

# OB REVIEW

Summer 2022



[www.obclub.org](http://www.obclub.org)



# WELCOME TO THE 2022 OB REVIEW

A recent review of the Club strategy reminded me that its core objectives, enshrined in 1891 by the Founding Fathers, are as relevant today as they were then. Indeed, in an increasingly unpredictable world, it has never been more important to maintain the bond between OBs.

The **Eagle Connect (EC)** online networking platform is one of the key benefits of being a member of our global community. The breadth and variety of OB careers featured on EC never cease to amaze me, and with over 80% of those signed up offering support, it is a valuable tool for anyone looking to progress their career. It is also a fantastic way to connect with school friends, OBs at the same university, or those with a shared passion. If you have not yet done so, please do join and start networking!

The recent unveiling of the Estate Masterplan by the Head Master heralds the next significant development of the school. The proposed facility, located on Burnaby Road, will house Maths, Computer Sciences, Economics and Business Studies, as well as a new entrepreneurial hub. Further information can be found in the Foundation section of this Review.

Our global network of District Vice Presidents (DVPs) continues to expand with new territories recently added. If travelling abroad, please do take the time to look them up as you will always be assured of a warm welcome.

The Review provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the numerous activities that OBs have taken part in during the last year, despite the pandemic. Please feel free to share with us any news items you may have, as we are always keen to know what you have been up to.

My sincere thanks go to the team of Gina, Bev and Clara for all their hard work and efforts during the year, despite the challenges thrown up by the pandemic. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Vin, our new Director of Development, to the team (find out more about Vin in the Foundation section of the Review).

I hope you will be able to join us at some of the upcoming events, of which more details are available on our website [www.bedfordschool.org.uk/ob-club](http://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/ob-club).

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

(L - R) Hugh, Bev, Gina, Clara and Vin



Front cover: Daniel Walker (81-85) scuba diving in Bali (see page 33)

# A WORD FROM THE HEAD MASTER

Dear OBs,

I write to you on the morning after one of the best days at school for several years. The sun shone brightly for a wonderful open day, I held lunch in the garden at home for all Fifth Form parents, then visited the tennis courts, where we had 48 home matches on (all) 24 courts, before heading to the cricket, with matches on every field (and a winning 1<sup>st</sup> XI run chase against Oakham), and thence to the river for the Bedford Regatta to see the newly established Phoenix crew of Old Bedfordians beat an Oriel College crew which included a boat race winner and US Olympian! Needless to say, whilst their evening was high on success (and long on beer), there was yet another school event, with this year's top musicians playing a prize winners' concert to an appreciative audience at St Andrew's Church.

To say that school is back with a vengeance would be an understatement. We have eschewed any mention of Covid this term (damnit, there I go...), held full school assemblies and Chapel Services, sung our first hymns for over two years (the "bangers", to coin the Chaplain's phrase – you will know the ones!), and generally thrown ourselves into school life. We have had some nice recognition via various awards, including one for "Independent Boys School of the Year", and we have now been shortlisted by the TES (Times Educational Supplement) for "Independent School of the Year" and "Boarding School of the Year".

As ever, the OB Club has been marvellously supportive, both of one another, and of the school. So, I hope you will not mind my making a small request of you in my introduction to your magazine.

The one area of school life (as with all similar schools) which has been most obviously (and understandably) hit by the pandemic is overseas boarding recruitment. So, if you are reading this from a far-flung corner of the globe (or even just France!) and you feel you would like to help in any way at all, do let me know...

I send greetings and thanks from all of us here at your school; and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at various events during the course of the year.

**James Hodgson,**  
*Head Master*



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, *après le deluge*, or COVID-19, both our school and club are emerging into something of a new world. Both fared well during the pandemic thanks to dedicated staff and, in the latter case, 'Old Boys' from around the world taking full advantage of the opportunities provided by Zoom to get together. My huge thanks go to *our* staff who have kept things running smoothly to allow this. Also, to a very understanding Head Master, who has found us a most appropriate space opposite the Bell Room entrance to the school, replacing our previously rather obscure "home".

Our new, non-virtual world got off to an uproarious start with the first OB dinner at Bedford for two years, with guest speaker, **The Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne TD MP (70-75)**, commenting afterwards that it was rather like the House of Commons! ... and we now look forward to our next 'London' OB Dinner in November at Cutlers' Hall.

The good work done by the office, supported by so many OBs, meant that our March Sports weekend went extremely well with the club fielding teams against the school over the two



"There's life in the old dog - just!"

days - tact prevents me from mentioning here just how well we did! An innovation this year was a lunch for all participants in the dining rooms which was great fun.

Our next 'big bash' is, of course, the At Home in July. As it is our 130th year we are asking OBs to echo the late Victorian era by wearing a tie and a jacket or even your old school blazers if you still have one - however, the arcane use at Bedford, by the cricketers of those days, of ties as belts will not be necessary!

Looking forwards, the club is clearly evolving in response to the current demands of its members and putative members, the current pupils. There are ever-more networking activities being

made available, with advice to jobseekers and entrepreneurs together with Eagle Connect (the club's digital networking hub), which enables an increasing number of OBs of all ages to connect. Our Director is launching an initiative to provide 'OB Hubs' at universities to allow freshmen, and more established undergraduates, to mingle and learn from each other. We are, I think you will see from this Review, a truly mature club which is becoming ever more relevant to the needs of our broad community of members.

**Professor Martin Snaith OBE (53-63)**  
President, Old Bedfordians Club

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As the country has gradually been emerging from the pandemic and learning to live with Covid-19, so too has the OB Club. We are enjoying more face-to-face gatherings, with Networking events in London and Bedford, whilst retaining the best elements of the virtual engagement we have used during lockdown, such as the Careers Fair and some excellent art presentations on Zoom.

The OB Club is also taking the opportunity to revise its current strategy and ensure that the club is delivering on its priorities. The main focus of the next few years will be on the support that the club can provide to younger OBs, who are, after all, the long-term future of the club. Some of the key focus areas for us will include communication, pupil engagement, young OB engagement and Eagle Supporters.

If you are reading this magazine, I am guessing that you like being able to catch up on OB news and events and are proud to be an Old Bedfordian.



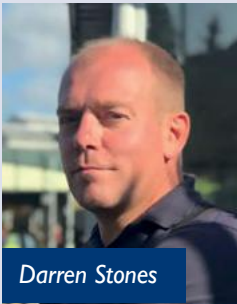
To help your club thrive well into the future, I would strongly urge you to consider becoming an 'Eagle Supporter' ([bit.ly/EagleSupporter](https://bit.ly/EagleSupporter)). You will not only avail yourself of some valuable benefits but also help your club support its members in ever more innovative ways.

It only costs £25 a year and, by signing up, you can almost certainly recoup the cost by using the latest offering, **ShopSt.**, when paying for a wide variety of everyday goods and services. I have personally saved over £120 in the first few weeks of belonging to the scheme. It really is the ultimate 'win-win' for both you and your club.

As ever, my thanks and gratitude must go to the OB Office Team for their sterling efforts in making the club the success story that it is. Have a great summer.

**Craig Mitchell (64-74), Chairman,**  
Old Bedfordians Club

# Exclusive App For EAGLE SUPPORTERS



Darren Stones

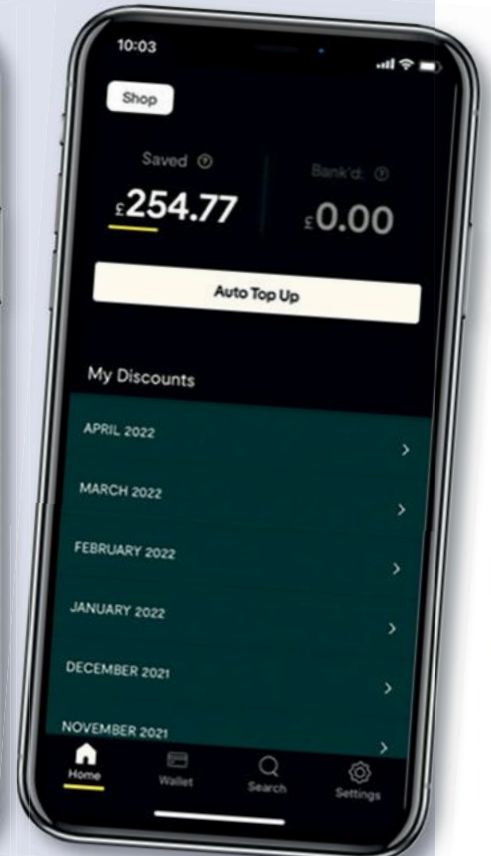
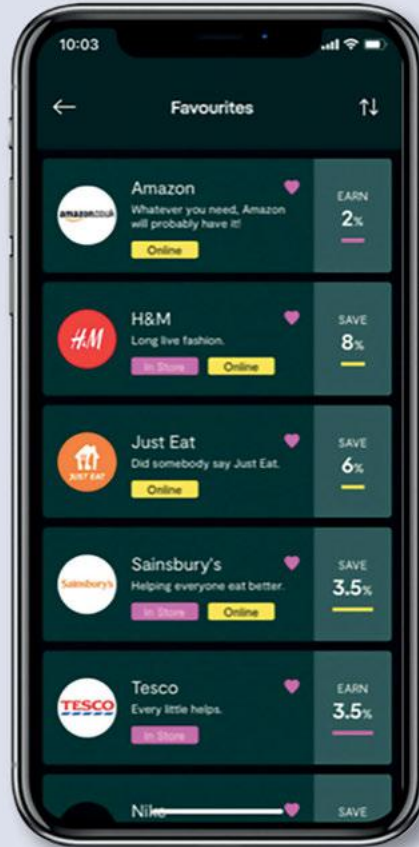
The Club was excited to introduce a valuable new benefit for all UK based Eagle Supporters (subscribing members) this February.

**Shop St.** is an App based retail discounts platform brought to our attention by their

Head of Business Development, **Darren Stones (85-90)**. With savings available at more than 100 national retailers on 1,000+ brands, Eagle Supporters can offset the annual £25 cost of membership in a matter of weeks. In fact, a typical household will save in excess of £300 a year on groceries alone, not to mention pubs, restaurants, fuel, and much more. You can even get O2 SIM cards with unlimited minutes, texts and data for 30% cheaper than buying directly from O2.

With the cost of living currently rising at the fastest rate for decades, the addition of this benefit is particularly timely. Better still, each user can invite an additional user living at the same address for no additional cost.

Darren, who himself has already saved nearly £150 in just a few months, has also informed us of some new Shop St. features currently in development. The ability to dictate your shopping lists to the App and to understand the carbon footprint of your shopping being among them.



If you are already an Eagle Supporter, you will have received an invitation to Shop St. by email. If you would like a new invitation, please email Clara at [cpolicella@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:cpolicella@bedfordschool.org.uk) or, if you would like to find more or need some user support, please email Darren at [darren@shop-st.com](mailto:darren@shop-st.com).

Available brands include:



If you are not an Eagle Supporter but would like to become one and take advantage of Shop St. and the other benefits provided, simply sign up here [bit.ly/EagleSupporter](https://bit.ly/EagleSupporter)



# CHARITY

## HUGH'S 10,000-MILE CYCLE CHALLENGE

Director of Bedford School Association, **Hugh Maltby (73-83)** has set himself the herculean challenge of clocking up all 10,000 miles in just one year – enough to make even the fit among us wince, as this equates to the distance between Bedford and Adelaide in Australia. He aims to raise £5,000 for local charity, Country Days, which helps give children, who would not ordinarily be given the chance, the opportunity to enjoy and learn from the beautiful Bedfordshire countryside.

To help him clock-up the miles, Hugh was joined, during the Easter holidays, by Vice Master Daniel



Hugh Maltby

Koch as they braved arctic conditions to cycle 325 miles in just three days - from Lowestoft to Aberystwyth. Daniel was raising much needed funds for the British Red Cross's Ukraine appeal.

The thought of a paddle in the Irish Sea was soon dismissed when they arrived at their destination cold, tired and hungry. However, this was soon replaced with a sense of achievement with the knowledge they had raised much needed funds for two very worthy causes.

If you would like to support Hugh, you can make a donation at his JustGiving page or even join him enroute and keep him company.

[bit.ly/HMaltby2022](https://bit.ly/HMaltby2022)

## FLOG IT!

Fine art valuer and auctioneer, **David Fletcher (58-69)**, from the popular antiques programme, 'Flog It', is a member of Bedford Castle Rotary Club which organised a fund-raising dinner in the Bedford Blues Marquee on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Guest speakers included TV antiques personalities, Charlie Ross and Charles Hanson.

David said, "We sold over 240 tickets and there was a real buzz in the Blues Marquee as the Two Charlies entertained us with stories of their celebrity lives in front of the television cameras and on rostrums around the world. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, including principal donor Old Road Securities Ltd., our guests, supporters, the Blues and many local businesses that advertised in the programme, we raised over £13,000. This will be match funded by the ever-supportive Harpur Trust, bringing the total donated to the Bedford Hospital Charity and Friends to over £26,000."

[bit.ly/BCRotary](https://bit.ly/BCRotary)

[www.davidfletchervaluer.co.uk](http://www.davidfletchervaluer.co.uk)



(L - R) Vaughan Southgate (Chairman of the Charity Trustees), Amanda Brookes (Friends' Committee Member), Charlie Ross, Debbie Inskip (OBE DL) (Charity Chair of the Executive Committee), David Fletcher, Michael Liddle, both of the (Rotary Club - Bedford Castle) and Charles Hanson

## TOGETHER AGAIN FOR WORLD SIGHT DAY



Gill and Peter Godber with their guests at their World Sight Day garden party

To mark World Sight Day in October, **Peter Godber (53-63)**, and his wife, Gill, held a 'Together Again' garden party and piano singalong for CBM UK, the overseas disability charity. Together with guests and volunteers, they raised a fantastic £622 to help prevent blindness in the world's poorest places.

Gill and Peter have been CBM supporters and volunteers for more than a decade and, in spite of recent health challenges, still inspire with their enthusiasm and passion for helping others.

"Peter and I enjoy organising events like 'Together' for CBM. Volunteering can help you learn new skills or utilise old ones. It is vital for Peter to keep playing the piano for others to enjoy, which increases his self-confidence. Volunteering brings fun and fulfilment to life!" explains Gill.

Find out more about CBM's sight-saving work: [www.cbmun.org.uk/what-we-do/saving-sight/0](https://www.cbmun.org.uk/what-we-do/saving-sight/0)

## OLD BEDFORDIAN TRANSPORTS UKRAINIANS TO SAFETY

**We recently got in touch with Brooks Newmark (72-76) after seeing the work he was doing to help evacuate Ukrainian refugees and get them to safety. Below, he shares his amazing story:**

“I had just finished my third week of field work for my doctorate on Education Policy in Rwanda, which I am currently doing at Oxford, and was waiting to start transcribing my findings.

The war in Ukraine had just started and I noticed a Latvian friend of mine had brought a bus down to the Polish border and was moving refugees away from refugee centres and taking them to Germany and France. So, I messaged him from Kigali and asked if I could join him. Of course, he said yes. I therefore dropped my research (yes, I am already six months behind on my Confirmation of Status) and hopped on a plane to Warsaw via London (it was -9°C in Poland versus 29°C in Rwanda) for a quick change of clothes.

When I arrived in Poland, I made my way to a small town on the Ukrainian border where my friend had based himself. In our first couple of weeks working together, we bused about 1,600 refugees from the Polish side of the border from two refugee centres (Tomaszów Lubelski and Korczowa).

The pressure diminished on the Polish side of the border - the Poles were amazing at quickly processing people and finding them places to stay. Our Home Office meanwhile was only accepting refugees with family connections. Back to that later. I then suggested we figure out how to bus women and children from Lviv and Kyiv (both cities under threat from the Russian advance and the aerial bombing campaign). We found a Ukrainian bus company and hired three buses to work with us. We began moving women and children to the Polish border and the safety of Poland. By now we had moved over 4,000 women and children, including 70 orphans.

As the danger in Lviv and Kyiv diminished, we moved our operation further south and east - now with five buses working in Vinnytsya and Zaporzhzhia. By the end of week six, we had moved almost 6,400 women and children including 140 orphans (my Latvian partner was brilliant at finding homes for orphans in Riga).

In the meantime, Svitlana, who I had previously met in Kyiv, when I had given talks at the University, had contacted me from her basement where she was staying with her mother to try to avoid the bombs that were exploding around her. I suggested they apply for a visa under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. After a three week wait, both finally made it to England for Easter and are now staying with my family. I had come back for four days to be with my family over Easter.

I am now back in Ukraine. We have, to date, now bused over 7,500 women and children. Our focus now is further to the east of the country to Dnipro and Kharkiv - both cities are now targets for

*With Latvian friend and their first bus*



*Bringing medical supplies from Poland to Ukraine*



the Russian forces. We are urgently evacuating women and children from those two cities as well as busing refugees from Vinnytsya and Zaporzhzhia, where refugees are still coming in from Mariupol.

I strongly believe we have to be active participants in finding solutions to problems when we see them. While not everyone has the time or capacity to travel to Ukraine or Poland or any of the border countries, everyone can do something. This can be in the form of sending clothes or food to the refugees on the five countries bordering Ukraine or even organising fundraisers to support voluntary initiatives in Ukraine. You can also host a family under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. There are lots of ways you can help but please do something.”

### **Brooks Newmark (72-76)**

Angel investor, former MP for Braintree and Minister for Civil Society



*Svitlana and Ekaterina from Kyiv who my family are hosting under the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme*

# EVENTS

## ANNUAL DINNER SUCCESS

Old Bedfordians, staff, and partners gathered for the much-anticipated return of the OB Club's Annual Dinner. Whilst some alumni organisations may struggle to keep these sorts of events going, this was a sell-out, and it was great to see so many members of our community - aged 18 to 96 - enjoying themselves and supporting their Club.

This year, we were delighted to welcome nonagenarian, former Burnaby Housemaster, **Jim Davidson (Staff 54-87)** and our guest of honour, **The Rt Hon Sir Desmond**



**Swayne TD MP (70-75)** - a charismatic orator, who recalled some entertaining anecdotes both from his time at Bedford and, more recently, as an MP.

Earlier in the day, we were thrilled to be joined by a large number of OBs who had organised year-group reunions, many of whom hadn't set foot on school soil since leaving. As part of their reunion weekend, they revisited some of their old haunts, much to the delight of the local publicans!

Please save the date for this year's Annual Dinner which will be held, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, at Cutlers' Hall in London.

## OB FESTIVE LUNCH

The festive spirit was in the air as OBs and guests gathered for a delicious OB Club Christmas lunch at The Snooty Tavern on Sunday 12th December. Situated on the Bedfordshire/Cambridgeshire border, this fantastic gastropub is run by Michelin-star-trained head chef, **Nick Marriott (92-02)**, who has hosted our popular Christmas lunches since 2018.

"It was great to get everyone back together again – particularly at this time of year. Thank you to Nick and his team for looking after us so well and **Roger Marks (71-82)** and **Hayley Marks** for their hospitality."



## RECONNECTING IN DUBAI

Many thanks to **Karan Gupta (10-14)**, Head of Strategy at KG International FZCO, and his family, for being such excellent hosts during the Head Master's visit to Dubai. Karan and his family opened their home to host an exquisite reception – welcoming the Head Master, along with local OBs and their partners. It was a truly wonderful occasion highlighting just how strong the Bedford School bond remains, regardless of geographic location.

"It was such a pleasure to meet up with Dubai-based Old Bedfordians in the Gupta's lovely home. As ever, stories flowed alongside the food and wine, and friendships were both renewed and made. From back here at school, it is so heartening to know that the connections made here last a lifetime. Thank you to all those in Dubai for their kindness and ongoing support of the school and of each other."

**James Hodgson, Head Master**

Unfortunately, our local District Vice President (DVP) for Dubai, **Lawrence Coward (98-08)**, was unable to attend due to family commitments in the UK. However, he regularly holds get-togethers for Dubai-based OBs and those visiting the area. Please do get in touch with Lawrence if you would like him to include you in communications regarding future gatherings.



## LEON KOSSOFF: A BRIEF HISTORY OF LONDON

As part of the **Gilbert Lloyd (50-58)** Lecture Series, Art historian and writer, Andrea Rose, OBE, CMG, gave a fascinating talk over Zoom on Leon Kossoff (1926-2019).

Recognised as one of Britain's greatest painters, Leon Kossoff, was part of the group of figurative painters known as the School of London that



*Gilbert Lloyd and his wife, Elfie*

came to prominence in the 1970s. Bomb sites and building sites, city churches, Victorian school buildings, railway stations and tube trains, and the restless to-and-fro of workday street life – mostly in Dalston, Willesden, Kilburn, and Whitechapel – are the subjects of Kossoff's art.

## SINGAPORE GATHERING

OBs in Singapore enjoyed meeting up on 7th of April for dinner and drinks on Club Street (home to some of the best restaurants and bars in Singapore). It was a wonderful chance to catch up, especially with the recent easing of Covid restrictions. Many thanks to DVP, **Russell de Chernatony (98-03)** who kindly organised the event and said, "It was great to see everyone again and to welcome **Graham Bradley (78-86)** and **Ryan Swallow (10-14)** too, both visiting from Hong Kong."

With the Singapore borders re-open, if any OBs are passing through Singapore, please reach out to Russell (Russell.dechernatony@thebodyshop.com) as he is always very keen to host and meet up!



*The Apocalypse, the Four Horsemen (Dürer)*

## DÜRER'S JOURNEYS: ART LECTURE BY PETER WEBB

To coincide with the National Gallery's major exhibition, 'Dürer's Journeys – Travels of a Renaissance Artist', art historian and OB, **Peter Webb (54-59)**, gave an illuminating and enthusiastic overview (via Zoom) of the work of the German Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) and the impact his Wanderjahre or 'wandering years' had on his work, and the influence he, in turn, had on the works of others.

Peter brought to life the artist, and the people and places he visited including the Alps, Italy, Venice, and the Netherlands. His travels sparked an exchange of ideas with Netherlandish and Italian Renaissance artists, fuelling his curiosity and creativity.

## DURHAM REUNION

A group of eighteen OBs, studying at Durham University, gathered for a reunion in Durham city centre earlier this year. When not eating or drinking, the group enjoyed reminiscing, updating one another about their endeavours, and generally having a good laugh.



"It was truly wonderful to get the 'OBs of Durham' together for a meal and a drink! The evening provided a great opportunity to see many familiar faces, and to chat with fellow OBs who I had previously not had the chance to interact with (as a result of being a couple of year groups apart). Most notably, the evening reminded me just how close-knit and supportive the OB community is, and that you're never truly far away from a fellow OB!" **Rahul Sheemar (12-19)**

We'd like to thank Rahul for organising such a wonderful reunion. If you are an Old Bedfordian at university who would like help with organising a similar get-together, please get in touch with the OB Club [obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk).

# CAREERS

## BUSINESS NETWORKING FORUMS

Our London Business Networking Forums were originally designed to give OBs of all ages the opportunity to connect and extend their network in a friendly, informal environment. Originally held in London, they were open to OBs from all professions across all stages of their careers. With their

continued growth in popularity and high demand for something similar closer to the school, we decided to use the much-loved template to provide a similar offering to the whole BSA (Bedford School Association) community, in Bedford.

### BEDFORD - BREWPOINT - 4 NOVEMBER 2021

Our inaugural Bedford-based event, held at Brewpoint, proved a resounding success. Valuable connections were made and the feedback we received was fantastic... with requests for similar events in the future.

"We are keen to foster an environment where members of our community can share business opportunities in a friendly atmosphere. Our networking events provide an invaluable opportunity for guests to increase their network and meet like-minded people. The feedback we have had from our previous London events has been extremely positive – with many attendees telling us they have made valuable long-term connections. We are excited to be able to bring these events to Bedford and are delighted that our inaugural event was a real hit!" Hugh Maltby



### LONDON - NEIL DAWSON – 2 FEBRUARY 2022

Following the lifting of restrictions, the return of our first OB London Business Networking Forum of 2022. was more popular than ever. Many thanks to marketing guru, **Neil Dawson (78-83)**, for being a fantastic host.

Over forty OBs joined us in Neil's stylish Soho offices – it was great to see OBs of all ages (including several new faces), and from a variety of professions, get together and share ideas. Neil



welcomed everyone and spoke about his journey in the exciting world of advertising – we're sure you'd recognise many of the iconic adverts he's worked on!



### BEDFORD - 3 ST PETERS – 24 FEBRUARY

Our second Bedford Business Networking Forum was a sell-out event with a mix of 50 OBs, parents and past parents joining us. The gathering was kindly hosted by past parents **Poonam** and **Bali Chand** (parents to OBs **Arran (03-14)** and **Taran (07-18)**), at 3 St Peter's, their stylish private members' club. It was a real pleasure to be able to see members of the whole Bedford School community, from across a wide range of careers and professions, get together. A big thank you to all those who attended.



We'd like to say a big thank you to both our hosts and to all those who supported these forums... we hope to see you again soon. If you have a suitable venue for a networking event, please do get in touch with the OB Club Office, it would be great to hear from you.

## OB CAREERS FAIR

This year's OB Careers Fair was once again a resounding success. Now in its sixteenth year, the event was held online, for the second year running, and spread over the course of three evenings in March.

The evenings were open to all boys in the Upper School and OBs looking for careers advice. This year, we decided to extend the invitation to pupils from other local schools across the borough, enabling them to have equal access to this valuable opportunity. With **over 1,200 bookings** across **64 sessions** and participants from **ten schools across the borough**, our goal of making this the largest, most inclusive OB Careers Fair to date was realised. Horizons were broadened as participants spoke with professionals across the globe, from a **variety of careers (47 in total!)** – ranging from Investment Banking and Scientific Researchers to Aviation, Law, Engineering, Medicine and many more.

We have received excellent feedback from both the attendees and the career representatives, who were very impressed with the participants.

"I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Careers Fair and was really impressed with the questions I received from the participants. The 30 minutes just seemed to fly by!"

*OB Careers Representative*

We would like to thank all our fantastic representatives who gave their time and shared their expertise – without them, we wouldn't have been able to run the event.

If you couldn't make it this year but are interested in getting involved, please do contact us at the OB Club and help inspire young people who might be considering your profession.

## OB CAREERS FAIR 2022



# COMING HOME for Summer

Have you booked your ticket for the OB At home, on Saturday 9th July, yet? Taking place on the last day of the academic year, over 200 OBs and guests of all ages are set to join us for a drinks reception and three course lunch. All are welcome to start the day earlier with a tour of the school, and we are also inviting the following classes to take part in our reunions programme:

- 10 Year Reunion - Classes of 2010, 2011, 2012
- 20 Year Reunion - Classes of 2000, 2001, 2002
- 30 Year Reunion - Classes of 1990, 1991, 1992
- 40 Year Reunion - Classes of 1980, 1981, 1982
- 50 Year Reunion - Classes of 1970, 1971, 1972
- 60 Year Reunion - Classes of 1960, 1961, 1962



**BOOK  
HERE:**

[bit.ly/AtHome2022](https://bit.ly/AtHome2022)

Tickets for  
the lunch are  
only £30 /  
£25 for Eagle  
Supporters.

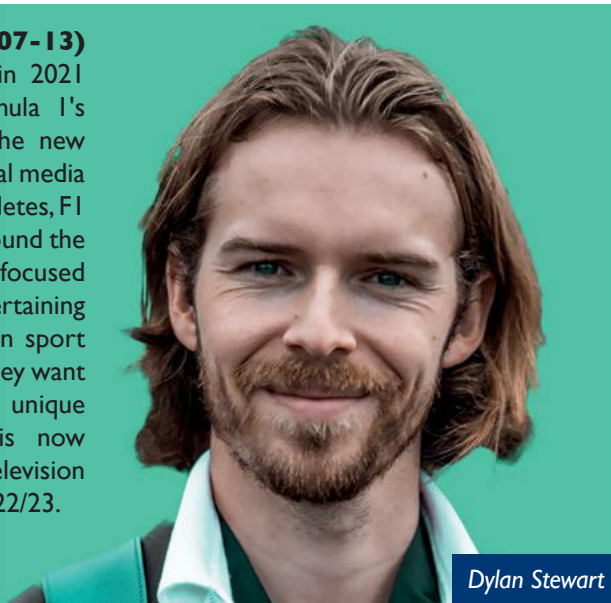


# MEET OUR ENTREPRENEURS

## Dylan Stewart (07-13)

launched Social Steering in 2021 after running all of Formula 1's social media platforms. The new company now handles social media accounts and pages for athletes, F1 teams and racing series around the world. Social Steering is focused on being the most entertaining sports marketing agency in sport by giving audiences what they want and providing the most unique content. The company is now developing two original television shows coming to air in 2022/23.

[www.socialsteering.com](http://www.socialsteering.com)



Dylan Stewart



## NETWORK AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Are you an entrepreneur looking to promote your business?

Join Eagle Connect and share your company's details with other members of the OB community.



**Anthony Price (88-96)** set up SeedL during lockdown, in 2020, and went on to launch their first product in January 2021. SeedL is the world's first 'Netflix of Live Learning' or 'Peloton for the Brain'. Essentially an EdTech business, SeedL offers businesses, their employees and the general public access to Live Learning via a subscription service. Users pay £8 per month (businesses buy an enterprise licence) and can access a range of courses (approximately 200 in total) from Leadership, Sales, Customer Service, Mental Wellness, Office 365 - the list goes on!

[www.seedl.com](http://www.seedl.com)

Anthony is offering the OB community unlimited access to SeedL courses for 1 month, then 1 credit per 3 months thereafter.

***"I was always inspired by my Geography teacher, Mr Walker, as a very engaging teacher, and that's what SeedL is all about – the subject, delivered in a fun but deadly serious way."***

Anthony



Anthony pictured on right



Charles Orbell



OnPlan is a digital agency for new build developers in the UK. Started by **Charles Orbell (11-16)**, the aim is to transform the way new homes are sold. They do this by offering a tailored, all-in-one solution that provides both digital marketing material and access to real estate portals - without the added cost of a typical estate agent. [www.onplan.co.uk](http://www.onplan.co.uk)

Eyes across the country were glued to their TV screens as **Nick Graham (05-09)** and **Nick Johnson (99-10)**, pitched their award-winning, premium and sustainable drinks brand, Berczy Hard Seltzer, to the fiercest of audiences, The Dragons, on BBC's Dragons' Den. Steven Bartlett openly declared that Berczy may be "the one that got away" lamenting, "I feel like I may regret that" in deciding not to invest in the business.

***"It was an incredible experience, one that we will never forget, and we couldn't have been happier with the feedback. The reception from new and current customers has been incredible!"***

Nick Graham

[www.berczydrinks.com](http://www.berczydrinks.com)



From L to R: Nick Graham and Nick Johnson



# ARTS

## Q&A / A Conversation with Chris Cottam (82-92)



With Robin Williams in San Francisco after the filming of *The Set List* (Sky Atlantic)

**Chris is a director who oozes style, with skills stretching across a variety of genres - from comedy, to drama, to documentaries, to music videos. His TV work has seen him pick up a BAFTA (The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan) alongside many awards for his commercial work.**

**He has worked on a variety of projects for Netflix, HBO, BBC and Sky. Most recently he finished the movie 'A Christmas Number One' for Sky Cinema starring Freida Pinto (*Slumdog Millionaire*) and Iwan Rheon (*Game Of Thrones*) alongside Alfie Boe.**

**Chris has been directing in the US and Europe over the last 15 years. He has worked with, amongst others, Owen Wilson, Robin Williams, Tom Hardy, Kate Moss, Heidi Klum, Chris Rock, Christina Aguilera, Nelly Furtado, Ellie Goulding, Nicole Richie and Helena Bonham Carter.**

**His cinematic eye, knack for getting great performances and razor-sharp wit certainly make him a man in demand.**



From L to R: Comedian Jared Goldstein, Nicole Richie, Chris Cottam and Lionel Richie on the set of US TV comedy *Nikki Fre\$h*

### **Tell us a bit about your career / what you do?**

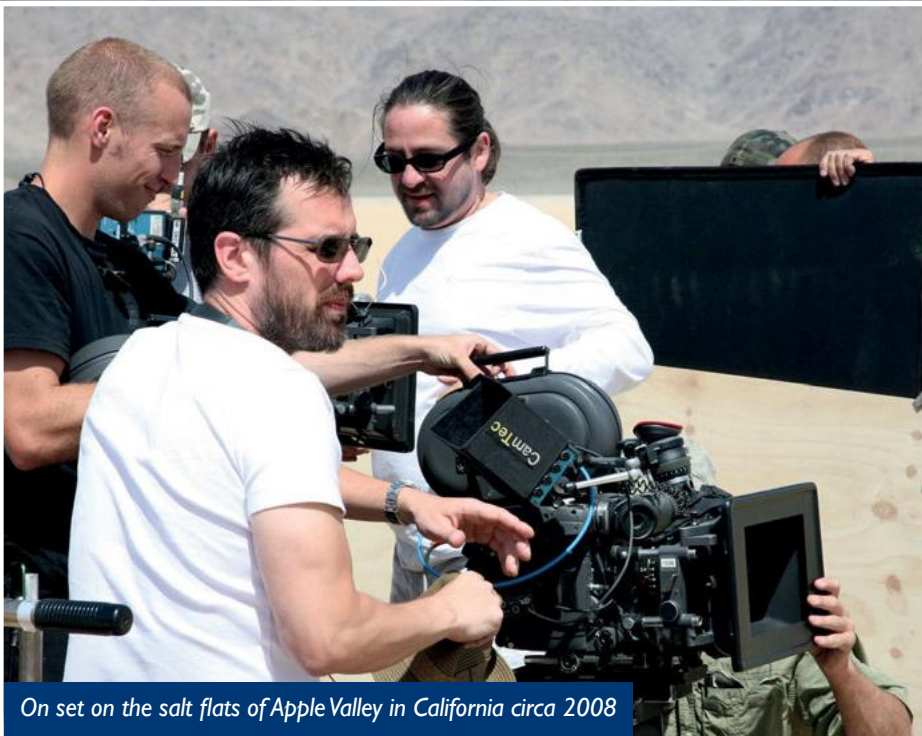
I'm a director for film & tv which is a bit like what you *might* imagine (sitting in a chair and pointing at people on film sets) but rather more about what you *wouldn't* imagine (incredibly long hours, a lot of pressure, dealing with a huge amount of people, being asked thousands of questions a day.) I'm freelance which means that I don't work for one company. I get hired on a job-by-job basis.

### **What do you enjoy most?**

It's an incredibly competitive career that is difficult to break into as well as maintain success in. I feel a sense of achievement to have got this far, as a result I enjoy every single job I do and feel grateful that people like my work enough to want to hire me. Most of all I love being able to make things for a living, seeing a vision come together and trying to inspire a large group of people to join me in making it.

### **How did you get involved in the film industry?**

I didn't know anyone when I moved to London from Leeds University (where I got my degree) so it was a slightly blind process of literally knocking on doors and hoping that someone



On set on the salt flats of Apple Valley in California circa 2008



With Tiffany Haddish and Romesh Ranganathan in LA during the filming of Passions: Richard Pryor (Sky Arts)

might pay me to make them tea or deliver their post or carry their bags. After around three months of searching, I got a job as an office manager's assistant in a tv company. Even though I was doing the most menial tasks for very little money, I saw how film and tv worked. Out of office hours I was adding to my knowledge by making very basic short films. It can feel like a long and arduous journey and one that really tests your desire to succeed. The three things that helped me progress were tenacity, humility and graciousness.



On location for the movie A Christmas Number One (Sky Movies) with Freida Pinto, Iwan Rheon

#### What is the proudest achievement of your working life?

I was an office assistant for about three years. Only after that was I able to go on shoots and get experience on set. I was promoted to Production Assistant and my name appeared in the credits of a documentary I worked on about The Italian Job. That was my proudest moment followed closely by hearing my name read out when I won a BAFTA.

#### What's next? Are there any career ambitions you still want to realise?

I'm working on an American movie set in Ireland. It films this summer in Dublin. I'm also starting work on a movie for 2023. My career ambition is to continue working on things I love.

#### What / Who inspires you?

I'm inspired by anyone that manages to make a career in any creative endeavour.



On location in Cheshire for Disney's Evermoor with (from L to R) Naomi Sequeira, Belinda Stewart-Wilson

#### What's an interesting fact about you we wouldn't learn from your CV?

I can play the accordion.

#### What is your fondest memory from your time at Bedford School?

We would walk back from the dining rooms in the evening across the playing fields towards Farrah's boarding house. This was around 1983. In September the trees were golden, and everything smelled of cut grass. There were around sixty boys aged between 8 and 12 traipsing, chasing, bickering and playing. It was a strange mix, but we felt like a band of brothers.

#### What do you know now that you wish you'd known at school?

I wish I'd cared less about things that weren't important.



## Bedfringe @ The Quarry Theatre

Summer is here once again and, at time of writing, we are looking forward to a busy programme of indoor and sun-soaked outdoor events. In fact, by the time Bedfringe (end of July) comes to a close, The Quarry Theatre would have been host to over 1,200 events since opening back in April 2015.

Some exciting news is that Bedfringe is back to full swing. This is Bedford's largest performing arts festival, playing host to over 115 events across three venues for 11 days. Two of the shows in the programme have been written by OBs so look out for **Logan Jones**' 'The Same Rain That Falls on Me' and **Matthew Gouldesbrough**'s 'Truth/Reconciliation'. It's always great to be able to welcome back OBs and give them a venue to try out new work.

**Logan Jones (06-17)** is bringing his acclaimed play 'The Same Rain That Falls on Me' back to Bedfringe in a revised version, following a run at last year's festival which was awarded the 2021 Pick of the Fringe. A one-woman show about the protagonist, Alice, wrestling with the uncertainties of her future as she travels home on the hottest day of the year and prepares to say an untimely goodbye. This 'deeply affecting' play (The Stage, ★★★★★) was first performed at York Theatre Royal in 2019, and is on tour as part of Ricochet Theatre's double-bill of monologues, 'Elegies.' The second monologue, 'Intricate Rituals' by Seth Douglas, is also being performed at this year's Bedfringe.



Logan Jones



Matthew Gouldesbrough

After an award-winning short run at the Old Red Lion Theatre in Islington, **Matthew Gouldesbrough (03-14)** will be bringing his play 'Truth/Reconciliation' to the Quarry Theatre for Bedfringe, before a run at the Edinburgh International Festival, this summer. A multimedia meta-odyssey on theatre and the price of success, the show is performed by a real-life couple, using live projection to excavate a journey of casting directors and quantum physics that "takes you hostage, long beyond the final words".

**Mark Pemberton (75-80)**, was awarded an OBE in the 2022 New Year Honours List. Since 2007, Mark has been Chief Executive of the Association of British Orchestras, which exists to champion, connect and develop professional orchestras across the UK.

*"I was delighted to have been awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours. It has been an incredibly tough two years for the ABO and its member orchestras, with the Covid-19 crisis followed hot on the heels by Brexit. I am grateful to the UK Government for recognising not only the hard work I have put in to help the orchestral sector weather the storm, but other achievements, not least securing Orchestra Tax Relief as a vital new income stream. But I see this as a tribute too - to the rest of the team, who have worked tirelessly alongside me on behalf of our members, and to the amazing work done by orchestras in our concert halls, schools and community settings across the UK."*



Mark Pemberton

Looking for a unique venue?  
Why not come *back to school?*



More info



From weddings to corporate dinners, conferences to meetings, photo shoots to sporting events, Bedford School offers a range of venues and locations.

*Discounts* on hire charges available to OBs.



[bedfordschool.org.uk](http://bedfordschool.org.uk)



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# FOUNDATION UPDATE

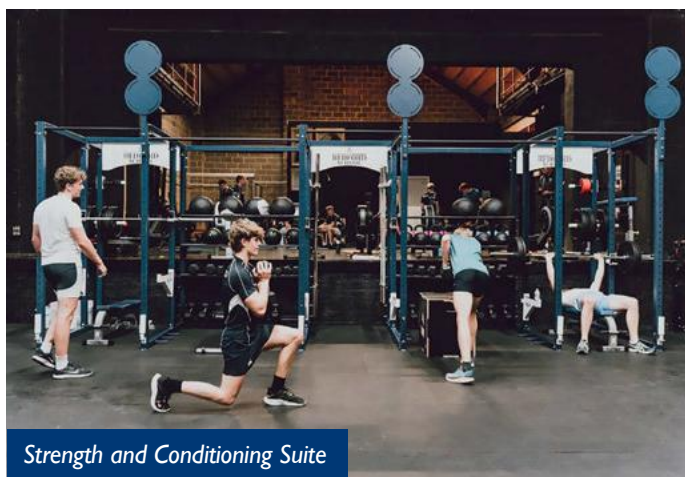


Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors Lunch

Since the establishment of the school by Sir William Harpur, benefactors have played a vital role in taking the school forward. It is interesting to see, looking back across our collection of Ousels, that there have been several major fundraising appeals dating back to the early 1900s, the outcome of which have supported many generations of pupils right up to the current day.

The Foundation, led by its Trustees, have followed a rationale that has not changed and that is to provide the best start in life possible for the boys of Bedford School. We will be supporting the recently announced Estate Masterplan, which involves exciting proposals for a new academic building, which will be built in Burnaby Road. The development will house Mathematics, Computer Science, Economics, Business Studies and an Entrepreneurial hub, all subjects that will be vitally important in the future job market. The plan will also enable the school to upgrade its pastoral facilities including the refurbishment of the medical centre and dayboy houses.

During 2021/22, we supported several initiatives, including the provision of new strength and conditioning equipment in the old theatre. Trustees also distributed funds to support a myriad of different areas of school life. These ranged from providing



Strength and Conditioning Suite

bursaries and scholarships to supporting the Music, Art and Sports departments.

After a two-year break, it was truly wonderful to welcome back Foundation and 1552 Members to the Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors Chapel Service and Lunch in October last year. Many of our guests had not ventured out to an organised event since the beginning of the pandemic, making it an even more jubilant occasion.

The Trustees, who are all volunteers from within the school community, give up their valuable time to help run the Foundation. Two of our Trustees, David Pinkney (78-89) and James Godber's (82-87) recently stepped down after sitting on the committee for eight years, and we would like to thank them for all their help, support and guidance.

Finally, I would like to thank all supporters of the Foundation and those who have made a pledge to support it in their wills. All gifts, no matter how big or small, are much appreciated and make a huge difference to the boys, the school and its future.

### Lance Feaver (67-74)

Chairman of the Bedford School Foundation



Lance Feaver

## Considering making a gift



There is a long tradition of philanthropy amongst the Old Bedfordian community, and, over the years, many generations of boys have benefitted from the generosity of others.

If you would like to discuss making a donation, or leaving a legacy to the school, please contact Vin Gaten, Development Director, at [vgaten@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:vgaten@bedfordschool.org.uk). Vin will be happy to provide any advice and support you require

Alternatively, scan the QR code below to be taken to an online giving portal.



## DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The ambitious £25m+ Estates Master Plan will be partly funded through school reserves and contributions from the Harpur Trust, the Bedford School Foundation and the Bedford School Trust. The rest of the funds needed to bring this important concept to fruition will be raised through philanthropic contributions.



Vincent Gaten

To lead fundraising for the Master Plan, Bedford has appointed a new Development Director, Vincent Gaten. Vin joined from Uppingham School, where he had been Deputy Foundation Director for almost four years. At Uppingham, Vin evolved the fundraising offer into a multichannel programme of giving opportunities that supported all donors to make meaningful contributions to the school.

In his own words:

*“After meeting some of my now colleagues, and hearing about the incredible plans for the capital programme and bursaries provision, I was excited to pursue the opportunity of joining the school. I was proud to be offered the role of Development Director and, since joining, have been warmly welcomed by all.*

*My approach to fundraising is to create exciting, enriching opportunities for prospective donors to support causes close to their hearts. Good fundraising is never pushy and should be as respectful of a donor’s absolute right to say no to a giving opportunity, as it is celebratory of those who offer their support. Bedford is a great school that has helped thousands of boys become successful, respectable men; many of whom, I am confident, will be happy to consider contributing towards the institution’s latest evolution”.*

## ESTATES MASTER PLAN

As you will have read in previous editions, the proposed Estates Master Plan will usher in the next, and arguably most exciting, phase of Bedford School’s development. The concept, which has yet to obtain planning permission, would reimagine much of the campus, refining the visual aesthetic of the school’s entrance via the installation of an innovative facility to house Maths, Entrepreneurship, Computer Science, Business Studies and Economics.

These subjects have been chosen carefully and are woven into the strategic vision of Bedford. Our young men will grow up in a world where digital technologies underpin their lives, and where entrepreneurial endeavours will be some of their most likely routes to success. We need to enable our boys to pursue these areas boldly, in the best possible facilities, and foster the skills and determination they need to thrive.



Success for the boys should not be judged by their eventual career progression alone, however, and it is also our duty to help them become kind, empathetic individuals. Developing these traits at an early age is key, and our expanding community partnerships programme, that we hope to also house in the new facility, is one of the best ways to help pupils understand how to make a difference in the world around them.

Beyond the immediate benefit to current pupils, the Master Plan supports our ambition to remain a ‘destination school’ that appeals to young men and their families throughout the UK and overseas. The Independent Schooling market is highly competitive, and there is constant need to invest in facilities that look incredible, and enable unrivalled pedagogical, and pastoral outcomes.

Curb appeal is crucial, and the current entrance to the school neither fittingly represents the historic significance of our institution, nor pays proper homage to the pleasing architecture that can be seen throughout the rest of our campus environment.

We are still some way from transitioning the Master Plan from concept into reality. External pressures we are all currently feeling the impact of are being carefully considered before we begin with gusto. We are absolutely committed to bringing our plan to life though, and we will continue to keep you up to date in future editions of the OB Review.



# Reminiscences...

We love to hear from OBs with their memories of their school days. Below are some snippets from stories we have shared in our newsletter over the last year - if you missed these, they're available in the reminiscences section of the OB Club website. [bit.ly/OBReminiscences](http://bit.ly/OBReminiscences)

If you'd like to share your reminiscences and help us create a unique insight into the life of the school, please get in touch. We are particularly interested in those at the school in the 60s and 70s.

Great Hall



*"I was lucky to have a socialist as my form master in the final year, a man called Eyre. He considered it his duty to have us analyse everything from the public school system itself to the thoughts of science fiction writer L Ron Hubbard, improbable author of a newly published work entitled 'Dianetics - the Science of Health'. Most important of all in the present age, John Eyre taught us to understand history by the standards and pressures of those times, not by the ill-founded presumptions of today."*  
**John Wyborn (47-52)**

*"On a sunny afternoon in July 1961, my father and I arrived at the school field to meet Jack Carlton, famed housemaster of Sanderson's. Jack, leaning on his stick with the ever-present Corgi 'Pip' at heel, examined me critically. 'Bit small, isn't he? Well, we'll soon build him up'. We then set off for Sanderson's in Jack's red Ford Zephyr convertible, with white-wall tyres and the beige hood down. This was a brief reconnaissance visit. I remember meeting the House Mother Mrs Maltby: large and tweedy with a look that suggested she took no prisoners. Mrs Maltby presided over the matrons and Italian maids that came and went with some frequency. The maids called her 'Mrs Malt' and everyone was in awe of her."*

**Andrew Randall (61-66)**



*"The best part of the school day was the half hour break at 11 o'clock. 10 to 15 minutes of PT outside the School South face and then down to the fives courts for milk and buns. These were lovely sticky "penny" buns (which cost one penny) and doughnuts for 2 pence. They came fresh from Cyril Kish, the baker, and even now I remember how delicious they were."*

**Simon Cauthery (47-56)**

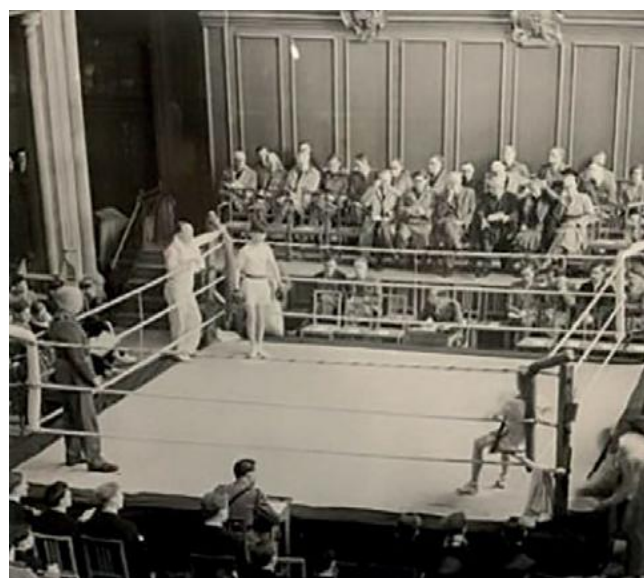


"We were conscious of the war as every night my father put up wooden shutters on the ground floor windows and took them down in the morning...Perhaps the most enduring effect was our contact with the American soldiers and the men stationed out at Thurleigh aerodrome. My family got to know some of them well as they came to spend Sunday lunch with us. One maintained correspondence with my mother until her death in 1977 and then with me until his death at the end of 2021 just short of his 104th birthday, a 76 year correspondence!"

**Anthony Wood (43-55)**

"Murray Fletcher and Cyril Fitt, who had coached my brother in the 50's, were brought back to coach the 1st XV which coincided with the arrival of some immensely gifted players like Phil Spray, Mike Banham (Captain), Simon Strong, Peter Godber (a huge lineout specialist) and a fearsome and fearless crash tackling centre, Chris Clarke, who was an immense influence on the defence. That team went undefeated in inter-school games and only lost by a narrow margin to Budge Rogers XV. Rugby was back and, although some years were better than others, Bedford was once again a force to be reckoned with."

**Julian Dalzell (55-67)**



"However, my real accomplishment, against the odds, was to win the inter-school quadrangular boxing competition... Our heavyweight was meant to be Paddy Ashdown (52-59), the future leader of the Liberal and Democratic Party, but overnight he went down with flu' and being a mug for a dare, I volunteered."

**General Tim Toyne Sewell (50-59)**

In the early 1970s, in an act of amazing foresight and open-mindedness, the school, with help from local businesses, bought a computer for the boys. This was a Digital Corporation DEC PDP8E, with 8k of memory, which is to say, 8192 bytes. One communicated with it via two teletype keyboards/printers, and later via a screen (in black and white) with associated keyboard, known as the VDU (Visual Display Unit). Pleasingly, it had a lot of flashing lights on the front.

**Stephen Walsh (67-76)**



Margaret Thatcher, Minister of Education, visits the Computer Room - 1973

# DID YOU KNOW?

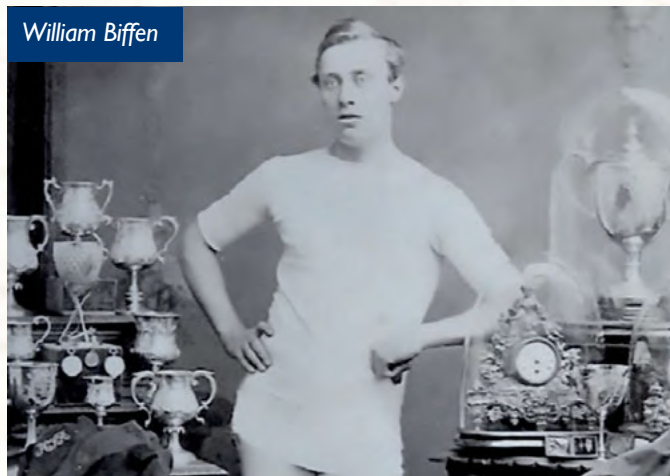


Richard Branson Family Ties

Sir Richard Branson's great uncles - (seated front right) **JRB Branson (1883-91)** and (standing back left) **WPS Branson (1883-93)** were at the school. Here's a great photo of the 1st IV in 1891 which we shared in last year's Ousel. His grandfather **WAH Branson (1855-57)** was also an OB and President of the OB Club.

William Biffen had been a distinguished professional oarsman, a winner of the "Doggett" coat and badge, and a Queen's waterman. Under his guidance (he was the coach), in 1880, Bedford School entered the newly introduced Public Schools four-oared Challenge Cup at Henley where they beat Radley and Cheltenham and went on to easily win the final against Magdalen College School, Oxford. The following year, 1881, they won again against seven crews.

William Biffen



The Beaufort Scale



The three sons of Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, KCB, all attended Bedford School. The Rear-Admiral was for years the Hydrographer of the Royal Navy and is best remembered for 'the Beaufort Scale' (measuring the force of winds). The eldest, **Daniel Augustus Beaufort**, was born in 1814, became the rector of Lymm-cum-Warburton in Cheshire; **Francis Lestock Beaufort**, born in 1815, joined the East India Company and, after a rather chequered career, became the Attorney-General in Bengal; and the youngest, **William Morris Beaufort**, born in 1823, joined the Bengal Civil Service.

The man behind Puffin Books, **Noel Carrington**, was an Old Bedfordian and was at the school from 1903-1913. Glance across the street from the school entrance on Burnaby Road and you may catch sight of a blue plaque on the façade of 40 De Parys Avenue. It commemorates Dora Carrington, Noel's sister, who was a renowned artist associated with the Bloomsbury Group.

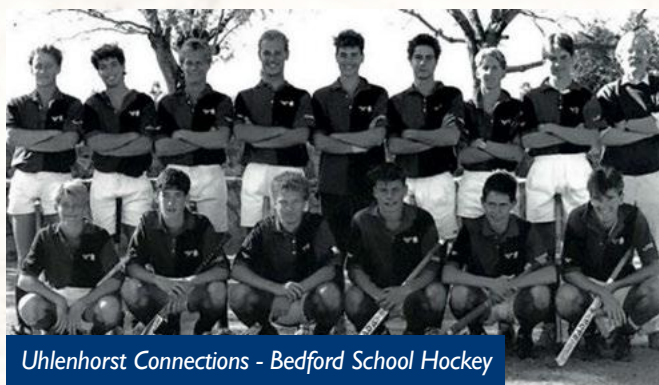


Noel Carrington (1903-13)



ALFONSO Marconi (1876 - 80)

Guglielmo Marconi's elder brother, **Alfonso (1876-80)**, attended Bedford School while the family lived in Bedford. During this time, the school hosted an Art and Science Exhibition which included a telegraph machine and a morse recording register. We like to think that the young Guglielmo attended this with his brother and was inspired by what he saw!



Uhlenhorst Connections - Bedford School Hockey

Between 1978 and 1990 Bedford School became one of the strongest hockey-playing schools in the country, winning four national titles in the indoor game and being a runner-up in the National outdoor competition. There are many reasons for the school's hockey success. One of the main ones being its strong link with H.T.C Uhlenhorst Mülheim, who were European Club Champions at one point.



The first known use of Leicester Football Club's nickname 'Tigers', was after a game against Bedford School in February 1885, with the 'Leicester Daily Post' reporting that "the Tiger stripes were keeping well together". The origin of the nickname is uncertain most probably coming from the side's chocolate and yellow playing kit, but it may have come from the club's links to the Leicestershire Regiment, who had received the nickname 'Tigers' after serving in India, and from 1825 had worn a cap-badge with a 'royal' tiger to mark the connection.

# REGENERATING

# BRITAIN!

Q & A With  
Chris Taylor (70-77)

Kings' Cross Aerial Shot



**Chris Taylor is the CEO of Federated Hermes Real Estate and Head of Private Markets at Federated Hermes. He is a leading industry player with extensive experience in major urban regeneration investment projects such as King's Cross (London), Paradise (Birmingham), Wellington Place (Leeds), NOMA (Manchester) and St Mary Le Port (Bristol).**

**Chris is also the Past President of the British Property Federation and Chairman of MEPC, a wholly owned specialist development platform supporting the Federated Hermes approach to responsible property investment.**

## What do you do?

I run the £7 billion real estate platform at Federated Hermes, a US based fund manager which seeks to create sustainable wealth for its clients. I am also Chairman of MEPC and a trustee at Henley Business School RREF. Hermes was an early mover into responsible investing ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and our real estate platform is delivering transformative urban regeneration schemes across the UK via its specialist development company MEPC.

By engaging in partnership with the public sector and wider communities, we deploy long term patient capital into major regeneration projects such as the 67 acres King's Cross scheme; these transformational placemaking projects are contributing towards creating a concept which we refer to as **'the meaningful city'**, where communities and

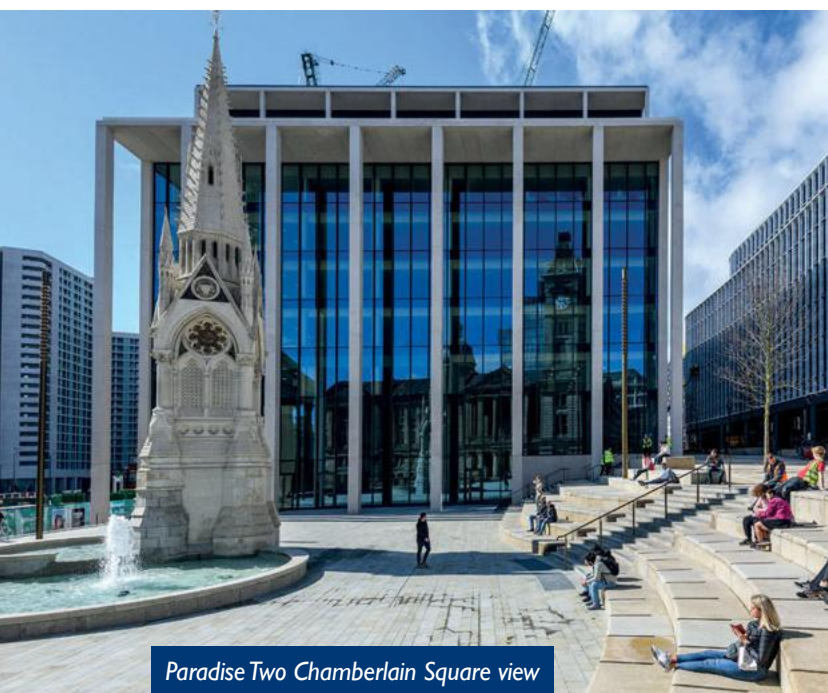
their citizens regain relevance and a sense of 'belonging' to their city, generating a sense of civic pride which has been frequently lost due to post-war planning's fixation with accommodating the motor car. A fantastic opportunity exists today to deliver positive societal and environmental outcomes through great placemaking, as can be witnessed at schemes such as King's Cross and Paradise Birmingham. These places attract and retain talent so, in turn, deliver attractive financial returns as corporates seek to locate in such socially inclusive environments.

## What led you down this path?

When I left school, I had little idea of what career I wanted, but eventually I stumbled into the Land Management BSc course at Reading University, this proved a sound foundation for a fulfilling career in real estate.

## How is the work you do transformative on society?

Emboldened by our experience at King's Cross, we have sought to replicate the positive impact such projects can have on wider communities; King's Cross has great public realm, accessible to wider communities; the scheme has great heritage (e.g. Coal Drop Yards), education at its heart (Saint Martin's University of Arts located in the refurbished Granary Warehouse), cultural amenities, commerce, retail, all tenures of housing. We also sponsor the Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children and built a primary school for Camden, the 67-acre site is widely accessible for the adjacent communities. Consequently, King's Cross has become a destination of choice for talent, attracted by the halo effect of a single-managed estate with a reputation for social and environmental excellence. Given the increasing propensity for global capital to gravitate to where talent resides, we have been incredibly successful in attracting the likes of Google and Facebook as major occupiers, seeking to build their European hubs at King's Cross.



Paradise Two Chamberlain Square view

At Paradise, Birmingham beautiful Grade I Listed municipal buildings were shrouded in concrete for much of the post war period; having demolished the ugly public library and conservatoire, we have managed to recreate the civic pride of Birmingham to remind us of its illustrious past as the commercial heartbeat of the British Empire - citizens in Birmingham have regained pride in their great city centre which had been bifurcated by the A38 dual carriageway for the past 60 years. Today, Paradise Birmingham has transformed the city centre.

Most recently, in the heart of Bristol we have secured planning consent for a major placemaking project on a site which was heavily bombed in December 1940, destroying churches and the medieval streets adjoining the River Avon; the opportunity exists to create a new city centre destination which provides great public realm for citizens and further engender civic pride in this great city.

Manchester and Leeds also combine public realm, heritage, culture, education, commerce and links to their wider communities, whether through a programme we have for engaging with inner city schools or working with our contractors to provide apprenticeships for unemployed young people.

In many ways, these projects are a tangible manifestation of what investors refer to as impactful investment, integrating ESG as a responsible manager.

#### **What is the proudest achievement of your working life?**

Being President of the British Property Federation and engaging with Central Government to empathise the vital role which the real estate industry can play, acting as a conduit to enhance economic growth and deliver positive societal and environmental outcomes. This engagement process continues, and we can see greater interest now in Government working



St Mary le Port, Bristol (CGI)



Wellington Place - Street Food and Stalls

with the private real estate sector as part of the 'levelling up' agenda, for instance.

#### **What is the funniest story from your career?**

Undoubtedly, my experiences in Jerusalem, whilst working for Prudential, and trying to extricate the company from real estate projects which had been mismanaged locally. Whilst still politically dangerous, not long after the first Gulf War, there were several lighter moments, as I began to uncover the extent of the real estate problems - bribery of church officials, forged documents and even a visit to the Supreme Court for adjudication on title, despite the fact we had the original Ottoman title deeds from before the time of the British Mandate.

#### **What is your favourite memory of Bedford School?**

The morning break donuts! I also look back in admiration of much of the teaching - my standout was Mr Bullock who, as English teacher, opened my eyes to another way of viewing the world and society at large which has stayed with me ever since.

#### **What advice would you give your 18-year-old self?**

Try and experience as many of life's opportunities as possible before settling down into a set career path and stay happy.

#### **What does the future look like for the inner city?**

With great placemaking and world class infrastructure, King's Cross is in many ways a template for the transformation which is possible to what was once 67 acres of derelict inner-city land which was not safe to visit.

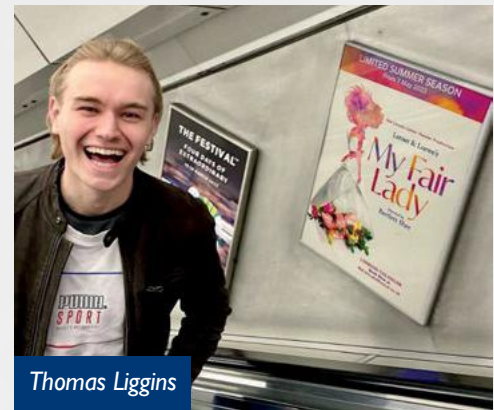
# Back to School

We would like to say a big thank you to all our OBs who have come back to school over the past months - their visits always inspire the boys.

## DRAMA

**Thomas Liggins (12-17)** gave an inspirational talk on his professional acting career.

*"It was lovely being back at school after the last couple of years and seeing its community as strong as ever. The boys in the drama society were so attentive and it was a complete pleasure talking to them about my experience of starting off in the performing arts industry. My overarching message was that there is no one*



Thomas Liggins

*way into the industry. Be open to all opportunities, stay true to yourself and your talent, and what will be will be. My thanks go to Mrs Keylock for inviting me back."*

Tom is now performing in My Fair Lady at the London Coliseum for a limited summer season, followed by a UK tour.

Established actor, **Jonno Davies (01-10)**, delivered a technical workshop, teaching our drama scholars one of his favourite techniques: the Laban Movement. Jonno learned the technique when he was a student at drama school himself and, having found it so useful, he now teaches it across drama schools in London.

Jonno credits his Drama teacher, Mrs Swidenbank, for opening his eyes to the idea of a career in drama and helping him to realise his potential. She also famously helped him to take the plunge after rejecting his first UCAS statement to encourage him to follow his dreams, declaring: "You know you want to be an actor."



Jonno Davies



Since leaving school, Jonno has not looked back on his career choice and has already built up an impressive repertoire, starring on Broadway as Alex DeLarge in the critically acclaimed New York production of A Clockwork Orange, and in films including Spotless, Kingsman: The Secret Service, and TV including Casualty and Hollyoaks.

## DRAMA CONT...

**Harun Čehović (15-17)** returned to run a specialist workshop on the Actors' Warm-up technique that he is currently studying at RADA, where he is undertaking his Masters in Acting. The technique is based on many of Stanislavski's and Grotowski's elements covering aspects such as sensibility and naturalism, and provides useful tools to physically get the body in shape before a performance, giving actors everything they need to go out onto the stage.



Harun Cehovic

Harun explained, "It was thanks to the drama department and The Quarry Theatre that I became interested in acting and doing shows here. I had got an offer from Kings College, London, to study Economics, but I decided to say no to that and go into drama instead".

Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) practitioner and Globe Associate, **Ollie Lynes (02-07)**, took part in the school's 'Shakespeare Slam' - two days of inspiring workshops. During the workshops, boys from Y3 to Y8 enjoyed the opportunity to explore Shakespeare and to learn how to put a personal stamp on their performances.

Ollie has kindly worked with the boys on numerous occasions over the last few years, including online for last year's virtual Shakespeare Slam.



Ollie Lynes

**Joel McNally (07-18)** gave an inspirational sixth form lecture, 'The Flying Kestrel – Be Bold!', which had the boys sitting on the edge of their seats. He recounted how he and his father had taken an abandoned 1930's car and turned it into a turbo-charged speed record breaker capable of speeds of over 200mph! Their journey was also documented in a TV series which tells the 'blood, sweat and beers' story of their creation, 'The Flying Kestrel'.

*"As a former pupil, I hope the story gave the boys some inspiration and belief to be bold in the future. I'd like to thank Andrew Grimshaw and Clara Policella for inviting me to talk at the school."*

Not one to do things by halves, Joel brought the Flying Kestrel into school to give everyone the opportunity to see his project in the flesh. As he revved up the engine – the enthusiasm from both boys and staff, who just couldn't resist its allure, was very apparent as they gathered round to take a better look.

Joel pictured in the centre



**Tom Pelling (08-19)**, who is currently studying Mathematics at Cambridge University, delivered an engaging lecture to the Pythagoreans Club. Entitled 'Solving Problems Using Combinatorial Generating Functions', the lecture was open to all 6<sup>th</sup> Form Mathematics students. Tom also returned to the school to give a similar lecture in 2020.



Tom Pelling

**Tom Wootton (78-87)** – whose name is now synonymous with this the school's Inter-House Movember Tug of War - kept the competition together with expert umpiring and motivation. Despite some gallant efforts by all the boys who took part, in the end, it was Paulo Pontine/Redburn who pipped Ashburnham/Sanderson's to the post in the tense final.

The school's Movember campaign not only supports and raises funds for this incredible charity, but also acts as a vehicle for the boys to explore and discuss men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health issues.



Tom Wootton

During three days in August 1914, nearly seventeen thousand Scottish territorial soldiers arrived in Bedford. The impact of this mass billeting was the subject of **Richard Galley's (72-82)** fascinating 6<sup>th</sup> Form lecture. Richard, an expert on the Scottish Highland Division's time in Bedford, gave the boys a real insight into the role the town played and how the townsfolk made the men welcome and took them into their homes. His research into the journey the men made to get here, and their life in Bedford for those 9 months, is tremendous.



Richard Galley

It was good to welcome back **Eduard Ksenofontov (13-18)**, who came in to talk to the U6 boys about getting into their chosen universities and the application process. The boys asked plenty of questions and learnt a great deal about university life!



Eduard Ksenofontov

Business Development Associate, **Paddy McDuell (04-15)**, gave a fascinating talk to the boys in the Investment and Finance Society on his journey from Bedford to University and into the world of business. Paddy, who has a master's degree in Management, has been at Mercer Investment since 2021 having previously worked at Aviva.



Paddy McDuell



From L to R: Mike Mallalieu, Phil Watson (98-06), Will Kier (97-08), Alex Miles (97-06), Alfonzo Cosenza (97-08), Jonnie Leacock (98-03); Harry Peck (97-08), Phil Gilder-Smith (98-08) and Fraser Woodhouse (99-05)

Eight OBs returned to the Prep School at the invitation of Mr Mike Mallalieu. It was 21 years since they had sat in Mike's (Sir's) Y5 Science lesson, and they were delighted to slip into the back of the class to watch the final few minutes of a Y8 lesson.

For some of them, this was their first time back since they left in 2008. The OBs then had a tour of the Prep and Upper School before having lunch in the dining halls and watching the Colt's game in the afternoon.

# MEET OUR NEW DVPS

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



Contact details of all our volunteer District Vice Presidents are available online [bit.ly/DVPBedford](https://bit.ly/DVPBedford)

## LATVIA JURIS KABAKOV (95-97)

While studying at Bedford School, Juris' main interests were politics, economics and computer science. As a keen sportsman, he also enjoyed playing rugby and running cross country.

After leaving Bedford, Juris moved to Moscow to study diplomacy at Moscow State University of Foreign Affairs. He then started working for an import and export company, mostly dealing in scrap metals and gas.

Juris now lives in Riga with his family and works in digital media and advertising.

“Even though my stay in England was not very long, I came to love British culture and people as well as the Bedford School community.”



Juris Kabakov

Dylan Harris



## LUXEMBOURG DYLAN HARRIS (66-76)

At Bedford, Dylan joined the computer Society, BabSoc, which set him up for his future career. He attended his father's wartime alma mater, now Greenwich University, where he read Computer Science. He is now a software contractor, specialising in C++ for Windows and Unix. One of his current clients is the American multinational Ivanti.

His passion for artistic pursuits started at Bedford and, since leaving, he has gone on to publish six poetry collections along with various photography books.

Dylan, who is now based in Luxembourg, left the UK in the early noughties and met his partner whilst living in Paris. Having only spoken English until the age of 50, he is now fluent in French, and can get by in Dutch, German and Luxembourgish – he is working on Mandarin! Dylan strongly believes Bedford's language education helped him immensely and gave him the confidence to settle in a country where fluency in four languages is the norm.

## UK, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

### MICHAEL KISH (51-58)

Whilst studying at Bedford School, Michael's main interests were in the Sciences, to support his desire to join the family baking business – fondly remembered by OBs for the supply of doughnuts and cream buns at morning break. Then followed a food science degree obtained at Cambridge.

After the takeover of the family business, a change in career direction took him into the world of electronics, which was followed by a distinguished career in Technical Sales and Marketing with Texas Instruments, Cliff Electronics and Crouzet Automatismes, handling Aerospace, Defence and Automotive projects.

Michael now lives in Ely with his wife and runs his own company doing what he loves, manufacturing products for the model/hobby market.



Michael Kish

# In Memoriam

William Anderson	1945-1954	Colin A M Macmillan	1945-1955
Anthony B G Barcock	1947-1953	Col R Clive Mantell MBE	1963-1967
Anthony B Batten	1938-1945	Tony R Marshall	1940-1948
Don J Bettle	1944-1951	Anthony (Tony) J S Michell	1955-1959
Alan N Binder OBE	1942-1949	Scott L Milway	1958-1966
Bryan J Buckby	1943-1946	Philip Minor	1952-1957
Jeremy J B Buckwell	1946-1952	Leo J Murdock MBE	1940-1945
John B D Burnett	1960-1965	Rev Alexander C F (Jack) Nicoll	1943-1952
Michael T Cartwright	1945-1947	David R Oakley	1939-1946
E Peter Collier	1940-1944	Harry G Parish	1937-1945
Lt Col Richard S Corkran OBE	1943-1951	Peter V Pledger	1940-1945
Harold Cottam	1946-1954	Sir Allan J Ramsay KBE CMG	1951-1955
H John Dove	1950-1957	Andrew L Rawlinson	1976-1986
Charles Dumbleton	1959-1962	John S Roberts	1942-1948
Dr Iain R Edgar	1961-1966	Richard G Simmonds	1950-1961
Robin R Flockton	1954-1959	Neil Simms	1947-1955
Richard J H Foulkes	1952-1957	Lionel C Stephens	1934-1944
James W Francis	1948-1958	Nigel R Stocks	1946-1952
James E Frost	1962-1967	John E Tanner	1945-1956
Maj James (Jim) N A Goldsworthy OBE	1945-1954	David M Thurlow	1945-1948
J Mike Graham-Smith	1938-1949	Christopher M F Tingle	1943-1950
Derek Gray	1936-1944	Robert B Waller	1950-1956
John W Harrison	1946-1954	William (Bill) D Whatley	1956-1965
Nicholas F Haynes	1959-1969	John B A Willis	1940-1948
Dr David R L Heald	1949-1958		
Peter R A Hopkisson	1975-1984	<b>STAFF</b>	
Peter J Jackson	1947-1956	David C Bach Staff	1972-2002
John R Keates	1938-1944	Elizabeth (Liz) Rawlinson Staff widow	1970-1987
Andrew J R Knibbs	1954-1962	Lucy Stokes Staff	1982-1987
Raoul Lempriere	1943-1946	Ian Wardley Staff	1988-2021
Ian R Letham	1951-1956		
John S Lewes	1973-1978		
David W Lilley	1948-1953		

## Lest We Forget



From L to R: Lt Col Iain Hutchinson, HM and Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89)

The school paid tribute to the sacrifice made by many Old Bedfordians, servicemen, servicewomen and civilians from around the world in the annual Remembrance Sunday Service, which took place in the chapel last November. The CCF Colour Party looked very smart, and the Chapel Choir sang a very moving rendition of 'Exhortation', from Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen".

Lt Col Andy Macfarlane RA (the School's Director of Finance and Operations and officer in the Army Reserve) reflected on the importance of Armistice Day and upon the life and death of **Sub-Lieutenant Arthur Tisdall (1900-1909)** - whose story was featured in the 2021 edition of the OB Review - asking us to consider our purpose and to what values we would wish to dedicate our lives.

Following the service, **Lt Col Iain Hutchison AGC (ETS) (84-90)**, laid the wreath outside the Memorial Hall, in memory of the Old Bedfordians who had made the ultimate sacrifice. The Club was also represented by OB Club President, **Professor Martin Snaith OBE (53-63)**, and Chairman, **Craig Mitchell (64-74)**. The end of the Wreath Laying Ceremony was poignantly marked by a lone piper playing 'Flower of the Forest'. It was amazing to see how still the boys were as the pipes faded into the distance, all trying to catch the last notes.



# Chapel Choir Record Remembrance Day Single



retired soldiers from the British Army) who are the heroes of yesterday. In the words of Jamie “The song aspires to global peace, a fairer world, living in harmony whilst always remembering those who gave their lives...”

The boys were recorded inside our School Chapel by record producer Robert Emery, who drove down from Manchester, taking time out of his current role as the Music Director of ‘The Bat out of Hell’ musical, which is currently touring the UK.

We are hugely proud of our Chapel Choir who made their chart debut with a beautiful Remembrance Day single (released around the world on 5 November), ‘White Doves of Peace’, written by singer/song writer **Jamie Lonsdale**. The single commemorates Remembrance Day and all the souls who fought so valiantly across the world, with an emphasis on the importance of peace and respect for one another.

To coincide with its release date, several local and national news desks featured the story, including BBC Look East, who came into school to film the boys for part of their news feature.

A full symphony orchestra and a military brass band were recorded at the world-famous Abbey Road Studios in London, with additional vocals by The Chelsea Pensioners – where **William Vann (95-00)** is Director of Music. The recording of the boys was blended in to make the final track.

The inspiration came from the juxtaposition of the young boys, who will be the heroes of tomorrow and the Chelsea Pensioners (all

*The BBC filming the Chapel Choir and Jamie Lonsdale in the School Chapel*



*Jamie Lonsdale with boys from the Chapel Choir*



‘White Doves of Peace’ is available to download on all major music platforms and you can watch the official video here



# WHO WHAT WHERE!

WE ARE ALWAYS  
THRILLED TO HEAR  
FROM OBS ACROSS  
THE GLOBE

A very happy 101<sup>st</sup> birthday to **Edwin Carvell (33-37)** seen here opening his card from the OB Club. Edwin visited the School in October 2021 and enjoyed retracing his footsteps to his old classrooms.



At the age of 89, **James Kelly (42-50)** has taken part in his 250<sup>th</sup> 5k Park Run. Tremendous!



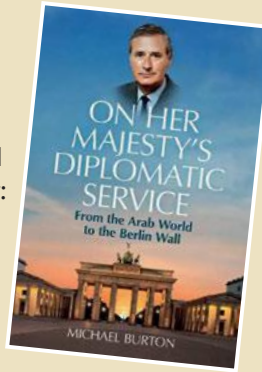
Our thanks to **Dennis Fitz-Patrick (45-54)** for the offer of theatrical costumes for the Drama Department and the Quarry Theatre from his disbanded concert party.



**Maj Ram Seeger MC (48-55)** was delighted to find that the groom at his great friend, Professor Richard Collin's daughter's wedding was OB Alex Schoenenberger!

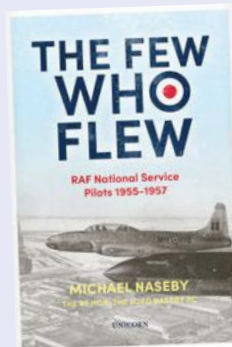
**Sir Michael Burton KCVO CMG (48-55)**

has just published his autobiography: "On Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service: From the Arab World to the Berlin Wall", the story of his life as a diplomat. His publisher is fellow OB **Iradj Bagherzade (56-61)**.



"The Few Who Flew" is an evocative memoir written by **The Rt. Hon the Lord Naseby (50-55)**, one of the last young men to train as an RAF pilot, gaining his 'Wings' in April 1957 just days

before the end of National Service. It reflects Michael's inherent love of all aspects of aviation. The last three chapters cover 'Churchill's Secret Airfield', RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire near Michael's home; his views on the future of aviation in a low carbon world, and then finishing with some provocative thoughts of a one-year 'Service to the Nation' for all young school leavers. £2 from the sale of this book will be given to the Royal Air Forces Association.



Equestrian **Richard Ramsay (53-58)**, has been breeding, producing and training show horses for over thirty years and has been an integral part of the SEIB Search for a Star series, furthering his support of amateur riders and allowing them the chance to compete at the final at the Horse of the Year Show. Richard was the Winner of the SEIB Insurance Brokers



Inspiration Award 2020 and has motivated thousands of competitors throughout his career with his incredible support, knowledge and wealth of experience. He is a regular judge at the HOYS.

It's always a nice surprise when an Old Bedfordian friend visits Miami! In this case it was the visit of **Hugh Lloyd-Williams (68-77)**, here with **Chris Backman (52-57)** and his wife Lesa before dinner on **Finn Longinotto's (1957-62)** terrace in Miami Beach. With very few OBs in the area, three constitutes a quorum! If any OB is coming through, perhaps as a starting point for a cruise or a trip to Latin America, try to spend a day or so in the vibrant Miami area do look Finn up for dinner and/or a local look-around!



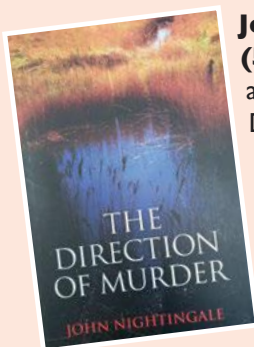
**John Beresford (59-64)** helps with Riding for the Disabled and has recently been loading lorries for Ukraine with donations, organised & sponsored by Bourton Vale Equine Clinic.



Freelance Third World Development economist **Geoff Rockliffe-King, (60-65)** has now visited close to 100 countries with his job. He had 3 expeditions during the pandemic – Malawi, Ghana and Zimbabwe where he found that the rural beneficiaries were 'fine as always'!



**Stuart Wilkinson (59-66)** was amused to read in a book about the development of Anti-submarine weaponry in WW2 the following: *'Among the Dept for Miscellaneous Weapons Development was Lt Col Stewart Blacker, by 1942 in his 50s but someone who had been interested in blowing things up since he was a schoolboy in Bedford [1903-05]. His earliest success was his attempt to emulate on a modest scale the mortars the Japanese army was using against Russian defences during the 1904-6 war. Assembling a crude barrel (a circular downpipe) and "borrowing" some black powder, he managed to send his projectile – a cricket ball – into the headmaster's greenhouse 300 yards away. Thus was his career born.'*



**John Nightingale (57-67)** has published another novel in the David Knight series. *The Direction of Murder* follows crime writer David when he is asked to be the screenwriter for one of his books – but after a week in a moated country house with the cast, can David find a way to keep fiction and reality apart?!

**Rob Kendrick (62-71)** has been invited to serve on the Council of the Royal Society of St George. Rob is involved with a number of projects including plans for the celebration of the 1100th anniversary in 2027 of the founding of England.

**Miles Young (63-72)** took time out of his busy schedule as Master of New College, Oxford, to join Head Master James Hodgson and Hugh Maltby for lunch in Bedford.

**William Jones (75-77)**, son of former Head Master **CIM Jones (Staff 75-86)**, visited the school and kindly donated several framed pictures of the school that had been given to him during his time at Bedford.



After a career in town planning, urban regeneration and project/programme management, **Ian Charie (71-78)** has set up his own consulting company, currently working for Norwich City Council and advising the Urban Planning & Development Authority in Bahrain about new settlement proposals in the Kingdom.

Series Producer and Director **Richard Downes (77-82)** has been shortlisted for the Best Documentary at the Broadcast Digital Awards 2021 for his series, *Art of Persia*, for BBC 4. In this three-part series, journalist Samira Ahmed journeys to places rarely seen by Western audiences. Richard has over 25 years' experience in creating compelling and powerful, yet accessible television. His films span several genres including Specialist Factual, History, Crime, Science, Religion, Travel, Music, Art and Culture. He has also just completed his first novel during the Covid pandemic.



to 3 charities, Young Minds, 2 Wish upon a Star and Beat. The poems reflect the hardship, the suffering, the community spirit, the pulling together and the wonderful comradery within their hospital and community in the South Wales Valleys. The book is available through the Amazon Book Store.



**Dermot Stephens (73-82)** took part in the London Marathon running for Cancer Research UK, and finished in 3:26 – which meant he got a qualifying time for the Boston Marathon! Better get training Dermot!



**Mark Davies (78-83)** made a whistle stop visit to Bedford meeting up with fellow oarsman for the obligatory curry.



I-r, David Jones (73-83), Hugh Maltby (73-83), Mark and Chris Brodie (72-83)

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist **Sean Watermeyer (80-82)** and colleague Dr Helen Lane have written and published *"Reflections through the Waves, Poems of the Pandemic"*, published by SABGE Publishing Ltd, with all royalties going

**Prof Sina Adl (78-83)** of the University of Saskatchewan is the Editor in Chief of *Rhizosphere*, a multidisciplinary journal that publishes research on the interactions between

Miles at 2nd left



plant roots, soil organisms, nutrients, and water which aims to advance the frontier of our understanding of plant-soil interactions.

**Mike Abington (75-84)** was delighted to bump into 2 of his old teachers at a formal cricket dinner. **David Jarrett (Staff 76-97)** and **Pat Briggs (Staff 64-87)**. Lots of good, non-academic reminiscing!



**Martin Bayfield (80-85)** has starred in BBC 5 Live's Fighting Talk, a hilarious look at the world of sport as guests compete for punditry points whilst discussing the world of sport with host Colin Murray.

**Nigel Hardwick (80-85)** was very proud to receive the National Medal for 15 years' service with the New South Wales Ambulance Service.



**Daniel Walker (81-85)** finally took his long-awaited holiday to Bali and completed his PADI qualifications.



**Al Murray (77-86)** took part in BBC's Children in Need in November 2021 when he made a cameo appearance on Owain Wyn Evans' 24-hour drumming challenge. Al is a semi-professional drummer and played drums for the rock covers band T-34 and was the host of the 2019 Progressive Music Awards for Prog magazine.

Long-serving councillor and local farmer **Tom Wootton (78-87)** has been selected by the Bedford Borough Conservative Group as their candidate in the 2023 mayoral elections.

**Phillip Hine (77-88)** is to be the next Chairman of the Bentley Owners Club. Philip owns a 3 ltr Bentley which spends its time between Vancouver Island and the UK.



**Masterchef Dhruv Baker (89-94)** was amazed to find a bottle of the 1991 Bedford School Centenary wine in his wine cellar! He's pretty sure it was not meant for laying down so he may give drinking it a miss!

Well-known Peterborough charity boss **Zillur Hussain (92-95)**, CEO of the Zi Foundation, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his services to his local community during the Covid-19 pandemic. In less than three months, he delivered 13,000 free meals across Peterborough. Zillur has also overseen

the building of three schools in Bangladesh, and one in Nepal, each catering for around 300 pupils.

**Ben Knowles's (96-01)** Pedal Me Fleet provided sustainable transport between London Stations for delegates on their way to COP26 in Glasgow.



Creative Director and Writer for The Indie Stone, **Will Porter (99-01)** released the new version of *Project Zomboid* in mid-December and it has been in the Steam Top Ten ever since. *Project Zomboid* is an open world isometric survival horror video game set in a post-apocalyptic, zombie-infested world where the player is challenged to survive for as long as possible!



**David Turney (96-03)** is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Avery Law (a regulated boutique law firm). He was awarded Best Fundraising Lawyer at the Legal Awards 2021 and shortlisted for the Rising Star Innovation Award at the Legal Innovation Awards 2020.

**Irfan Latif (staff 08-03)**, Principal of DLD College, London was asked to submit an Honoree Application for Outstanding Leadership by the Assessment Committee of the Education 2.0 Conference, in recognition of his trailblazing work in education. Congratulations Irfan!

Barclays Investment banker and yachtsman **Charles Linard (90-04)** has been having some success in his sailing. He took part in the 2021

Fastnet Race coming 50<sup>th</sup> out of the 260 that started the race, sailing the J/105 yacht 'Bigfoot'.



**Ben Beavan (99-04)** and **Richard Young (99-04)** visited the School in March. Ben is Senior Global Director Strategic Development at Getty Images based in Spain

and had returned to the UK for the 100 Days Celebration of Richard's son, Stirling. Head of Property at glh Hotels, Richard married actress Gana Bayarsaikhan in March 2022.

Congratulations to **Jamie and Kayla Worboys (98-05)** on the birth of their son Charlie, in June 2021, a brother for Robbie.



It was good to see **Simon Miller (97-06)**, at the Remembrance Day Parade in Bedford. Simon has been promoted to Staff Sergeant and is the father of Penelope, born in August 2021.



**Alex Parsons-Mills (97-07)** married Barbara De Beukelaer in July 2019. The couple met whilst at Leeds University and after many years of long-distance relationship they finally got married in France. Alex is an Accountant working in the Investment Management industry and Barbara works in Marketing.



**Nick Martin (98-07)** completed an Advanced Postgraduate degree at the Rhythmical Music Conservatory on Copenhave in 2021. Composer/singer and teacher Nick has made his home in Copenhagen, where he had established the group 'Blue Luminaire', which comprises musicians and singers from folk, jazz and classical traditions. The ensemble 'Blue Luminaire' is finishing a record which will be released in 2022.

Congratulations to **Rhys & Hannah Ford (98-07)** on the birth of their son, Freddie on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021, brother to Ophelia.



**Kaspar Ochsenfeld (07-09)** is engaged to Margarita von Leeb and they are getting married in June in Frohnleiten, Austria. The couple met in Berlin four years ago when they were working there, Kaspar as a Business Process Consultant and Margarita as a Digital Strategy Consultant.

Actor and Stunt performer **Ed Linard (04-09)** starred in 'HOST'. The film won Fangoria's Golden Chainsaw Award for 'Best Streaming Premiere' and was nominated for multiple BIFA awards. It was also named as Variety's 'Best Horror Movies of 2020'. Ed is also known for his Work in 'Mary Queen of Scots', 'Vikings' and 'Never Back Down: Revolt'.



P1 classmates **Brian Bircham (98-09)** and **Will Knight (98-09)** went backpacking across southern Spain. The trip was full of local culture: tapas fuelled evenings, day long hikes and exploring castles. Downtime was split between adventuring and fundraising for a local monastery roof.





Head of Business Development, Insurance, UK & Ireland at Schroders, **Alex Schoenenberger (00-09)** married financial analyst, Sophie Collin, in October 2021 in Putney. The couple met at a post Durham university mixed lacrosse match in London.



is a teacher at the Geneva English School and Ellen works in Marketing/ Communications for a Swiss private bank, Lombard Odier. **Jack Thomas (99-09)** was best man.

We hope you spotted **Theo Green (01-10)** in the recent McDonald's adverts on TV? Actor Theo's (stage name Theo St Clair) most recent work includes episodes of *Holby City* and *Foundation*.



**Will Wilkinson (04-09)** and Tin Tande got married during lockdown in 2020 but the celebrations continued after restrictions lifted with the 'reception' taking place in December 2021! Head of Professional Sales at Alpha FMC, Will, and Institutional Sales Trader at Blackrock, Tin, are expecting their first child in July.



**Callum MacFarlane (03-10)** visited the School in March from his home in New Zealand where he is Business Development manager for real estate investment firm, Myland Partners.

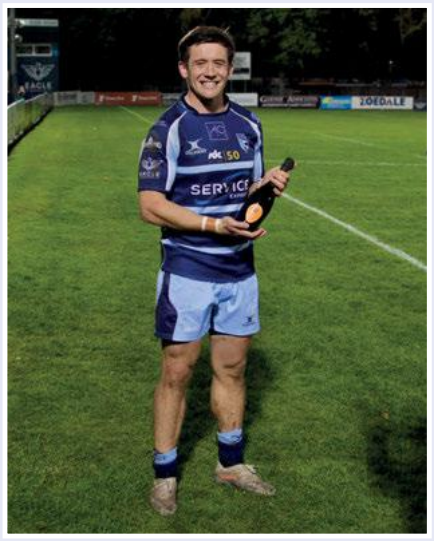


**Doug Worboys (98-09)** managed to collect together many of his old classmates after lock-down to help celebrate his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in style in France. OBs who could be there included: l-r **Ryan Hudson (00-09), Dan Algar (98-09), Jamie Worboys (98-05), Kishan Patel (98-09), Harry Beale (98-09), Will Knight (98-09), Dan Jackson (03-09) Bhavesh Panchal (98-09), Sam Morel (99-07), Tom Whitehouse (98-09), Elliot Cross (07-09), Will Rosser (98-09), Doug and Will Wilkinson (04-09).**

**Elliot Cross (07-09)** and his partner Chloe were delighted with the safe arrival of their daughter, Daphne, on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021, sister to Josephine.



After a whirlwind romance **Tom Rogers (99-09)** married Ellen Birch at Harrow School in June, before moving out to Switzerland where Tom



It was great to see **Jamie Elliott (03-10)** voted Man of the Match by Bedford Blues in November in their match against Ealing Trailfinders.



**Jos Herbert (11-13)** married Ellie Wilkinson in July 2021 at St Ebbes Church in Oxford. The couple met at a New Year's Eve party in 2019. Both are teachers in Cambridge, Jos teaches Geography, is the 1<sup>st</sup> XV coach and Assistant Housemaster at The Leys School, whilst Ellie teaches pre-prep at Sancton Wood School.

Following on from his film debut in *The Courier* with Benedict Cumberbatch, actor **Gary Berezin (01-13)** (aka Harry Carr) is working on his next film, *Coyote*, set in a near future dystopian world centred on teleportation and its misuse with immigration.

**2Lt Jack Rice (02-13)** passed out from Sandhurst in December and will be joining The Royal Anglian Regiment.



Civil Engineer **Bobby Martin (05-14)** has become engaged to trainee Barrister Kimberley Clifton (BHS/BGS 03-14). The couple met through the



School's CCF, where they were both head of section and plan to marry in the chapel at Bedford School in the Summer of 2023.

A group of 2014 leavers took the opportunity when in Berlin to sample the local beers!



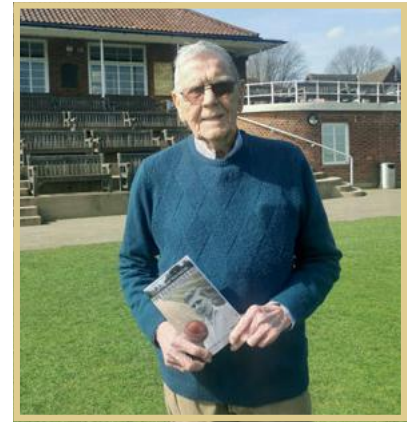
*l-r* Bob Barfoot (06-14), Archie Rush (09-14), Zac Carter (06-14), Zakk Scorer (12-14), friend, Seb Clements (03-14), Harry Churchill-Coleman (10-14)

After 2 years working at Westminster in the office of Nickie Allen, MP, **Harry Cavill (03-14)** has joined the South East England Councils as the new Policy Manager.

Congratulations to Marketing and Sales Executive, **Ben Clarke (05-15)**, who has passed P Company 4 PARA. 4 PARA is a Territorial unit staffed by civilians and act as reserves for 2 and 3 PARA, augmenting them at Company level (exercises) and on an individual level (operations).



Bedford cricketing legend, **Peter Oakley (staff 79-16)** has published a book telling the story of his wonderful, fulfilling life, underpinned by his infinite love for the game. *'It's not what you know...*



**PETER OAKLEY** 'Veteran Off-Spinner' is a series of anecdotal stories through the decades.



Tax Associate with Grant Thornton, **Jonathan Konstantidis (05-16)** took great delight in showing his American Uncle round the School in November. He was amazed that Bedford is so different from schools in the US – in a good way!

**Robert (71-81)** and **Rachael Johnson (Staff 05-16)**, were delighted to attend the passing out from RAF Cranwell of their son,



**Adam (05-16)** with the rank of Pilot Officer. Adam will be holding at another base for nine months completing general duties, before training to be an Air Traffic Controller.

Durham Music graduate **Peter Wood (11-16)** has taken on the role of Assistant Director of Music at Wellingborough School, having previously been the Musician in Residence and in charge of VMT Music Production.

Congratulations to Freelance Industrial Designer & 3D Visualiser, **Alex Williams (11-16)** who graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class honours in Product Design.



**Charles Tavengwa (08-19)** attended a reception at 10 Downing Street as a nominee of the Alexander Paul Award 2021, awarded by The Alexander Paul Foundation. The Foundation partnered with 10000BlackInterns to celebrate the outstanding achievement of interns from the cohort of 2021. Charles is interning at Allianz Global Investors whilst he is completing a BSc at Henley Business School.

Durham University philosophy undergraduate **Rahul Sheemar's (12-19)** squash team won the college



championship for his college, Van Mildert. Rahul will be starting as a graduate assistant at Tonbridge School in the RE/Philosophy department and coaching some sports.

2<sup>nd</sup> year Economics student at Glasgow University, **Abid Zaman, (12-19)**, has been elected as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Glasgow Anniesland, for a term of 2 years. Congratulations Abid.

**Josh Lyon's (10-20)** crew at Reading University Boat Club had an emphatic win in the Open Academic Quad and 12th overall at the Fours Head over the Championship course on the River Thames in November.



**Dan Smith (09-20)** is enjoying his Liberal Arts and Science degree at Birmingham as it means he gets to play lots of hockey, seen here playing for the Uni 1<sup>st</sup> Team v Loughborough.

**Louis Case (09-20)** has passed out at HMS Sultan, Gosport, the home of



Defence School of Marine Engineering, marking the formal end of his engineering technician course. Louis will now join either the submarine service or the general fleet.

York University Theatre Arts student **George Robertson (15-20)** was thrilled to see his name on the Drama Society Presidents Board in the Quarry Theatre when he visited in February.



**Dave Chan (16-21)** model and personal trainer from HK, has been spotted in the recent preview of the Vogue Runway show modelling the Fall 2022 JW Anderson Menswear collection. The live show was postponed in January due to Covid and is due to be held in Milan in June.



**Freddie Peacock (10-21)** appeared on the BBC London news in April as an exhibitor in a Charity Art show. Freddie is a driving force behind youthful creativity, his work ranges from graphic to product design, as well as fine art.



### ULTRAHUMAN!

You can catch the interview of **Boris Batine (98-00)** on the UltraHuman podcasts, which investigates the mindset and spirit behind the people who push themselves to their limits and beyond. He went from a career in Investment Banking to starting his own company and is now the CEO of a financial organization with offices in 4 countries. He has a PhD in economics, won the Ghent Regatta with a college rowing crew, raced the MDS run, the Coast to Coast race in NZ, numerous running, and swimming marathons, and he's a competitive wakeboarder! He's completed the Race across America, summited Mont Blanc, competed in an Ironman, Comrades Ultramarathon, and was part of the first Russian team in the Yukon River quest.



### JUNGLE TO JUNGLE

Students **Sam Garrett (12-21)** and **Nat Otley (11-21)** have been travelling through Central America since January. They started in Mexico City, surfed on the Pacific Coast, travelled through the jungles and mountains of San Cristobal De Las Casas and Palenque, visiting some amazing Mayan ruins before heading for Guatemala, the Volcano Acatenango and Semuc Champey. Next came El Savadore, and Nicaragua, where the highlights included the remote island of Ometepe, staying on a traditional Coffee Finca in the foothills, and the charming city of Granada. Next stop will be Colombia and a trek through the rainforest to 'The Lost City'



### 'TRACKING' ACROSS EUROPE

**Leo Policella-Kerkentzes (14-21)** and **Antonio Reale (11-21)** have been interrailing across Europe during their gap year. From Paris to Vienna, Copenhagen to Rome, they made the most of the lifting of restrictions to explore 12 countries across the continent! The boys appreciated the unique character of each country with the differing cuisine, architecture, history, and customs. Leo has also been working in Business Development for a City firm (Board International) whilst Antonio has done an Italian and History of Art course in Florence before they both go to university in September.



# SPORTSMEN IN BRIEF

**Andy Barnes (aka 'Turbo') (76-83)** is to Captain the England Rifle Team on their tour to Bloemfontein in South Africa, and Kenya in March 2023. Sadly the 2022 tour had to be postponed due to the possibility of travel restrictions still being in place, but it will be Andy's first return to SA since he was part of the GB team in 1993. He has previously toured with GB and England teams to Africa, Canada and the West Indies.



l-r Andy with Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89)

**Alex Gitlin (90-96)** has been selected to play for the South Africa Master's Team (40 to 45 years) and is due to compete in the Hockey World Cup in Nottingham in August 2022.



'MAD Lions' head coach **Jamie "Mac" MacCormack (07-12)** took his team to Iceland for The *League of Legends* World Championships hosted by Riot Games, where they were the last European team in the competition, coming 5<sup>th</sup> overall.



It was good to see **George Furbank (13-15)** starting at full-back for England's final round Six Nations meeting with France in March. George plays for Northampton Saints and it was great to see him sporting the boots designed especially for him for the Movember campaign by a group of 6<sup>th</sup> form artists and entrepreneurs. The boots were obviously lucky for George in his match against the Bristol Bears in November, as he scored a try in them!

©Claire Jones - RedHatPhoto.com





Congratulations to **Charlie Axford (13-19)** on his England hockey U21 debut in the series against Scotland! Scoring 3 goals across the series is not a bad start to a budding international career!

**Alex Walker (10-19)** has enjoyed a wonderful season in the National Formula Ford Championship, ending 2021 as statistically the best driver and with eight race wins to boot! Alex has also been selected by Aston Martin, BMW, McLaren and Porsche for evaluation in their young driver programmes, driving at the Grand Prix tracks at both Silverstone and Barcelona. The British Racing Drivers Club have recognised his ability and potential by naming him one of their 'rising stars'. He is now racing in Britain's new Formula 4 series GB4 with the Elite Motorsport team and recently won GB4's second ever race on Snetterton's 300 layout.



Ethan Vernon (2nd from left) at recent 'World Cup Track Cycling' Glasgow Team Pursuit for GB

Great news for Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl team member, **Ethan Vernon (07-18)** who, having competed at last year's Olympics and UCI World Championships (where he came 7th in the Under 23-time trial), won a bunch sprint in Vilanova i La Geltrú to take Stage Five of the Volta a Catalunya, part of the WorldTour stage races. It was the 21-year-old's first WorldTour victory. While focussing on road racing this season, Ethan is hoping to take part in the World Track Championships which take place in Saint Quentin, France from 12th- 16th October.



**Fraser Dingwall (13-17)** captained Northampton Saints in January, leading the team to a 29-13 victory over Worcester Warriors. This marked Fraser's first time at the helm on what was his 50th appearance in the Gallagher Premiership. It was great to see both George and Fraser back at the School in May leading a rugby training session.

# Fives at Bedford School and the RFA



The RFA awarded Peter this bronze replica of a fives glove as a 3 times winner of National Schools Fives Championships - the record which still stands today!

A rainy day in September 1957, aged 13, a long way from the Isle of Wight, saw me arriving at Burnaby House with a label attached "keen on sport". Not long after, I am on a strange court, four bare walls, no racquet like squash or tennis, just gloves and a hard ball. My coaches and mentors were Housemaster, Owen Bevan, who scurried round the court getting everything back and his son, Simon, whose elegance, style and effortless ease told me what a beautiful sport this was. The challenge of no racquet, just me versus the other guy, was quite humbling. As was my way, at 4 o'clock after school, I booked a court and practised until I had mastered all that I had been taught. At 14, I joined the 1st IV and at 15 had the good fortune to win the National Schools. Two years later, the Rugby Fives Association (RFA), which I had never heard of, handed me a bronze replica of a Fives Glove (see photo) and told me that

I had broken a record of three wins in a row. Today, I look at the bronze, here in my office, trying to recall how or indeed why. It wasn't until many years later, did I realise that it was my school that gave me the time, the courts, the equipment, the mentors and the coaches. Back then, Fives was a significant sport, with around 80 players around the school, and standards were high. This was the background that gave birth to "golden time" when the school dominated the National Championships for most of the 60s and 70s.



Recent National Fives Championship which took place at the Cambridge University courts



(l-r) Jerry Cooper (Master in charge of fives at Bedford, 1963-1993), Chris Pattison (64-74), Peter Mellor, Tony Dawes (37-49) and Julian Dalzell (55-67)

Around 10 years ago, Michael Croker, art master extraordinaire, then Master i/c Fives felt that the sport needed a boost. He proposed two cups, one in the name of Tony Dawes, a top player in his time about 25 years before me, for the best player in the school and another cup, in my name, for the best junior fives player, which I was very proud to support, knowing what "young" was.

I try and go back to the school each year, now to see Henry Vann, the current Mi/c, to taste the culinary delight of the canteen and give a talk to the boys, telling them about practise, key shots and where to hit the ball. I thoroughly enjoy this opportunity, especially now that the Prep School has started to play, an inspirational move, knowing that from the young will spring the best future for this special and unique game.

A year or so ago, the RFA asked if I would be able to lend a hand. Again, I readily accepted, hoping that my financial experience could be usefully applied. I shared some serious thoughts about strategy, communications, market positioning, building new courts, merchandising and sponsorship. What is high on their agenda is Funds to support what is! However, I have to say, despite a few bumpy passages, much change is at hand in the RFA. Most importantly, there is a clear understanding that Fives is a unique sport, with special values and qualities, available all the year round, easy to play, resource-light, for the young a "gateway" sport, either in its own right or as a way on to other sports. A recent reward for the RFA was the commissioning of 6 courts by a London Secondary School, a first in the state sector. For sure the RFA needs help, particularly financial help which will come from an expansion of its membership, charitable donations and from the wider community of philanthropists and sponsors, willing to support youth education in all its constituent parts.

Floreat Quinque Iterum  
**Peter Mellor (57-62)**

## PHOENIX RULES THE OUSE

A great moment for the school community was watching the Phoenix Boat Club quite literally rise from the ashes when they were heralded the fastest crew at the Bedford Regatta. Phoenix is a group of Old Bedfordians who recently re-established themselves and had a great run beating Oriel College, Oxford – a crew which contained a member of the winning Oxford boat race crew who was also an Olympian.

If you are interested in joining Phoenix and being part of the journey, please contact **George Christian (08-18) [georgechristian0@gmail.com](mailto:georgechristian0@gmail.com)**

Read full report:



Phoenix crossing the finish line



## GOLF UPDATE



The OB Golf Society (OBGS) are back in 'full swing' with both the Halford Hewitt and the annual Spring Meeting taking place in April. At this year's Halford Hewitt tournament we had a disappointing final-hole loss to Tonbridge in the second round, who then got all the way to the final where they narrowly lost to defending champions, Loreto. The Spring Meeting then followed in April with some great golf played! Thank you to all those who took part - a fantastic

time was had by all. If you are interested in joining the OBGS, please contact club Secretary, **Tom Langley-Poole (96-06) [tom.langley-poole@allianz-trade.com](mailto:tom.langley-poole@allianz-trade.com)**

Read full reports:



## OB SPORTS WEEKEND 2022

The return of our annual OB Club Sports Weekend, which took place over 19th – 20th March, was a great success. Around ninety OBs returned to the school over the weekend of sporting activities which included Squash, Rifle Shooting, Fives, Rowing, Football and Hockey. As always, the fixtures were great fun, with both OBs and boys showing a great level of sportsmanship. Many thanks to all those who participated and helped make it a wonderful weekend.



Read full reports:





### EAGLE CONNECT MENTORING SUCCESS

Eagle Connect is a great tool to help match you with an OB Mentor in an industry which sparks your interest. If you would like to find out more about this initiative, please visit [eagleconnect.uk](http://eagleconnect.uk)

**Felix Mallalieu (08-19)** shares how the mentoring programme worked for him to help him secure his work experience placement:

“As part of my degree at Loughborough University, we have a placement in industry year. Having searched unsuccessfully on the sites promoted by the University to help find suitable placements I decided to see if I could network through Eagle Connect. There were several people offering mentoring in the form of internships. I contacted a few and, after some brief exchanges, I was invited

for interview by **Peter Collins (71-78)**, MD at UK Exchangers. I was offered a placement within the week and began work shortly thereafter.

Over the past year I have worked in all areas of the company which has given me a detailed insight into how a successful engineering company operates, something pertinent and valuable to my Engineering Management degree. As I am nearing the end of my year now, I am taking this chance to reflect on what an incredible opportunity this placement has been, and how grateful I am for it.





I have learnt so much – all thanks to the OB Network and Eagle Connect.”



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