his quiet wisdom and wit were his trademarks. He will be sorely missed by so many, whose lives he touched and helped, and he will be memorialised in his beautiful distinctive photographs, urging you to 'always look for the light'.

*David Poppitt (Class of 1964)*

## Edward 'Ted' Gregson McAvoy

(Class of 1967)

Ted grew up in Standish, entering Bolton School in Lower 2 in 1958.



Travelling by steam train doubtless encouraged an already present interest in things-mechanical and, along with fellow School mates, he went on to establish a business in the newly-developing field of industrial archaeology.

Never a great sportsman himself (though an ardent supporter of Wigan Warriors) or a great academic, Ted had the highest regard for the liberal and enthusing attitude of the School: being the best at something was less important than enjoying it, being open-minded and feeling it worthwhile.

Leaving School he went on to study Sociology at the University of Sheffield where he was able to indulge his interest in heavy industry further by a number of vacation jobs at one or other of the Sheffield rolling mills. It was while at Sheffield that he really developed his love of and for the Peak District, spending time exploring the area: Ted would always come up with some out-of-the-way place that few people had heard of and yet which would have a fascinating story to tell. Always, he would spot something that little

bit different and interesting.

Thus it was he came across a former textile mill which would become the home for the ensuing few years for the business that he and others (myself included) were in the throes of establishing. A totally impractical place for such a business, but at that sort of age (early twenties) when problems are scarcely acknowledged, it didn't really matter.

Practical problems notwithstanding, the business grew, rapidly becoming unmanageable, at which point it was split into two: one part continuing with mechanical restoration work, the other concentrating on architectural metalwork and cast iron street furniture, very fashionable at that time (1980s). Ted opted for the latter, but soon became disenchanted with the way that business was developing, with new senior staff, and so decided, along with his wife Sue, to establish an aluminium foundry specialising in such items as finger posts, memorial plaques and the like. This business did well and continues today, being well respected for the high quality of its output.

Ted became a local councilor at Earl Sterndale, happy to be involved in local matters.

He developed a deep interest in the peat-bog railways of Ireland and became well-regarded by the many friends that he made there, though these numbers are diminishing as the peat-extraction business has been wound down due to the Irish government's response to global warming. This didn't, however, prevent him from writing a book on the subject in 2022 with a second intended. The perhaps perceived opaqueness of this subject possibly implies a narrow vision of the world which was very much not the case. Ted had a huge range of interests which he would be happiest pursuing in considerable depth. He liked nothing more than coming across some obscure little works or quarry in an out-of-the-way place.

Ted's wife died suddenly in 2016, leaving both Ted and their daughter, Daisy, bereft. In time he met up with Jennifer who, typically, he met when she was driving a miniature steam locomotive!

Ted had a reputation (quite fairly!) for being late, but his passing was one of the few occasions, as was pointed out by friends, when he was actually early.

It is perhaps a measure of the esteem in which he was held that over 200 people braved the freezing elements to attend his funeral service in a little cold church high up in the Peak District on a miserable day in February. He will be greatly missed.

*David Hodgson (Class of 1967)*



## David Morlidge, MBE

(Class of 1960)

David died in Bolton Royal on 21st October 2025.



He was a true Boltonian, never having lived anywhere other than the town of his birth. Upon leaving School, he trained as a Chartered Accountant and spent the majority of his working life in practice

on Chorley New Road. He cared deeply about his hometown and its history: we were brought up on stories of his dad travelling to Liverpool with Bolton's Civil Defence teams to fight fires during the Blitz and spending pocket money on a return tram to Burnden Park, a ticket and a pie at half time.

David met his lifelong friend, Alan Porter (Class of 1961), in the School Archaeology Society and together they went on the Society's trips around the country and Europe. They were still visiting Steam Railways and Old Trafford for the Test Match until Alan passed several years ago: Dad wrote his obituary for this magazine. Inspired no doubt by his time with the School's Archaeology Society, he would rush round to take photos of any local historic building that was about to be demolished.



David was an opening batsman for Bolton YMCA for many years, danced with the Bolton Burns Club and served periods as both Treasurer and Churchwarden at the Parish Church. He sat on numerous committees and was treasurer for numerous societies. With his Dad, he organised the Bolton Rose Queen festival for many years.

His biggest passion though was for the theatre. There was scarcely a local amateur theatre company for which he had not produced or directed. Whatever needed doing, he would volunteer to do it and he would often be the last one to leave the theatre at night. He put the chairs out, swept the stage and sold programmes: the unglamorous jobs that were often overlooked. The one thing he would never do was appear on stage, although he would proudly remind me that his last stage appearance was in *Henry V* at School so at least one member of the family had been on stage with Ian McKellen (Class of 1958). He helped found Bolton Amateur Theatre Society and was still trying to find a permanent home venue for all the town's amateur societies right until his death.

The award of the MBE for services to Arts and the Community in Bolton in 2017 genuinely surprised him, as he never sought

the limelight. His sense of selfless service to his community meant he was content to be a modest but integral driving force behind various elements of the cultural life of Bolton for five decades. He might never have moved further than three miles away from School, but he made a positive difference to thousands of people in the town he was proud to call his home.

*Roger Morlidge (Class of 1988)*

## William 'Bill' Nuttall

(Class of 1943)

Our Dad, Bill Nuttall, passed away on 17th March 2025, aged 97. He was born on Markland Hill Lane, Bolton on 19th February 1928, the middle of three children.



He entered Bolton School in 1939; his older sister, Linda, already attended the Girls' Division. He had many fond memories of his time there - the only thing he didn't like was playing football, mainly

because his father, who was a farmer, thought it was a complete waste of time! Throughout his life he maintained his friendships with boys he had met at Bolton School, Clive Russell and Bill Threlfall to name just two. Our Dad outlived them all.

On leaving School, Bill secured a place at Cambridge University to read Geography. However, he chose to complete his National Service first and once this was over unfortunately the place at university was no longer available. He did not find his National Service particularly enjoyable, but rose to the rank of Sergeant and was asked to sit his officer exams.

He chose to complete his studies at the Manchester Business School and from there he went on to running exports at Horrocks Cotton Mill. In 1965 he bought a run-down farm in Radcliffe, Bury and transformed it into a successful business, with his younger brother, Rowland, working alongside him.

Our Dad married our Mum, Helen, in 1973 and they had us, Hilary and Anne.

Over the years Dad attended many Bolton School reunions. He always enjoyed these events, meeting up with old and new friends, remembering their times at School together.

Our mum, Helen, passed away in 2014, leaving Dad heartbroken. He suffered with many illnesses after her death, but kept his sense of humour and sharpness right up until the end. He was a favourite with all the carers and nurses who looked after him, keeping them entertained and amused with all his stories and historical facts.

He passed away at home surrounded by his family. He is sadly missed by all that knew him.

*Hilary Nuttall and Anne Mitchell*

## Brian Oatley

(Class of 1954)

Born in Bolton in 1935, Brian was the son of working-class parents who believed in the power of opportunity: his mother walked into Bolton School, saw the Headmaster and insisted that her son deserved a place.



The Headmaster listened: a door opened, and Brian strode through it. It changed the course of his life - languages, drama and music all came alive for him.

A strikingly handsome young man, he made quite an impression. Years later, Sir Ian McKellen (Class of 1958), who had acted alongside him at School, spoke on national television of his 'crush on Brian' - a story that delighted him.

Brian went on to King's College, Cambridge where, as well as becoming a 'Cambridge Blue', he studied modern languages and spent a formative year in France, determined not just to learn the language, but to master the accent and live the language. He returned home with a lifelong passion for food, art and architecture.

As a young man he was energetic and purposeful - active in youth groups, a leading light in the Atherton Young Socialists. During university holidays he waited tables in Blackpool, helped a milkman and even assisted in demolishing a railway bridge in Leigh. He was a joiner of clubs, a starter of conversations, his optimism matched by practicality.

Brian began teaching in Leigh and Manchester before moving south to progress his career, eventually rising to become County Education Officer for Kent.

The greatest love of Brian's life was Keith. Together they lived openly with pride. As well as their home in Kent, they bought a house in La Sauvetat, France. Brian was never happier than when cooking for guests, planning menus with scholarly care and pouring wine with a story.

An indefatigable traveller, he explored Europe, galleries and cathedrals, even overcoming a fear of flying for Boston and New Zealand. He noticed what others missed: the curve of an arch, the fall of light. Always an artist and singer, he photographed subjects for painting and tested acoustics in underpasses and naves.

Following Keith's death Brian moved to Islington and rebuilt a life rich in friendship, singing with the Camden Choir, painting at the Hampstead School of Art, and routine - morning walks for *The Guardian*, black coffee, supper rituals and wide-ranging conversation.



He never stopped learning, mastering email and WhatsApp, delighting in exhibitions, books, French cathedrals and Bach cantatas. A gifted gardener, he arranged plants to 'make a statement'. Friends became family; he was 'the kindest and most supportive of companions'.



Brian was thoughtful, generous and deeply cultured, with a quiet humour that endeared him to everyone. He combined intellect with warmth, curiosity with practicality, and a restless desire to

make life meaningful and beautiful. A lover of music, art, language and learning, he nurtured friends and family with empathy, hospitality and gentle guidance. Complex yet kind, he made people feel seen, bringing joy through conversation, shared meals, song, and creative expression. Brian was principled, clever, witty, and full of heart: a lifelong student, teacher and companion whose presence left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

*Brian's family and friends*

## Colin Hurst Roberts (Class of 1950)

Colin was born on 13th June 1933 in Kearsley, near Bolton, the only child of Frank and Ena Roberts.



He attended Kearsley West Council School and Bolton School, where he developed a deep love of learning, sport and adventure. He studied Law at Manchester University, graduating in 1953, and qualified

as a solicitor in 1955 after completing his articles with Philip S Porter. Soon after, he completed 18 months of National Service with the Medical Corps in Formby — an experience he would recount throughout his life with a blend of pride and humour.

Sport and outdoor activity played a major role throughout Colin's life. At School he earned cricket colours, captained the boxing and cross-country teams, and joined Bolton United Harriers. Hiking trips across the UK and Europe sparked the lifelong love of the outdoors that would later lead him to marathons, fell walks, and countless hours spent immersed in nature.

Colin's distinguished legal career spanned more than four decades, the vast majority spent in Bolton — a town he loved and where it always seemed he knew everyone. After early roles in Warrington and Eccles, he joined Thomas Ritson Solicitors in Bolton in 1959, becoming the sole partner in 1968. That year he helped oversee a merger that formed Keoghs Solicitors, which grew from 17 staff into a major national firm. Colin served as Senior Partner from 1990 to 1993 and continued

as a consultant until his retirement in 1998. He also spent 40 years with the Bolton Incorporated Law Society and served as its President in 1979-80. As a specialist in commercial conveyancing, he acted for businesses including Warburtons and Provincial Insurance.



Community service was central to Colin's life. He volunteered with Bolton Hospice for more than 20 years, contributed tirelessly to fundraising efforts, and threw himself wholeheartedly into fellowship organisations. He chaired Bolton Round Table, later joined the 41 Club, and spent nearly half a century with the Rotary Club of Turton, where he held almost every office and was honoured with a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1999.

Sport remained one of Colin's great passions. He served as President of Heaton Cricket Club for 22 years, held lifelong Lancashire County Cricket Club membership, and supported Bolton Wanderers from boyhood. A table-tennis competitor for more than 55 years, he won over 18 trophies, including the Warburton Cup in 2011. He also rediscovered running in midlife, completing four marathons and many half-marathons, raising over £10,000 for charity. Golf was another major interest: he played for over 70 years, maintained a single-figure handicap for three decades and helped raise substantial funds for charity through local golf organisations.

Colin also enjoyed reading, especially history, writing poetry and travelling with his wife, Sue. They shared 25 years of marriage and took great pleasure in spending time with their children and grandchildren. Colin's final years were affected by vascular Alzheimer's, during which Sue cared for him with great dedication.

Colin will be remembered in many ways: as a husband, a father, a grandpa, a colleague, a teammate, a mentor, a loyal friend. He lived fully and gave generously.

*Colin Fletcher (Class of 1954)*

## Geoffrey Hilton Seddon (Class of 1969)

Geoff joined Bolton School in September 1962; he was an exact contemporary of the gifted footballer 'Henry' Smith (Class of 1969).



They travelled together from Worsley on the No 12 bus along with many well-known characters of that era. Geoff's love of the outdoors and community service were nurtured in the local Scout troop.

After Bolton School, Geoff worked at a

leather tanning firm, before later buying the company. He said he only had to feel a piece of leather to be able to tell which animal it came from.

However, it was in the world of mountain rescue where Geoff made a major contribution. He was a pivotal member of Bolton Mountain Rescue Team (BMRT) joining, aged 19, the time of its formation in 1969 and serving continuously as an operational member until his death on Christmas Eve 2025, aged 75.

Geoff's promise was evident at School. In 1964 he completed his first major hike on the Snowdon Horseshoe, finishing tired but smiling. In his final year he captained the Rugby Second XV, clearly at ease in leadership and certain to lead from the front with positivity.



*Rugby Second XV, 1968-69. Back, L-R: MacPhie, Ratcliffe, Marsden, Slater, Harrop, Hodge, Higson, Hilton, Ashworth. Front, L-R: Waterworth, Bridges, Wyld, Geoff Seddon (Captain), Hunt, Gray, Halton, Harrington.*

In his first large incident in 1973 Geoff was one of 350 mountain rescue volunteers searching for a missing pharmacist in the Ogwen Valley, North Wales. His most memorable search came in April 1991, when he found a six-year-old boy who had been missing overnight in the Trough of Bowland. In another story illustrating his prowess, Geoff was interrupted at a family wedding by a call from the team. Over the phone and without a map (this was pre-GPS tracking), Geoff used his experience to suggest the latitude and longitude of likely places to search ... and the missing person was found and brought to safety.

Despite participating in thousands of search and rescue missions, Geoff did not step back from front-line duties in recent years, contrary to what some might assume. On New Year's Day 2025 he assisted in the rescue of over 500 people from flooded properties in Stockport and Didsbury. In October 2025 he was involved in the search for a missing 13-year-old in darkness on Holcombe Moor, and the rescue of a 15-year-old from Cox Green quarry, Egerton.

Geoff's many awards include: the Horwich Civic Medal in 2003, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal and the King's Coronation Medal. He received certificates from Mountain Rescue England and Wales for 50 and 55 years' service. In May 2025, in recognition of his support for Mountain Rescue, Geoff attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace with his daughter, Felicity.

At his funeral in January the local town of

Horwich was brought to a near standstill as 400 people packed into the church. There were over 100 uniformed representatives from nine mountain rescue teams across the North West, and many liveried search and rescue vehicles parked outside.

Geoff married Gill in 1974; she predeceased him. He leaves behind three children, Felicity, Ted and Tom, and two grandchildren.

*Rick Clegg (Class of 1968), Joe Howard and Steve Ling (both Class of 1969)*

I first met Geoff 20 years ago when I started teaching in the Bolton LEA and Geoff worked in outdoor education. He taught me to kayak, in a swimming pool and then on reservoirs and rivers. He was the only person who could persuade me to go down the weir at the Burrs! When I got the job here at Bolton Geoff liked to tell me tales of his School days: some are definitely not repeatable.

Geoff was an absolute legend, his service to Bolton Mountain Rescue is an inspiration and he impacted so many lives. There will never be another man like him and I feel blessed to have had his friendship for so long. Bolton School boys should all be a little more Geoff!

*Dr Kristy Turner, Boys' Division Staff*

## **(George) Rodney Ward** (Class of 1962)

Born in Bolton in 1944, Rodney became a pupil of Bolton School, where he played with Sir Tom Finney as goalkeeper in his FA Colts development team.



At Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he studied Economics, he was awarded a Blue when he was selected for the annual Oxford versus Cambridge match at Wembley. He was a lifelong supporter of Bolton Wanderers.

Following university Rodney joined a Manchester firm of accountants, coming top in England in his exams.

After marrying Janet in 1969, he moved to Lancaster to set up a new branch of the firm while setting up home, first in Forton and then Silverdale.

He threw himself into support for the community, both as part of Lancaster Round Table and in a wide variety of voluntary roles.

He was secretary of Lancaster Boys' Club, a member of the North West Regional Health Authority, chairman of the independent monitoring board at Lancaster Castle Prison, a governor of Casterton School and chairman of the Friends of Lancaster University Concerts.

He was closely associated with St John's

Hospice from the first sod being cut in 1984 until he died there on August 29. After helping to establish the hospice and his 27 years as its treasurer, he was honoured with the Order of the League of Mercy for distinguished voluntary service in health and social care.



Rodney had a long and close association with Silverdale Cricket Club, where he was a prolific batsman and talented wicketkeeper, treasurer, trustee and president.

Rodney leaves his wife, sons Andrew and James, daughter Elizabeth and four grandchildren.

*As published in the Lancaster Guardian, September 2025*

We are deeply saddened to report that our long-standing Club President, George Rodney Ward, died at the Lancaster Hospice, after a long battle with illness.

Rodney faced his health challenges with courage and dignity over some 11 years, and in our meetings over the years, he still sported a wicked sense of fun, with a brain the size of a planet.

Rodney arrived in Silverdale after several years living in and playing cricket for Shireshead & Forton. Moving to live at the Green in Silverdale, he happened to mention that he had played cricket to Fred and Walter Burrow in the Butchers, who immediately persuaded him to join Silverdale CC, where he was to become a prolific batsman and a talented wicket keeper. Rodney had played in goal at university, earning a Blue from Cambridge, so had a penchant for stopping balls of any kind.

A lifelong Bolton Wanderers fan he spent many years watching his beloved team and bemoaning their performances at our then Team HQ in the Royal pub on Emesgate Lane.

As a Chartered Accountant with a firm in Lancaster, Rodney volunteered to take on the role as our Treasurer, a role which did with gusto over many years, continuing even when he and Janet moved to Castle Hill in Lancaster. As a Trustee and Committee member we valued his wise financial counsel in helping the club to successfully develop over the years.

In recent years, he was still heavily invested in Silverdale CC, although his infirmity in the last couple of years meant he could only come to the occasional game.

A lovely man who cared deeply for others, it was fitting that he should pass away at the hospice, a place that he was so instrumental in helping to get built.

Rodney will be missed for his contribution to SCC as a trusted advisor, Treasurer, player, personal friend and as a man with immense gravitas. So many came across his path that he chose to help, quietly and kindly.

Rodney was a fantastic raconteur, super quizzer and a great wit, loved by all at the club. A man who loved his food and wine and went on many Beaujolais runs to France with his trusted group of friends.

The members of the club send their deepest condolences to Janet, Andrew, James and Elizabeth.

Bat well in heaven ... RIP Rodney, our great friend.

*Silverdale Cricket Club, September 2025*

## **Stanley Webster OBE** (Class of 1964)

Stan was born in Hindley on 19th October 1946.



From his local primary school, he won a scholarship to Bolton School and took up his place in 1957. Amongst his accomplishments there he captained the hockey team, played rugby and lobbied for

the creation of an Angling Society of which he became the first secretary. His final School report notes a brilliant analytical mind and enthusiasm in a wide range of interests from poetry to railways.

Like many of his generation, Stan was the first in his family to go to university, winning a scholarship to St Catharine's College Cambridge to read English, but switching to Economics. In 1967, whilst still at Cambridge, Stan married Sue.

After Cambridge, Stan took up a post in Swaziland, attracted by the opportunity to assist the development of a country which, like many other former colonies, had been ill-prepared for independence. Despite his youth and inexperience, he found himself working at the highest level, establishing reliable national statistics and playing a key role in negotiating vital revenue-sharing arrangements for the Customs Union between Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho and the apartheid regime of South Africa.

This initial period in Africa was immensely formative. When Stan returned to Britain in 1972, still in his mid-twenties, he had acquired extraordinary experience which stood him in great stead for his future career.

After completing a postgraduate diploma at LSE, he joined the UK Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM). It was on behalf of ODM that he visited Iran and suffered a serious ankle and back injury in a car accident, the consequences of which caused repeated health issues over many years.

In 1978, Stan moved to Coopers & Lybrand, one of the then 'Big 8' accounting and consulting firms, where he enjoyed great professional success. He was renowned for his analytical skills, the clarity of his writing and his ability to take on unusual

challenges. In the early years, his focus was on international business including major projects in the Middle East, advising governments on how best to use their vast oil wealth. He was made a Partner of the firm in 1984 and became leader of the Energy, Water and Transport consulting practice. By the late 1980s, Stan's focus shifted towards the major opportunities emerging in privatisation in the UK, almost always a politically fraught process but Stan's meticulous analytical approach, coupled with an acute political antenna, enabled him to navigate the challenges.

In 1991, Stan was seconded to the Cabinet Office as a member of Prime Minister John Major's Advisory Panel on developing the UK Citizens Charter, now seen as an important milestone in setting the standards of service and accountability that a citizen should be able to expect from

public services. In 1993, he was awarded an OBE for his contribution to this ground-breaking work.

In 2000, Stan took early retirement, but he was far from ready to give up work and he became involved with a number of organisations where the skills he had developed over the previous 25 years were of value. These included non-executive roles at RAF Training and the Probation Service. When Cambridge University Press decided to recruit a non-executive director, Stan was the perfect choice. His appointment to the prestigious Press Syndicate by the University Council was a rare honour for someone not employed by the University of Cambridge.

Academic success gave Stan a high level of self-confidence and his career success reinforced this, but Stan never lost his basic sense of humility and respect for people of

all sorts. He wanted to make a difference in the world and he was forever willing to reach out a helping hand whether it be to a government minister, a top executive or a young person struggling to come to terms with a life challenge.

In 2000 he became a Trustee and subsequently Chairman of Red Balloon, a then recently established charity that was set up to help recover severely bullied children, where he is particularly remembered for his wise counsel, his understanding of human nature, his kindness, his ability to see the wood for the trees and his ability to think strategically.

He died on 7th January 2026 after a brief illness and is survived by his wife, Sue.

*David Quysner (Class of 1964)*

*The Times* published an obituary to Stan Webster on 13th February.

## In Memoriam

Carlton Boswell, CBE TD (Class of 1949) - *Died 21st October 2025*

Harry Jackson (Boys' Division Staff, 1972-1997) - *Died 29th January 2026*

Anthony Peter Hatton (Class of 1986) - *Died 24th February 2026*

Simon McCann (Class of 1987) - *Died 13th October 2025*

Andy McGinty (Boys' Division Staff, 2011-2025) - *Died 18th December 2025*

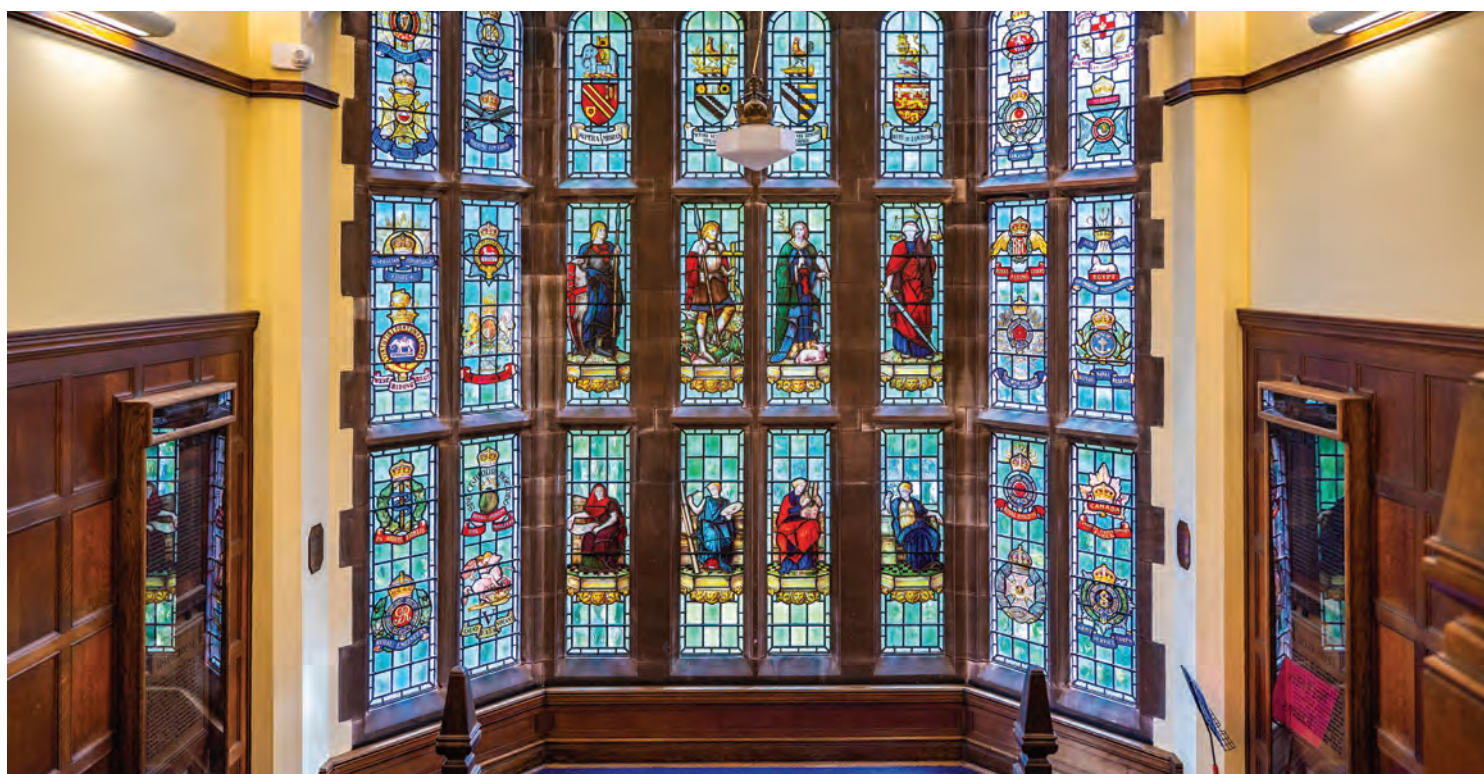
Charles Ogden (Class of 1964) - *Died 21st February 2026*

David John Picton (Class of 1973) - *Died 28th August 2025*

John Edward Ratcliffe (Class of 1956) - *Died 23rd February 2026*

Andrew Walton (Class of 1987) - *Died 8th February 2026*

John Yates (Class of 1964) - *Died 7th March 2025*



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Old Boltonians' Association will take place on Thursday 21st May at 11.30am in the Leverhulme Suite, Bolton School.

### AGM Agenda

- Apologies
- Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2025
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report and Accounts

- Sectional Reports (these will be taken as the reports printed in this edition of *The Bugle*)
  - Election of Officers and General Committee (save for the office of President and Vice President, nominations close at the meeting)
  - Head of Boys' Division Report and/or Head of Foundation Report
- Details of those members of the General Committee who are due to retire by rotation will be given at the meeting. David Williams (1999) is the Presidential nominee, and Michael Shaw (1988) is the Vice-Presidential nominee and both are proposed for election for a period of one year.

## OLD BOLTONIANS' ASSOCIATION Proxy Voting Form

I [insert name].....

of [address].....

a member of the Association

appoint [insert name].....

of [address].....

or failing him the President of the Association (or in his absence the chairman of the meeting)

to be my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on Thursday 21st May 2026 or at any adjournment of that meeting.

I desire my proxy to vote on the resolutions to be submitted as follows:

### Annual General Meeting

(1) To elect David Williams as President of the Association for 2026-27

**\*FOR \*AGAINST \*Please delete whichever is not required**

(1) To elect Michael Shaw as Vice President of the Association for 2026-27

**\*FOR \*AGAINST \*Please delete whichever is not required**

In the absence of instructions my proxy may vote or abstain from voting as he thinks fit on any matter which may properly come before the meeting.

Signed ..... Date .....

Please return this form to arrive no later than 11.00am on 21st May 2026 to The Secretary, Old Boltonians' Association c/o Development Office, Bolton School, Chorley New Road, Bolton BL1 4PA with the envelope clearly marked "OBA AGM".

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD BOLTONIANS' ASSOCIATION HELD ON MONDAY 19TH MAY 2025

The Minutes of the AGM 2024 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

### Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported on a vibrant Association and thanked the team in the Development Office for their continued sterling work to maintain and grow engagement within our ranks. Thanks were also offered to the General Committee members of the OBA, each of whom offers experience and wisdom as we look to modernise with care to retain the traditions that are important to our members.

Bolton School is robustly and expertly navigating the changes in government and legislation for the independent sector. The recent email launching the Open Futures Bursary Campaign will doubtless see the ongoing generosity of our Old Boys continue and grow. Richard Morris was thanked for his year as President.

### Treasurer's Report

The finances were as printed in *The Bugle*. Phil Riding, reported on these.

### Sectional Reports

As reported in *The Bugle*.

### Update to Association Rules

The updates to the rules of the Association were passed. Firstly, to allow for a review of the accounts by an Independent Reporting Accountant. Secondly, that land and property owned by the Association shall be held on behalf of the Association by up to four trustees. And finally, that The Head of the Boys' Division, The Head of Foundation and the Old Boltonians', the Director of Development, Alumni Relations and Marketing or their nominated representative and the Old Boltonians' Liaison Officer shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

### Election of Officers and General Committee

Michael Griffiths, Mark Millhouse, Martin Wadsworth and Richard Morris were re-elected onto the committee for three years.

### Election of President for 2025-26

Barry Nightingale was elected as President and David Williams was elected as Vice President until May 2026.

## OLD BOLTONIANS' ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025 BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Assets</b>				
Freehold land at cost		6,844		6,844
Golf trophies at cost		26		26
Bank accounts		22,453		20,801
Investments at market value		18,615		18,222
Sundry debtors		694		3,176
Loan to Football Section		7,500		8,000
		<u>56,132</u>		<u>57,069</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Sundry creditors		<u>4,841</u>		<u>4,828</u>
		51,291		52,241
<b>Represented by:</b>				
General Fund				
Balance brought forward	43,501		44,380	
Surplus (deficit) for the Year	(76)		(879)	
R Kirk Legacy	<u>7,866</u>		<u>8,740</u>	
		<u>51,291</u>		<u>52,241</u>

## OLD BOLTONIANS' ASSOCIATION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions and donations	7,207	7,389
Investment income	1,197	1,063
Increase/(Decrease) in market value of investment	<u>393</u>	<u>19</u>
	8,797	8,471
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<i>Boltonian</i> magazine	3,014	4,546
Insurance	2,520	2,379
Golf section	1,031	1,023
Dinner subsidies	1,309	1,082
Cricket Festival	350	-
Football Festival	450	-
Sundries	199	320
	<u>8,873</u>	<u>9,350</u>
<b>Surplus of expenditure over income</b>	<u>(76)</u>	<u>(879)</u>

Prepared by: PA Riding, Hon Treasurer

Subject to independent review by: AJ Syddall, Hon Independent Examiner

# Old Boltonians' Association Spring Newsletter 2026

To make best use of resources while keeping you connected with School and informed about Alumni activities, we aim to contact you by email wherever possible. *The Bugle*, however, may still be sent in hard copy even if you choose to receive other communications electronically.



If you would like to update your communication preferences to express that choice, please scan the QR code. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of the team by calling the Development Office on **01204 434718** or emailing [development@boltonschool.org](mailto:development@boltonschool.org).



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