

# OB

## REVIEW

2023



OLD BEDFORDIANS CLUB

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L-R Bev, Vin, Hugh, Gina, Clare and Sarah



# A MONUMENTAL YEAR!

**T**he recent retirement of **Sir Alistair Cook (98-03)** from professional cricket, highlights a man, who without doubt is a shining example of true sportsmanship, great leadership, fortitude, conviction and a role model for us all - a true Bedfordian! The Club is proud of having him as a member and we wish him well for the next chapter in his life.

In a world of increasing turmoil and conflict, it is comforting to see so many members of the OB community playing their part, both locally and further afield, particularly in the armed forces. **Lt-Col James Shaw (90-98)** in his capacity as Brigade Major of the Grenadier Guards was at the very centre of events involving the Royal Family, including the King's Coronation in May. James and his colleagues' meticulous planning ensured that the events passed off flawlessly in the eyes of the world.

In this year's publication, we focus on OBs who are helping to tackle climate change and sustainability. Each OB has his own story to tell, whether that's helping governments, creating tools to highlight the growing need for change, academics developing system level research, or ensuring that everyone can contribute to the changes required by creating products and services to further climate change progress. If you are

involved in this field, we would love to hear from you for further publications.

As part of our "Connecting Beyond Bedford" initiative, which we will be launching early next year, we'll be focussing on helping our younger OBs, particularly as they take their first steps on the career ladder.

Closer to home, the Estate Masterplan unveiled by the Head Master last November will see the largest development on the site since we moved to the current estate in 1891. The flagship will be a new, state-of-the-art academic building situated in Burnaby Road, which will be home to subjects and careers of the future - maths, computer science, economics, and business studies. The building will also house our new entrepreneur hub - as I write, we are holding our first house entrepreneur competition, which I am hoping will be won by Ashburnham like the house singing competition!

These are indeed exciting times for the school, and I would like to thank everyone involved in the OB community for their help and support in whatever capacity that takes. ■

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

Front cover image: Craig Mitchell (64-74) and George Mitchell (99-04) on the Annapurna Circuit at Thorong-La Pass

# OB CLUB

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Richard Northern

Just before taking up this role, as President of the OB Club, I was fortunate to be able to listen to an inspiring Speech Day address by my former colleague in the Diplomatic Service, **Hugh Elliott (73 – 83)**. It struck me then that much of the advice which Hugh gave to school leavers about preparing for life in a changing world could apply to most of us, including the OB Club.

The Club does a remarkable job as a source of advice and support for young OBs in the years after they leave Bedford, and as a forum for networking, socialising, and organising sporting events after that. It provides a valuable platform for OBs to stay connected with each other and with the school throughout their lives. The programme of activities we have planned for the coming year is already impressive. Nonetheless, we need to ensure that what we offer continues to match the needs and aspirations of OBs throughout the world. As I meet more of the school community (staff and parents as well as OBs) over the coming year, I shall be keen to hear how you think the Club's role might develop - and how you might be able to help us make that happen.

I was also reassured at Speech Day, as a (classicist and) linguist, to note the strength of language teaching at the school. The school rightly gives importance to development of science, technology, engineering, maths, and business studies as core subjects for careers in the modern economy. But, as someone who has found foreign languages a valuable career skill, I do find the decline in language teaching and language studies in some schools and universities disappointing.

On a positive note, I wish all readers a happy and prosperous year to come and look forward to meeting you in 2024.

**Richard Northern (63-72)**

**President, Old Bedfordians Club**

## INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT

**Could you share a little about your journey since school, what lessons you have learned, and what motivated you to take on this presidency of the OB Club?**

After studying Classics at Cambridge, I joined the Diplomatic Service, and spent 35 years working in the Middle East, Italy and North America, as well as in London. My last diplomatic post was as Ambassador to Libya before and during the Arab Spring. I then took early retirement from the Civil Service and became a consultant for ten years, helping companies to pursue business opportunities in the Middle East and Africa. Since retiring two years ago, I have focussed on voluntary activities (and tennis). For example, I have run the British-Italian Society, a cultural charity, as Chairman since 2015. So, I have experience of leadership and governance in senior management roles across the public, private and voluntary sectors. I now concentrate on areas where I have a strong personal interest and where I think I can make a worthwhile contribution to help others. Education, and helping the next generation fulfil their potential, is one of those areas. So, I jumped at the chance to help the OB Club achieve its objectives in this area.

**Can you tell us what you most enjoyed about your time here at the school or any particular memories?**

I am now based in Southwest London and have spent many years overseas; but Bedford remains my home – or one of my homes! I grew up in North Bedfordshire, and my roots – and many of my family – are still here. Like many OBs, I lost touch with the school for years after leaving, and only returned more recently. The school certainly gave me a good all-round education and start in life; and some of my closest friends now are friends that I made at school. But I left Bedford with mixed feelings. In the 1960s and early 70s the school ethos felt quite old-fashioned, and I found some aspects of school life harsh and restrictive. Quite a contrast to life for boys at Bedford today. The school is a much kinder and more forward-looking institution now, with a broader curriculum, hugely improved facilities, and a healthy emphasis on encouraging wider personal development, responsibility to the community and preparation for life after school.

I have always enjoyed meeting Old Bedfordians, wherever I have encountered them. We OBs do, I think, have something in common beyond our shared alma mater that I really value. That quality, a decency or sense of values which is difficult to define, is a tribute to the school and to life at Bedford.

**What are your primary goals or initiatives for the club in the upcoming year?**

I will be presiding over a club that already functions well. I am lucky to follow in the footsteps of several inspirational Presidents, who have left the Club in great shape. In addition, the Chairman, the Executive Committee and the Director and his team, who all handle day to day administration of the Club, do an excellent job. We also have very clear Mission and Vision statements, which set out our purpose and priorities. They will be my guide.

Our programme of social, sporting, networking and cultural events and activities is already impressive. Nonetheless, we face challenges. One of my priorities will be to help

◀ ensure that the Club's finances are sustainable in the face of rising costs. We need to convince more members to support us as subscribing members – for a mere £25 a year – and to persuade them to become actively involved in the Club. To achieve that, of course, we must ensure that the Club continues to offer what members want from it. These challenges will be top of my agenda.

### **How do you envision strengthening the bond between the OBs and the school during your tenure as president?**

Building a close bond between our members and the school remains one of the Club's key objectives, indeed part of its core Mission. I strongly support that. OBs provide vital support to the school, including as parents, governors and donors; and the OB club in turn relies heavily on generous support from the school and the Head Master. I am very glad that the OB Club office is now located in the main school building. That helps us to remain in close step. The school itself is currently embarking on an exciting and ambitious development programme in a challenging economic climate. OBs, and the Club itself, will have an important role to play in helping to make the Burnaby Road vision a reality.

### **Mentorship and career support for our OBs is a vital aspect of the club. How do you intend to facilitate networking and professional development opportunities for our members?**

This is a high priority in our current Strategic Plan. We want to deliver the sort of advice and support that will help OBs throughout their lives, but particularly in the early years after leaving school. We currently do this mainly through our software platform Eagle Connect, where many members have

been able to connect with OBs who can offer them career advice or support, including mentoring. Our annual Careers Convention – which was bigger than ever this year – offers boys at the school (and pupils at other schools in Bedford) an opportunity to hear about potential careers and put questions to OBs in a wide range of sectors. Many OBs also kindly give their time to come back to the school and share their knowledge and experience with the students. Others take part in our regular London Business Networking events. All these initiatives work, but we are looking at ways in which we can improve or build on them for the future. There may well, for example, be scope for getting more OBs back to the school to speak or run workshops for students.

### **As our new President, what message would you like to convey about the future of the OB club?**

The club is active and wants to engage with its members. I certainly plan to take every opportunity to meet as many of you as I can at our events over the next year or two. I am keen to hear your views on what we should be doing and on how you can contribute to helping make that happen. There is undoubtedly more that the Club could be doing; but our resources are limited. We welcome ideas and suggestions, but we also need your help (particularly time and organising skills) to make worthwhile new initiatives happen.

The Club is a forum for OBs of all ages and backgrounds (and their families) to reconnect with the school, to offer help and support to other OBs in their lives and careers and to pursue sporting, cultural or other interests. But it also provides an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, and to make new friends, in relaxed and enjoyable settings.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Craig Mitchell

This will be my last message to you as Chairman of the Old Bedfordians Club as I will be handing over the reins to my successor in July next year. I have always tried to keep the guiding principles of the OB Club at the forefront of my endeavours over the past six years. These key aims have remained virtually unchanged since the Club's inception in 1891, i.e. to foster and maintain the relationship between the alumni of Bedford School and to assist and support members in their

careers and lives; and to maintain the bond between the school and its alumni to assist in the achievement of the school's stated aims and objectives. I hope that I have been able to go some way towards fulfilling these goals.

I have certainly been extremely fortunate in having an excellent working relationship with the Director, Hugh Maltby, the previous President Michael Snaith, current President Richard Northern and the Head Master James Hodgson, without which the Club would not have achieved as much and prospered as well as it has. I should also like to thank all those who have served on the Club's Executive Committee, as well as all those members of staff in the OB Club offices, who work tirelessly every day, but especially so during lockdown, to deliver such a high quality of service.

Looking forward, the Club has good cause to feel optimistic and, although some tough challenges still remain, I am confident that it will continue to engage with its global membership to ensure a constructive response to their changing needs and interests, particularly those of younger OBs. However, I think that we can all agree that there is something incredibly special and enduring about the Old Bedfordians Club.

I will sign off by hoping you all have a merry Christmas and I wish you all the very best in your personal and professional futures.

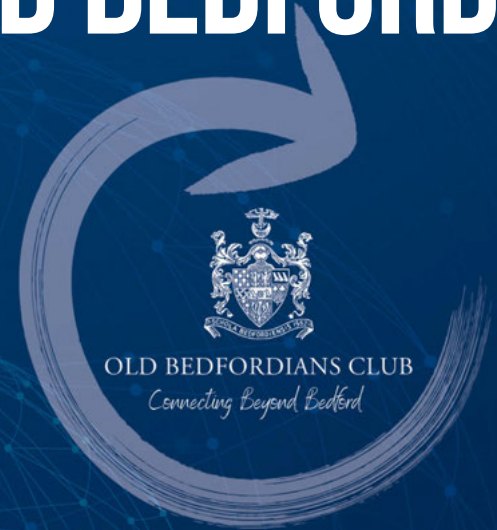
**Craig Mitchell (64-74)**  
**Chairman, Old Bedfordians Club**

# CONNECTING BEYOND BEDFORD

Launching in January 2024, the OB Club is creating 'Connecting Beyond Bedford' a new careers and mentoring programme. Incorporating a range of talks, mentoring opportunities, careers advice, networking, and social events. The aim of this new initiative is to help our younger OBs in a more focused and supportive way gain experience or prepare for the careers they want.

Some of our existing networking events cater to this need for our OBs already, however being able to provide a hands-on industry tested mentor or speaker will benefit many in a more direct way.

If you would like to be involved, either as a mentor, to give a talk or a series of instructive sessions, to take part and learn or to simply help, please get in touch with us here at the OB Club Office [obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:obclub@bedfordschool.org.uk)



## THIS YEARS NETWORKING EVENTS

### 23RD NOVEMBER 2022 BEDFORD NETWORKING FORUM

Around fifty Old Bedfordians, current and past parents joined us at The Burrow, the Blues' newest hospitality venue, where guests also had the opportunity to catch the players in training ahead of their upcoming home fixture against Coventry. **Jamie Elliot (03-10)** a current member of the Blues squad, entertained guests with a behind the scenes look at the life of a semi-professional sportsman.

### 5TH JANUARY 2023 YOUNG OB FESTIVE DRINKS

Fifty-five 2017-22 school leavers joined the President of the Club, **Professor Martin Snaith (53-63)** for a pre-Christmas get-together at Bedford Rowing Club. Amongst others, it was good to see members of both the Phoenix Rugby 7's and Phoenix Boat Club attending, friendships were rekindled and stories about university experiences and the world of work were exchanged.

### 22ND JUNE 2023 OB LONDON NETWORKING

The event was kindly hosted by **Joe Sylvester (87-98)** at his offices at LGT. Forty-five OBs from many different industrial sectors including insurance, banking, technology, and accounting enjoyed catching up in a vibrant environment, making new connections and reacquainting old friendships. Joe welcomed everyone to LGT and spoke about the opportunity, not only to meet up with friends, but also to make new acquaintances and perhaps give the younger OBs some help and advice in much the same way that he had been helped by older OBs when he was first starting out in his career.



# OB EVENTS

## OBs AT HOME 2023

Over 100 OBs and their guests joined us for the OB's annual 'At Home' reception and lunch in the marquee, on Saturday 8th July. Guests, having been chased inside by a peal of thunder and a short-lived burst of rain, played the game of 'how many people can squeeze under a gazebo'!

This did not dampen the proceedings and lunch followed Grace given by OB **Chairman Craig Mitchel (64-74)**, and the Loyal Toast by **Hugh Elliott (73-83)**, the British Ambassador to Spain and non-resident Ambassador to Andorra, who had been the guest of honour at the School's Speech Day. Outgoing Club President **Martin Snaith (53-63)** welcomed new President **Richard Northern (63-72)** to the post and said how delighted he was to see so many different age groups coming together for the 'At Home'.



## SOME OLD BANGERS

Despite the inclement weather, OBs, and friends of **Andrew Randell (61-66)** gathered at the Constitutional Club in Tunbridge Wells for his annual vintage car party.

Thirty cars were on show, ranging from an 1897 Leon Bollee three-wheel tandem car through to a 1974 Aston Martin V8. After lunch and speeches, drivers and their guests spent time looking at the engineering detail of each vehicle and swapping stories about their own experiences.

As the afternoon ended, the distinctive noise of vintage engines punctuated the air as attendees made their way home.



## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

For our Remembrance Sunday service, we welcomed back **Brigadier Adam Corkery (82-92)**, late Royal Signals, who laid wreaths, both in the Chapel and beside the Memorial Hall, in memory of those Old Bedfordians who had made the ultimate sacrifice.



## 2020 & 2021 LEAVERS BALLS

During the Easter Holidays, it was a pleasure to welcome back the leavers of 2020 and 2021 for their long-awaited Leavers' Balls. Due to Covid restrictions at the time, both year groups missed having a proper farewell.

The evenings began with drink receptions in the Café Bar before OBs and their guests moved into the Great Hall for a three-course meal followed by a music set. Meanwhile, their parents stayed on in the Café Bar to rekindle old friendships and reminisce about their sons' time at the school, and how quiet it was at home now they had gone to uni!

Our thanks to former Heads of School, **Dan Smith (09-20)** and **Andy Wong (14-21)** for their help, support, and guidance in making the events such a success.



## BOYS BACK IN THE HOUSE

Over forty former members of Pemberley, aged between 22 and 90, gathered in their former boarding House for the much-anticipated Pemberley Club Resurrection Dinner. The Club was first formed by **David Evans (46-51)** and **Clive**

**Eckert (46-52)** and was open to all boarders at Pemberley House during the house mastership of **Jack Clarke (42-57)**. Sadly, the Club went into decline for a few years before being resurrected in 2008 with a number of lunches in London but this was the first time it has been hosted in Pemberley House itself and was open to all Pemberley boarders.



Pemberley House 1993



Pemberley Club Dinner 2023



Pemberley House 1949

## OB ANNUAL DINNER 2022

Old Bedfordians and their guests gathered at the prestigious Cutlers' Hall for the much-anticipated OB Club's Annual Dinner. The Hall was full of OBs of all ages enjoying the camaraderie of being back together.

The President of the Club, **Professor Martin Snaith (53-63)**, thanked the Old Bedfordians Club team for all their work, highlighting some of the club's activities over the year and encouraging DVPs (District Vice Presidents) to get involved.

The guest speaker, Old Stoic, Sir Nicholas Forwood KC, one of Europe's most influential competition lawyers, entertained the audience with some fascinating anecdotes from his life in the legal world.



# DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT EVENTS



## LATVIA, RIGA

OBs from various corners of the globe visited Latvia to join DVP, **Juris Kabakovs (95-97)**, at a reunion in the beautiful city of Riga. His Excellency, the British Ambassador, Mr Paul Brummell CMG, joined the party for tea in the garden.

Juris had arranged a boat trip on the Riga Canal and Daugava River, to see the old town and castle from a different angle. Following a typical Latvian meal and a tour of the old city, the party retired to a bar for a final drink together, before retreating under the umbrellas to experience a true Baltic storm, as the weather changed dramatically from beautiful blue skies to a magnificent thunderstorm!

A very big thank you to Juris, Solvita and their children for being such marvellous hosts. OBs on the trip included **George Straubs (60-69)**, **Graham Folkes (65-69)**, **Fraser Millard (67-75)**, **Aris Fragoyannis (92-97)**, **Tyrone Byrne (08-13)** and partners.

## NEW YORK

DVP **Vivake Bhalla (87-93)** organised a drinks reception in May for New York based OBs and their partners, at The Regency, on Park Avenue.



▲ Photo From left to right: **Roy Park (17-19)**, Kasey Park, Joyce Choe-Park, **Ray Park (10-12)**, **Vivake**, **Marcus Rayner (69-79)**, **Nigel Dawes (67-77)**, **Adam Perkins (90-97)**

## JERSEY

On Thursday 9 February 2023 the DVP for Jersey, **Robin Rumboll (52-57)** and his wife Cynthia, hosted a superb gathering of OBs and their wives at their house a little way outside St Helier. Robin had gathered a total of nine OBs and organised a very pleasant evening.

Some will know that when the Channel Islands were occupied by the Germans during the war, Victoria College, Jersey, was evacuated to Bedford School. Several discussions about this ensued, including the fact that when the 'old' pendant lights of our school chapel were replaced they were donated to Victoria College Chapel where they are still shining.

## SINGAPORE

DVP **Russell de Chernatony (98-03)** has organised three amazing gatherings for OBs in Singapore over the last year. Russell made it a special evening in June, in order



to bid a fond farewell to a bedrock of their 'gang', **Wayne Fozzard (77-79)**, who has now left the island.

## GUERNSEY

The first reunion in many years of OBs on the island of Guernsey took place in February 2023, in the Parish of St Saviour. This was thanks to the hospitality and, indeed, cooking prowess of OB **Mark Stenner (72-79)** at the Guernsey farmhouse which he and his wife are restoring. Local OBs **Tim Peet (48-59)** and **George Oswald (67-71)**, **Martin Snaith (53-63)** and his wife Jane, joined visitors to the island, for an excellent lunch under Mark's roof.



## CAMBRIDGE

We are pleased to welcome **Michael Kish (51-58)** to our team of DVPs. Michael lives in Ely with his wife Danusza and they kindly hosted their inaugural gathering in Ely, Cambridgeshire on Thursday 20th October 2022.

## NEW ZEALAND

It was wonderful to see OBs, who left the school 60 years apart, coming together for a catch up in Auckland, New Zealand in January 2022. Club Chairman **Craig Mitchell (64-74)** joined DVP **Chris Sansome (78-83)**, **Ted Shorrock (44-50)**, and **Oliver Mitchell (97-02)** at the Galbraith Ale-House where they chatted over a few beers.



# BEDFORD SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST



Vincent Gafen

We remain on target to begin work on our New Academic Building in 2024, and aspects of the wider Estate Masterplan are already underway.

With tuition fees rising last year, and the looming possibilities of changes to our VAT and charitable statuses, we need to ensure that our facilities are comparable with our competitors throughout the UK, and

that Bedford remains a destination school for boys throughout the UK and overseas.

Bedford thriving doesn't just benefit our pupils and staff though. We take our responsibilities to the wider community, and society in general, very seriously. We are committed to being a force for good wherever possible, and we wanted to share some examples of our work in this regard.

We are one of Bedford's largest employers, with 150 teachers, and over 350 support staff, in a variety of full and part time roles.

Through our pupil community partnership programme, we aim for every single boy in the school to have had a meaningful relationship with the local community in their time at school – not just playing the organ once at the local church, but a consistent, meaningful relationship. Links with local, often struggling, primary schools play a part in this and in the last year we have

had boys, on a weekly basis, teaching chess, Latin, Russian, Mandarin, public speaking, reading, debating, a variety of sports, and music to approximately 450 pupils in 13 local primary schools.

Boys take guitars into a school with no music provision, teaching children who have never had the chance to learn an instrument. Two of our Lower Sixth boys taught Mandarin to a class of 26 10 year olds; One of our boys revolutionised a local choir teacher's ability to lead her choir of 50 children by playing the piano for her, whilst she conducted (previously she had to attempt to play and teach at the same time). Our pupils create real benefit, and they love doing it.

This past summer, our boys hosted 5 primary schools to our first onsite enrichment day, which we will now grow. The children learnt about sound in the Science Department, sang with the choristers, discovered about Chinese culture with some of our overseas boys, played cricket, and went to the theatre to learn how to stage fight scenes from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. We had some amazing feedback from the children. One little boy even recognised the Head of Community Partnerships in a supermarket, came over to give him a hug, and said he couldn't wait to come again to see our sixth form boys.

We host huge careers events for local schools, and we are always delighted to share our sport, music, art and drama facilities with our state peers. We helped eight local sixth forms with Oxbridge and university preparation, and our pupils are currently collaborating with a state school in Cambridge





Existing site plan



Proposed site plan

on a project to extract and analyse DNA from a species of snowdrop yet unanalysed. We run and host Ready2Lead, our own concept, that is now used by every sixth form provider in Bedford and, for the first time, this year's event will be held at one of our partner schools. Likewise, the Ivy House programme, another amazing leadership initiative, is being taken up by Biddenham Upper School in conjunction with us this year.

We have teacher training collaborations with a number of local schools; we run classes in History of Art, and astronomy that are available to the public; we host a community choir; deliver public lecture programmes, and musical performances, and we choose to run our public theatre at a financial loss to the School, to enable the public to have affordable access to an amazing array of productions. In fact, the Quarry has an annual footfall of over

10,000 and, as you can imagine, relatively few of the feet belong to Bedford boys or staff.

Add all this to our work with 17 local charities, sometimes financially, other times practically (for example, some of our boys volunteer on a weekly basis with Headway, a riding for the disabled charity, while others volunteer in local care homes and hospices) and you start to build up a picture of a school which we genuinely believe is a force for good in society.

It is our duty to prepare young men for the world they will enter, as not only excellent thinkers and sportsmen and musicians, but also as responsible local and global citizens.

It is with all of this in mind that we have approached our Estate Masterplan so bravely. We recognise it is significant investment, but it is one that will benefit current and future generations of Bedfordians, as well as the local community, and beyond. Community use has been built into our plans for the building, and we will be reaching out to local organisations to ask them how the space could be of maximum benefit to local residents and organisations when it is not being used by our pupils.

The need for the changes outlined in our Masterplan are diverse, from improving the teaching spaces on Burnaby Road, to installing a Wellbeing Centre for our boys, and helping us to remain competitive with our peers. Beyond even these, however, it will help us to encourage more boys to join a great school that will teach them to use the privilege of a Bedford education to lift others up, and help make the world a better, fairer place.

**Vincent Gaten**  
**Director of Development**



# SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

The day-to-day life we live is invisibly governed by the weather, from the commonplace habit of changing your attire to suit the temperature, to how much traffic you will encounter on your morning commute. In a much deeper and lasting manner, climate change is altering the way in which we discuss our futures and how we live our lives.

Boys here at the School are taught to understand their impact and responsibility to the global community in terms of climate change. We are pleased to see so many of our own

OBs who have ventured into the sustainability and climate change space in various ways.

Whether that's in an academic, governance, commercial or media discipline, we have OBs working tirelessly towards improving the future for us all. With the growing and urgent need for effective changes to be made to slow down or reverse the changes the scientific community is recoding, it is heartening to see our own alumni in such important and visible roles.

**IF YOU OR ANY OBs YOU KNOW, WORK IN THE SUSTAINABILITY OR CLIMATE CHANGE SPACE THEN PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US HERE AT THE OB CLUB AT [OBCLUB@BEDFORDSCHOOL.ORG.UK](mailto:OBCLUB@BEDFORDSCHOOL.ORG.UK)**



King Charles III starting the clock.

## NICK HENRY (81-91) TALKS ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH COP28

**Founder and CEO, Climate Action.**

As this magazine is published, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) is being convened in the United Arab Emirates. COP28 will be a pivotal moment in our battle against climate change, with the results announced from the first Global Stocktake, which is an assessment of progress made towards mitigating global warming since the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Global awareness and recognition of climate change has grown exponentially since launching Climate Action sixteen years ago in 2007. We are now seeing critical momentum across governments, cities, and the private sector, however



Nick showing King Charles the way

we need to go five times faster to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

I believe that Climate Change is not just an existential threat to this planet, it is also creating an unprecedented economic opportunity, as the primary catalyst behind the fourth industrial revolution, which is rewiring our global energy, transport, and manufacturing systems, fast-tracked by \$100bn of climate related investment per year, rising to an estimated \$500bn by 2050.

The role of the private sector has become increasingly critical in the battle against climate change, especially at the annual COP meetings where Climate Action have been organising the primary event for business engagement for 15 years. The Innovation Zone at COP28 will convene 7,000 business, government, UN, and city leaders over 5 days in Dubai, from the 4th – 8th December.

As demonstrated by the OBs in this feature, we can all play our individual roles in driving positive change. I have enjoyed

spending the last 20 years, building businesses that create a positive impact on people and our planet.

It was therefore an immense personal honour to host King Charles III - a man who has dedicated the last 50 years to protecting our natural world - at our London Climate Action Week event in June at the London Guildhall. This landmark event saw the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and King Charles III, activate 150 climate clocks in Piccadilly Circus and across the UK, generating significant global media coverage.

There is a constant narrative about the urgency to act against climate change and a sense of impending doom and gloom. I fear this leads to accepted inertia or frozen despair and achieves nothing to motivate or encourage others to change. I hope for a realisation that what lies ahead is our greatest opportunity where future generations can look back and say that the 2020s' was a defining moment that saw humanity reshape the future for good. ►

# SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

## BEN KNOWLES (96-01) REPORTS BACK ON HIS BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABILITY VENTURES:

I started my career as a chemist making asthma drugs for GlaxoSmithKline but quickly realised that labs bored me, and big organisations meant big networking, and I hated that. I decided to divert into sustainable travel and started working for Sustrans - the sustainable transport charity - they're an excellent employer and I learnt a lot working for them.

I then worked for Camden Council, coming up with innovative transport projects to help people travel by foot or by bike (as they say that they want to generally, if you ask them) - one of these projects was an intervention called "School Streets" - where streets outside schools are closed at the start and end of the school day allowing children (and accompanying parents) a calm and safe environment to arrive into - reducing driven trips by 40% as a result. Today there are some 2500 school streets in the UK and you likely have one protecting a school near where you live - dramatically reducing driven trips and therefore climate impact.

In 2017 I started a company called Pedal Me with a friend - using large, bespoke made, cargo bikes to transport people and goods around London. By 2020 we'd grown to 55 people and had been on Dragons Den (you can still find our pitch by Googling "Cocky Dragons Den" - yes really!).

I've taken a break from Pedal Me and set up "The Future Vehicles Company" which manufactures bespoke cargo bikes and trailers (see pic) helping businesses transition away from motor vehicles and benefit from the massive marketing benefit that cargo bikes can bring.

I also have a project where I mentor startups or projects which

have positive social or climate impact - if you've got a project in mind - I might be able to help! Likewise - if you're interested in investing in sustainable startups - I always have a list of worthy candidates!

Through this I've empowered impactful projects in the private sector and helped raise over £5 million in funding for various startups - I often can't talk directly about the organisations I support/mentor but a particular success story I can talk about is BackPedal: [www.backpedal.co](http://www.backpedal.co) - providing recovery services and insurance to protect against bike theft - a major barrier to uptake of cycling. Right now, they're running at +50% on their revenues each month!

See more here: [www.benknowles.london](http://www.benknowles.london)



▲ A [www.futurevehicles.co](http://www.futurevehicles.co) production – Don't ever let anyone tell you that sustainability means you can't have fun!

# CHILLY'S

## TIM BOUSCARLE (01-06)

Co Founder and Director.

Chilly's was founded in 2010 by Tim Bouscarle and James Butterfield, with a mission to accelerate the adoption and everyday use of reusable products.

They began with the aim of providing people with the ability to always have cold water on-the-go, without having to buy single-use plastic water bottles. Since then, the company has expanded into reusable coffee cups, sports bottles, food containers and most recently cutlery. In 2019 Chilly's grew to be the fastest growing privately owned company in the UK.

More recently they have experienced some challenges, most notably around Brexit, which has affected the volumes of sales that they make in the EU and added extra operational complexities to the business.

Covid also presented the founders with a very different situation as their products are primarily used whilst people are out and about, which was not possible during the lockdowns.

They did however use this time to build up the team, putting in director level leadership and growing the headcount to 60 people, putting them on a very strong footing to continue their expansion, including into new markets such as the USA.

The internal product development team has also been expanded to accelerate future product development and set them for the future.



# REENERGISE

## NIGEL AYLWIN-FOSTER (64-74)

Founder and CEO, Climate Action.



### Why did you decide to start a business that focused on the climate and sustainability space?

Perhaps because I run the business development for ReEnergise, do a lot of talks on net-zero at conferences and seminars, and write articles for education sector journals, people assume I'm the founder. I am now one of the two principal owners, but I didn't start the business: I joined it due to a chance encounter at a conference in 2015. I thought the subject matter – the practical application of net-zero in schools – was worthy of growing attention and would prove fulfilling. Then the business took a change in direction in 2018 and I found myself at the helm, along with another ex-Army officer, ironically.

### What challenges have you faced?

I was certainly not an expert in the field when I joined the company and I've had to study hard over the past 8 years. If you'd told me when I left the Army after 30 years of service as a Tankie and on the general staff that I'd be doing this, then I'd never have believed you. But I find the subject matter fascinating. The essence of the work is to develop estate decarbonisation plans and programmes for schools, then manage the resulting major projects for them. This is necessary work, but it's a challenge for everyone. Net-zero is a new frontier. The scale of the required work, and the capital outlay, comes as a shock to most schools. 10 years ago, school estate decarbonisation was hardly on the radar for most senior leadership teams and governing bodies, and now there is no option but to embrace it. Our job in the company is to enable schools to go green without going into the red in the process. This requires much thought and a thorough understanding of the nuances of working in the



independent education sector, as well as having the necessary engineering and project management expertise.

### How do you feel you have seen success or added value?

From a company perspective, we've worked our way up from being a start-up to becoming one of the recognised leaders in the field within the independent education sector. I'm proud of that. We are still a small company, relatively, but in this niche in the market we're now competing with some of the large, national names. Clients include several of the leading schools in the UK, including several that are on the school's match circuit.

From a personal perspective, I'm an Arts graduate and retired 'Tankie' with a leading role in an engineering consultancy. This is probably a wee bit unconventional, but it turns out that that is probably the main area where my value to the company lies. In my previous career I spent much time learning how to plan and communicate clearly: in ReEnergise my main role is planning and communication. It falls to me to render unfamiliar engineering aspects accessible to one and all. And that's the bit I enjoy the most.



# SOLAR HIVE



## NIALL BEAZLEY (69-78)

While managing game lodges within the greater Kruger National Park area, I was exposed to sustainability for the first time, with scaled ecologies and habitats pertinent to the fauna and flora of that area. Eventually moving away from that role and to Johannesburg in 1996, working in various successful businesses and seeing the increasing risk

from loadshedding; it was an obvious step to look at solar power and battery backup, to provide sustainable power supply to help keep homes and businesses secure during any blackout period.

SA is a wonderful country with a weather system that offers great opportunities for sustainable development. There are seventeen (17) United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with our focus being on SDG 7 – affordable and clean energy, although we also cover quite a few other SDGs. Our weather contributes to wind turbines in coastal regions and solar irradiation opportunities throughout much of the country with an average of between 4.5 and 6.5kWh/m<sup>2</sup> compared to London averaging between 0.52 and 4.74kWh/m<sup>2</sup> in December and July respectively.

SA has a problem with energy infrastructure relating to poor ►



investment in power generation and the distribution thereof. SA is a vast country compared to the UK and the placement of our only nuclear plant that is now coming to its end-of-life in the Western Cape does very little for the rest of the country. Hydroelectric power is provided from the Lesotho highlands

in the East of the country and there are links to Cahora Bassa hydro project in Mozambique. The remaining power stations are all coal fired mainly across the Highveld from Gauteng across to Mpumalanga. The problem here is the heavy dependency on fossil fuels and the desire of coal mines to bring in foreign currency through high calorific content coal. This results in the use of lower calorific content smokey coal with a much lower burn rate ultimately increasing local pollution that ends up promoting costly diesel generation as a coal backup. As a result, power charges have increased by 653% in the past ten years and this year's Eskom charges went up by 18.65% to 14p/kWh (UK energy price is currently 34p/kWh).

Since 2007 when the first loadshedding (prescribed power cuts from 2-4 hours at a time) was inflicted upon SA we have been looking for alternative power sources. Loadshedding is expected to cost the Country £67 billion this year. Solar has therefore become the single most practical solution, but only if you can afford it. Since March 2022 rooftop solar has provided 4.4GW of power generation at a local cost of £3 billion mostly funded privately or through company expenses. Loadshedding will remain an issue in SA over the next ten or more years.

SolarHive has been established as a residential solar project to offer a monthly subscription starting at £60 a month. The subscription allows for the supply of small, medium and large residential solar installations from 3kW to over 8kW rooftop panel solutions with an inverter and Lithium-Ion batteries. Costs include installation, remote management, maintenance, upgrade options and insurance. Our target market is initially around 8,000 households with projected revenue of £175m.

## 2050 CALCULATORS

JEM WOODS (76-86)

Reader in Sustainable Development at Imperial College London.



Through my research and that of the wonderful scientists I have been lucky to collaborate with, I have been fortunate to play a part in the development of a unique, trans-disciplinary research capability for investigating the interplay between sustainable development, land-use, and the human exploitation of natural

resources. This work has supported the establishment of a global network of academic and governmental institutions in developing a cluster of national, supra-national regional and Global '2050 Calculators' underpinned by funding from a range of organisations including the UK Government, its Research Councils, the International Climate Fund, the Belmont Forum, and the European Union. The 2050 Calculators are a fundamentally different approach to the conventional scientific tools used for understanding and managing systemic challenges to sustainable development. They

are used to scope and assess the environmental impacts of 'deep and wide' systemic technological and lifestyle options (solutions) needed to meet the most important sustainable development challenges of our time. At this systems level, the Calculators can help to resolve 'wicked,' inter- and trans-disciplinary and/or cross-sectoral problems such as climate change, what kind of diets and foods can or should we eat? Will nuclear power solve our current and future energy problems? What kind of technologies will we need in the future?

My research is solutions-oriented with a focus on enabling sustainable development transitions. It has played a role in developing the methodologies and assessment frameworks needed to highlight the opportunity and potential limits for bioenergy but also to measure, monitor and to direct the implementation of biomass for food, fibre and energy, and land exploitation policies around the world. In searching for the development pathways that can deliver sustainable bioenergy at scales material to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-Paris Climate Accord's 1.5°C maximum global temperature target, the scope of my research has necessarily widened. As a result, I have introduced a novel conceptual 'four securities' framework that encompasses food, energy, environment, and human security which explicitly recognises the need to expand, rather than reduce the analytical system boundaries, when addressing the Global challenges and SDGs.

# EV CONVERSION

**TIM AYLEN (90-00)**

Business Development Manager at Vital EV Solutions.



Most of my adult life I have had a career in the motor trade, following my passion of cars. During the Covid pandemic, like many, I had a change of perspective where my passion was modified and led me towards electric cars and sustainability. This change

in perspective first sparked after watching videos online of companies and individuals completing the electrification of internal combustion engine cars (ICE), better known as EV conversions. The process involves taking a vehicle and upgrading it with an electric motor to improve its efficiency, reliability, and power. To convert an ICE car to electric requires the removal of the fuel tanks, fuel lines and in some cases the gearbox. Then replacing with batteries, electric motor, charger, charge port, controller, and other updates.

So amazed by these cars I decided to take the plunge, by starting my own EV conversion. I have been vlogging the process and my experiences on Youtube and it has turned into ChargeheadsUK. With the help of Ralph Hosier,



a well-established project engineer in Bedfordshire, who has even had a few TV series in his day (For example Scrapcar supercar). The project got fully off the ground once Ralph was involved and we are close to completion after two years, creating a Tesla powered TVR.

To push the sustainability envelope as much as possible we are using used batteries from an electric SUV (MG ZS), and a small drive unit from a Tesla model S. The car model I chose was a 1985 TVR 350i with 18 owners, that was modified, with no service history. Which has helped keep the purists, to a point, off my back. The whole idea was to build an exciting EV, comparable in power to my TVR Griffith, using used parts where possible.

The knowledge gained from starting this project and the YouTube Channel being focused on all things EV have assisted me in transitioning into the sustainability sector, nine months ago. I began my career with Vital EV an electric vehicle charging company, specialising in creating DC turnkey projects with ongoing support. Vital EV have been supporting businesses, local authorities, and EV events since 2019 and are class leading in their solutions. Having recently installed the fastest DC charger in the UK at Europe's biggest automotive test centre at Millbrook proving grounds, in Bedfordshire. The charger is a 400KW 800V liquid cooled Kempower charger.

Since working for Vital EV, I have already project managed events such as; the DC charging hub for a ride and drive at the Scottish open. A DC charging hub at Carfest show, powered by 2 x 150Kwh 2nd life battery packs, and continue to assist organisations in DC Charging solutions.

I will persist in playing my part in supporting sustainable industries and look forward to seeing the reduction of our reliance on fossil fuel, creating a cleaner more sustainable future for generations to come.

*[Link to the Fastest DC Charger in the UK](https://transportandenergy.com/2023/10/09/vital-ev-install-fastest-charger-in-the-uk/)*

*<https://transportandenergy.com/2023/10/09/vital-ev-install-fastest-charger-in-the-uk/>*



# THE ANNAPURNA CIRCUIT

OBs **Craig Mitchell (64-74)** and his son **George Mitchell (99-04)** were part of a group that completed this classic three-week, 155-mile, trek in Nepal in November 2022.

*Craig describes the epic journey around the Nepalese peaks and travelling with his son George.*

It provided more variety than any other equivalent length trek, taking us through virtually every type of scenery that Nepal has to offer.

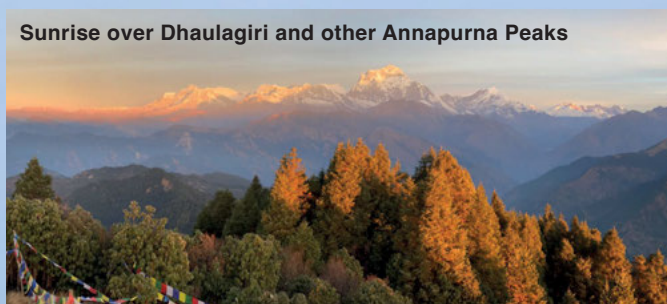
We had superb views of the Annapurnas, Gangapurna and Dhaulagiri and experienced an amazing variety of landscapes ranging from sub-tropical, through to alpine peaks, to an arid semi-desert. The climax of the trek was crossing the iconic Thorong La Pass (17,769ft). Based in teahouses throughout, we got to spend time in villages inhabited by many of Nepal's different peoples, both Buddhist and Hindu. A warm sleeping bag was essential as it was below freezing on several nights.

On most days we walked for between approximately five and seven hours a day, but the Thorong La crossing was a long day, getting up at 3:30am and taking around twelve hours. We trekked along a combination of new trails and old, previously disused, trails that had recently been cleared. These trails crossed numerous modern suspension bridges, which were quite bouncy to cross, but fortunately none were especially high. There were also a series of small wooden bridges over the Kali Gandaki, which were constructed every November after the monsoon.

The 'sting in the tail' of the trek was a steep ascent of 5,413ft up to Ghorepani. The next day a climb of over 1,000ft before sunrise took us up Poon Hill where we were able to experience one of the most spectacular sunrises we have ever seen, with extensive views over the Annapurna range. However, the descent of 7,169ft was certainly tough on the knees. It was worth it though for some memories that will last a lifetime. ■



Craig and George with Annapurna I and Annapurna South



Sunrise over Dhaulagiri and other Annapurna Peaks



# 6 CHALLENGES, 6 MONTHS

After spending five years sitting behind a desk, **Matt Beal (03-14)** decided to take some time out of work and spend six months travelling the world and then six months attempting several challenges, including driving halfway around the world, running an ultramarathon and summiting some difficult mountains.



## THE CHALLENGES:

**1 MONGOL RALLY** - drive round half the world, covering +10,000 miles across +20 countries from London to Mongolia (in a 1litre engine car!)

**2 RICKSHAW RUN** - traverse the length of India via tuk tuk, covering +2,500 miles from the Nepalese border to the Indian Ocean (with a whopping 7 horsepower!)

**3 JORDAN ULTRAMARATHON** - run one of the world's hardest ultramarathons, 6 marathons over 5 days... across a desert!



**4 MATTERHORN SUMMIT** - climb one of the most difficult mountains in the Alps, culminating in a steep 12hr rock climb to the summit!

**5 EVEREST BASE CAMP & ISLAND PEAK SUMMIT** - hike through the Himalayas, stopping first at Everest Base Camp and continuing on to attempt to summit Island Peak (6,160m)!

**6 IRONMAN 70.3** - cycle 90km, swim 2km & run a half marathon across Finland! Matt will be raising money for WaterAid helping to bring safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene to everyone worldwide.

**To sponsor Matt:**

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/matthew-beal-2023>

**Follow Matt's journey on**

<https://www.polarsteps.com/MatthewBeal/7092435-trip>



# THE BANJUL RALLY

**O**B **Rajan Pattni (90-98)** and his university friend Jagdeep Rai lived out their Top Gear fantasy this January, by driving from Luton, England, to Banjul, The Gambia, as part of a lifelong dream to raise money for charity.

Rajan, EMEA Compounding Director for Operations & Quality at Baxter International Inc., and Jagdeep, Managing Director of RL Pharma Consulting Ltd and previously Head of Medical Affairs for Bayer Consumer Health UK & Ireland, have both worked in the Pharma and Pharmacy sectors for the past 16 years and wanted to go on an adventure that challenges them both mentally and physically, as well as raising money for charities in North Africa. During the challenge, the pair drove through France, Spain, Gibraltar, Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, and Senegal before arriving in Banjul, where their vehicle, an 18-year-old Jeep Grand Cherokee, was auctioned off for charity.

*“The trip was definitely one of the most challenging things I have undertaken, whilst also being one of the most rewarding! We faced some mechanical challenges, many border and police challenges and many more bumps as we made our way through hundreds of kilometres of desert. The Saharan night sky is simply too splendid to even attempt to describe but needless to say it’s an image seared on my mind for the rest of my days!”*

The journey is mapped out by the ‘Dakar Challenge’, an organization that facilitates un-aided charity rallies, however, it is made clear that no assistance will be provided. Rajan and Jagdeep were fully responsible for planning their route, organising their accommodation, and going head on with any challenges they may face.

Jagdeep and Rajan also raised money through their JustGiving page for Legs4Africa, a charity that recycles prosthetic limbs, so that amputees in sub-Saharan Africa can live more independent lives.

*“Finally, the thing that made the whole thing worthwhile were the people we met that helped us on our journey and those that lifted our spirits at the moments we often felt like giving up, one episode concluded with a good Samaritan who gave us hope after a day of being harassed, an attempted carjacking and conned on our way!*



*So far, we have raised £5k through just giving, distributed 40kg of clothes in Mauritania ourselves and are still waiting to hear how much the car was eventually auctioned for. The proceeds of the car auction will go to local charities, one of whom we visited and met with the board of (Crab island technical and vocational college)- their goal being to support children who have gone down a road of crime to get skilled and trained to help Gambia meet its future potential with a capable, local, workforce.” ■*



# FROM COVID LOCKDOWN TO AN ICE MILE SWIM

**D**avid Rowe (87-92) took on the daunting task of completing the Ice Mile Challenge, which is to swim an Imperial Mile (1.61Km) in a natural body of water less than 5°C (41°F), wearing just a standard pair of swimming trunks, goggles and silicone swim cap and stay alive for 30 minutes after the swim. The challenge is governed by a set of rules and safety requirements set out by the International Ice Swimming Association (IISA) who ratify and record all successful attempts on their website [internationaliceswimming.com](http://internationaliceswimming.com).

During lockdown many of the local swimmers decided that rather than stop altogether, they would continue in outdoor bodies of water, which upheld the outdoor exercising and social distancing rules. A challenge that has been years in training, it wasn't until late 2022 that the scene was set for the challenge to take place.

*"The weekend itself required a lot of logistics and we were very pleased to share resources with the other swimmers. In total 10 of us had nominated to swim and between us we needed a canoe paddling along side each swimmer with guys in wetsuits on the bank ready to jump in, we had timers and temperature takers along with course distance measurers and medics to oversee the recovery phase, and a camera person to video entry, mid swim and exit so video evidence could be uploaded to the IISA website for all to view.*

*I was scheduled in the first pair and found eating breakfast at 4am hard work as I anticipated what was ahead and the extra pressure of setting the tone for the swims to follow. We arrived at Thredbo Pondage around 5.30am with the car thermometer reading an air temperature of -5°C. I was concerned that knowing the temp was low 4s or even 3s might freak me out, so I'd asked only to be told if the water temp was low enough to go. As it turned out I didn't need to ask as there was a layer of ice forming that you could hear a stone break through – the water was cold, and we were on!*

*Getting in the water was just as usual, a steely determination to put one foot in front of the other and wade out to the start buoy, only this time there were some shouts of support from the bank. Head in the water and go, bracing for the headache which fortunately never came! Not sure if it was the adrenaline or if you don't get the headache in really cold water, but it was a relief. I settled into a nice rhythm, and I habitually count my strokes (a hangover from counting bars in music) and was taking around 94 strokes per length and*

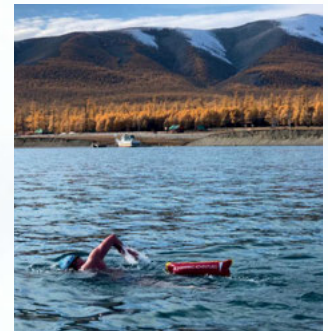
*keeping track of each lap. As the sun came up one end was warmer than the other and I could feel my chest tighten as I got back into the colder water, I also had a bit of trouble sighting the small white buoy and a discarded aerosol can visible through the crystal-clear water became my marker on 45 strokes to see if I was heading in the right direction.*

*I confidently tapped out on the marker buoy and turned to my paddler with a smile on my face calling out a loud 'finished' only for Pete to yell back 'no you've got one more to go!' Oh well better get back to it and knock out one more loop! Lots of cheers as I tapped the buoy the final time and headed quickly back to shore, a bit unsteady on my feet I had a tumble as I got out to a warm towel and headed for the warmth of the car stripping of any wet gear as we went.*

*The recovery, from the after drop, is the bit no-one can prepare you for, or you don't believe them when they try to tell you. 40mins in water ranging from 2.4 to 4.1°C, makes you profoundly hypothermic and an early ear temp reading had my core under 30°C (normal being 36-37°C). The only way back is to warm yourself externally (warm car with heaters running) and to generate your own heat by shivering, mostly uncontrollably for the next 55 minutes! I had sore muscles in places I didn't know had muscles for the next 3 days, it even hurt lying down.*

*The rest of the weekend was spent supporting the other swimmers and gaining a better insight into what I'd achieved. I don't think I had entertained the thought of not completing the mile but watching several swimmers hit their absolute limits, becoming disorientated and struggling to see a buoy 15m away to finish or suddenly being unable to swim was sobering.*

*Once home the application was completed and sent into IISA and a brief wait until being recognised as 'Officially Frozen'. ■*

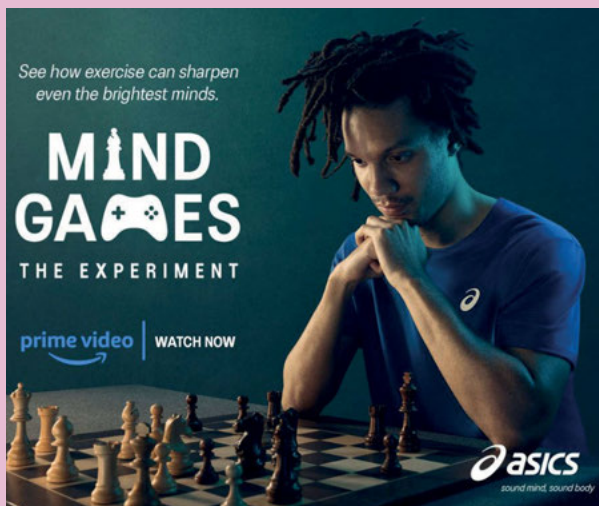


# OB ARTS

OBs have graced the silver screen and the stage this year in a variety of big productions, here are just a few of them!

**Neil Dawson's (78-83)** new feature documentary, which he worked on with fellow OB, **Damon Pattison (82-87)**, and is narrated by Steven Fry, explores whether physical exercise can enhance the mental performance of the world's brightest minds.

*Watch Neil's fascinating feature-length documentary, 'Mind Games - The Experiment' on Prime Video.*



Actor **Jonno Davies (01-10)** has played the young Robbie Williams in the upcoming film 'Better Man' telling the life story of the singer. Described as a satirical musical, the project is reported to cover three decades of Robbie's stardom,



from his first success in popular music combo Take That, through the ups and down of his career.



**Sam Lewis (97-04)** has had a busy year filming the latest edition of Planet Earth III on BBC. Sam is specialised in macro, motion control, long lens and underwater sequences.



After the global success of ‘Man of the Hour’ (Amazon Prime) and a win at Cannes, **James Curle (02-09)** has written and directed a new short film that has had an exciting start to its festival run; ‘Under The Blue’ - a true police story – will be part of the Official Selection of the New York International Short Film Festival 2023, the largest shorts festival on the East Coast. Previous credits of the emerging and award-winning cast and crew include Tár, Mission Impossible, Syriana, The Crown and Chernobyl among others.

The cast also includes TV-star Nicola Walker, known for her

leading roles in British TV-show favourites The Split, Unforgotten and Marriage alongside Sean Bean. The film is based on a true story and created with the aim to look at a lack of appreciation and whether we consider “the person underneath”. It was designed with detail-oriented accuracy, including an authentic sound design by BAFTA-winner Joe Beal, under the watchful eye of Police Consultant and OB **Jonny Rees (04-09)** who is currently serving in the Metropolitan Police. The film’s team would like to thank its supporters among OBs, including former police officer and Chairman of the OB Club, **Craig Mitchell (64-74)**.



Richard Summers-Calvert (99-10) has been appearing in Mythos: Ragnarök, a retelling of Norse mythology. Richard plays the god of mischief, Loki, in the five-star reviewed Edinburgh Fringe play. Interviewed by The Bedford Independent earlier this year Richard said, "Acting was always my ambition, It was the only thing I cared about and my drama teacher, Mrs Swiddenbank, was the first person to really make me believe I could achieve anything."



Three of the OB Phoenix Rowers, **Connor Sheridan (07-18)**, **Jared Sheridan (07-16)** and **George Christian (08-18)** are appearing in a new film directed by George Clooney, The Boys In The Boat. The film is due for release in the UK in January 2024, based on the best-selling book by Daniel James Brown about the 1936 University of Washington rowing team that competed in the Berlin Summer Olympics.

## RETURNING

Returning, standing once again within its silent walls  
 My eyes descend to where I spent reluctant Sundays  
 More than sixty years ago and now, accustomed to the  
 Light, can see the pews where once we fidgeted but  
 Also sang familiar hymns and daydreamed through  
 The weekly vows whose promises we all ignored.

Each Sunday now, within a different space, are my  
 Prayers more intent?  
 And do I spend the intervening  
 Weeks remembering the promises just made?  
 Am I Content?

Age brings God closer to the everyday. Or so it seems.  
 Perhaps our faith - untested in the daily round of Bedford  
 Life, when we were young - now recognises time is short  
 To make amends, to plead a cause, abort the faults we  
 Otherwise must carry to the grave.

Returning, standing once again within its silent walls, I  
 Ponder on the years unguessed of then and realise to  
 My surprise how much I owe to words I barely heard  
 And music which I thought had disappeared. And see  
 Not we who stumbled, mumbled through our prayers,  
 But those whom we became.

**Charles Gorer (47-50)**  
**June 2022**

# OLD BEDFORDIANS SPORT

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

At the end of June/early July 2023, we were warmly welcomed to the wonderful West Hill Golf Club on the edge of the Surrey belt for the Peter Burles, GL Mellin and Bunny Millard Salvagers. The GL Mellin Salver is for three pairs playing foursomes/scratch aged 55; the Peter Burles Salver is for two pairs playing foursomes/scratch aged 65 and over; and the Bunny Millard Salver is for those aged over 75.

For the first time in many years, Bedford fielded pairings in all three Salvagers. Whatever next?

In the GL Mellin Salver first round, Bedford drew Oundle or, in the words of James Lawson “the old enemy”. Despite some good early golf from the debutant Mike Anderson (78-82) and Hewitt/Mellin veteran **Tim Henderson (64-71)**, Bedford’s top pair lost 2 down on the last green. Even though **Kevin Dunbar (74-79)** and **Mark Orchart (74-79)** threw a string of pars and the odd birdie at the opposition, they never recovered from a poor start and lost in the country. **Julian Ormerod (75-85)** and **Scott Goodson (69-79)** won three of the last five holes to achieve a gentlemanly half. Overall, Oundle were just a little too good and won 2.5-0.5. In the first round of the Mellin Plate, Bedford succumbed to Mill Hill 2-1.



▲ Bedford’s Mellin team: From l to r: **Scott Goodson, Tim Henderson, Mike Anderson, Kevin Dunbar, Mark Orchart and Julian Ormerod.**

In the first round of the Peter Burles Salver, Bedford also drew Oundle, eventually going down 2-0 in spite of some spirited golf. In the first round of the Plate, Bedford were drawn against Mill Hill. **Nigel Mobbs (69-74)** and **Andrew Rudkin (64-69)** won 3&2, as did **Patrick Duke (66-70)** and **Chris Johnson (66-75)**. The semi-final of the Plate saw a rematch from last year against Loretto with Bedford victorious 2-0 with some quality golf from both pairs. In the final, Bedford drew Cranleigh. After the two matches, the score was 1-1. In this scenario, each school nominates the pair they wish to compete in a sudden death play-off.

For reasons known only to Cranleigh and, after much debate between their two pairs, they chose the pair who had lost in the match proper to play against Nigel Mobbs and Andrew Rudkin. To say the golf at the first extra hole was very “nervy” is probably the understatement of the year. That said,

Nigel Mobbs and Andrew Rudkin emerged victorious, having been unbeaten in all the Plate matches. Well played to the entire Burles squad of **Patrick Duke (66-70), Chris Johnson (66-75), Nigel Mobbs (69-74), Hector Paterson (65-70) and Andrew Rudkin (64-69)** – what a fantastic result!

**John Cartwright (59-65)** and **Roger Lawson (59-63)** took part in the qualifying round in the Bunny Millard Salver. Although not successful in qualifying, it was great to have teams in all three tournaments.



▲ Bedford’s Burles team: From l to r, **Andrew Rudkin, Nigel Mobbs, Patrick Duke and Chris Johnson.**

If you are reading this, are aged over 55, and would like to play one of the best courses in the Surrey belt in a relaxed yet competitive format with like-minded OBs, please get in contact with Mark Orchart ([mark.orchart@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.orchart@btinternet.com)) or **Tom Langley-Poole (96-06)**. We look forward to hearing from you.

## OB GOLF SOCIETY VICTORY

The OB Golf Society enjoyed success at the Halford Hewitt golf tournament. The event is one of Britain’s most competitive golf tournaments, contested between teams of ten former pupils from the sixty-four schools which make up the membership of the Public Schools Golfing Society. There is a degree of debate surrounding how the event came to be started but, according to the great golf writer and TV commentator, Henry Longhurst, it was dreamt up during a lunch which John Beck had with G.L. “Susie” Mellin at The Addington Club in Surrey sometime during the summer of 1923. Certainly, later that year, representatives from six schools, namely Eton, Charterhouse, Highgate, The Leys, Malvern, and Winchester met up to finalise the first tournament and they were joined in the inaugural draw by four others, Mill Hill, Rugby, Beaumont, and Radley although, ultimately, during that first year, Beaumont scratched, and Radley failed to raise a team.

According to Longhurst, Mellin and Beck had decided on the tournament details and were wondering which “bloody fool” they could inveigle into putting up a trophy when, quite by chance, Halford Hewitt walked into the room and was promptly pounced on.

This year Bedford drew Merchant Taylors in the first round eventually losing three matches to two. This meant the club then played in the Plate Competition made up of thirty-two teams with six competitors each, as opposed to the ten in the main event. ▶

◀ After five rounds over three days, Bedford triumphed beating Forest School (2-1) in the final. This is the first time the Club have won a Trophy at the Halford Hewitt since our first involvement with the competition in 1930.

OB Golf Society President, **Anthony Ormerod (47-57)** commented *"The organisers set up a course WhatsApp enabling me to follow the progress of the team. I was delighted when we secured a well-earned victory in what I gather was very testing conditions"*.

**Tom Langley-Poole (96-06)**, Society Secretary commented *"The Club continues to thrive, with a membership of over 100 OBs and victory at the Halford Hewitt shows the depth of talent we have in the Club."*



▲ L-R Rob Holden (13-18), Tim Martin (11-17), Josh Taylor (05-16), Simon Blundell (84-89), Colin Beesley (90-98); Henry Wilson (04-11), George Martin, George Scott (99-09)

### OLD BEDFORDIAN GOLF SOCIETY SCHOLARS INSPIRE BOYS

We were delighted to welcome back to school Old Bedfordians **Rob Holden (13-18)**, **Finlay Cummings (10-21)** and **Alex Robins (17-22)**, who were all Bedford Golf Scholars. Since leaving school, all three have studied at US universities, also on golf scholarships, and returned to inspire our current talented crop of golfers with information about studying and playing golf in the US.

Rob has already graduated from university in Ohio and is now back in the UK making his way in the golfing world. Finlay is currently studying International Business at Harding University in Arkansas and Alex is studying Accounting at Shorter University in Georgia.

At the end of the evening, the OBs could not resist a visit to the school golf simulator and a chance to catch up with Bedford School golf coaches Holly Reddick, Keith Thomson and Director of Sport, Barry Burgess.

Director of IB Adrian Finch commented, *"The school is hugely grateful to the OBs for giving up their time to talk to current students. It was wonderful to see them so happy, enthusiastic, and successful."*



▲ L-R Alex, Finlay and Rob

### RIFLE CLUB WRITTEN BY RUPERT RILEY (79-89)

Given the reliance, for some considerable years, on the backbone of the Club being of 1970s and 80s school years vintage, it was a momentous occasion when a fresh crop of Bedfordian rifle shots suddenly proved their mettle on the ranges this year. The evidence of recent OB smallbore matches (shot at the School rifle range annually in March) was promising much as the School have taken the OBs to the cleaners in the last two years and 2023 proved to be another drubbing.

The promise was seen again in the Schools Veterans' Match at the beginning of the Imperial Meeting at Bisley in July and then absolutely cemented when the Club turned in one of the best performances in the Astor County Championship (Clubs representing the County in which they are based (Bedfordshire in our case)) ever.

Three of the team, Nyree Barnes (daughter of **Andy Barnes (76-83)\***), **Dan Lumley-Wood (12-21)** and **Deimis Sukys (17-22)** are barely in their twenties and they only dropped eight points between them out of 315, contributing to an excellent 10<sup>th</sup> place; not bad for an old school club against some potent mainstream rifle clubs.

Elsewhere it was a reasonable but not earth-shattering year of individual results: Paul Sykes (son of **Andy Sykes (62-73)**) won the Donaldson Memorial with a splendid 75.10 ex 75.15 at 1000 yds, with **Robin Hatcher (69-76)** and Andy Barnes 24<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> respectively; Three Bedfordians: Robin Hatcher, Paul Sykes and **Rupert Riley (79-89)** made the St Georges Final (finishing 18<sup>th</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup> and 93<sup>rd</sup>). Honours in the Grand Aggregate, the total of the major competitions in the meeting, fell to Paul Sykes (an excellent 20<sup>th</sup>) and Robin Hatcher (a very creditable 56<sup>th</sup>); not at all bad from a field of 700 competitors.

The Club competitions, keenly competed for, were won by **Mirek Kirkillo-Stacewicz (69-79)** (Turbo Barnes Musgrave Memorial Trophy); Andy Barnes, taking the Nigel Penn Trophy and Nyree Barnes, the inaugural Bedfordians U30 'Tankardgate' Trophy.

In teams Paul Sykes was selected for England, winning the Mackinnon (Home Nations and Overseas Teams long range match); Nyree Barnes was deservedly capped for Wales in the National (Home Nations short range match), ably backed up by her elder sister Nia Barnes, as a reserve. Rupert Riley coached in the UK Armed Forces team that triumphed against England, Wales and Scotland. Finally, it was with great pleasure that we witnessed Dan Lumley-Wood representing Southampton University, helping them to a very creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Universities Long Range Match.

The Imperial Meeting this year was different in a very poignant way for the Bedfordians Rifle Club when we celebrated the life of **Nigel Penn (65-69)** with a drinks reception at the British Commonwealth Rifle Club, of which he served as Secretary and then Captain. His death, at the end of 2022, has left a significant gap in our ranks, one that is the more palpable for the quiet, determined way he nurtured and influenced the Club from its inception. Bedford School and Old Bedfordians have been shooting competitively since 1899 but The Bedfordians Rifle Club, formed in the 1970s, remains a very special, tight knit organisation precisely because of the efforts and devotion of the founding members, of which Nigel was one.

Nigel would undoubtedly have relished the Bedfordian young bloods' performances this year and taken more



▲ OBs line up following the Schools Veterans Match at Bisley in July: Deimis Sukys (17-22); Dan Lumley-Wood (12-21); Andy Barnes (76-83); Robin Hatcher (69-76); Julian Hilton-Johnson (77-82); Phil Dawes (63-72); Rupert Riley (79-89); Nick Hart (70-75); Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89); Martin Ebbetts (70-74).

pleasure in noting that young Dan Lumley-Wood was knocking in bullseyes a'plenty with a rifle that was previously his. The Club has taken action recently to significantly enhance the support it gives to the School Rifle Club to ensure that more young OBs have the opportunity to derive pleasure from a sport that so many of us have enjoyed for decades; surely a legacy to invest in if ever there was one.

Let the last word go to the latest addition to the Club: Deimis Sukys, who left Bedford in 2022:

*"I felt incredibly welcomed and supported and really enjoyed the shooting, but most enjoyed the social aspects of the Meeting, reuniting with and meeting more Bedfordians. I was proud of my Astor Score (103.12 ex 105.21) considering I had not shot fullbore much before".*

▼ Paul Sykes; Andy Barnes; Deimis Sukys and Phil Dawes mid-Q match in April.



Pride in a performance richly deserved, indeed. We look forward to welcoming more, new (Old) Bedfordians in 2024.

The following represented the Bedfordians RC this year:

**Phil Dawes (63-72); Martin Ebbetts (70-74); Martin Schwarz (70-75); Nick Hart (70-75); Robin Hatcher (69-76); Mirek Kirkillo-Stacewicz (69-79); Julian Hilton-Johnson (77-82); Andy Barnes (76-83); Nick Hudleston (78-83); Peter Lumley-Wood (84-89); Rupert Riley (79-89); Marc Smith (87-92); Paul Sykes; Stuart Dawes; Nia Barnes; Max Kirkillo-Stacewicz; Nyree Barnes; Dan Lumley-Wood (12-21); Deimis Sukys (17-22).**

*\*The Bedfordians Rifle Club is established for Old Bedfordians and their immediate family, so 'second generation' Bedfordians now shoot successfully alongside their OB fathers and peers.*



## ◀ CRICKET CLUB WRITTEN BY GEORGE WOOD (83-94)

The OBs had another superb cricket season in 2023 as the club goes from strength to strength.

An excellent organisational effort by **Christian Davis (00-11)** meant that the OBs also turned out a strong side in the Cricketer Cup. Unfortunately, the draw was not something in our control as we met eventual finalists Old Tonbridgians away early in the competition. In a game where the toss was important, the OBs were asked to field, and Tonbridge racked up 252/8. The OBs responded positively with **Harry Gouldstone (12-19)** making 66 and **Shiv Patel 32** but scoring was increasingly challenging against the turning ball, and we finished on 211 all out. Next year gives us another crack at winning the trophy.

On to OB Week and a very creditable draw v the MCC who scored 263 for 6. There was top bowling from **Dilan Sheemar (17-22)**, **Anish Katechia (15-22)**, **Huw Turner(15-20)**, and **Luke Adams (08-13)** supported well behind the stumps by **Jonny Huggins (11-22)**. Ben and **Will Barnes (11-19)** brought their usual gusto to proceedings and there was a superb catch from supersub **Felix Isles (13-18)** along with a great fielding display all-round – including an exceptional number of shuttle-runs from **James Woodrow (74-84)**. In response the OBs finished on 163 for 7 as a lovely 70 not out for Dilan Sheemar held the innings together. **Jacques Wildon (15-22)** batted nicely up top and although there was never really enough time



to chase the win, especially with the rain, we kept batting positively throughout.

There followed a great game against the Ousels with a narrow 2 wicket loss in the last over. Inventive batting from Jonny Huggins and big(ish) hitting from **Rahul Sheemar (12-19)** saw us to 117 all out. Top seam-up spells from Jacques Wildon and **Mike Spencer (82-87)** ably supported by Will Barnes and James Woodrow kept the run rate tight. Felix flighted his way to the wicket of the big fish **Charlie Thurston (07-14)** (also an OB) and it was game on! **Ollie Gregory (14-21)** almost bought the wicket of **Simon Lincoln (94-96)** (another OB!) but **Ben Barnes' (12-20)** miracle catch was cruelly disallowed for a no-ball. It was a great effort from all in a superb match! Thanks to Simon Lincoln for hosting what is always a great event.

The matches versus the School proved to be really good fun and proved a fitting end to the week. In the second team game, the OBs had so many players that we rotated fielders on and off but despite these fresh legs, we let the School score too many runs. The OBs were dashing in reply but a little too careless with our wickets and succumbed to defeat. The game was however very enjoyable and all the better for lots of positive cricket.

The first team game was an absolute cracker, going down to the last over after two hard fought days played in a great spirit. A classy 82 off just 70 balls from **James Kettleborough (00-11)** set the scene for a dominant first innings of 264 for 8 in just under 55 overs. The School responded with 217 for 7 off 49 overs with Dilan Sheemar taking 2 for 14 and the pick of the bowlers. The match boiled down to a one innings challenge and the OBs scored 211 in just 38 overs fired by 77 from Luke Adams and 49 from Kettleborough. Set 259 to win, the School set about their task with gusto but were pegged back by wickets when they threatened to get away – credit to Dilan Sheemar, **Archie Houghton (20-22)** and Anish Katechia for taking two wickets apiece. A crucial run out of the School captain **Charlie Blythman (12-23)** by **Ollie Hind (06-17)** made things even closer and 10 were needed by the School from the final over. Anish Katechia stepped forward to bowl it and ▶



held the School one run short – meaning that the match was a draw with the scores level at the end of play.

Thanks to a number of young OBs for stepping forward to do so much organising and leadership in particular Dilan Sheemar, Rahul Sheemar and Ben Barnes working alongside Shiv Patel, **Will Aitkenhead (04-09)** and Christian Davis. Thanks to **Peter Rowe (03-08)** who was again selfless in scoring our matches and to Gina Worboys, Hugh Maltby, and the OB Office for doing so much work behind the scenes. Thanks also to Director of Cricket Gary Steer and the Head Master James Hodgson for their ongoing support of OB Cricket.

**George Wood (83 – 94)**  
OBCC President

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

The annual OB's Tennis match against the boys held a bit more meaning to me personally this year, as it was my sons last year at school. As well as playing against boys he was friends with, I was also playing alongside one of his school friends, Josh Stewart, who we had borrowed from the school as we were a player down. He made an excellent addition to the team, which still contained regular players **Jonathan Ellwood (71-81)**, **Geoffrey Farr (50-56)**, **Duncan McLaren (61-68)** and **Andy Willsher (80-87)**.

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

Whilst Tennis is not one of the top sports at the school, those who play are still passionate about winning and enjoy a well contested match. The standard of the boys team this year was very high, we were certainly having to raise our game to stick with them.

Sadly, this year's games were brought to an abrupt halt when one of our players sustained an injury through a very nasty fall. As he needed to be taken to hospital it was agreed to call it a day. We wish Geoffrey well and thank Jonathan Ellwood for a speedy transfer to A and E.

We didn't conclude the game this year, so I guess we call it a draw. I think we may have been let off the hook!

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

Any Old Bedfordians who are interested in playing, are very welcome and can contact me at [beaumontfarming@gmail.com](mailto:beaumontfarming@gmail.com) ►





## ◀ PHOENIX BOAT CLUB

In 2020, Phoenix Boat Club was established to give OBs the opportunity to race together at events around the country. The Club's first competitive outing was at Henley Royal Regatta in 2021 where a coxless four and pair represented the Club.

For the first time in its 170-year history, Bedford Regatta took place on a Sunday to avoid the King's Coronation. This year saw the Club enter two events at Bedford Regatta in an eight and a four. Following a solid practice outing the night before the regatta, the eight faced Latymer Upper School in the first round, who they beat convincingly by 2 ½ lengths. Next up was University College, Oxford who were beaten by a similar margin resulting in the crew reaching the final. Here they met the Latymer 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII, after a strong start Phoenix gradually pulled away winning the event easily in one of the fastest times of the day. The crew was presented with their winning Cup by Regatta Secretary, **Hugh Maltby (73-83)**, who ensured their tankards were filled with Bedford's finest beer!

The open coxed four were unlucky to draw Hertford College, Oxford in the first round. A hard-fought race saw Phoenix narrowly losing to their opposition by the closest of



margins in one of the quickest times of the day.

Meanwhile, the school 1<sup>st</sup> VIII, off the back of their recent Schools' Head result, enjoyed a successful day winning the top eights event in the fastest time of the day.



**Phoenix squad: Edwin Chan (15-19), Connor Sheridan (07-18), Jared Sheridan (07-16), Harry Sivills (06-17), George Christian (08-18), Austin Roberts (17-19), George Whitcombe (11-20), Boris Batine (98-00), Tom Christian (08-18), Jacob Bailey (11-22), Ed Lamb (10-17), James Deardon (11-22), Max Lusty (10-21), Charlie McCutcheon (17-22), Ben Giles (13-20)**  
**Coach: Michael Ruta (00-11)**

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



## HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA 2023

Tuesday 27th June 2023 saw the Bedford School community dressed in their finery, descend en masse to Henley Royal Regatta to support the school 1st VIII in the Princess Elizabeth Cup. With a very successful season behind them, the eight was drawn against the much-fancied St Paul's crew, who won the silver medal at the recent National School's Regatta. Given the size and strength of St Paul's it was decided that the best course of action was to try and rattle them from the start. At the end of the island and the quarter mile both crews were level, both crews striking 43. At the barrier, St Paul's had established a slender lead which they further extended to half a length at the halfway mark. Bedford steadfastly held on, ultimately losing by just over a length, in what transpired to be one of the fastest times of the day. With six returning next year and an exceptionally fast Colts crew, all bodes well.

Carrying on the tradition of father and sons in the 1st VIII, this year saw **James Black's (73-82)** son Archie, stroking the 1st VIII. Also watching Archie, was his uncle, **Walter Black (73-82)**, who also rowed in the 1st VIII in 1982.

We were also delighted to see several Phoenix Boat Club (Old Bedfordians) racing at the Regatta for their current universities and clubs.

Following the race, it was great to see a real mix of ages, over two hundred OBs, parents, and past parents enjoying our largest gathering yet, with a well-earned glass of Pimms in glorious British sunshine.

## OBS VS THE SCHOOL

This year's OB v School boat races were hotly contested affairs. The OB (Phoenix) crew was a blend of youth and experience. In the first race against the School, **Aly Satchwill (01-12)** in the stroke seat backed up by **Michael Ruta (00-11)**



in the engine room, set a strong rhythm, with Phoenix taking an early lead off the start. Despite some concerted pushes, the crew was unable to extend the lead beyond a quarter of a length, which they held onto until the finish.

After a short turnaround, which just about gave the OBs time to draw breath, the crew took on some fresh legs and paddled up to the start. A powerful start, once again, meant the crew took an early lead. Excellent steering saw the crew push the 1st VIII wide on the embankment side with Phoenix winning by a margin of three quarters of a length.

Following the races, it was great to see OBs and current members of the School Boat Club mixing before the Phoenix crew retired to Bedford Rowing club for some well-earned refreshments.

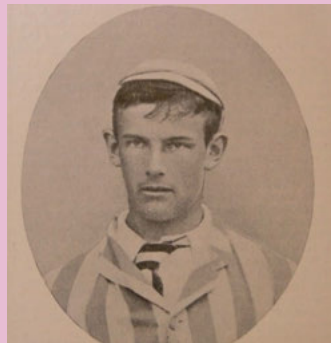
**The Phoenix squad: Dean Abraham (79-89), Ed Lamb (10-17), Tom Christian (08-18), Aly Satchwill (01-12), Michael Ruta (00-11), Connor Sheridan (07-18), Trent Abrahams (10-19), Oliver Mitchell (13-18), Austin Roberts (17-19), Jacob Bailey (11-22), Josh Lyon (10-20).**



OBs and the School 1st VIII

# NEWS OF OLD BEDFORDIANS

► It is good to see New Milton Council are looking after the gravestone of VC holder **Lt Col George Wheeler (1893-97)**. The stone was replaced in 1999 by the Old Bedfordians Club and the Ghurkha Rifles Association and the Council are planning to restore it again after it was deemed 'failing'. Lt Col. Wheeler was awarded the VC by King George V. In Mesopotamia (Iraq) in February 1917, his squad crossed the River Tigris and cleared Turkish forces for the British Army's advance on Baghdad. Despite suffering a severe bayonet wound to the head, George helped disperse the enemy and continued to consolidate his position.



► Congratulations to our oldest known OB, **Sir James Hennessy KBE CMG (37-41)** who has turned 100. Sir James was delighted to receive a birthday card from King Charles III.



► There's no stopping **Jonathan Kane (51-58)** who ran the London Marathon in 4 hours 57 minutes and came second in his age group (80-84's).



▼ Guernsey-based **Dr Tim Peet (48-59)** came to visit the school ahead of the Pemberley House Dinner in February. He had not been back since leaving school and particularly enjoyed being shown round the Inky by some of the Prep School boys.



► Janet Boddington, widow of **Simon Boddington (49-59)**, visited the school to pay her respects to Simon and to visit where his ashes are buried by the Chapel. She was joined by Simon's brother **William (57-62)**, William's wife, Maggie, and their son, **Rowan (89-96)**. Janet lives in the USA, where both she and Simon lived together.



**Robin Fenton (55-59)** has been spending time with his daughter Amanda in Havana, Cuba. Amanda and her husband have beautifully restored the faded beauty of a Havana Colonial style apartment in which it is available to stay (<https://www.theboutiquecasa.com/>). She would love to welcome OBs.

► It was good to see **Nigel Brewer (54-60)** 'getting it on' at age 80! That old magic never goes!



► **Paddy Marsh (53-61)** visited the School from his home in France, with Ann-Marie Adair (née Worsdall) whose father **Brian Worsdall (31-37)** was a member of staff and house master for 37 years.

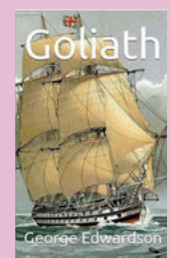


▼ The Burnaby Boys of 1962 met in London in June, firstly for a drink at the Waldorf Hilton, Aldwych, London, to meet with co-conspirator, **Peter Brewin (57-62)** and his wife, Adrienne, then after at Delaunay's for lunch.



▲ L-r: Peter Mellor (57-62), Mark Coley (54-62), George Westropp (57-62) and David Skinner (51-62)

► **George Westropp (57-62)** has just 'launched' the next book, 'Goliath', in his Lt Johnnie Wharton RN naval adventure series, under pen name George Edwardson. Former Fleet Street financial journalist George has also updated his mother, Mary Westropp's, magical 1950s Village in the Sand children's story into a mini-series.





◀ A fascinating photo from **John Beresford (59-64)** at the Wargrave & Shiplake Regatta, recalling the 1932 Olympic Gold coxless IV team. John took the place of his father **Jack Beresford (1913-17)**, Tarquin Edwards is grandson of ‘Jumbo’ Edwards and Ben Badcock

is Felix Badcock’s grandson. Gavin Jamieson has written a rowing book ‘Water’s Gleaming Gold’ about Jumbo Edwards and he took the place of the missing Roland George relative.

▶ **Tony Joseph (60-64)** visited the school in March with his wife Denise, from their home in California. Tony was disappointed that he was unable to coincide his visit with the BSA reception at Henley the previous week.



▲ Tony with Hugh Maltby (73-83)

▼ **Stuart Wilkinson (59-66)** drove a 95-year-old Lancia Lambda to Northern Italy in the autumn of 2022 as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the introduction of this ground-breaking car. Whilst in Turin he had the chance to drive round the legendary test track on the roof of the former factory at Lingotto (vide The Italian Job) before moving on to the Lancia family home in Fobello, a village in the foothills of the Alps where Vincenzo Lancia was born in 1881.



▼ **Andrew Randall (61-66)** took the opportunity on a recent trip to New York with his wife Jenny, to enjoy a meal with DVP **Vivake Bhalla (87-93)**.



▶ **Tim Goodall (63-67)** took part in the TCS London Marathon MyWay despite being diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. Although the race challenged him in ways he did not expect, and he felt that he had to pull out of the Actual London Marathon at 11km, on walking away from the course, he saw many medal winners, and decided that he had to get one last marathon medal. Tim walked the rest of the 26.2 miles, arriving home at 11pm! Well done, Tim!



▶ Belgium based **Major (rtd) Alan Coates (64-69)** married Ms. Bernadette Notte in April 2023.



Barrister and coral reef scientist **Richard Dunne (65-71)** has been researching the coral reefs of the tropical Indian Ocean, including the Maldives and Thailand, and the climate effects on coral reefs. He has also been working pro bono for the displaced Chagossian population who were compulsorily removed between 1968 and 1973 from their homeland in the Chagos Archipelago, Indian Ocean.

Former Head of Careers at Kimbolton School, **Bill Skinner (65-72)** is the author of a book, A Biker’s Dozen, about rides in the Cambridgeshire/Fens area.

▶ Councillor **David Hopkins (67-74)** was part of the official party that greeted HRH King Charles III when he visited Milton Keynes to confirm his late mothers gracious bestowing of city status to Milton Keynes, as part of the late Queens Jubilee Celebrations in 2022. It was good to see David sporting the Eagle tie for the occasion!



▶ **Paul Sturges (65-74)** and **Lt Col Tim Sturges (69-78)** took part in the “Veterans Banger Rally” racing from Dunkirk to Gibraltar. The event brings together Veterans from all areas of the Armed



Forces, and the aim is to drive a clapped-out banger around Europe to raise funds for charity. Their skills, determination, creativity and positivity was pushed to the very limit along with their Robin Reliant pick-up truck!

Music writer and producer **Kev Hoole (69-76)** has recorded a first time single, *Waiting for the Rain* released by That Cooper girl and, together with fellow OB **Andy Burroughs (66-75)** on bass, violin, mandolin and guitar, he has produced 'Me and Zee', a 4-track EP by dpc boy, with vocalist Zee, who was once backing singer for Boy George.

**Mark Yeomans' (74-76)** book manuscript (on Evolution) is now under consideration at a Canadian publisher in Vancouver, with a little help from David Suzuki (Canada's David Attenborough!).



◀ It was great to meet **Rupert von Seidlein (1978)** and his wife, Jessie. Rupert was a German exchange student and thoroughly enjoyed his one term boarding in Talbot's. Rupert lives in Singapore and has an art/photographic gallery, Glittertind, in Cebu, Philippines.

▶ **Chris Pope (69-79)** met up in Paris with DVP **David Barlen (74-89)** in July. Chris is about to retire to the Normandy countryside after a distinguished career in French Real Estate. David still has a few years to go!



**Marius de Vries (75-80)** is the music producer of the comedy film 'Dicks: the Musical' due to be released in 2023. A remake of 'The Parent Trap' but with a difference! He was also nominated as Best Original Song in 2022 for 'Beyond the Shore' from the film 'Coda'.

Former BBC arts editor **Will Gompertz (78-81)**, who is currently artistic director of the Barbican, will take over Directorship of the Sir John Soane's Museum in 2024. The museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields was Soane's home and contains paintings, sculptures, furniture, antiquities and models collected by the Regency architect, and has been kept as it was at the time of his death in 1837.

**Chris Bell (73-82)** organised a Redburn VI<sup>th</sup> form reunion for the 1982 leavers at his home in the Chilterns. Those present were **Ed Allen (72-82)**, **James Bardner (78-82)**, **Tony Williams (72-81)**, **Barry Tiffen (80-82)**, **Rick Lyster-Binns (77-82)**, **Malcolm Wilson (73-81)**, **Ted Pull (78-82)**, **Jim Black (73-82)**, **Nick Freeman (77-83)**, and **Jamie Myers (77-82)**.



▲ L-R – Jim Black, Rick Lyster-Binns, Chris Bell

**Roger Marks (71-82)**, **Mark Hall (86-91)**, **Sam Roberts (85-96)** and **Harry Beard (13-18)** came to school to take part in 'Start Up!', a programme for the boys to pitch their entrepreneurial ideas to a panel. In teams the boys were challenged to establish a 'minimum viable product' in a week – in other words, to start a fledgling business from scratch.

▼ It was wonderful to see so many OBs gathering to raise a glass in celebration of their friendship with **Sam McLeod (78-83)** following his memorial service organised by **Mike Abington (75-84)** and **Toby Campbell-Gray (76-83)** - a life well lived.



▶ Director of The Bee Centre, **Simon Cordingley (78-83)** has been listed in the 2023 Ends Power List of the 100 most influential environmental professionals in the UK. The Bee Centre in Chorley, Lancs, is a centre of excellence for bee-related education, breeding and husbandry.



▲ Matt on right.

◀ Bass player and vocalist **Matt Young (78-83)** has been spotted in the Herne Bay, Kent area performing regularly at the open mic nights, at the Pier Ceylon, as part of the duo, Young & Fudge.

▼ **Hugh Maltby (73-83)** won the Bedford Independent Everyday Heroes Fundraiser of the Year Award when he raised over £14,000 for County Days (set up by **Geoff Hadfield's**

**(71-82)** mother) by cycling over 10,000 miles in Bedfordshire – the equivalent of Bedford to Australia!



**Gareth Minor (80-83)** is the Founder and CEO of BE KIND RESCUE, a volunteer and donation-based venture which provides professional front-line conflict support solutions. They provide highly trained professionals, deploying them to save lives in high-risk environments, and supporting them with the very best equipment available.

▼ L-R **Trevor Pettifar (78-83)**, **Owen Hughes (72-83)**, **Chris Brodie (72-83)** and **Richard Hammond (78-83)** enjoyed a get together at Twickenham to cheer on England.



◀ **Dr Jason Reddy (79-84)** met up with **Rick Howe (74-80)** on Rick's recent visit to the UK from his home in Adelaide where Rick is Chief Executive of the Lifetime Support Authority in South Australia, providing treatment, care and support to severely injured motor accident victims.

▶ **Andrew Hubbard (74-84)** was spotted entertaining the crowds at the Lincoln Christmas Market.

▼ Chairman of Berkhamsted Cycling Club, **Julian Ormerod (75-85)** took part in the RideLondon challenge in May, riding in a rather professional looking Club peloton, which made light work of the course.



Founder of Fortune Films and CEO of the BCD Company **Caspar von Winterfeldt (81-86)** was invited to speak at the Chosun Ilbo's prestigious Asian Leadership Conference (ALC) in Seoul, South Korea in May 2023 on the Future of the Film Industry and How to Develop the Korean Film Media Industry. He invited Academy Award winning writer/director Oliver Stone to join him.

Poet and Reader of Creative Writing at the University of Roehampton, **Professor Jeff Hilson (77-86)** has had his book 'Organ Music' reviewed in the Times Literary Supplement. It was described as 'a masterpiece ten years in the making'. It is an extended riff on the previous decade of Tory rule by way of some of its more horribly memorable national occasions as it moves between free verse, poets' theatre, prose and visual poetry

▶ **David Mann (77-86)** was presented with an MBE by Princess Anne in June at an investiture at Buckingham Palace, for his services to inclusion within the Property Industry.



**Andrew Murphy (75-86)** is the founder of the Bedford Bellybusters Cycling Club and took part in the RideLondon race.

▶ **Al Murray (77-86)** has had a busy year. Not only writing and starring in 'Spitting Image: the Musical' earlier in the year in the West End, Al has been starring in the riotous comedy, The Crown Jewels in London and on tour. Based on the incredible true story of how charismatic and unpredictable Colonel Blood planned the greatest heist of all time – stealing the Crown Jewels of Charles II in plain sight!



**Tom Wootton (78-87)** was voted Mayor of Bedford in the local elections in May.



◀ Interior designer **Philip Hine (77-88)** took part in the Lord Mayor's Show in London showing 100 years of Bentley, from a 4 ½ Litre Bentley right the way up to a Bentley, Flying Spur hybrid model. ▶

► **Colin Marsh (staff 80-15)** and his wife met up with **Nick Tinworth (74-89)** and **David Barlen (74-89)** near their home in the Charente, France. Nick and David were on a cycling holiday and practicing the French Colin had taught them! Colin could recite the list of the members of their R1 class by memory in alphabetical order, without errors, but only until the local wine started to flow!



► **Giles Taylor (80-90)** took part in the iconic London to Brighton Bike Ride in September in aid of POPYRUS the national Charity for the Prevention of Young Suicide.



▲ **Giles with daughter Cecily.**

**Andy Loveland (83-90)** founded Early Rider®, in his garden shed, making sophisticated, premium bikes fit for adults, just in kids sizes! The 'Belter' set a new standard in kids bikes and was the first to win the prestigious Eurobike Award and has become the best-selling belt drive bike of all time and led to Early Rider being the largest manufacturer of belt drive bikes in the world.



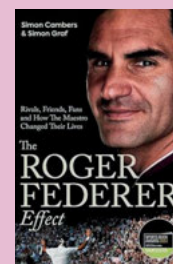
◀ 1989 Pemberley House leavers (l-r) **Will Shorten (84-89)**, **Dr Antony Rowstron (82-89)**, **Chris Starkie (84-89)**, and **Andrew Barman (84-89)** were grateful to current Pemberley House Master Henry Taylor for letting them

have a look round the House in May. They were amazed at the differences, and similarities, in the House since 'their day'!

▼ Master Mariner **David Lee (84-89)** is currently Captain of M.Y. Flying Fox, the largest yacht charter in the world! At 136m long it has 2 helicopter pads, a 12 m swimming pool, sleeps 25 guests and has a crew of 54.



► Freelance sports journalist **Simon Cambers' (86-91)** book, 'The Roger Federer Effect', was shortlisted for the International Sports Book of the Year award at the Sunday Times Sports Book Awards 2023. The book tells the story of the world's most famous tennis player in a fresh, innovative way - through the eyes of his friends, rivals, coaches, fans and many others who have been drawn to him as he blazed a trail and transcended the sport.



◀ **Philip Pope (81-92)** visited in December 2022 from his home near Brisbane, Australia with his sons, Hamish and Joshua and was pleased to see the cricket bat from the 2010/11 Ashes Series that he had donated, in pride of place in the Pavilion.

▼ **Dr David Rowe (97-92)** was happy to catch up with the Bedford School rugby players and rowers on their recent tour to Australia in August. He managed to see the boys at both the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane and took great delight in posing with (not in!) his 1<sup>st</sup> VIII lycra from 1992.



◀ **Simon Meadwell (79-89)**, founder of Fassa Cycling Products in Dorset, competed in the UCI World Masters Cyclocross race (Vets 50-55) in December 2022.



◀ OB Club Assistant Director Gina Worboys was pleased to meet up with **Al Broderick (80-89)** (AKA the Singing Chef) and catch his show, whilst on holiday in the BVI.

**Colin Rowe (85-90)** took part in a fundraising 15-mile sponsored walk in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital.

**Huw Arthur (83-93)** has been working as Art Director on *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore 2022*. He was a joint nominee for the Excellence in Design Award for *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* in 2019, and joint winner of the same category for his work in 2016 on *The Martian*.

Former MasterChef winner, **Dhruv Baker (98-94)** of Tempus Foods, was thrilled that his charcuterie was included in the list of the UK Best 100 Taste Award Winners! The Awards evening is a prestigious event that recognises and honours the leading brands and industry leaders in the realm of healthy, clean label, additive-free, eco-friendly, and sustainable food and drink.



◀ **Tim Kirby (84-95)** and his wife Alana and sons James and Jack, visited the school in September from their home in Sydney. They were pleased to bump into **Simon Lincoln (94-96)** as Tim had been in the same class as Simon's brother, **Daniel (90-95)**

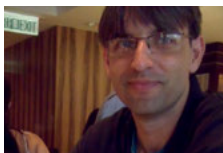
▶ TV Director **Jon Wild (91-96)** has had a busy year. Not only has his programme 'Tracked' been on NZ TV, hosted by Vinnie Jones, but his programme showing a fresh insight into the All Blacks has been completed. 'Tracked' is now being picked up by Max in the US and will be in the UK soon. Adventurous teams of two have to run, hide and survive in NZ's rugged wilderness, whilst being chased by an elite tracking force.



▼ Cape Town DVP **Alex Gitlin (90-96)** welcomed the Prep School Cricket Tour to Reddam House, where he is Headmaster. Some Tour parents and local OBs came along to cheer on the School. L-R: **Richard Jackson (89-96)**, **Ken Orrell (61-66)**, **Simon Lincoln (94-96)** and Alex. Alex still plays Masters Hockey for SA in the over 40s category.



◀ **Sgt Rowan Boddington (89-96)** has been awarded a 3\* Commendation by the Chief of Defence Intelligence. Rowan is Provost Sgt at one of Strategic Commands most critical sites, where he plans and delivers Military Skills Training to regular soldiers including Counter Terrorism Exercises.



◀ Professor of Pure Mathematics at the University of Oxford, **Jason Lotay (87-97)** is currently at UC Berkeley in California on a visiting Chancellor's professorship.



◀ **Juris Kabakovs (95-97)** met up with **Alexander Rose (12-16)** for a quick lunch in Marupe, Latvia. Alexander is in his second year of Medicine at Riga Stradins University.

Timpani Professor at the Royal College of Music, **Chris Ridley (90-97)** conducted a charity concert in March, in aid of the Bedford homeless charity, Emmaus. The repertoire was varied and both the orchestra and choir were comprised of Bedford's best local professional and amateur musicians.

▶ Teachers at Monkton Combe School, (l-r) **Ben Sim (92-97)**, **Rev Tim Lewis (90-00)** and **Mike Abington (75-84)**, played for the staff cricket team, the Cavaliers, in May. Sadly, they lost on the last ball of the game!



◀ **Brigade Major Lieutenant Colonel James Shaw (90-98)** had the honour of leading the Coronation Procession for King Charles III, from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace, on his horse Sovereign's Shadow.

▼ **Mark Lowten (93-98)** took part in the Porterbrook Three Peaks Challenge by Rail. The train departs from Crewe in the evening and travels to Snowdon, which is climbed overnight. They then headed to Ravenglass to climb Scafell Pike, before a night on the train up to Fort William, to climb Ben Nevis. Mark was raising money for the charity, Railway Children.



It was good to see **James Steadman (91-01)** back at the School. James had brought his U14's team from Tonbridge to play against Bedford. We won't mention who won! ▶

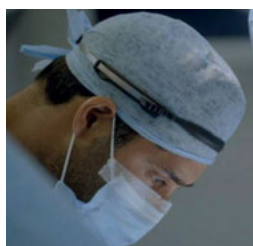


◀ Specialist factual-focused TV producer/director **Tom Cebula (91-01)** was the director for two episodes of 'How the Universe Works' for the Science Channel, a landmark series of four films on the origins of civilization, one on The Cosmic Web (the universe-spanning dark matter framework on which controls the distribution of the stars and galaxies), and one episode on the search for Dark Matter itself.



◀ Head of Social Media and the Chief Editor of DAZN News, Japan, **Tasuku Okawa (95-01)**, took a detour during his visit from Japan to Spain to speak to the Media Society in March.

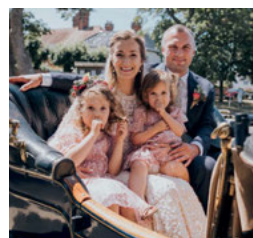
▶ Consultant Neurosurgeon **Dr Soumya Mukherjee (95-01)** has been featured in the BBC2 programme: *Surgeons at the Edge of Life*. Based at Addenbrookes and the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, Soumya is also Faculty Supervisor in Neuroanatomy, at Newnham College, Cambridge.



◀ Writer, director, producer and actor **Robbie Leacock (92-02)** is currently based in Los Angeles with Assembly Line Entertainment and was most recently the executive producer on 'Ukrainians in Exile'. He wrote the mockumentary series 'The Flat Tyres' a satirical comedy about a gang of hijackers from the townships in South Africa. He has also starred in the TV series 'Untitled Sixties Series'.

**Dr Jay Vitale (Chudasama) (92-02)** is a finalist for Great British Entrepreneur Awards 2023. He was interviewed by the BBC World Business Report discussing his company Air For Life and their products that destroy pollutants, bacteria and viruses in the air and on surfaces using filter-less ionisation technology.

▶ **Chris Soul (93-03)** tied the knot with his wife, Tamsin, in Aldeburgh, Suffolk in July 2022; pictured with their daughters, Ivy and Zoe. Fellow OB's Best Man **Angelo Paolino (92-03)**, **Sir Alastair Cook (98-03)**, **David Turney (96-03)**, **George Watson (96-03)**, **James Ryder (92-03)**, **Tom Turner (93-03)**, **Will Notley (92-03)** and **Dan Soul (98-08)** were all there for the celebrations.



◀ **Stephen Elms (95-03)** and his partner, Sharna Laidlow, are proud to announce the birth of their son, George Stephen Elms on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.

▶ **Richard Young (99-04)** took part in a charity bike ride for Macmillan Cancer Support, as part of the GLH Property Team, cycling to 16 of the hotels within their portfolio starting at The Tower Hotel London, over to Thistle Heathrow, up to Thistle Express Luton and then back down to London to pick off the remaining 13 Hotels! A total combined distance of 100 miles.



Senior Land Manager at Taylor Wimpey plc, **Andrew Meikle (99-04)** ran the London Marathon in aid of Marie Curie in memory of his father.

**Tom Bartrop's (00-05)** company SuperFi, a debt prevention platform, was featured on Sky News, when they entered into a new partnership with the Greater London Authority. The London-based fintech startup is revolutionising debt management and will help Britons weather the cost-of-living crisis.

**Luke Frankiewicz (99-05)** leads the Marketing and Business development team at Rapor, which offers a wide range of construction services and has completed the refurbishment of numerous Victorian buildings and even an old watermill in Bedfordshire to a very high standard.

SunGod founder and CEO, **Ali Watkiss (94-05)** was awarded the 2023 King's Award for Enterprise. SunGod, who make performance sunglasses and snow goggles, was recognised in the Sustainable Development category.



◀ **Rob Whittle (95-05)** took part in the Cumbrian Challenge in May, raising money for Walking with the Wounded charity. The course starts in Grasmere and covers nearly a mile of ascent over some cheeky hills!



◀ Head of Sales & Business Development at Saracens, **Mike Godfrey (00-05)** brought the Gallagher Premiership Rugby Cup to the School, in September. **Olly Hone (Satchwill) (98-09)** (pictured) thought it might go well on his mantelpiece! Saracens are looking for a good

season 23/24 to hold on to the Trophy.

**Cameron Austin (00-05)** has moved out to San Francisco with his new job as Director of Vehicle Integration at Lucid Motors, a luxury electric vehicle company.

Los Angeles based TV Creative Licensing Director for North America at BMG Production Music, **Matt Cansick (01-06)**, took part in the Banff World Music Festival when he moderated 'The Power of Music: in Conversation with Nora Felder', the 5 Times Emmy & 2 Times Grammy nominated Music Supervisor.



◀ **Ed Moys (03-06)** and wife Alison are thrilled with the birth of their baby girl, Lucy.

**Henry Wilkinson (02-07)** is the Co-founder of a new kind of workspace, 'Drop-in'. Drop-in provides workspaces that are more flexible and productive.



◀ Not long after completing the London Marathon in April and coming an incredible 133<sup>rd</sup> in the mass event, **Dave Brewis (97-07)** took part in Endure24 in June, in aid of Alzheimers Research UK, running for 24 hours over an 8km course in Bramham Park, Leeds.



◀ **Sung Woo Park (03-07)** was delighted to reconnect with **Dan Algar (98-09)** in July as he was in San Francisco for business from his home in Singapore. A lot to catch up on after ~15 years! –

▶ **Dan Strode (96-06)** has published 'The Culture Advantage', a book about the eight key cultural traits that the most innovative companies in the world use to supercharge their success. It is a blueprint to designing, implementing and sustaining a culture that will not only celebrate innovation, but will imbue it in everything your company, and its people, do.



◀ Congratulations to **Sam Morel (97-07)** and his wife Sophie on the birth of their daughter, Arabella, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.

▼ OBs present at the wedding of **Mark Girven (02-08)** and Emanuela Achelles, in Ithaki, Greece included: I-rt: **Jack**

**Matthews (05-16), Richard Wood (05-07); Mark James (96-07), Ben Johnson (97-07); George Warner (06-08), Ed Kent (98-07); Joe Burton (96-07); Mark, Pete Rogers (97-07); Nic**

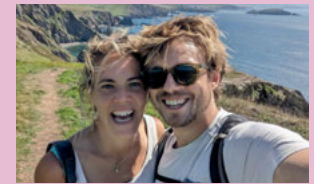


**Inchbold (03-10); Alex Wakely (96-07), Dave Reed (97-07); James Hughes (03-08) and Tom Rossdale (06-11).**



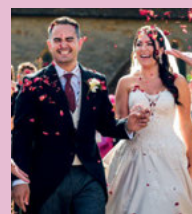
◀ **Alex Walsh (01-08)** and wife Anthea are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter, Penelope Isabella Alice, a sister for Xenia.

▶ **Dr Matt Gerlach (97-08)** has become engaged to Physiotherapist Jess Rees. The couple met whilst on a sports injuries course and plan to get married in 2024.



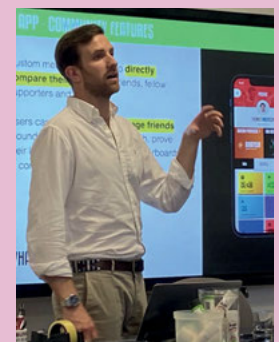
CEO at The Travel Whisperer, **Dan Jackson (03-09)** got engaged to founding director of boutique investment bank, Solano Partners, Steph Frayne, whilst on holiday in Mauritius. The couple met in New York and plan to get married in South Africa where Steph was born, in the New Year.

▼ Bedford Prep School teacher **Olly Hone (Satchwill) (98-09)** got married to fellow Prep School teacher Jess Hone in March in Eversholt, Beds. OBs at the wedding included I-r **Roger Butters (69-76), Mike Capaldi (72-76), Michael Ruta (00-11); Will Roberts-Phelps (02-09), Olly; Ally Satchwill (01-12), Chris Satchwill (61-72); Zach Hone (16-25), Alex Meredith (99-09) and Ed Watkiss (98-09).**



◀ Google Strategy Lead, **Dan Algar (98-09)** married Freesia Rafello at Cowdry Park in September. The couple met when Dan was studying abroad at San Jose State University in California. Freesia is a Director of Events at a Mobile App Analytics company called Data.AI

▶ **Doug Worboys (98-09)** returned to School in June to talk to the Entrepreneur Society about his new app, Jostl., the new home of sports fan opinion. He talked of the trials and tribulations of having a great idea and then bringing it to life, and got the boys to dive headfirst into competing with each other and rivals on the app. <https://www.jostl.app/>





◀ **Elliott Cross (07-09)** took part in the Alcludia 70.3 Ironman in May in a personal best time of 5hrs 53 mins. It was a very windy day with winds up to 50/60kmh, for the swim and cycle, and then very hot for the run. A tough course!

▶ Hong Kong based **Jonathan Turner (98-09)** took part in the Stanley 2023 Dragon Boat Warm Up Races rowing for the HSBC Prudent Paddlers (the Risk and Compliance boat). Despite it being a scorching hot day, the crew were delighted to come away with a trophy after three intense races.



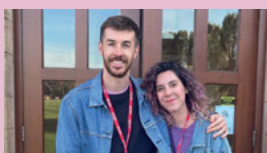
◀ Ascot Racecourse corporate communications lead, **Will Aitkenhead (04-09)** has had a busy year. Not only did he get married to Technology Recruiter for Tesco, Charlotte Cooper, in September at South Farm, Royston, Herts but the couple had a baby boy in July, Jacob Jack Aitkenhead. Best Man at the wedding was brother **Harry (06-12)**

and OBs attending were **Adam Bedford (98-09)**, **Sam Heath (98-09)**, **Sam Farmer (07-10)** and **Tom Austin (04-09)**.

▶ Lazard's VP **Rich Wilson (04-09)** married Sainsbury's Category Planner, Lauren McCollom, in April, in Northern Ireland. The couple met whilst at university in Durham but didn't get together until five years later! OBs at the wedding included Best Men, **Ben Cooper (05-10)** and **Tony Hoad (04-09)**, and **Stuart Ritchie (02-09)**, **Leo Sarkeshik (08-10)**, **Adam Costello (99-09)** and **Tom Rogers (98-09)**.



◀ L-r - **Nick Graham (05-09)**, **Sam Jackson (05-10)**, and **Nick Johnson (99-10)** ran the London Marathon for the Karen Morris Memorial Trust. The trio were delighted to complete it in under 4 hours.



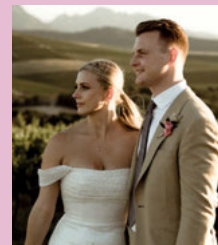
◀ **Phil Salvesen (05-10)** and his girlfriend Aida Guerrero, popped into the OB Club office on a recent trip from their home in Malaga, Spain.



▲ L-r Tom, Rich, Tony and Ben.

◀ **Ben Cooper (05-10)** and **Rich Wilson (04-09)** took the opportunity when visiting **Tony Hoad (04-09)** in Grenoble to also meet up with **Tom Rogers (98-09)** who is teaching at the Geneva English School.

▶ **Henry Wellbelove (00-11)** married Ellen Kapochkin on New Year's Eve at the Warwick Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa. The couple met whilst at University in Warwick. OBs at the wedding were **Diego Baynes (04-09)**, **James Rawstone (00-11)** and **Will Salusbury (00-09)**.



◀ **Pete Devaney (02-11)** of the band 'Poundshop Parka', has recorded an acoustic live album alongside Darcy Winter, called 'Live At RaK Studios'. The band released their debut album in 2022 and their new album features 12 songs, including 2 new original songs and 4 covers (Beatles, Arctic Monkeys, Pink Floyd), with Darcy collaborating on 4 of the tracks.

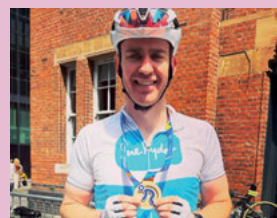


**Maximilian Waldburg-Zeil (09-11)** ran the Wings for Life World Run in May in aid of spinal cord research. A unique race where EVERYONE in the world, has 30 minutes to get ahead of the Catcher Car, the moving finish line!



◀ **Keith Hui (05-11)** took the opportunity of a holiday in the UK to visit the School with his girlfriend Amelia. Keith left in LVI as he had got an offer of an early place at university. He is now a maths teacher in Hong Kong.

▶ A group of OBs had a Transatlantic reunion at the wedding of **Hugo Moon (00-11)**, and Katie Nageotte, Olympic gold medallist pole vaulter from Tokyo 2020 and reigning world champion. The wedding took place in Cleveland, Ohio. In attendance at the wedding were (L-R) **Giles Moon (96-07)**, **Nicholas Crizzle (02-11)**, **William Harris (09-11)**, **Hugo, Edward Kent (00-11)** and **Mark Edmunds (00-11)**. Hugo and Katie got married on New Years Eve, so it was also a New Years Eve party!



◀ **Ally Satchwill (01-12)** ran the London Marathon 2023 on behalf of Sue Ryder in memory of his mother, Judith, and father **Martin Satchwill (65-76)**. He also took part in the RideLondon event in May.



◀ Finance Manager **Will Rhodes (05-12)** married ispace inc. Strategy Advisor Jenna Tiwana in May. The couple had a Sikh wedding at Khalsa Jatha Temple, London, followed by a civil ceremony at Kew Gardens. OBs attending were: **Tom Rhodes (04-09), Tom Beale**





**(01-12), Chris Tam (07-12), Ollie English (07-12), Oliver Jackson (01-12), Andy Foulkes (01-12), Mark Halpin (10-12), Arran Peters (00-11), and Scala Chiang (05-12)** who had flown in from Taiwan.





▲ **James with Father Hugh Maltby (73-83)**

◀ **James Maltby (03-13)** took part in the RideLondon challenge as well as the London Marathon. He is now just one step away from completing the London Classics when he takes on the two-mile Swim Serpentine challenge.

▶ It was good to see recording artist and professional guitarist, **Ani Savvides (04-13)** featuring in the Blues Matters magazine, as well as on the Apple Podcast 'hip hop Orchestra Presents...'.  


▶ **Spencer Cartwright (04-13)** took part in the RideLondon challenge, cycling 102 miles through the Essex countryside to end up at Tower Bridge.  


▶ Freelance tenor and conductor, **Will Wright (02-13)**, appeared with the Marian Consort in Tokyo at the Bunka-kaikan Hall, in February, in a performance of William Byrd's 'Singing in Secret'. Will sings with a number of ensembles including the Chamber Choir of London, Eric Whitacre Singers, London Choral Sinfonia, Britten Sinfonia Voices, Rupa Ensemble, Sansara and Genesis Sixteen and The Priory Church Choir.  


▶ Design engineer **Bobby Martin (04-14)** and barrister, Kimberley Clifton (BHS (02-14)) married in the chapel at Bedford School in August. The couple met through the CCF when Bobby was Head of the Army section and Kimberley Head of the RAF. OBs at the wedding included Best Man, **Jack Diemer (09-14), George Bird (05-14)** and **Andy Martin (06-16)**.  


▶ **Nurdaulet Bazylbekov (12-14)** visited the school in June with his wife and son. Nurdaulet is currently working in London in the European Capital Markets team at Wisdom Tree Asset Management.  




◀ It was good to see former Northants cricketer **Charlie Thurston (07-14)** back at School in the Summer helping coach the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Charlie has now signed for Aberfeldie.

▶ Former Wasps and Munster rugby player **Ollie Lyons (03-14)** climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in June, reaching Uhuru Peak, which is the highest summit on Kibo's crater rim, one of the world's largest volcanoes. (5,895 Meters)  


San Francisco based entrepreneur and AI-transformation consultant **Filip Kozera (12-14)** has been featured in this year's '30 under 30' Forbes Polska. A keen mountaineer and skier, Filip has summited 3 of the 7 highest peaks on each continent and a few 7-thousanders in the Himalayas.



◀ **Olly Bowes (10-16)** played the part of Enrico in Brent Opera's production of Lucia Di Lammermoor in July, a story of passion and tragedy.



◀ Aidan Huxford bumped into **Xavier Pleuger (05-14)** at the ArcTanGent music festival in July. Xavier is senior support technician with Confidence IT Ltd based in Milton Keynes.

DPhil student in Inorganic Chemistry and Chemistry Tutor at University College, Oxford, **Bryan Ng (14-16)** won the poster prize from amongst 800+ posters in the EuropaCat2023 on Catalysis conference in Prague. Bryan was there to present his recently published paper.

▶ **Simon Beal (05-16)** took part in the Jordan Ultramarathon – just to keep his younger brother Matt, company! Simon came an amazing 12<sup>th</sup> out of 150 runners.  


Architectural conservationist **John Holroyd (11-16)** returned to the School

to talk to the Architecture Society about his career trajectory through his degree at Nottingham to his current job with Historic Building Consultants, Donald Insall Associates.



◀ Congratulations to **Jared Sheridan (07-16)** who took part in the Eton Dorney Olympic Triathlon, coming 14<sup>th</sup> overall out of 320 athletes and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 25-29 age category.



◀ **2Lt Callum Fenton (06-17)** passed out of Sandhurst in April, in front of King Charles III, in what was the 200<sup>th</sup> Sovereign's Parade. Callum has joined the Royal Military Police.

**Edison Xiong (15-17)** is currently the product lead at Xpeng Motors one of China's leading EV builders. Based in Guangdong, Edison's product portfolio works to solve customer problems but prioritises initiatives that drive the most significant business outcomes.

▶ Final year medical student at Bristol University **Riki Msindo (07-17)** had the crowd in stitches when he won the Chortle Student Comedy Awards 2023. Riki is already on the Bristol comedy scene and co-hosts the podcast *Oh Captain My Captain*.

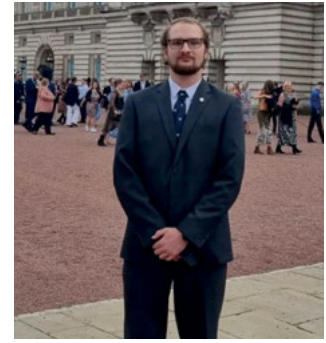


**Harry Guthrie's (07-17)** choir Continuum has been holding regular concerts in the best traditions of choral singing. See full details of forthcoming events at <https://continuumchoir.co.uk/>

▼ Budding film director/producer **Jack Murphy (08-18)** is working on a mini short film, 'Trace', a science fiction film noir about the world of memory dealing in dystopian London.



▶ **Gerald Hargreave-Mawson (10-18)** was presented with his gold Duke of Edinburgh award in May. He participated through St John Ambulance, who aided him throughout the programme. Gerald is now an Accredited Expedition Assessor and D of E Leader within St John Ambulance.



**Silas Sanders (13-19)** and **Harry Guthrie (07-17)** were members of the Trinity College Cambridge Chapel Choir which sang Maurice Duruflé's Requiem, Op.9. at the Eglise Saint-Eustache in Paris in 2022, to significant critical acclaim.



◀ Event Supervisor at Glory Days, Bondi, **Alfie Orchard (13-18)** is playing for Randwick Rugby Club, Sydney and was awarded the 'Best and Fairest 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade' prize in the Club's recent awards.

Following his Law degree at Leeds **Alexander King (17-19)** took time off to travel and had an exciting opportunity when he was given the responsibility of independently managing and running the daily operations of a 320 hectare dairy farm on North Island, New Zealand, for just over a week! He followed this with a few months stock farming on South Island. He is now completing his LLM at BPP University Law School.

Cambridge maths student **Thomas Pelling (08-19)** returned to school in December to talk to the Pythagoreans Society on 'An Introduction to Mathematical Expectation'.

**Ben Wood (11-19)** ran the London Marathon in April on behalf of The Teenage Cancer Trust.

▼ **Amun Bhamra (12-19)** has qualified as Second Officer for easyJet. Look out for him in the cockpit on your next trip to Europe.



**Jonny Hosking (12-19)** came into the School in May to give a talk to the Drama Society. Jonny is studying at the Oxford School of Acting.



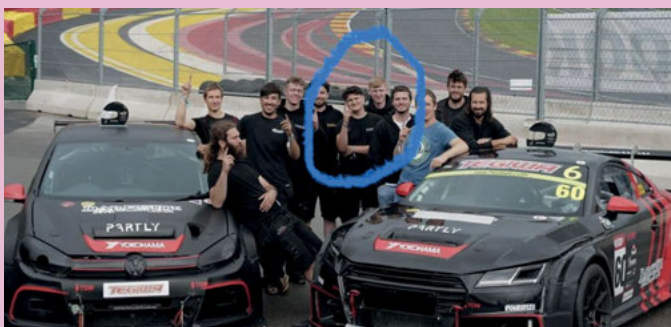
◀ **Cameron Brown (15-20)** was nominated by De Montfort University, Leicester, to exhibit his degree project at New Designers, in the Business Design Centre, Islington at the beginning of July, the annual event for the UK's most innovative emerging talent.

▶ **Alex Wilkins (13-20)** was the winner of the Rising Star Volunteer of the Year category at the 2023 British Rowing Awards. Alex had volunteered to coach at both Bedford RC and the University of Leeds BC despite having to retire from rowing due to injury.



◀ Central St Martins undergraduates **Richard Huang (14-20)** and **Simeon Gay (19-21)** visited the school's Art Department in June. Simeon is doing a degree in Fine Art whilst Richard is studying Women's Fashion design.

▼ National Motorsport Academy student **Jack Jordan (13-20)** is on course for a podium place in the Race Engineer of the Year 2023 competition. Jack works with a team from Barnsley called Darkside Developments, who thrash tuned Golf's, Audi TT's and RS3 cars around racetracks across the UK and Europe.



Over the next 5 years **Paul Smith (09-20)** is planning to raise £7,665 for Road Victims Trust by running 3 to 4 half-marathons a year and a marathon and triathlon each year as well as a sky dive. The specific amount reflects £1 for every day since his father passed away when Paul was just 2 months old.

**Max Sogan (12-21)** returned to the School to share his top tips on the Oxbridge application process. Max, who is about to start his third year reading physics at Oxford, began by stating that, in order to do well, you have to "really want it and have a real hunger to study there."



◀ Classics student at Durham University **Alfie Willcocks (16-21)** won the charity boxing match in the Durham Student Fight Night, raising money for the Oddballs Foundation.

▶ **Simeon Gay (19-21)** was presented with his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award at Buckingham Palace.



**Kieran Gilmour (17-22)** was awarded a Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Award for achieving the UK's highest raw mark in the 2022 International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level Geography examination.

**Reuben Glenville (20-22)** gained the Salters Horners Physics Prize with one of the UK's highest A-Level Physics examination results.



◀ Congratulations to second year computer science student at King's College, London, **Maxwell Martin (15-22)**, who secured second place in the Google BNG Hackathon 2023 held at Google's HQ in London.



◀ 2<sup>nd</sup> year University of Warwick Management student, **Joba Thomas (17-22)**, has been listed among the top 10 Black Future Leaders 2023, by "Powerful Media". Future Leaders is an annual publication which profiles 150 of the most outstanding black university students in Britain.

Law Student **Mal Crook (15-22)** ran 50km to raise money for the Exeter University's chosen charity, Alzheimer's Research UK, as part of their Dash to Dubrovnik trip.

**James Watson (17-22)** has accepted the position of Organ Scholar at Newcastle Cathedral and St Andrews Church alongside studying Music at Newcastle University.

▶ **Henry Cudjoe (15-22)** and **Alex Edun (15-22)** of the 'twocustomisers', made special boots for the Northampton Saints captain, **Fraser Dingwall (13-17)**, for their Fundraiser game against Gloucester. The boots were auctioned at the end and were part of the £51,000 raised for Northampton Saints Foundation.



**Will Roberts (12-23)** has become the Media and Communications Manager at Real Bedford.

# IN MEMORIAM

Geoffrey G Abbiss	1938-1945	Matthew R A Holland	1983-1991
Trevor W J Abbiss	1942-1949	V John Holley	1943-1950
Mrs Jean Amos Staff	1950-1986	Ian R Hooper	1941-1944
Philip J Appleby	1971-1976	Brian H Howell	1943-1953
Colin E Argent	1953-1958	Jimmy' R James	1945-1952
W Kevill F Armstrong	1950-1953	Robin E Jeffs	1951-1958
Richard H Atherton	1956-1960	David C Jones	1956-1963
John L Atkinson	1942-1950	Piratheesh "Pira" Karunakaran	2014-2021
Iradj A Bagherzade	1956-1962	Sean A H Kavanagh-Dowsett	1978-1985
Sir Alan M Bailey KCB	1943-1949	Captain Sydney L Kemp	1938-1943
Charles N Blacklock	1970-1978,	William Myles Knighton CB	1939-1949
	Staff 1988-2016	Peter Laws	1954-1959
The Revd John H L Blick	1947-1954	Charles W Little	1961-1970
Dr Antony C Branfoot	1945-1950	Professor Peter W Lock	1939-1949
Alan J Broad	1937-1946	G Jack Lundin	1949-1954
Patrick R Carlisle	1945-1956	Hugh C J Lunniss	1933-1944
Edwin C Carvell	1933-1937	Chris Maughan	1966-1971
Roddy R Caxton-Spencer	1973-1978	Sam A McLeod	1978-1983
Roger R Chapman CBE	1959-1961	G Chris Metcalf	1936-1946
Graham M Clarke	1965-1969	Michael S K Millen	1946-1951
David Coley	1945-1953	R Bruce Minton	1950-1957
Richard J Comyn	1947-1950	Chris A Mitchel	1975-1982
Dom R Conolly	2003-2007	Brian N Parker	1946-1954
David W E G Cook	1950-1953	Paul J Pengelly	1946-1955
Lt Col Howard A Culley Staff	1987-2007	Nigel W Penn	1965-1969
Ian A M Dakin	1960-1970	David J Pitt	1949-1953
F Martin Day	1951-1958	Jonathan G Randall	1964-1969
E (Ted) E Donnelly	1953-1960	Paul RE Ringwood	1953-1963
John D W Duncombe	1945-1950	Dr C Morven Robertson	1962-1971
David H Duncombe	1957-1962	Professor Richard O Robinson	1955-1960
Ray P Foster	1954-1959	Roger D Sawtell	1941-1945
Chris Garbett	1968-1972	Ian Schofield Staff	1982-1988
The Hon A Robin Godber	1953-1960	George H C Sinfield	1941-1948
Timothy J L Goodwin	1980-1986	Cdr Tim J K Sloane OBE RN	1950-1958
Colin Gosden	1942-1952	John Hall Spencer OBE	1942-1945
Peter H Grose-Hodge	1936-1946	Rev Don Stevenson Staff	1992-1999
Dr Thomas R Hailstone	1943-1954	David H Stewart-Jones	1948-1952
Dr Kenneth G M Hall	1944-1951	Dr Anthony (Tony) J Swannell	1948-1955
Chris H Hamp	1963-1968	Chris B Synnott	1983-1990
Roger Harrison	1958-1966	Richard J Talbot	1951-1958
Robert (Bob) P Hart	1944-1952	J R Christopher Taverner	1945-1949
Major Richard I S Hawkins RM	1957-1962	Tony J Treby	1952-1955
J Doug S Hay	1949-1954	Richard L Wade	1946-1956
Malcolm J H Hay	1953-1960	Richard Walker Staff	1985-2013
Robert N Hector	1952-1957	Michael R H S Walshe	1949-1956
John L Hicks	1946-1957	John T Willmin	1958-1968
Professor Richard E Hills	1954-1963	John H Winton	1941-1948
Patrick (Paddy) J Hislop	1943-1949	Francis G Wright	1961-1971

# OLD BEDFORDIAN NOTICES

## GET CONNECTED WITH EAGLE CONNECT

We're thrilled to report that **Eagle Connect**, our online social and business networking hub, is going from strength to strength with 2,176 active members. Designed to bring the Bedford School community closer together; it enables willing OBs, past and present Bedford parents, grandparents, and staff to stay connected and support each other in all aspects of their life.

It differs to other social networks, as all members have a shared affection for Bedford School, enabling us to create a highly engaged and supportive online community.

**Join today!**

[bit.ly/BS\\_EagleConnect](http://bit.ly/BS_EagleConnect)



## SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2024

### OB CLUB AT HOME

Join us at Bedford School for this very popular event, with tours of the school buildings, House receptions, the At Home Drinks Reception and a three-course lunch in a marquee on the playing fields. We are also welcoming Leavers from the Classes of 2014, 2004, 1994, 1984, 1974 and 1964 back for their 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 Year Reunions.

**Further details will be available on our website at: [bit.ly/OBEventsCal](http://bit.ly/OBEventsCal)**



## BISHOP MEMORIAL FUND

The Bishop Memorial Fund is for OBs, former staff and their dependants who may be in financial need. For more information, please contact the OB Club Director, Hugh Maltby. Please draw the existence of the Fund to the attention of anyone who may qualify for help.

**Find out more on our website here: [bit.ly/BishopMemFund](http://bit.ly/BishopMemFund)**



## SUPPORT YOUR CLUB AND BECOME AN EAGLE SUPPORTER

All OBs are invited to become **Eagle Supporters** and take advantage of the benefits of this additional level of membership – all for £25 a year, that's less than the price of a cup of coffee per month!

You will:

- Receive a hard copy of the Ousel magazine, full of School and Old Bedfordian articles, news, event write-ups and photographs.
- Receive discounts to some key Club events, such as the Annual Dinner and 'At Home' lunch.
- Be helping the long-term future of your Club!

**Become an Eagle Supporter!**

[bit.ly/OBSubscribingMembership](http://bit.ly/OBSubscribingMembership)



# SPORTSMEN IN BRIEF



◀ One to watch! **Callum Smyth (20-22)** was selected to represent the Scotland U18s last year and also take part in the prestigious Macphail Rugby Scholarship. He spent five months immersed in South Africa's renowned rugby culture at the high-performance training facility at Stellenbosch University. He was then

selected to be one of the 15 FOSROC Scottish Rugby Academy players at Glasgow Warriors and trains with and plays for the FOSROC Future XV – the newly formed FOSROC Super Series side which is built upon the next generation of young Scottish players.

▶ Northampton Saints rugby player, **Fraser Dingwall (13-17)** was voted Supporters' Player of the Season 22/23 and picked up the MPA Try of the Season award to boot for his effort against Gloucester. Fellow Saints player **George Furbank (13-15)** has captained the side and was also selected for Planet Rugby's Team of the Season 22/23.



▼ London Scottish have signed loosehead prop **George Cave (05-16)** for the 2023/24 season. George has been playing for Richmond and his impressive performance in the scrum was enough to earn him the contract.



▲ **Felix Mallalieu (08-19)** and **Alex Edun (15-22)** have been selected for an 'England Universities Sports' rugby 7s squad. Both are at Loughborough where Felix is in his final year and Alex is a fresher. The boys played in the Bournemouth elite 7s competition where other OBs taking part included **Faysal Olabooye (15-17)** who played for Apache Braves 7s, **George Seward (07-18)** playing for the Nomads 7s and **Conor Finch**

**(13-18)** who was in the squad for 'Rugby Against Cancer 7s' who actually won the elite event.



◀ Having previously played with Esher and Rams Rugby winger/centre, **Faysal Olabooye (15-17)** has signed with Blackheath Rugby.



◀ Freshman **Archie Mathers (21-23)** has been selected to join the Bears golf team at aLenior-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina. In 2022 Archie won the Hertfordshire Junior Championships as well as the Bedfordshire Schools Championships. He was also the National Schools Runner-Up and was a member of back-to-back Hertfordshire Division 1 Scratch Team Champions.



◀ Despite being paralysed from the waist down following a skiing accident in 2021, **Fernando Vega De Seoane (89-91)** has not let this stop him. He took up golf and is now 28<sup>th</sup> in the European Disabled Golf Association's ranking of his mobility and won the French Open Para Golf in May.



▲ **Andy Barnes (76-83)** (aka Turbo'), **Rupert Riley (79-89)** and **Paul Sykes** (son of **Andy Sykes (69-73)**) were selected as part of the England Rifle Team that toured Kenya and South Africa in February. Andy was Captain of the team; and the tour proved to be a very stern test of marksmanship in the considerable heat, dust and incredibly testing wind conditions of sub-Saharan Africa, against two very competitive national rifle teams. England were victorious against Kenya at Nanyuki but sadly the South African leg resulted in wins for a South African team very much at the top of their game. Rupert and Paul did however manage to get through to the State President's Final (the equivalent of the Final of The King's Prize). As a result of his performances during the tour and during the trials, Paul was selected for the Great Britain 'Palma' Team, to compete in the World Championships in 2024.

▼ Northamptonshire CCC player **Emilio Gay (11-18)** missed the start of the season as he had to undergo an operation on his knee in March, but he has quickly returned to form and scored a massive 144 in the game v Lancashire in July. Boys from the Prep School were thrilled to catch up with Emilio at the Northampton Steelbacks v Birmingham Bears 20:20 Vitality Blast game.



Northamptonshire cricketer **Harry Gouldstone (12-19)** has been playing the occasional match for Bedfordshire CCC, joining **Archie Houghton (20-22)** and Northants player on loan **Charlie Thurston (07-14)**, and former Northants Captain **Alex Wakely (96-07)**, whilst **Charlie Mumford (17-22)** is playing for Hertfordshire.



◀ Following a successful time in the GB4 Championship last year and experiencing street racing for the first time in the BMW M2 Cup earlier this season in Germany, **Alex Walker (10-19)** has signed off his first season in GT racing for Paddock Motorsport, in the McLaren Artura GT4, with another podium finish at Snetterton in the GT Cup Championship. ▶



▲ **Benedict Eggeling (14-17)** came 5th at the Rowing World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia in September, qualifying the German national Eight for next year's Paris Olympics.

**James Deardon (11-22)** was selected as cox for the GB Men's Eight in the European U23 Championships which took place in August in Krefeld, Germany. Despite just losing out to a fiery sprint at the end and coming second, the crew was extremely happy with how close they got to the Romanian boat, which was made up of the same crew that raced in the A-final at the World Rowing Championships earlier this year.

▼ **Boris Batin (98-00)** took part in the World Rowing Masters Regatta at Tshwane, South Africa, representing Club Natació Banyoles, winning a gold medal in the pairs, and beating the South African Olympic pair! The event brings together more than 800 veteran rowers from around the world who took part in 308 races grouped according to their age. Boris on the right.

▼ **Josh Lyon (10-20)** won the 183rd Wingfield Sculls over the four and quarter mile Boat Race course from Putney to Mortlake, the first Old Bedfordian to win The Wingfields since Jack Beresford won 7 consecutive Wingfields in the 1920s – a record to beat Josh! The last year has seen Josh's rowing career go from strength to strength. He won double gold for England at the Home International Regatta before representing Great Britain at the U23 European Championships in Hazewinkel.



◀ **Ethan Vernon (07-18)** won Gold at the Cycling World Championships. Ethan crashed heavily halfway through the race but, showing great determination, despite the cuts and bruises, he was soon up and challenging the field, which included Italy's Olympic and former World Champion Elia Viviani, who he defeated in the final throws of the

competition, securing his second world title. After two years at Soudal Quick Step, Ethan will be racing next year for the pro cycling team - Isreal Premier Tech, which includes multi grand tour winner Chris Froome.

