

Eagle News



Issue 119 February - August 2019
The Magazine of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club



30-Year Reunion at Henley Royal Regatta

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The Magazine of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club

Founded 1892

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February - August 2019

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On Wednesday 03 July the winning BMS crew of the 1989 Special Race for Schools celebrated their 30-year anniversary with a reunion at Henley Royal Regatta and were granted a row past by Sir Steve Redgrave. See feature on page 22.



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Letter from the Head

Alex Tate

It is with great pleasure that I write the introduction, once again, for *Eagle News* which is full of news, memories and photos and I do hope you will find it as interesting and informative as always.

I would like to give formal thanks to Richard Greenhalgh (1958-63) for serving as OBM Club President for the past two years. During his tenure he has championed the development of the programme of networking events which has gone from strength to strength as you will see in some of the pages that follow. Not only do they allow OBMs to meet one another but they have really started to show tangible benefits with OBMs receiving offers of work experience and job opportunities, reflecting the spirit of the BMS community at its very best. He passed the baton, in the form of the President's chain, to Robin Wills (1960-69) at the annual Founder's Dinner in June. It is the first time that the OBM Club President has been elected by its members and I was delighted to hear that the voting system was very easy to use. My thanks to the significant number of you who took the time to participate, making it a very worthwhile exercise indeed. We had two terrific candidates in Robin and Adam Nicol (1986-93), and I was confident that either would have made a fitting successor to Richard. I look forward to working with Robin during the coming years to develop the success of the OBM Club yet further.

Here, at school, we have had another successful few months on all fronts with some spectacular sporting triumphs including Jess Read who was selected to represent Great Britain as part of the women's quad at the Junior World Rowing Championships in Tokyo in August. Having only just turned 17, she is the youngest of her teammates by almost a year, making her selection an incredible achievement. Closer to home the J15 8x+ crew rowed their way to gold in a nail biting final race which could have gone either way at the Peterborough Junior Championships in June and given that the final was an all-Bedford affair, the taste of victory was all the more sweet! Also on the water, Head Girl, Eda Colliver, has been selected for the GB squad competing in the European Junior Water Polo Championships in Greece at the beginning of September. This comes after picking up bronze as part of the England team in the EU Nations Junior Women's Tournament for the past two years.

On the stage we enjoyed some fantastic productions. *Sister Act*, performed by our most senior students, showcased strengths in singing, dancing, acting and musicianship and was a thoroughly enjoyable evening out. Our students in Years 7-10 wowed us with their adaptation of Julian Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!* It was so popular that tickets didn't even make it for general release and for some it represented their debut on the BMS stage. Not to be outdone, however, our Year 5 and 6 Junior School children did themselves proud with a hugely entertaining rendition of *Fantastic Mr Fox*. Our reputation for

excellence in Performance Arts and Music continues to grow and I hope you enjoy reading more about our reasons to celebrate throughout the pages that follow.

We are always striving to improve the school estate and during the summer term the programme of updates to our sporting facilities began with the removal of the old turf from our hockey pitch. The turf will be completely replaced with the addition of an underlying shock pad, fencing repairs and the addition of new storage facilities. We are also refurbishing the top astro pitch as well as adding new flooring, furniture and a bigger kitchen to the King Room. In July I also had the great pleasure of meeting family and friends of OBMs Norman Swaffield (1952-58), Peter Garratt (1943-52) and Roger Tomkins (1947-52), all of whom recently left bequests to support cricket at BMS. Together with gifts from other OBMs who donated towards the refurbishment, we have been able to renovate the outside of the Cricket Pavilion, provide two sturdy wooden benches and add to the planting surrounding it. BMS simply wouldn't be the special place that it is without the generosity of such people and those like them. I am so very grateful and I know the countless students who benefit share that sentiment with me.

Alex Tate
Headmaster

Dates
for your
Diary

14 December 2019

**The Bruce Willey Memorial Match
OBM Club Christmas Lunch**

06 March 2020

OBM Club London Lunch

Meet the new OBM Club President 2019-21

Robin Wills (1960-69)

Robin was a boarder in School House from 1960 until 1969 and followed the accelerated science stream. He sang in school choirs and St Paul's choir, and enjoyed being a Venture Scout. He read Chemical Engineering at Birmingham as a BP University Apprentice.

On graduation he spent seven years in Scotland making synthetic rubber (Grangemouth) and alginate from seaweed (Oban). He has sailed on the west coast of Scotland since 1997.

In 1980 he joined Aramco in Saudi Arabia, producing oil and gas, and designed and commissioned the Khuff gas system.

He returned to the UK in 1986 and worked for design contractors in Reading, Leatherhead, Camberley and London. Highlights included leading the design teams for the Shah Deniz gas field (BP Caspian), and the Glen Lyon FPSO (BP West of Shetland) process topsides. He worked in Denmark, Malaysia, USA, Colombia (before it was safe), Japan, and Kuwait and undertook numerous business trips.

Retiring in 2015 he now sings with several choirs and sails in the summer; currently exploring more of the west coast. Previously he has sailed to Sweden, southern Ireland, and Brittany and done two Fastnet races. He is also passionate about music and opera.

He lives in Salisbury with his wife and has two adult children.

He organises the OBM contingent for the annual Classical Showcase concert and is a member of the BMS Foundation Board.



Did you study English at university?

As part of a campaign to promote the study of English at A Level and beyond, we are trying to get back in touch with all our leavers who would be willing to share details of their experiences. In particular, we want to find out about your career paths and the way you have been able to use the skills gained by taking a degree involving English.

The aim is to produce a permanent display in the English Faculty corridors, a portable display which can be used for Information and Careers evenings, and a bank of people prepared to come and talk to students about the further study of English – both Language and Literature.

If you would be willing to take part and you haven't already been contacted by email, please get in touch with Jane Chumbley at jchumbley@bedmod.co.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you – whether you are 25 or 95!

OBM Events Gallery (February - July 2019)

London Lunch

On Friday 01 March more than 160 OBMs met at the House of Commons for the annual London Lunch. It was a fantastic occasion once again with guests enjoying drinks on the Terrace Pavilion before sitting down for a three-course meal. Thanks to those who sponsored a place at the event meaning a group of OBMS in full-time education were able to join us.

It was great to see three generations of the Saunders family at the lunch; Mr John Saunders (1943-51), Mr William Saunders (1977-80) and outgoing Head Boy, Thomas Saunders.



House Captains 20-Year Celebration

House Captains and Deputies from the last 20 years came back to BMS on Friday 15 March and joined former and current staff and students to reminisce about their experiences leading the BMS House system. Named after famous, and sometimes infamous, OBMs the houses are Rose, Farrar, Oatley, Bell, Mobbs and Tilden. The evening began with a welcome drink followed by highlights from this year's House Drama competition and some footage of House events throughout the years. There was plenty of opportunity afterwards to catch up with old friends in the Rutherford Building.

Senior Head of House, Mrs Edwards said: "It was a privilege to welcome so many House Captains and Deputies past and present to join us in celebrating 20 years of the House System at BMS. The evening provided a brilliant opportunity to reflect on their achievements over the years and to take a wonderful trip down memory lane. The students at BMS never fail to make me proud!"



OBM Events Gallery (February - July 2019)

OBM Water Polo

Once again we had a brilliant afternoon for the OBM Water Polo tournament on Saturday 16 March. Three teams returned to school, including a range of GB masters and players. Thank you as always to OBM Mark Bullerwell (1982-90) for all his support in organising this annual event.



Past Presidents and Fellows Lunch

We were delighted to welcome a group of former OBM Club Presidents or their widows and current Fellows on Wednesday 27 March for lunch. They enjoyed meeting the Headmaster, hearing about the BMS of today and discussing how the OBM Club had developed over the years.



OBM Football and Hockey

What wonderful weather we had for an afternoon of OBM vs BMS Football on Friday 29 March. Thank you to all the OBMs that competed in this year's tournament, some of whom have been returning for more than 15 years. We had three teams with the OBM 1st team winning their match 2-0 with goals from James Owen (1998-2007) and John Downs (2009-11) who finished with a nonchalant nutmeg for the second year in a row. For non-football fans this is when a ball is kicked through an opponent's legs!

Well done to the OBM team who won the Hockey tournament. They won 2-0 against current students after playing a number of social matches in mixed teams of students and OBMs.

Matt Leydon (2000-11) described the afternoon as: "a lovely chance to catch up with OBMs and a great opportunity to socialise with other members of the school."

Thanks to everyone for coming back and continuing to support sport at BMS. If you are interested in getting involved with the annual sporting events next year, please email externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk. All players welcome, even if you haven't played since school!





Classical Showcase

Thank you to all the OBMs that performed in the superb Classical Showcase on Thursday 16 May. The choir sang Five Spirituals from a *Child of Our Time* and *Zadok the Priest*. Robin Wills (1960-69), Justin Lavender (1960-69) and Craig Beedie (1960-68) have been singing together since 1961 in the Ripieno choir. Their first concert was a Bach *St Matthew Passion* with the Boyd Neel Orchestra (a pre WW2 equivalent of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and Fred Rawlins (1936-40) conducting.



OBM Professional Networking Event: Charity and Social Enterprise Sector

On Thursday 23 May we hosted our fourth networking event, focussing on careers in the charity and social enterprise sector at RSA House in London. A huge thank you to our inspiring speakers; OBM Club President, Richard Greenhalgh (1958-63) who is chair of several national charities, SPANA CEO, Geoffrey Dennis and OBM Emma Reece (2008-10) from Unicef. There was a real buzz in the room as conversations were in full swing throughout the evening.

Please do look out for future networking events and if you would be interested in hosting the next one, then contact us by emailing externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk.



OBM Events Gallery (February - July 2019)

50th Anniversary Reunion

We had a wonderful reunion on Friday 07 June, with more than 25 OBMs returning to school 50 years after they left, together with three teachers from the same era. It was such a pleasure to host them, show them some of the school and hear their stories of BMS in the 1960s. We even had a few members of the 1967 Rowing team recreate an old photo. Amongst the OBMs we had an Olympian, an England Rugby player, an Opera singer, Doctors, Chartered Accountants, a Pilot, directors, teachers and a reverend... just to name a few.



The Founder's Dinner

It was great to see a full room at this year's Founder's Dinner on 14 June. Our focus was the development of sport so we welcomed three former sports masters; George Cullen (1954-89), Richard Chadwick (1971-2009) and Nigel Chinneck (1974-2017) to share their experience of sport at BMS. They discussed co-education, their memories of winning teams and major achievements and how sport at BMS was established. At 91, George still commanded huge respect as he addressed the 150 guests.

The 1st XI team who won the Under 18 Canary Cup in 1989 also joined us. It had been 30 years since the outstanding achievement so former teacher and coach, Rob Haworth (1974-90) organised a table for them to mark the occasion.



Cricket Pavilion gets new lease of life

On Friday 12 July we were delighted to welcome family and friends of OBMs who left donations in their Wills to support cricket at BMS. Our special guests joined us to watch the annual OBM vs BMS T20 cricket tournament, which has taken place in its current format since 2013. This year three OBM teams returned for this popular event which attracted more than 90 people, including spectators.

There was some exceptional skill on show and the scores were close. But the 2014 Leavers' Team, captained by Nishanth Narayana (2003-14), won overall taking the Chinneck Trophy for 2019. The Millman Cup was presented to Year 9 student Jake Tarling for his exceptional play during the tournament.

It was also the perfect opportunity to use the newly refurbished Cricket Pavilion. Thanks to the generosity of Norman Swaffield (1952-58), Peter Garratt (1943-52) and Roger Tomkins (1947-52), together with gifts from other OBMs who also donated towards the project, we have been able to renovate the outside of the building, add to the planting surrounding it and provide two sturdy wooden benches. It is by far the oldest building on the BMS site, built in 1884, and has provided the backdrop for countless sports team photos over the years. We are pleased that cricket spectators will be able to continue to enjoy watching cricket at BMS for many years to come.

Headmaster, Alex Tate said: "We feel sure that this money has been put to very good use and will benefit girls and boys alike as BMS forges ahead with the introduction of girl's cricket. We could not be more grateful to those OBMs who have generously supported the campaign; the School would certainly not be able to support its students in the way it does without their help. I do hope that those OBMs who are no longer with us would wholeheartedly approve of the super job which has been done and thanks to a plaque in their memory they will never be forgotten."



The Cricket Pavilion was renovated in 2019 thanks to the legacy gifts left by Peter Garratt (1943-52) Norman Swaffield (1952-58) Roger Tomkins (1941-52)

Thank you.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has, over the years, pledged their support to the School and would like to express our thanks to those who have made a donation for their generosity and kindness. Every gift we receive really does make a difference. Please help us to continue to improve BMS and the lives of current and future students by completing the donation form on the flysheet included with this issue of *Eagle News*.

To see more visit the photo gallery in the OBM section of the BMS website

BMS welcomes new School Archivist

Kate Doughty (kdoughty@bedmod.co.uk) Working hours, 10am – 3pm, Tuesday and Wednesday

Kate Doughty joined BMS as School Archivist in May 2019, having recently qualified with the Archives and Records Association through the University of Liverpool. She has previously worked at the BBC Written Archives Centre and at BBC Monitoring. Before that she was at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Archive and the Mills Archive Trust. Kate will be working part time at BMS and part time as Project Archivist at the Methodist Missionary Society Archives in London.

Kate is excited to have joined the School, and has so far been immersing herself in its history and has already answered more than 30 enquiries. She said: "BMS has a wonderful and rich story to tell, and so do its students and staff – both past and present. I'm thoroughly enjoying learning about the role the School has played in so many people's lives; it's a privileged position to be in."

Kate has also been focusing on accessioning new donations using AtoM, the electronic cataloguing software, as well as establishing a project to catalogue and repackage the school's uniform collection. She explained: "It's great that so many OBMs have been in touch about donating items they've treasured since their time at school. Hearing stories about personal experiences is truly lovely, and makes each item that much more fascinating."



Over the coming months Kate will be writing in *Eagle News* about her ongoing work in the Archive. She would be delighted to hear from anyone with their own story to tell.

Farewell to Mrs Davis



We said goodbye to Senior Deputy Head, Mrs Davis, at the end of the spring term. Sarah made a huge impact on BMS during her eight years at the school and leaves to take up the Headship at Princess Helena College in Hertfordshire. She will be sorely missed by the whole BMS community and we wish her every success.

Grand Designs Live

On Tuesday 07 May, Year 12 Product Design and Design Engineering students visited *Grand Designs Live* in London, thanks to OBM Kunle Barker (1984-91). Kunle was the Grand Theatre Presenter and Curator at this year's event and hosted the group. He gave them a guided tour and introduced them to presenter Kevin McCloud. We even found out that Kevin's relatives are fellow OBMs. It's a small world!



Celebrating achievement

On the evening of Thursday 04 July nearly 100 Junior School students were joined by their families, staff and special guests for the annual prize-giving ceremony in the Christopher Fry Hall in which we recognised some of the fantastic work completed in the past year by our youngest students. The Guest of Honour this year was Tom Harbour (1997-2008). Tom was a very strong mathematician and chess player while at BMS and in his final year returned to the Junior School as a Senior Monitor. After reading Natural Science at Cambridge, he trained through Teach First to teach Physics in a tough school before moving to Germany. Whilst teaching he completed a Masters in Education looking at how parents and schools can best work together to support their children. In February 2015 he founded *Maths With Parents* where he is currently CEO.

BMS certainly knows how to put on a show and on Friday 05 July it was no exception as we celebrated artistic achievement. In drama, music, art, creative writing and film, Senior School students were recognised for their outstanding talent. The inspirational Charlie Russell (2005-07) joined us as guest of honour.



Charlie, who trained at LAMDA, is an actor, writer and producer. She is an original creator and cast member of Mischief Theatre's work so far including *The Play That Goes Wrong* (UK Tour, West End, Broadway) and *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (Pleasance, West End, BBC 1 adaptation). Other acting work includes; *Doctors* (BBC 1), *#FindTheGirl* (BBC 3 online) and *A Twist of Dahl* (BBC Radio 4).

A week later, on Thursday 11 July, we celebrated individual and team success at the Sports Awards, and reflected on another year of outstanding sporting achievement. We welcomed Northampton Saints rugby player Harry Mallinder to present the prizes to the deserving recipients.



Robert Luff Medical Essay Scholarship

On Tuesday 05 February, Headmaster Alex Tate announced Year 12 student Naveen Stalin as the winner of this year's Robert Luff Medical Essay Scholarship.

This year's topic was 'Should the ban on smoking in enclosed spaces include the use of e-cigarettes?' and was chosen by OBM Dr Mike Foulkes (1986-97). Eight students submitted essays to be adjudicated by Dr Foulkes, which were all of a very high standard. However it was Naveen's essay which stood out. The scholarship offers a prize of £1,000 deducted from the two years of Sixth Form school fees.

Dr Foulkes commented: "I really enjoyed reading the essays and appreciate how much work has gone into each of them. Congratulations to Naveen, and good luck to all students who participated. I wish them every success in their futures."

Naveen said: "I am so pleased to have been awarded this year's scholarship. I hope to study Medicine at either Oxford or UCL, and it will really help with my application."



Lest We Forget

On Sunday 17 February, a Dutch community held a commemoration service for eight WW2 era soldiers who are buried in their town, Ottersum. This included OBM Lawrence Bowen Robbins (1916-19), who died aged 41 on 24 February 1945 of wounds received in action in Holland.



The group in the Netherlands hold a small remembrance tour every year to mark the soldiers of the 51st Highland Division who liberated the town of Gennepe, during Operation Veritable which started on 08 February 1945. This year, local historians selected Lawrence to tell his story during their service.

On 17 February 1945, a small group of four pioneers, including Lieutenant Robbins were exploring a road in the Goch area, when German mortar fire opened up on their position. All four soldiers were wounded and evacuated to a nearby field dressing station, but Lawrence did not make it to the hospital and died of his injuries the same day.

Mr Robbins was a member of the London Scottish Regiment TA for ten years while engaged in the Foreign Branch at the Head Office of Barclays Bank. He served in the Balham Company of the Home Guard and joined the Pioneer Corps in 1942. Lawrence received his commission early in 1943 and landed in Normandy two days after D Day.

Frank van Duin (a local historian who was part of the group that organised the service) writes: 'The above story, along with the picture

and information given to me by BMS, was presented by me next to Lawrence Robbins's grave. This was after we held a remembrance ceremony in the early morning on the 'Vrijheidsplein' next to the 'Highlander Bridge', with the Mayor of Gennepe; Mr Peter de Koning, together with a group of around thirty young military veterans, a group of WW2 vehicle enthusiasts, our historical foundation 'Stichting Veritbale' and of course people of the municipality of Gennepe. After the ceremony, we visited the local War Cemetery in my hometown of Milsbeek, where 210 British soldiers of WW2 are buried.'



Bedfordshire Festival success

On Saturday 02 March, our Year 5 and 6 choir won their category in the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama at Bedford Corn Exchange and were subsequently awarded the Bedford Choral Society Cup, given to the most outstanding choir of the junior choirs section of the festival, with a prize of £200.

Competing against choirs from five other schools, they sang three songs from Hart and Cooling's *Going West: Welcome to Rustin Creek, Song of the Prairie* and *Ballad of Big Tex*. Adjudicator, Sarah Jefferies, was particularly impressed by the vitality and commitment of their performance and

commented on the accuracy of their two-part singing.

Junior School Music Teacher, Mr Bishop, said: "The children rose to the occasion magnificently and sang beautifully; clearly enjoying the experience of performing to a packed hall. There was a lovely, exciting atmosphere and our choir appreciated the warm welcome that they received. They are very much looking forward to visiting again next year."

It was also a successful week for BMS Speech and Drama students who were awarded the most placings ever across the

board this year. More than 200 students took part, performing pieces from a variety of disciplines.

Congratulations go to Frankie Chapman for winning his class with judges marking his performance as 'outstanding', and to Tom Ross and Georgie Leather who together won both the Shakespeare at The George Cups and The Soroptimist Trophy.

Head of Speech and Drama, Shelly Leather, commented: "Everyone should be extremely proud of their efforts; there were some very impressive performances. Well done indeed to all students involved."



News

#GreatNightOut

In March, students in Years 11-13 deserved the standing ovations they received for the four-night run of the fabulous and humorous *Sister Act*.



In May, the young cast of students in Years 7-10 expertly tackled *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and wowed audiences with their interpretation of the biblical story. Tickets were sold out before going on general release!

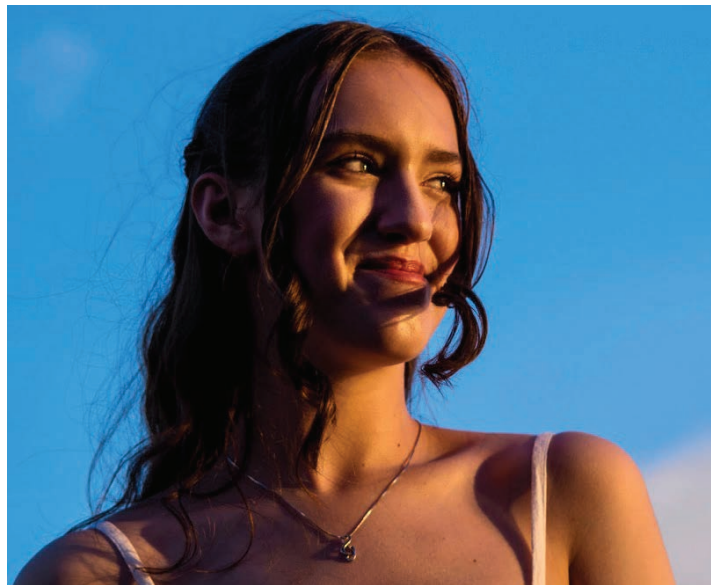




As always, the talented musicians and those working backstage should also be congratulated. The set, direction, costumes and choreography were all brilliant.

Bright future for singer-songwriter Anna Catriona

Year 11 student, Anna James, burst onto the online music scene in 2018, performing under the name Anna Catriona. So far she has released two tracks with Aceo Records, launched a music video and had air-time on BBC Radio.



Anna began playing the piano when she was just three years old, and started writing from the age of eight. However, it was at 14 when she began sharing her music with the world, first performing her debut track *Beautiful Catastrophe* at the 2018 BMS Open Mic Night. Following this performance, fellow student James Russell approached her to discuss recording the track for release on streaming services. With James's help, a live version was released in August 2018, and a studio recording released in October.

Since then Anna has gone from strength-to-strength. She released a music video for *Beautiful Catastrophe*, which was produced by James, with help from fellow BMS students Ollie Granger and Joly Black; Joly taking a starring role. She has also recorded a second track *Fade Away*, which has already been played on the BBC Music Introducing programme.

Anna is also performing a 30-minute solo set with a live band at the O2 Academy, Islington, London on 20 September.

Anna commented: "This has been an absolutely amazing experience for me. I'm so grateful for all the support which has been shown so far, and I look forward to recording another video for *Fade Away* later this year." We wish Anna well with her musical journey, with big things to come.

BMS Mathematicians score highly

The Primary Mathematics Challenge, which took place in November 2018 is a fun and exciting mathematical competition aimed at students in Years 5 and 6. The highest scoring students are put forward to compete in the Bonus Round, which sees them compete on an international level and this year a total of eleven BMS students took part on 06 February.

Year 6 student, Lucian Cox picked up a Gold Award, his score putting him in the top 5% of the competition. Congratulations also go to Lorcan Hegarty and Aleksi Lewis who picked up Silver Awards, and to Aaryan Berry, Oliver Higgins, Soren Knuffel and Thomas Wildman who received Bronze Awards.



Junior School Head, Joanna Rex, commented: "The Year 6 mathematicians created a School record this year and I am very proud of their achievement. To have had so many of them qualify for the Bonus Round was impressive, so for them to also achieve a Gold, two Silver and four Bronze certificates between them is truly outstanding. Congratulations to them all."



Following on from this in March, two teams of four Year 10 students took equal first place at the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme's 'Maths Feast', an annual competition which tests mathematical communication and teamwork skills. It's a national event which offers students a different way to express and develop their enjoyment of mathematics. They competed against 12 other teams from across the country, and for them both to take equal first place is a huge achievement.

The day before a team of Year 8 and 9 students competed in the Regional Round of the UK Mathematics Trust's 'Team Maths Challenge' in Cambridge and were up against 29 other schools from the region, taking third place overall.



Combat Cadet victory for second consecutive year

During the weekend of 23-24 March, a team of nine cadets from the Army Section of the School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) took part in the annual Combat Cadet Competition.

They competed against 17 other teams from across East Anglia and took first place for a second consecutive year.



The competition is organised by the 7th Infantry Brigade Cadet Training Team and is open to the best teams from the Army Cadet Forces and the Combined Cadet Forces in the region. Conducted over a 48-hour period, the event combines a mixture of command and leadership tasks testing the resilience, knowledge, skill, and physical and mental endurance of the teams.

Year 13 student and Senior BMS CCF Cadet and Team Captain, Tom van der Sande, explained: "The team felt a lot of pressure running in this year's competition, having won last year. However, everybody stepped up to the challenge and performed fantastically well. I was extremely pleased with how we worked together as a team and encouraged each other to do our best."

Alex Smith, BMS CCF Contingent Commander, added: "This weekend was the cadet experience at its best, with cadets showing commitment, adaptability and hard work to do their best in a demanding environment. All involved worked extremely hard and are to be congratulated for their achievement. They showed maturity, calmness under pressure, and worked well together as a team – all key skills that mark them as our future leaders."

Acclaim for BMS Linguists

Year 10 student Tom Piccolo and Edward Braybrook in Year 5 have recently been commended for their outstanding linguistic talents. Tom took third place in the French category of the international Nutty Tilez competition and Edward was commended on his entry to a German language competition run by the University of Oxford.



Nutty Tilez is a real-time multiplayer vocabulary learning game, played on www.thisislanguage.com. In the twice-annual competition, students play against each other in a race to be the first to get as far as they can up the 60 levels within the 56-hour time-frame. It is a quick game and competitors need to know their vocabulary really well, translating at speed. In this year's event, Tom competed against 12,978 others from across the world and reached Level 47, accurately translating almost 1,000 words, earning him third place. In addition to a certificate, Tom also received a £25 Amazon gift card.

The theme of Edward's competition was German Fairytales, and his entry was a comic strip based on *Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten* (The Town Musicians of Bremen). He chose this story as he has



visited Bremen and remembered seeing the statue by Gerhard Marcks depicting the fairytale in the centre of the town. He received a commendation from the Oxford German Network for his work and a certificate to mark the achievement.

BMS Musicians go from strength to strength

Six students from the BMS Music Department are looking forward to new opportunities over the summer and into the next academic year.

Firstly, violinist Amina Eldin (Year 11) has been awarded a place at the Junior Department of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance starting in September. This highly competitive Saturday programme gives advanced musicians the chance to work with some of the top professionals in the world. The department offers opportunities for individual work, as well as playing in small and large ensembles with other talented players from across the country.



We were also delighted to hear that vocalist Immy Churchill (Year 12) had been accepted into the National Youth Jazz Collective.



She begins her journey with a summer course at Repton School in August where she will be singing with a small band led by two professional musicians.

Finally, Bethany Lunnon (Year 10), Evie Hrydiuszko, Eleanor Munno and Kitty Culhane (all Year 8) have been selected for the Aldeburgh Young Musician programme. Based at Snape Maltings Concert Hall in Suffolk, the programme offers a series of intensive residential courses, individual lessons, professional advice, mentoring and performance opportunities. The students work alongside world-class musicians to develop their own musical pathway towards becoming the next generation of professionals.

Assistant Director of Music, Mary Perry, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for these girls and I am delighted that they successfully made it through the audition process. They are all very committed to Music at BMS and enthusiastic about music-making. We look forward to hearing how they get on."

BMS students selected for NYT

BMS students Jade Ajibola (Year 12) and Francesca Carter (Year 10) were selected for the highly competitive National Youth Theatre (NYT) summer course held between 29 July and 10 August, at Goldsmiths in London. Jade and Francesca, who are both actively involved in Performance Arts at BMS, were picked from the 6,000 hopefuls who auditioned across the country between January and March. On completion of the intensive two-week course they will become NYT company members and able to access a range of performance and development opportunities.



‘Rocketman’ Greg makes his film debut

Year 12 student, Greg May, made his on-screen debut in May in *Rocketman*, the epic musical fantasy about the uncensored human story of Sir Elton John’s, breakthrough years. He appears as the 14 year-old Elton’s hand double as he auditions for the Royal Academy of Music.

Greg was approached to audition through the Junior Royal Academy of Music, where he is currently a student. He sent off his body measurements, complete with a photo of his hands and a video of him playing the extract of music needed; Mozart’s *Turkish March*. The producers replied soon after, asking him to go to Pinewood Studios two days later to film.

Greg said: “The day was very long but interesting as I got to see them shooting some last minute scenes. Trying to fit into the costume of the 14 year-old actor I was doubling was quite a challenge, but the costume designer worked her magic, as did the make-up artist who dealt with my hands. I was very well treated all day and it was an amazing experience.”

Alongside his A-Levels Greg is currently studying for his Diploma in Piano, which he hopes to sit over the summer, and he plans to study music at university in the future.



HRH The Duke of Gloucester inspects BMS CCF

On Wednesday 15 May, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO, SFI inspected both Bedford Modern School and Bedford School’s Combined Cadet Forces. The event marked the centenary of King George V’s visit to Bedford to inspect both school’s Officer Training Corps on 27 June 1918.



The event was the first time both Contingents have formally paraded together since 1918 and took place in the Bedford School grounds. The parade was observed by dozens of spectators, including Headmasters and Principals from Bedford Modern School, Bedford School, Bedford Girls School, Rushmoor, St Andrews and Bedford Free School.

The Duke of Gloucester is a grandson of George V and a first cousin to The Queen. The Duke has many patronages, but of particular interest is his role as Colonel in Chief of the Royal Anglian Regiment given that the BMS CCF Army Section is Royal Anglian badged and can trace its lineage to the modern 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment.

BMS Careers Event 2019

The annual BMS Careers Event, held on Thursday 13 June, offered Sixth Form students at BMS and other local schools a unique insight into a huge variety of future career opportunities. The speakers, primarily former students, were all industry specialists or current university students.

Our keynote speaker, OBM Daniel Lavery (1998-2004), spoke about his varied career from professional rugby player to sports agent and commodities broker. He shared his journey so far and his top tips for success, which left the students inspired to approach the following sessions with an open mind.

Director of Sixth Form, John White, said: "Dan Lavery set the tone for another superb event, which saw numerous OBMs and friends of BMS offer advice and guidance on planning

career progression. The event concluded with a 'Question Time' style panel where students pitched questions for the panel to answer. The mix of practical advice and first-hand knowledge of working in such a broad spectrum of professional areas is invaluable for students who are now preparing for life after school."

One of the speakers on the evening, OBM Steve Buckley (1963-71), commented: "The event was not only well attended but included students from other local schools who had been invited to take part. This was reflected in the make-up of the audience for my own presentation on careers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which slightly overran because of a good level of interaction."



OBM Robbie Hyde (1999-2010), added: "I always really enjoy coming back for careers day to share my insight with students. It was excellent to see a packed room of very keen individuals who will now hopefully be inspired to pursue a career in finance."

If any OBMs or parents are interested in being involved next year please contact Sharon Burns, Head of Careers at BMS, on sburns@bedmod.co.uk.

New use for BMS kit

Thanks to a Parents' Association initiative, school children from Tema New Town, Ghana received old branded BMS uniforms and sports kits in May. They were delivered through the British Airways scheme which takes clothing, toys and essentials to deprived areas around the world. The children's current school uniform is made by parents from material which could be used to make other items that they can then sell, so this donation helps in more ways than one. The children were so thrilled to receive the delivery and their smiles say it all.

OBM Alyce Trude (2011-17) also donated her old BMS uniform when volunteering in Fiji with Think Pacific. She gifted her kit to the family she was staying with, inspired by the BMS Parents' Association's initiative. Alyce is currently studying Geography at Swansea University, starting her second year in September.



The Man In The Suitcase

written by Zoe Clough, a journalist based in Devon

A small brown leather suitcase, embossed with three initials caught my eye in a garage sale. The sale was in a former youth hostel in a pretty hamlet near my home town of Totnes, in Devon.



Together with some bits and pieces, I bought the suitcase and took it home. When I opened it I discovered dozens of letters, photos, a passport, a will, and two World War One medals still in their boxes and the envelope they were posted in; in 1921. The address is 28 Stanley Road, Bedford. The medals look unworn.

The case bore the initials O M B – and from the letters, I worked out that the owner of the case and its contents was a Mr Oswald Murfin Blott – not a name you come across every day.

So who was Mr Blott and why did the case, with its personal effects, end up abandoned in a place he had no connection with?

As a journalist, I've spent years tracking people down. The internet has made things so much easier, and with a little googling I found the website *Lives of the First World War* and a record – scant, but there – of our Mr Blott. An email to Major Alex Smith (BMS CCF Contingent Commander) confirmed that Mr Blott was a schoolboy at Bedford Modern in the early years of the 20th century. In fact he was born in 1900 and by 1915 was a cadet serving on a ship, Saxonica.

In 1926 he was second officer on the SS Harmony, a Moravian mission ship. His ambition was to become a Trinity House pilot and eventually he achieved his aim and came to Plymouth to work. By this time he was married to Gladys Whitehead and in 1932 they had a daughter, Elizabeth. Major Smith's detective work shows she lived in Yelverton until 2003, on the outskirts of Dartmoor, not too far from Plymouth. The letters in Mr Blott's suitcase date from the 1920s to the 1960s. Some are addressed to the Yelverton home, others to addresses in Plymouth. The early letters are from his wife, whose will is in the case; his mother, living in Bedford and while filling him in on family gossip is clearly worried about her son living in wartime Plymouth, which was heavily bombed. There were letters from shipmates, and childish notes from his small daughter. Later there are postcards from her as a young woman attending the 1958 Expo in Brussels.

I find it incredibly touching to read, touch and smell these artefacts of a total stranger and his family. His most important memories are in that case, his notebooks, payslips, newspaper cuttings and letters – the last dates 1960. He lived another 11 years but nothing was added after 1960. I wonder why?

There is another questions to answer – how did the case end up in a youth hostel that has been closed since 2006 and due to be demolished any day?

One day I went back and knocked on the door of the cottage adjoining the hostel. Luckily the owner, Alexis invited me in. I explained the puzzle and she was able to solve it. Her mother-in-law, Lavinia, had found the case among the belongings of her friend and neighbour Elizabeth Blott after her death, and had given it to Alexis, who like me has a fondness for old luggage. Elizabeth has remained in the

family home in Yelverton and apparently never married. Lavinia was her executor. The suitcase must have lain unopened for decades before I came along and bought it. In fact Alexis says it wasn't really for sale, but her son didn't know and put it in the jumble of old stuff to be cleared.

Alexis knows that I have given the contents of the suitcase to the BMS Archive, on the provision that if any relatives of Oswald Murfin Blott are still alive, that they can claim his belongings. Oswald did have a brother, Oliver, who also attended the school. Later he and his wife Janet had a daughter, she was born in 1945 so there is every likelihood she is still alive. Her name is Judith.

Mr Blott lived through two world wars, had a career, a wife and a daughter. No hero, just an ordinary, decent man... the kind that slips from history despite being part of it. Thanks to the *Lives of the First World War* project, he and thousands of others won't be forgotten as they are being immortalised in digital form. And now his old school will also be able to remember him.



Sport

30-Year Reunion at Henley Royal Regatta

On Wednesday 03 July the winning BMS crew of the 1989 Special Race for Schools celebrated their 30-year anniversary with a reunion at Henley Royal Regatta and were granted a row past by Sir Steve Redgrave.

The crew was made up of the cox, James Corrigan (1985-90), Rob Gaskell (1984-89), Matthew Burton (1982-89), David Gillard (1982-89), Edwin Davison (1980-89), James Warburton (1981-90), Alexander Sheppard (1981-90), Adam Marchant-Wincott (1987-89) and Blair Clow (1980-89).

The BMS gazebo at Butler's Field played host to the crew, who got to meet other OBMS, current students and staff. It was great to see so many OBMs and parents at Henley this year and it was great to see the whole BMS community supporting the row past.

Rob Gaskell commented on the reunion saying: "We trained very hard for that race in 1989 and managed to win against St Paul's in the final. We decided a few years ago to celebrate the 30-year anniversary with a reunion of the crew."

Matthew Burton said: "It took over a year to actually locate everyone as we are all dotted around. I think we all knew one or two of the crew still so collectively we managed to knit the whole crew together."

Adam Marchant-Wincott added: "Some of us haven't seen each other for more than 30 years. It's been extraordinary, like it happened yesterday!"

We asked a few of the crew what they remembered about rowing at BMS and James Warburton said: "Nick O'Sullivan diligently coached us through early morning weight sessions twice a week before school. I remember all of the hours of toil on the river through the winter months, but events like Henley were the highlight."



However, the occasion was tinged with sadness as on the day we received the news that Alex Sheppard (1981-91), who had travelled from Australia to take part in the row past, had died suddenly in London.

Alex was one of the main organisers of the reunion and had been so looking forward to catching up with everyone again. He had even designed a replica kit for the crew to wear. At the time of the row past none of the crew were aware of Alex's death although they were curious as to his whereabouts, so Lara Brittain, Head of Girls' Boats, made up the boat in his absence.

Alex's funeral was held on Monday 15 July at Putney Vale Crematorium.

A short film from the day was released in Alex's memory and can be viewed on the BMS website.

Rowing

Rowing race day and dinner

There was a great atmosphere down at the river in Bedford on Saturday 23 March as the first VIII took on two OBM teams.

Lewis Cleaver (2000-11), Captain of Lady Rohesia Boat Club, writes: 'A crowd of students, parents and OBMs filled the landing stage and suspension bridge to watch the annual match between BMS Boat Club and Lady Rohesia Boat Club, the school's OBM rowing club. This year however saw the added spectacle of being the thirty year anniversary of the BMS 1989 VIII's race to victory at Henley Royal Regatta. It goes without saying that Henley Royal Regatta is a highlight of any rower's racing calendar and so this was certainly worthy of celebration and reflection.'

The OBMs again boated two VBs this year. It was fair to say that some of us had not touched an oar in quite some time, however

we entered our races against the school's 1st VIII with a palpable degree of confidence that we were finally going to take home the lauded Rex Willsher Cup. We fought tooth and nail to ensure the boys' races were not easy, however they pipped us to the post on both occasions and saw to it that we would once again hand over the trophy to the Boys' Captain of Boats.

I must once again thank and applaud the parents' rowing association for putting on a marvellous spread of cakes, teas and coffees for both the rowers and spectators. I am fully aware of the hours a rower's parents put in behind the scenes, and today was no exception.

The evening rolled in, which marked the time when the students and OBMs set aside their sporting differences and donned striped blazers, bright chinos and garish ties ready for dinner. Being close to the bar certainly put the OBMs on the front foot for once in the day. I am glad to see a wider variety of ages in attendance than in previous years, not to mention the continued eagerness from the current

students to remain in contact with both the school and Lady Rohesia. A special mention must go to the girls' squad, who proved to be the talk of the evening. I was stopped on numerous occasions throughout the evening by various OBMs who were impressed at your collective drive and tenacity towards your rowing, studies and plans for the future. It has long been a goal of Lady Rohesia to facilitate boating the first female OBM crew to one day compete at Henley, so we hope you remain in touch once you leave the school.

The evening was a rambunctious and lively affair, with generations of rowers sitting down together to share stories of time spent at the Boat Club. There were excellent speeches by the Boys' Captain, Matteo Peluso and Girls' Captain, Lara Brittain, members of the 1989 crew, not forgetting various FaceTime appearances throughout the night, from OBMs who were unable to attend in person. Looking to the future, we are keen for OBMs of the Boat Club (of any age) to get in touch if you wish to join the Boat Club Committee, or simply find out more about the roles available.'



GB Call up for Jess

Talented sportswoman Jessica Read, Year 12 is among the 33 rowers that represented Great Britain at the Munich Junior Regatta on 4-5 May 2019.

This annual event takes place on the Olympic Regatta Course in Munich during the first weekend of May and is the leading European high-performance regatta for junior rowers. The event attracts more than 1000 participants from 15 countries each year.

She was subsequently chosen to represent GB as part of the women's quad at the Junior World Rowing Championships in Tokyo from



07 to 11 August. Having only just turned 17, she was the youngest of her team mates by almost a year, making her selection an incredible achievement.

Prior to her selection, Jessica completed the GB Rowing Team Junior Trials process, beginning with an assessment in Boston, Lincolnshire in November 2018 and then again in February, with a further spring assessment at the end of March.

BMS Director of Rowing, Mark Bavington, said: 'Jess has produced an incredible set of results this year to become one of the best female junior scullers in the country. It is exceptionally pleasing to see a home-grown talent come through our Year 9 rowing programme to competing in a Team GB crew. The sky is the limit to what she can achieve and every member of BMSBC will be supporting her along the way.'

Sport

Rowing

Despite the soaring temperatures, our J14 and J15 crews stayed focused and gave their all at the Peterborough Junior Championships on Saturday 29 June. It was their final racing event of the season and, determined to make it count, every single student on the water did BMS proud.

There were some notable individual and team performances. Angelina Sibal raced a single scull and Jessica Watson raced no less than six times, three in a single, achieving a bronze medal. Imogen Sanctuary and Amelia Baker also claimed a well-deserved third place. Congratulations to those other crews who also reached their finals but narrowly missed out on medals.

The highlight of the day was provided by the J15 8x+ crew who rowed their way to gold in a nail-biting, final race against Bedford School which could have gone either way.

It was all the more impressive as these boys have been sweep rowing all year, but as Peterborough is a sculling-only event, they went back to using two oars each instead of one. A fantastic achievement and a tremendous end to the season.



Football

Year 8 student, Charlie Bramwell, has been selected for the Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) U14 National Representative A Squad. He was chosen following a national ISFA tournament at Shrewsbury School over Easter where he represented the East Region and trained in August at Oakham School.

Charlie currently plays for the U14 Shadow Academy at Stevenage, and has played numerous games for Stevenage FC Academy. He plays Sunday League football for Flitwick U14 who have just won the Division 1 League and the League Cup, and he was awarded Manager's Player of the Season in May. Earlier in the year, Charlie was also selected for the Bedfordshire District U13 team and has played regularly for them.

In addition, Tilly Leather, Year 9 and Alice Habermehl, Year 10 have been selected for the IFSA National Trials. Tilly was chosen following an outstanding performance playing for the ISFA North and Midlands U15 team at the Regional Festival. Alice was selected due to her strong performances playing for the ISFA U16 England team last year.



Sports Day

There was a great atmosphere at Bedford International Athletics Stadium on Monday 01 July for the annual BMS Sports Day. Rose beat the record set by Tilden in the Mile Challenge Relay in 2006 by 0.8 seconds and were named overall winners this year. Hannah Schlote in Year 10 broke the school record in the 300m and Year 8 student Sophie Tucker equalled the 100m record.

Swimming

Ben Ashdown (Year 9), Henry Jones (Year 9), Emily Jones (Year 11), Jess Watson (Year 9) and Oliver McCulloch (Year 7) picked up an impressive 21 gold medals between them at Bedfordshire County Swimming Championships in January. Representing the Modernian Swimming Club, they travelled to Luton Sports Village to compete against seven other clubs from across the region.

The stand-out performance came from Ben Ashdown who won a colossal 10 gold medals in 50m, 100m, 200m freestyle; 50m, 100m, 200m backstroke; 50m, 100m, 200m breaststroke and 200m individual medley.



Fives

Year 12 students Katie Sumner and Maddie Kent competed in the tenth National Schoolgirls' Rugby Fives Championships on Sunday 28 April. They reached both the final of the U18 singles and U18 doubles, with Katie taking the title for the singles. The Championships took place at Marlborough College and was attended by a total of 63 girls from nine schools. The U18 singles final was an all-BMS affair, which resulted in Katie holding off her partner with a final score of 15-6. The duo reached the doubles final where they were only narrowly beaten 15-12 by a strong pair from Marlborough.

Robert Kay, BMS Rugby Fives Coordinator, said: "I had the privilege of watching both Katie and Maddie make light work of their opponents from other schools. In the past these matches were more closely contested; but with hours of practice and attending Ladies Opens, they seem to have reached a higher level. Much credit must also be given to Chris Davey who spent hours analysing their games and giving them feedback. Congratulations on a successful year – they have thoroughly deserved their success!"



Sport For All

On Monday 03 June we kicked off our parents vs students sports events with a Mother and Daughter Netball Tournament. We then held the Players vs Parents Touch Rugby Tournament on Friday 05 July and on

Tuesday 09 July we finished with the Junior School Lads vs Dads cricket. They were great BMS community events, with a brilliant atmosphere at them all.



Sport

Rugby

England Cap for OBM Lizzie Adam

OBM Lizzie Adam (2012-17) has received her first England cap for her part in the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2019 in Sydney. This comes after an extensive tour in New Zealand and Australia, playing some of the best teams in the world. Lizzie was also selected for the squad for a tournament on the 16-17 March in Nice, ahead of the next leg of the World Rugby Women's Seven Series in Kitakyushu which was held on 20 and 21 April.

Lizzie first played rugby aged 16 for Olney RFC before graduating to the Tyrrells Premier 15s playing for her university side, Loughborough Lightning. She was named in all three of England U20s teams in 2018, coming off the bench in the side's historic 20-27 victory against France in Lille.

On receiving her first cap for England, Lizzie said: "I am still buzzing from the whole experience, it doesn't seem real yet that I am a capped England player. The tour was amazing; we all really get on so everything was very relaxed and great fun. This is only the start and I look forward to pushing on and taking advantage of any more opportunities that come my way."

Director of Co-Curricular Activity, Ashley Tapper, commented: "Lizzie was instrumental while at BMS in encouraging other girls to have a go at rugby. She was very committed to her training and aside from rugby was a great athlete. It's no surprise that she has done so well and I look forward to seeing her go from strength to strength."



England Rugby star coaches Year 4

On Wednesday 13 March, current England Rugby Co-Captain, Dylan Hartley, visited BMS to run a training session with our Year 4 boys. He was joined by Bedford Blues Assistant Coach, Paul Tupai, to work on the principles of going forward in attack and supporting the ball carrier.

After the session Dylan ran a question and answer session with the group and was able to offer the boys lots of expert advice and feedback on how to develop their skills to become the next generation of BMS rugby players.

Dylan currently plays for England and Northampton Saints, and had captained England since January 2016. He currently co-captains alongside Owen Farrell and is the country's most capped hooker. He captained England to the Grand Slam in 2016, the first time that England had achieved this since 2003 and to a 3-0 series win in the 2016 Cook Cup against Australia.

Bedford Modern School's Head of Rugby, Brett Richmond, said: "It is a huge honour for the school to have someone of his playing ability offer to come down and coach. The boys really took advantage of this opportunity and have shown real progress through the morning."



Equestrian

Suzie Todd completed her first ever one-day 80km ride at the Endurance GB, Kings Forest Ride in Suffolk in June. Suzie and pony, Dutchdream Spetter, rode for just over seven hours with a little under six hours in the saddle!



Water Polo

Head Girl, Eda Colliver, has been selected for the GB squad competing in the European Junior Water Polo Championships in Greece at the beginning of September. This comes after picking up bronze as part of the England team in the EU Nations Junior Women's Tournament for the past two years and winning the Championship 1 British Water Polo League with Hucknall Water Polo Club this season.



Eda started playing water polo at BMS in Year 6 and has played for the U13, U14, U15, U16 and U18 teams for both the boys' and girls' teams. She started to play regional water polo in the East at U14 level and has also represented the region at U16 and U18. Due to her commitment and dedication she was selected for the National Academy for which all female water polo players in the country born in 2002 trialled. She subsequently represented England in the EU Nations Junior Women's Tournament for the past two years. Further to monthly training weekends in Manchester, where she was joined by players from Scotland, England and Wales, she was also called up for the GB team to compete at the European Junior Championships, in September.

Ashley Bygraves, Head of Water Polo at BMS, explained: "Eda is a driven, focused and well-disciplined athlete. She sets high expectations in every session and strives to improve at every opportunity be it in the gym or in the pool. Eda is a valuable asset and a role model to the BMS water polo team putting in extra time to work, support and encourage younger players coming through.

Eda attended training camps in Hungary and Romania in August, in advance of the European Junior Championships.

Bayley Hockham (2009-16) competed in the Cambridge vs Oxford varsity water polo match on Saturday 16 February. He was awarded man of the match for Cambridge, saving more than 10 direct shots and a penalty while playing in goal.



Bayley said: "It was a great privilege for me to be able to represent Cambridge in the 2019 varsity match where I was able to put my water polo skills, many of which were attained through years of playing at BMS, to the ultimate test against Oxford. Despite our valiant efforts the final score was 10-4 to Oxford, though Cambridge led up to half time."

Abbie Turner (2011-18) competed in the Scottish Ladies Water Polo team at the EU Nations Cup tournament in Brno in the Czech Republic on 23 – 26 May.



Abbie explains: "The tournament was a lot of fun, we played a total of five games against tough opposition. The first round was a group stage in which we came up against England and Serbia, two very strong and skilled teams. Unfortunately we lost but kept strong and determined to the last second of each game. After this it became a round robin tournament between ourselves, Ireland, Wales and Finland. We worked well as a team and put everything we had into the games. We sadly didn't come away with the result we were hoping for but all in all it was a great experience and I am so honoured to have obtained my first senior international caps for the country as well as scoring some goals."

Sport

Tennis

Year 8 student Marcus Garcha was named Bedfordshire Boys U14 County winner in the 'Road to Wimbledon' competition in June. He competed in the National Finals held at Wimbledon in August.



Meanwhile Year 7 student Jess Gear, finished as runner up in the girls' competition and also went to Wimbledon to receive a coaching session from Tim Henman.



Hockey

On Sunday 07 April, six BMS students represented Bedford Hockey Club in the Tier 2 Area Finals, claiming the title for the second year in a row. The BMS girls who played in the finals were Lucy Willis, Ellen Fletcher, Niamh Lynch, Grace Brady, Phoenix Irvine and Catalina Granger, who all played key roles in the 5-3 victory against hosts St Neots and the 3-1 win against Bishops

Stortford, with three of the goals on the day scored by Phoenix and one by Catalina. Head of Girls Sport, Rebecca Woodgate, commented: "Congratulations to the Bedford Hockey Club U16 team, and to our six BMS representatives, for retaining their title. Their continued success both in and outside of school is exciting for the club and the future of BMS Hockey. We look forward to seeing these bright young stars continue to grow as we support them in their sporting endeavours."



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Memory *Stir*

Hannah Cowie 2010-17

Congratulations to Hannah who was in the winning Newcastle University crew that won in the Championship Eights at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Regatta in May. As well as winning a gold medal in the intermediate 4x and silver in championship 4 in June.

Hannah writes: 'I started rowing at BMS in Year 9 and was quite successful, winning a number of medals at National Schools Regatta and qualifying to race at Henley Royal Regatta before leaving school.

Newcastle University rowing is well known for its gruelling training programme, however I have continued with the sport and have really enjoyed pushing myself further and developing.

BUCS Regatta is the largest university rowing event in the calendar and attracts more than 2,500 competitors over three days of racing

during the May bank holiday weekend. As a club every athlete from NUBC tends to race on all three days so it's a big test of our strength and fitness which we build up over the winter training period.

Most of our time training is spent in 8s and that's our big focus as a boat club so the Championship 8 event is the biggest race of the weekend. We knew it was going to

be a tough race going against crews that have been beating us most of the season but the final could not have gone more to plan and we ended up crossing the finish line three seconds ahead of the next crew.

The last time Newcastle University won this event was in 2014 and after coming third in the same event the previous year, it was a pretty special win for the crew and club.'



Peter Gilmore 1962-70

Following his attendance at Richard Wildman's funeral on Monday 20 August 2018, Peter writes: 'This was a sad occasion, but it was a chance to meet old acquaintances. There was Andrew Sewell (1955-64), a friend of the family and a contemporary of my older brother, Chris Gilmore (1955-64) and Mr Peter Hetherington (1958-77), who taught English to my younger brother Stephen Gilmore (1964-73). Peter Hetherington would seem to know the location of the fountain of youth, since he was instantly recognizable and seemingly unchanged from 1970 when I last saw him. He told me that he still had a yellowing transcript of the essay on freedom that won the Poole Memorial Essay prize that year (causing a small stir at the time, it being almost unheard of for

the winner to be a scientist). He very kindly lent this to me and not without trepidation, I re-read it. Oh dear! These days the control rods would be a lot deeper into the reactor core. A fine specimen of overblown 60s teenage angst, avec countercultural influences *du jour*. When I read it aloud to my nearest and dearest I had to pause twice to un-criinge, but many thanks anyway to Peter Hetherington, who now has it back.'



James Hutt 2005-12

returned to school on Thursday 28 March to visit Mrs Sumal and see the new Science Centre for the first time. James enjoyed a tour of the facility, as well as taking a look at the old science labs he spent a lot of his time in. He also got the opportunity to catch up with Mr Else, Miss McEwen and Mr Fitton.



Memory *Stir*

Colin Humphrys 1957-61

writes: 'Four members of the Old Bedford Modernians Lodge went to Canada for a Lodge meeting in Hamilton in June and whilst there met up with three OBMS who live near Toronto. We met for dinner with Stefan Simonyi (1982-89), Tony Brydon (1980-87) and Fred Samuels (1964-72), and enjoyed a most convivial and fun evening, reminiscing about our school days and memories of masters at the school while we were there. I was taught by Hank Tanner in the late 50s; his son Richard was

unable to join us as he was not too well. Nonetheless, we had a fantastic evening with a generous Col Robbie Robinson (1936-42) paying for the beer for the evening; thanks Robbie.

The four OBM Lodge members were W Bro James Lees, W Bro Jim Lees, W Bro Dennis Stott and myself, W Bro Colin Humphrys, Lodge Secretary.

The link with the Wellington Square Lodge in Canada was between James Lees and Vikram Kumar who are business colleagues. Vikram was to be raised as a Master Mason and we went to support him in this important Masonic Ceremony for him.

We were royally received by the Wellington Square Lodge and afforded a guided tour around the Scottish Rite Club in Hamilton and the offices next door of the Grand Lodge of Canada followed by lunch back in the Scottish Rite Club. The evening was taken up with the Wellington Square Lodge meeting.

The following morning we had a guided tour of the Niagara Lodge No2, founded in 1792, with a lot of history to see in the museum. This was followed by lunch in one of the many wineries of Niagara on the lake with the afternoon and evening at Niagara Falls. Saturday was spent in Toronto with lunch on a boat on the lake; most civilised and a trip up the CN Tower before returning to the comfortable rented house where we stayed in Burlington. A most enjoyable visit, action packed and with very attentive hosts to guide us on our arranged visits.'



Trevor Corfield 1952-57

sent in an old photo from the *Bedford Today* newspaper that showed the BMS CCF Corps of Drums (Drum and Bugle Band) in Norfolk in 1957. The article stated that: 'The BMS Corps of Drums was the pride and joy of the CCF Commanding Officer, John 'Joe' Greenwood (Head of Woodwork, 1947-78) who died in 2006, aged 88. John Greenwood received the Territorial Decoration and an OBE for his service to the Army Cadet Force. An enthusiast for land-yachting, he discussed the subject with HM the Queen during the Royal Visit to BMS in 1976.'



Trevor thinks they won the competition at least twice, if not three times and it was a huge achievement because many top schools such as Eton and Harrow were amongst their

competitors. He writes: 'I remember Mick Cheshire (1950-59) playing the drums and friends like Barry Watson (1953-59) and Alan Jamieson (1952-57).'

Sam Clemens

1989-98

On Friday 22 February, OBM Sam Clemens (1989-98) returned to BMS to deliver a workshop entitled 'Acting for Radio and Voice-over'. He worked with a small group of students from Years 11-12, offering valuable advice from his experiences as a professional actor, writer and director.

The workshops included vocal warm ups, vocal techniques, characterisation through the use of voice and producing extracts from various short radio plays. The students finished the workshop by recording their pieces and then getting feedback from Sam.

After leaving BMS, Sam trained as an actor at The Drama Centre London, graduating in 2001. He has been in more than 40 plays, working for the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), English Touring Theatre (ETT) and various repertory companies in the UK and abroad. He has also worked on TV, for the BBC and ITV, and appeared in numerous films. As well as an actor, he also writes, produces and directs professionally. He has made many short films, winning a string of awards and is developing two feature films this year.



David Davies

1987-2005

popped in to BMS at the start of the year to hand over a copy of his new book, *Kings of the Sea: Charles II, James II & the Royal Navy* to Margaret Brown, our librarian. The book won the Anderson Prize for the Best Maritime History book published in 2017, as well as a Certificate of Merit for the Mountbatten prize in 2017 by the Maritime Foundation.

David was a former History and Politics teacher (1987-2005) and Deputy Head Academic during his time at BMS, as well as more recently the Staff Representative Governor (2011-13).



Michael Biggs

1991-2000



It was great to welcome Mike Biggs back for a tour of the school on Friday 22 February after returning from San Francisco. Mike is now a Senior First Officer for Norwegian Airlines, flying a 787 Dreamliner.

While at BMS, he was the Senior CCF cadet 2000-01 and he is pictured here reunited with the CCF cane, which includes his name on one of the silver rings. Mike was also Head Boy of his Boarding House and Deputy Head of Tilden. Mike had the 1st VIII boat named after him last year in recognition of his support for BMS Boat Club. He started the annual BMS vs OBM boat race in 2005 and also re-founded Lady Rohesia Boat Club, the official rowing club for OBMs.

Mike was impressed by the new school facilities that have been added since his last visit seven years ago and was delighted to catch up with Mrs Rex, Head of Junior School.

Memory *Stir*

Segun Akinola 2003-10

OBM and former Head Boy, returned to BMS on Tuesday 05 February to adjudicate and present the annual Senior School music prizes. The day showcased a wealth of musical talent across categories including preliminary, intermediate and advanced standards for each instrument group, plus prizes for singing and composition.

Segun was an active member of the Music Department during his time at BMS, and went on to study composition at the Birmingham Conservatoire and the National Film and Television School. He is best known for his music in the latest series of Doctor Who, starring the first female Doctor, Jodie Whittaker.

Director of Music, John Mower, commented: "It was lovely to welcome Segun back to BMS, to catch up with him and to hear about all his musical exploits. I know that the students valued his comments and the interaction he had with them during the course of the day."



Billie Scholten 2004-13

visited BMS on Friday 08 March to deliver an informative talk on her journey through sixth form, university and now the world of policing. Billie discussed her approach to managing setbacks, grasping opportunities and how she developed herself by not being afraid to step out of her comfort zone. She then attended the House debate on knife crime at lunchtime.

Billie has been working within the Police since leaving University in 2017 and is currently a Student Liaison Officer. She will however be moving over to her final posting, once the two year probation has been completed, to a response team covering Bedford.

Thank you to Billie for coming into school and spending time with current students.



Kunle Barker 1984-91

On Wednesday 12 June, the Art and Design Faculty presented their end of year shows. With 142 students from Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 exhibiting, it was one of the busiest years yet. Kunle Barker popped in to view the exhibition earlier on in the day and was really impressed with all of the students' work, particularly the chair designed and created by Year 13 student, Amber Harvey.



Calling all OBMs who are resident overseas

While Kunle was visiting Dubai on business in March, he caught up with Mark Bullerwell (1982-90) for a drink.



We would like to establish international OBM Groups so that OBMs all over the world can meet up to share memories and stories and also to extend a welcome to OBMs who are travelling. If you would be happy to co-ordinate a group, please contact externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk We would love to hear from you!

Michael Barber

1979-76

writes: 'It's early September 1969 and my family had just moved to Bedford from Exeter, so with the exception of my brother Andrew, who was joining the Junior School, I know no one in Bedford. It's soon my first day at Bedford Modern. My memory is that all the new boys (it was just boys back then) met their new teachers in the Music Department. At one end of the room was a teacher (name gone, I'm afraid) with a long list. With trepidation I approached, trying to bring as little attention to myself as possible.

"Name?", "Michael Barber" I said. "Does anyone have a Barber in their class?" he shouted across the room. "No but I've got a hairdresser!" came the reply from another teacher. My introduction to Daniel Dickey (1949-80). Collapse of around 100, eleven-year old boys, while I turn bright red.

Fortunately I was in 1:18 with Mr Proudfoot (Pussyfoot) who was a kindly, avuncular man right at the end of a long BMS career. We were his last ever form as he retired at the end of my second year.

In Form 3, I moved into the Tower Room - the only classroom left from the old school - with the more mercurial Andy Wilson (1968-99), whom I am led to believe has found fame for translating Harry Potter into Latin. We were in the Tower Room until the great move and, much to our chagrin, we had to stay longer as it was our 'O' Levels. I'd like to report that the extra weeks at school has a beneficial impact on my results...

Two years at the new site (I am assuming it's no longer known as Cornflake Castle), one as a Monitor for Form 1. Before Management Training at Harrods, I soon made a switch to teaching and became a Head in Bristol, then Haywards Heath in Sussex. For the last 13 years I have been the Head at an International School in Rome which has been a fabulous place to live and work. I'll be leaving Rome in 2020 though as my wife has a new job in Bedford... of all places!



Luke Radley
2005-07

&

Richard Muncaster
1999-2007

Luke writes: 'After participating in my first rugby session on my sixth birthday, I immediately fell in love with the game and it fast became a passion of mine. Working through the ranks at Amptill RUFC, I later joined the Bedford Blues Academy set up before moving on to represent Loughborough University. As a school boy, I joined Bedford Modern School for Sixth Form and played in the 1st XV under the sublime guidance of Ashley Tapper. I was delighted to be made 1st XV captain in my second year and was fortunate enough to lead the team through a successful 2006-07 season.

My time playing rugby caught the attention of a Middle Eastern team, Bahrain Rugby Football Club, and I was invited to the kingdom for the trial with another OBM, Richard Muncaster (1999-2002) in the August of 2012. Both Richard and myself flourished in the heat, favouring the running rugby 'jouer' style of play, prevalent in the Middle East due to the favourable weather conditions.

We have since been representing the kingdom for the past seven years and have topped off our careers with a prestigious 'triple' title, winning the West Asia Premiership, the West Asia Cup and the Asian Champions League Cup. A first for the club, being dubbed 'one hell of a story'!

As well as playing rugby, Richard is the Operations Manager at The Heston Group and I am currently the Head of Chemistry at the British School of Bahrain. Both now retiring from rugby, Richard will remain in the Middle East and I will be returning to the UK to start a new job as a Teacher of Chemistry at Stowe School in September this year.

Playing sport, teaching and living in the Middle East has been one of the best experiences of my life and I owe it all to rugby.'



Memory *Stir*

Clive Tomkins 1952-57

writes: 'G'day. On my arrival to BMS I was made aware that the Head Boy was also named Tomkins. This coincidence I took full advantage of in my first few months! As I was repeating school work done at King's School Gloucester, I showed initial promise, I recall being asked to lay a wreath on Founder's Day. Alas, it was all downhill from there! I joined the CCF soon into my second year but remained a Pte. My family relocated to Brighton and I became a boarder at School House.



Reading about Howard Smyth in the last edition of *Eagle News*, brought back many memories, some good and some not so good. On leaving BMS, I worked in London, commuting each day on the 7:15am train and returning on the 5:30pm from London Bridge.

I was called for National Service and served most of my time in Northern Ireland in The Royal Sussex Regiment. On my discharge I joined Lloyds Bank and was posted to Bromsgrove, Warwickshire. Whilst there, I became friends with a fellow employee who came from Newcastle, Co Down (we had tales to tell regarding Belfast – but that's another story). Both of us would have a drink or two and talk of our prospects! We made a big decision to hitch-hike to Australia, and we made it. I now live in Hobart Tasmania and my buddy from Co Down lives near Batemans Bay in NSW. We actually got together recently in Canberra.

On a mainland trip we hitch-hiked to Coober Pedy (opal mining area), arriving covered in red dust from 1500km dirt roads! I noticed a tourist coach parked near the only hotel and asked the driver if there were any spare seats. Cutting a long story short, we later arrived in Alice Springs. On board the coach were two young ladies travelling together whom we got to know. One of them is now my wife of 50 plus years.

I later was employed with the National Airline (TAA) as an airport worker during Christmas and New Year holiday period (very busy) and retired 23 years ago from Qantas which it became called later.'

Ahmer Farooq 1997-99

writes: 'After leaving Bedford Modern School in 1999, I pursued further education in business studies and received an MBA from Imperial College. After my education I joined my family business, manufacturing traditional sweets in Pakistan.



While art has been a lifelong interest of mine, I credit BMS with honing my understanding of art and providing me the first platform to seriously develop my work. At BMS, I saw my hobby transformed into a passion.

When I moved to BMS from Pakistan, I had no prior education in fine art and was initially a bit overwhelmed by the new knowledge that I was exposed to. I remember my first life drawing class being particularly shocking, as the naked form had always been so tabooed in my own country. However, my teachers at school made this adjustment very easy for me and for their guidance and expertise I am eternally grateful. It is as much a testament to their skill as mine that I was awarded The Stephen Medd 'Artist of the Year Award' during my time there.

Ross Testa 2013-15

has been listed in the NatWest Great British Entrepreneur Awards in their top 20 young entrepreneurs. Ross is the founder of Yakety Yak, a creative media agency specialising in video production and social media based in Bedford. Yakety Yak's client portfolio includes Lord Sugar, Volvo and Huawei.



In the years after school, I have kept the lessons I learnt at BMS close to my heart. I still love to make art and have had the honour of showing my paintings in both local and international spaces. I am also proud to say that you can find my work hanging at The World Bank office, American Embassy, Spanish Embassy, and The Embassy of Netherlands in Islamabad. My work is also included in a few esteemed private collections, so while I don't know where exactly those paintings are, I find comfort in knowing that they are scattered across the world.

I owe all of my success to my teachers at Bedford Modern School who recognised potential in someone who came from a very different cultural background and didn't know the language too well. Their patience and understanding helped make my stay at Bedford Modern School one of the happiest parts of my life. While I loved all my classes at BMS, I must say that my favourite memories are from boarding at School House where I was lucky enough to make friends that I will cherish forever.'

Ben McFarlane

1984-94

Congratulations to Ben who has been appointed as Professor of English Law in the Law Faculty at Oxford University. He was previously Professor of Law at UCL.

John Lloyd

1960-69

writes: 'I was sorting some papers and came across this photo of me at CCF camp in 1967, so most of us would have been 16 years old. We are in the mess of an MFV run by the Royal Navy from Helensborough. We sailed round the Kyles of Bute and went to Rothesay and Tarbet (where we were invited to a Ceilidh) on Arran.

Emily Carter

2015-17

is joining the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) following a four-round audition process. The first round consisted of three speeches and an interview, the second was the same, with an added song and a longer interview with a larger panel of tutors. The third round was a workshop that focused on truthfully communicating with other actors and lastly there was a full day of classes, acting, speech redirection and a performance of your speech at the end to all tutors.

Emily writes: 'Since leaving BMS, I did a foundation course in Acting, then went on to work as a teaching assistant with young adults in a SEN college in London, whilst juggling some acting projects such as a new show *Tethered* with CMD Theatre, a few scratch nights, where artists can test out material, as well as some short films and web series. I went to lots of really beneficial acting workshops and classes at Film Club, Monobox and with renowned actress, Gemma Lawrence. I also learnt how to produce theatre and produced shows at Katzspace, the Stockwell Playhouse, the Brunel Museum and the Drayton Arms, as well as with my own theatre company, Quirkspace – it was really useful to spend some time not just acting but being involved in the industry still. It made me understand theatre better as a whole (although acting is definitely my favourite).



This year has been really beneficial for me in learning about the jobs actors have to take between acting jobs (working as a teaching assistant, flyering, nannying and waitressing), as well as meeting and working with such a range of interesting people in all the projects I have been involved in. I cannot wait to begin my degree at RADA, and I'm really grateful to the Performance Arts department at BMS for giving me the confidence to pursue this scary, yet exciting career.'



From left to right - 'Moppy' Kitchener, John Lloyd, Ron Haddon, Lilliman (with glasses), 'Stumpy' Wilson, Nick Mawson (with the hat) and Richard Demby. I don't remember who the others are.

We travelled up overnight by train from London to join HMS Maidstone on Faslane where we transferred to the MFV.

The MFV was used to support submarines based at Faslane, the American submarines were in Holy Loch. I remember it was a great week.'

Memory *Stir*

Michael Crowther 1962-69

writes: 'I entered BMS in 1962, in form J2A, after passing the 11 plus and a BMS entrance examination. My junior school memories include Miss Kingston (the only female many of us saw all day), Mr Hussey (who was committed to teaching us proper italic penmanship with our Osmiroid 65 pens and who was magnificently and totally bald well before it became fashionable). There was Mr Llewellyn, whose C.S Lewis-style RI influenced me greatly and Mr Howell-Jones who began every history test with the same question: "What do you call a man that digs up the past?"



Friends from Flitwick who were fellow Country House members included David Young (1962-71) and Doug Rounthwaite (1961-70). We used to ride the train to Midland Road Station. I was passable but certainly not an outstanding student at BMS and I found myself frequently daydreaming and distracted. I was equally unfocused in my university education and early career path in the United States, to which my family and I emigrated in November 1969. My life's direction changed however, more than 25 years ago when I was offered the position of Chief Operating Officer at the New Jersey State Aquarium. Within two years I had been appointed President and CEO and then in 2002 I was recruited to become the President and CEO of the Indianapolis Zoological Society. My profession and avocation has provided me with the opportunity to spend time in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Madagascar, Borneo and other far-flung places. It has been wondrous!

I will be retiring from the leadership of the Indianapolis Zoological Society at the end of 2019, and am fully engaged in ensuring that we have a painless transition to my successor. The last few years have been especially fulfilling:

- The Indianapolis Prize, which we founded about 15 years ago, has indisputably become the world's leading award for animal conservation. It is described by most conservationists as the 'Nobel Prize for Conservation' and the recipients represent the pantheon of the field. Sir David Attenborough, Harrison Ford, Sigourney Weaver, and other have been presenters and we have achieved real progress in advancing sustainability.
- We have created a special partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the world's oldest, largest and most important conservation

Neil Oliver 1971-78

It was great to welcome Neil to BMS in April. On his short tour of the School, he was particularly interested in the Howard Hall as he remembers being in many past productions and was also impressed by the new Science Centre. Walking around the School, Neil reminisced about the Queen's visit and his time in the CCF.

Neil had a long career in the Police and in 2005 became a Primary School teacher. He helps us every year as an umpire at the Girls' Sports Tournament.



organisation. The IUCN's Species Survival Commission will be creating their Global Species Survival Centre at our facilities in 2020, establishing coordinators for all taxa under one roof to support and coordinate the global conservation initiatives of their 8000 specialists.

- Our zoological garden has been consistently ranked as the number two zoo in the United States as we try to invent what a relevant, humane, enriching and sustainable zoo for the 21st Century should be like.

While I am retiring soon, I am on a number of boards and committees and expect to stay involved in their missions.

My best wishes to those who were seriously concerned about my future during my years at BMS!

Geoff Lavery 1991 - 2011



OBM and former Deputy Head, Geoff has found himself increasingly busy as a conductor, accompanist and organist. Towards the beginning of the year, he was conducting Gippeswyk Singers, Beccles Choral Society and has been appointed Musical Director of the Phoenix Singers.

In May, Geoff conducted a concert at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, with three choirs of 180 singers and a Lambeth Orchestra of 80 musicians in a performance of Verdi's *Requiem*.

Jake Jones

2002-07

writes: 'In 2017 I founded Legal OS with co-founders Lillian Breidenback and Charlotte Kufu. Legal OS has the vision of automating law by building the world's first code-based library of legal content and we have recently just raised €2m for our Berlin-based Legal Tech start-up. Legal OS is now backed by some of Europe's largest venture funds, including HV Holtzbrinck Ventures and SpeedInvest, as well as the founders of SumUp and Wooga.

Before founding Legal OS, I studied English Literature at the University of Nottingham (BA) and University College London (MA), then worked as a Product Manager at Accenture Interactive. I have fond memories of my time at Bedford Modern, the professional and personal guidance provided by Terry Mullan (Physics teacher) and Stephen Bywater (Head of English) was invaluable.

I have always had an interest in computing, design and invention. As a teenager I always thought of myself as an inventor and I always had a project on the go. I was lucky enough at university to meet British novelist, Jon McGregor through a writing group. Jon was looking for a team to build a new literary journal and so I became a co-founder and first editor of the journal, *The Letters Page*. This was my first taste of entrepreneurship.

Later on, while working at Accenture Interactive, I joined a professional development scheme, named the journeyman scheme, run by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT). This scheme gave me access to leaders in IT who provided guidance and instilled me with the self-belief that with hard work even my most radical ideas were possible.

Berlin and law were obvious locales for my first attempt at entrepreneurship as a consequence of my co-founders' backgrounds. I met my co-founders through my studies abroad in Portland, Oregon. Both

are German nationals and have experience with the German legal system. They were also similarly driven by innovation and computing and they felt deep in their bones that the German legal system (one of the most conservative sectors in one of the most bureaucratic nations in the world) could be



Simon Diffey

1977-82

writes: 'The recent Founder's Dinner was superb and featured old sports masters and my form master. Also attending was my Shakespeare House Master, Dave Berry (1946-2000), whom in my final testimonial said I certainly had something to offer and with any luck a future employer would find it.

He was of course absolutely right and so after spending six years working for Graphic Designers, I joined the family printing business! During the heady late 90s I met up with OBM Ed Hebblethwaite (1974-84). He was a highly motivated account manager with a design agency in Chelsea and inspired me to join my father's business to supply them with high end printed products.

They were the rock and roll years in marketing before the internet and it is no surprise to me that Ed has become a leading strategic brand consultant in the City and board member at The Value Engineers.

In 1989 I was asked to print the BMS student publication, *The Eagle*, for Ernest Carwithen

disrupted if anyone was bold enough to try... So one day I arrived to work at Accenture with the feeling I was ready for something new and that there likely was no better time to leap than that moment. Following my notice period, I moved to Berlin and began to work on disrupting law.'

(1983-2005) and the OBM *Eagle News* for Andrew Underwood (1945-51). Back then they were predominately black and white with only a few colour pictures in the centre section. This was before computer graphics so actual paste up artwork was produced, photographed and the negatives used to produce the printing plates. Now the school creates their own digital artwork with pupils and the ever-patient English Master, John Sanders composing *Eagle Magazine* along with External Relations Director, Julie Ridge and her team producing *Eagle News*.

It is a privilege for me to be able to work with my old school and produce these quality journals.'



Memory Stir

Wedding Congratulations



Ben
Woodfine
1987-98

A belated congratulations to OBM Ben Woodfine and his now wife Lucy who got married in the summer last year with a hand fasting ceremony in Moggerhanger, with their children Willow and Eddie alongside them.



Emma
Springate (née Brocklehurst)
2009-11



Congratulations to Emma who married Leo Springate on 17 November 2018 in Seend, Wiltshire. David Shoukry (2002-11), a former member of staff at BMS and Emma's Sixth Form tutor was their photographer!

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Obituaries

John Clifton

1927-33

North House, died 29 December 2018.

John's grandson, Andrew Clifton writes: John was born on 02 July 1917 in Bedford, before moving to Clapham when he was 12. With the river Ouse at the bottom of the garden his Dad taught him to row and sail, and he learnt to build canoes and small boats.

On leaving BMS in 1933 there were very few jobs, so he was fortunate being able to work in his Father's clothing business on Manton Lane.

He joined Bedford Thursday Rugby Club (shops closed on a Thursday afternoon in those days). John signed up for the RAF Voluntary Reserve at Sywell to train as a pilot, but failed his medical due to high blood pressure, when war broke out he joined the RAF as ground crew.

John married Bette on the 2nd December 1941, and two days later was posted to France where he joined the British Expeditionary Force, servicing Wellington bombers. When France fell, John and his colleagues were cut off from Dunkirk, his service colleagues destroyed everything important including aircraft that were unable to fly. They then all headed south to Marseilles by various means, where he was lucky enough to catch the last coal boat heading for Gibraltar. From there he managed to get a ride home to Liverpool on an armed merchant cruiser named Patroclus. Later he would use the same name for a boat of his own.

He was posted to a Hurricane Squadron in North Weald, before putting his name down for wireless training which took him to fighter command HQ, then onto Scotland and back to Bicester, flying in Blenheims. It was here he met Sid Scudder and Taffy Edwards to form a unit flying Venturas photographing



the D Day landing beaches. The crew he was with finally moved to 88 Squadron flying American Boston fighter bombers from Hartford Bridge in Hampshire. After D Day they transferred to France for daylight bombing. John completed 50 daylight operations and one night, where 30 missions was the normal limit for survival.

In 1948 his father died leaving him to run the family business. He admitted that the war had taken its toll and it took longer to settle down than he expected, but once he did he threw himself into a number of ventures. Bedford Motor Club, Round Table, Rotary, Chamber of Trade Committee, Beds and County Golf Club and various Sailing Clubs. John was particularly proud to have been involved with Bedford Boys Club where he became Chairman and during his time with the Club he was asked by the Local MP to raise money to help build a new club house in Bradgate Road which he succeeded in completing. He became a Magistrate in 1958 and served 31 years.

His foremost passion was always sailing (something he passed on to his sons, Michael and David). He built his first Enterprise dinghy in his lounge, strictly on the condition from Bette to redecorate the room afterwards. A second followed a few years later, before building a 32ft yacht on the front drive.

He became a founder member of Grafham Water Sailing Club, going on to become Membership Secretary and very involved in the early running of it. There he enjoyed sailing Flying 15s on a regular basis with so many of his friends, right up until his last boat was sold in July 2018.

John kept himself active in many circles right up until his passing, and he will be missed by many, but none more so than his family that he was so fond of.'

John Phelps

1955-63

West House, died 07 April 2018.

Michael Toner (1955-63) writes: 'Even after an interval of more than half a century, I clearly remember what an impression John made on his contemporaries at BMS. He may never have been one of the school grandees. He never became a monitor, or even a lowly house monitor. Nor did he go out of his way to court easy popularity or attract attention to himself. Yet to so many of us though he was the very best of company: original, full of fascinating ideas, never boring, unfailingly funny.

Here's an example. One day a would-be bully confronted him in the quad, scowling over some perceived schoolboy offence and snarling: "You want a punch on the nose?" John just smiled beautifully. "Oh yes please", he replied to hoots of laughter and a discomfited antagonist.

John's qualities went far beyond a ready wit and cheery disposition. Just as impressive was his ability to rise above the Dickensian discipline that was such a feature of BMS in those bleak, post-war years. At his home in Cutcliffe Place he was surrounded by stern authority; a maths master lived next door, another of his teachers lodged across the way, while the then head J E Taylor – the terrifying JET, was just around the corner.

Obituaries

When school rules stipulated that no pupil was allowed out of doors after 6.30pm (a more liberal 7pm in summer), anyone caught breaking the curfew faced a certain flogging. In those circumstances, the prudent choice would have been to stay glumly indoors, as housebound as a pet hamster, but John was made of sterner stuff. With an escape route starting by scrambling over his garden wall, he regularly made his way into town unseen to enjoy a social life that the more timid of us could only envy. That knack of making the best of things didn't stop there. At the age of fourteen or thereabouts, those of us who lacked the courage to join the embarrassingly short-treasured Scouts, were expected to instead 'volunteer' for the Combined Cadet Force and spend most of our Friday afternoons marching morosely to and fro, often in the rain. But not John, somehow he wangled a job as CCF stores orderly and spent most of his school military career comfortably warm and dry, with no duties other than brewing tea for the officers and a little desultory sweeping.

A memorable character then, and one who was obviously going to make his mark, whatever path he chose after taking his A Levels. In the event, he spurned the option of University to become a trainee journalist on the *Bedfordshire Times*, where he spent the next two years reporting on courts, council meetings, bonny baby contests and all the other bread-and-butter content of local papers.

With that experience under his belt, he moved to the *Cambridge News*. There, to his bemusement, he found himself assigned to the wholly unfamiliar field of sports reporting – a life changing development, as it turned out. One day, while covering a soccer match, he was introduced to the daughter of the St Neots team manager. Suddenly, a smitten John lost interest in the outcome of the game. He and Jeanine were married a year later, in 1968 – by which time, with the help of her football knowledge, he'd become a seriously competent sports writer.

Yet by then his eye was on broader horizons. To widen his professional scope, he took on rigorous courses in business journalism – a decision that involved long hours of study but paid handsome dividends. Just before Christmas 1969 he was offered a job on the City pages of the *London Evening Standard*, a paper then based in the best-known landmark in Fleet Street, the art deco Express building. Here for the next twenty years he covered the biggest financial stories of the age, from the Lonrho scandal in 1973 – described by the then Prime Minister Ted Heath as 'the unacceptable face of capitalism', to the 'Big Bang' in 1986, which transformed the City into a truly global financial centre. In the process he rose through the ranks, to become Deputy City Editor.

Naturally, most Deputies long for the chance to run their own show; and John's opportunity came in 1989, when he was appointed Business Editor of the *Sunday Express* – this at a time when the paper still enjoyed a large readership and considerable influence, despite its many problems. Over the next year, he not only revitalised the City pages, but succeeded in getting a string of financial stories onto the front page, something the *Express* hadn't seen in an age.

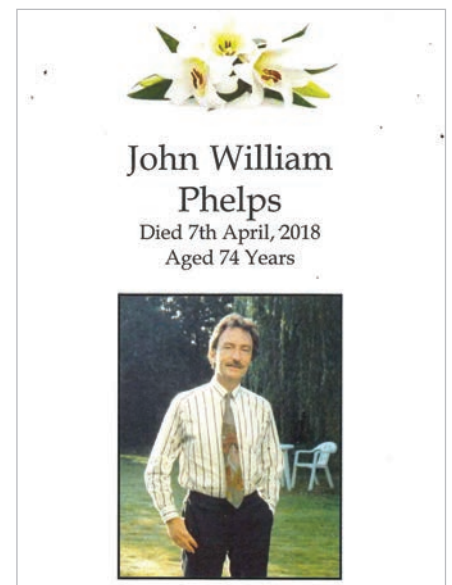
Sadly, his success wasn't to be rewarded. All too soon, a brash new Editor arrived at the paper, accompanied – as is so often the way in Fleet Street, by a phalanx of equally brash acolytes, who lost no time in asserting their authority. All at once, John found himself sidelined in his own department by less talented parvenus. He chose to leave rather than put up with it.

So began the years of mixed fortunes. On the plus side, his reputation ensured that he had no difficulty finding freelance work on a variety of other national newspapers. Nevertheless it was a precarious existence. Two of his sources of income, the *Sunday Correspondent* and *Today* folded. In the cut-throat struggle for circulation, other papers were struggling. It was therefore quite a coup when he was appointed to a permanent position as Business Editor of the *European*, where he

presided over a spectacular improvement in the paper's financial coverage. Yet once again there was to be no reward for his achievement. In 1998 the *European* too ceased publication.

How should he respond? The thought of returning to the uncertainties of freelancing wasn't alluring. The prospect of more years commuting from Biddenham didn't appeal either. So with Jeanine's encouragement he took the brave decision to change course, abandon Fleet Street and head instead for the unfamiliar shores of Norfolk. It proved to be an inspired choice. For the next few years he was able to supplement his income with regular columns of financial advice for the *Scotsman* and later the *Sunday Herald*, while still having time to pursue his interest in history and enjoy travel, gardening, the sea and the countryside. Those were happy times.

But the shadow of personal tragedy changed everything. In 2017 his only son, Jason died of a heart attack. In trying to cope with their grief, John and Jeanine moved up the coast, to Old Hunstanton. But John was already weakening from the cancer that was to kill him. After a short illness, he died on 07 April 2018. He is survived by Jeanine and their daughter Natalie, mourned by all who knew him. Ave atque vale, old friend.'



Anthony T Herbert

1952-61

County House and Bletchley Liner, died 01 November 2018.



Peter Boon (1951-61) writes: 'Anthony died after a battle with cancer. A keen biologist he became a monitor and senior NCO in the CCF. After school he attended Bristol University where he read botany. He then worked for many years with the Nature Conservancy Council.'

Kenneth John Murray

1942-47

County House, died 25 February 2019.

John Dean

1944-51

East House, died 08 January 2019.

John's wife, Margaret Dean writes: 'John joined BMS from Goldington Green School as an 11+ entrant. He had always enjoyed sport and this interest flourished at BMS. His great love was cricket, he played in the 1st XI alongside Geoff Millman (1943-53) and Bob Gale (1943-53).

John fondly remembered 'part-time' school during the war when Owens School shared

with BMS, time off for potato harvesting and singing in religious services when the BBC broadcast from Bedford and St Paul's Church provided the choir under the leadership of Bert Coulson. He became very efficient at dodging 'lockup' playing cricket for Goldington Sports disguised wearing a bright yellow cap! He made many lifetime friends during his time at School.

After leaving School, John joined W H Allens as a senior engineering student where he continued playing cricket to a high standard and restarted playing rugby. John joined Texas Instruments at the beginning of their time in Bedford and spent 25 years managing production of semiconductors and facilities.

John then started his own business supplying feed equipment to pig farmers. He had always had a love of farming and had kept his own pigs for a few years.

After playing cricket and rugby, John took up golf which he played until he was 80 when he had to give up after major heart surgery. He also had a passion for horse racing and lately spent many happy hours watching all these sports on TV.

Recently he belonged to the 'Crinkles', a club of local older gents who in their younger days had played competitive cricket. They enjoyed croquet, bowls, quizzes etc. much chat and the occasional beer!

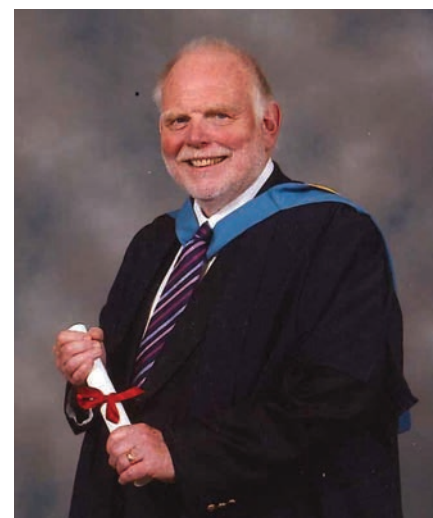
In 1958 John married Margaret Clark [DAHS] and they celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary last year. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.'



James Wilkinson

1951-56

West House, died 09 January 2019.



Mrs Wilkinson writes: 'Jim was born in Bolton in 1940 and spent his early years in Lancashire before moving to Bedford aged seven where he settled with his parents and three sisters. At school he enjoyed rowing and had fond memories of swimming in the river.

On leaving school he took a job with local engineering company Allens, where he started studying for his accountancy qualification becoming a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. His second job was with Huntings in Ampthill where he met his future wife Averil. They had two children, Richard and Catherine.

He continued with several companies including London Brick, United Biscuits and Dawn Foods. His career took him to the Cotswolds, where he would later return to settle and retire.

Jim loved singing and took part in Stewarby Amateur Dramatic Society performing

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Gilbert and Sullivan roles. He also joined church choirs, which led him to become more involved in church life. He used his accounting experience to act as treasurer for the South African Development Trust. Many other local charities were to benefit from his accounting knowledge, often in exchange for a bottle of wine on completion of accounts.

Jim enjoyed working with children. He spent many years in scouting, leading groups in Bedfordshire and Worcestershire. In later years he was involved in Chipping Campden church initiative 'Open the Book', where a small group would visit local schools to act out popular Bible stories with the children. These were very well received by the children who enjoyed taking part in performances and would introduce Jim to their parents when meeting in the street.

Having missed out on university when leaving school, Jim was determined in later life to study for a degree. He did this with the Open University, graduating with a BA Hons in History of Art at the age of 69.

Jim made a wide circle of friends through various local organisations and societies in Chipping Campden and will be remembered for his good natured sense of humour and willingness to take part.'

Malcolm Timothy Dazley 1951-57

County House, died 16 April 2019.

Malcolm's son, Jason writes: 'My father, Malcolm Timothy Dazley, known as Tim, was born in Bedford on 26 November 1940. He passed away at his home, surrounded by his family at 10:10am on 16 April 2019.

I was asked to write something to tell you of him, a task I am deeply honoured to do. This may be slightly off-piste, as rather than listing all his achievements of which there are

many. I think if you'd asked Dad, he would have said it was meeting the love of his life and marrying her, or having me and being so involved in my life, of walking my wife down the aisle to stand by my side.

So instead of telling you of who he was seen to be, if you can spare me a moment, I wish to tell you who he was.

He was a man of honour, integrity, of great love and compassion.

He was my teacher, he made time to explain and offer me the wisdom of this experience, yet also showed me respect and allowed me to make mistakes of my own. He was always there to stand beside me and help me through.

I am so proud to have called him my father. He was my hero, my friend.

You have your lives ahead of you, I hope you all find the courage to be yourselves, the integrity to choose the right path even if it makes you stand out. Live life with love in your heart and help others when they are in need. Show respect in order to receive it.

Life can be fleeting, but I promise, it is also the greatest adventure. Never give up, strive for greatness and you shall be remembered. By living your best life, you help the memory of my father live on. Learn from him as I did, be the best you can be and one day, you will be blessed, surrounded by those that love you.

May you live all the days of your life.'



Francis Jack Ames 1937-42

West House, died 11 September 2018.



Francis's daughter, Denise Bray writes: 'Jack was born in Kempston in 1926, moving to Queens Park whilst he was a young boy. He had two brothers, Percy and Ralph, and a sister, Norma, all of whom remained in Bedford throughout their lives. He attended Bedford Modern School between 1937 and 1942 and, although his subsequent employment moved him away from Bedford, he maintained a link to the school through *Eagle News*, which he always read with great interest. On leaving school Jack joined Lloyds Bank in Bedford until he was called up for Military Service. This was to be in the Air Force, but subsequently he was transferred to the Army and spent the years from 1945 – 1947 on National Service. Initially he was destined to serve in India, but in transit, via the Suez Canal, he spent time in Cairo, where his bank clerk employment saw him retained there as Company Chief Clerk. In 1948 Jack returned to bank employment in Bedford. It was then that he met Joan – a chance encounter with friends at a boating lake. They were married in 1952 and lifetime companions until Joan died in 2015, shortly before their 63rd wedding anniversary. Jack's bank employment necessitated a number of moves, firstly to Ipswich, then Nottingham and eventually, in 1964, to North Wales, where Jack became the Manager of the Connah's

Quay and Shotton Lloyds Bank branches. By the time of this move Jack and Joan had three daughters – Val, Denise and Linda. A fourth daughter- Louise - was born in 1972. Family life was very important to Jack, and he was proud of his daughters, nine grandchildren and 10 great- grandchildren.

Jack became fully involved in the local community. He was a churchwarden and bell ringer at Hawarden Parish Church and a member of Hawarden Masonic Lodge, where he served for many years as Lodge treasurer. Jack took early retirement from the bank in 1983. With more free time Jack and Joan found new interests. They travelled around the world and in 1997 Jack fulfilled a lifetime wish to return to Egypt. They also discovered a shared passion for sequence dancing which they maintained until Joan died. Jack was renowned for his meticulous attention to record keeping. Amongst the memorabilia of his life was a wartime issue of *Eagle News*; a completed 1947 diary recording his life in Cairo; a programme for the Athletics at the 1948 Olympics (with all results filled in!) and a 1956 football programme – Arsenal v Bedford Town. Jack maintained a keen interest in sport throughout his life.

In 2017 Jack suffered a severe stroke. With great persistence on his part he recovered sufficiently to return home, but his health gradually deteriorated. He did, however, achieve his wish to remain in his own home until a few days before his death.'

Brian Marshall

1940-48

South House, died 06 April 2019.

Brian's godson and nephew-in-law, Mark Jeffries (1976-81) writes: 'His entire life was spent with Royal Insurance but beyond his working life he was a renowned philatelist becoming an expert on the stamps of Sarawak and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Born in Bedford in 1931, Brian was the son of Frank Marshall (1930-62), the school secretary. He grew up in Cardington Road, Bedford. A serious car accident as a young child, which left him hospitalized for several weeks, didn't seem to hold him back in later life. He was taught to swim by his grandfather through the rather unconventional approach of being dropped into the river Great Ouse. This approach didn't deter him, although he swapped the river for local swimming baths, continuing to swim regularly well into his 80s.

His parents moved from Cardington Road to Moggerhanger and it was whilst there that he met my aunt, Elaine Bygraves, at a dance in Northill. They married in 1955 at St Mary's Church, Northill. In September 2015 they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their two sons, five grandchildren, great grandson and extended family.

After school, national service in the Pay Corps was followed by the start of his professional life in insurance. He firstly worked at the Royal Insurance office in Bedford before progressing to their offices in the City and onwards via Portsmouth. These moves involved relocating the family from Cople to Ruislip then to Horsham and finally to Petersfield in Hampshire where Brian was to remain, in the same house, for the next 44 years.

Encouraged by his father, Brian became an avid stamp collector. His expertise took him to give talks around the country particularly in the South and South West. He won numerous prizes and medals and was considered an authority on the stamps of Sarawak. He was a very keen gardener and collector of alpines, extending his garden and improving it with a wildlife pond and rockeries. He undertook charitable work through his local Freemasons Lodge and was a regular worshipper at St Peter's, Petersfield.

Brian was a dedicated family man, always there to help and encourage his sons whether that was through their various hobbies or as they developed their careers in music. He will be remembered as an extraordinarily gentle,

caring and kind man. He is survived by his sons, his grandchildren and great grandson.'

Amandeep Singh Sansoa

2006-15

Bell House, died December 2018.

Mr and Mrs Sansoa write: 'Amandeep attended Bedford Modern School between 2006 and 2015, achieving excellent grades at A Level, before gaining a place to study Medicine at Southampton University. After a year he decided to follow his passion and started a course in Natural Sciences at the University, specialising in Astrophysics. He had reached his third year and was looking forward to a placement in his fourth year at the European Space Agency, and then a further degree. He had ambitions to be in space, and develop technologies to help humanity.

Very sadly Amandeep lost his life in a tragic accident in December 2018 aged 21 which has left his family and friends in deep shock. To acknowledge his achievements, the University of Southampton awarded Amandeep a posthumous Bachelor of Sciences degree in Natural Sciences, presented on 17 July 2019.

Amandeep loved to travel and had a wide-ranging interest in music, attending a number of festivals. Those who knew him well will acknowledge that he had an electric sense of fashion – you could never miss him! Amandeep had a wide circle of friends from School and University, who he supported in their academic studies. He was a thoughtful and caring young man with an interest in men's and students' mental health, which he supported through charitable challenges such as Movember and other fund-raising events, always exceeding his personal target. He also helped several friends to get through periods of ill health and was always willing to spend time with those facing problems in their own lives. Amandeep had

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a gift for recognising those in need, and then providing the help they needed, without expecting anything in return. He has left an unforgettable legacy with all whose lives he touched.

Amandeep's family have been moved by the many emotional tributes which have been paid by his school friends from BMS, and here are just some:

Sam Hosegood (2006-15) writes: 'Amandeep was my first friend at BMS and we very quickly became close. He was charming, witty, caring and everything you could possibly want a friend to be. Amandeep never excluded anyone and had a magical way of making everyone feel welcome. He inspired me to be more confident in myself and to be a better person and I know many others feel the same. Truly one of a kind, he always stayed true to himself. Amandeep will be sorely missed but, with the impact he had on so many, he will not be forgotten.'

Matt Shacklady (2008-15) writes: 'Deep was a remarkable man and an even better friend. He was empathic and kind when he recognised his friends or strangers were in a bad place and did everything he could to rectify this making sure everyone was included, creating a positive and friendly environment. He was eccentric without being over the top, everything he wore, suited him just right in a way that no one else could ever get away with. His music taste was second to none, and he was the sole reason I was able to broaden and appreciate all different types and genres of music. But most importantly, he was always there for you when you needed it, to support you when you needed it; no matter how busy he was, he would always find time to help those that needed it. And that's the legacy he has left behind.'

Arvind Ramesh (2008-15) writes: 'You would struggle to meet a more vivacious, energetic, and friendly soul than Amandeep, who took all those he met to his heart. His ability to light up a room with a smile and a joke was unparalleled. Quick of wit, sharp of mind, and kind of heart, he was an

exceptional man and a fierce friend. Amandeep is an inspiration to everyone, young and old, and we will miss him intensely as he departs, leaving a glittering mark on all of us. His legacy of positivity, kindness, and living life to the fullest, will be continued by all those whom had the good fortune of sharing his warmth.'

James Gray (2008-15) writes: 'Amandeep was a truly kind-hearted and inspirational friend. With a fashion sense of a legend and incredibly diverse music taste, Amandeep's enthusiasm for life and determination to succeed has inspired us all and he will be forever missed. A keen traveller and packing so much in to such a short life is never an easy task but Amandeep excelled. His positive attitude to mental health, constant charity fundraising and always being the one who kept an eye on us all on nights out and in life, is a reflection of the friend he was. A friend gone too soon but never forgotten.'

Mr Graham Watkins, currently teaching Modern Languages at BMS writes: 'Amandeep was in my tutor group in the Sixth Form and was someone everyone

got on with. He always stood out as an intelligent and highly capable student in all his subjects, a young man with an enquiring mind and a strong work ethic. More than this, Amandeep was a gentle and caring soul who was keen to contribute to any community in which he found himself. He had a passion for Medicine and I have no doubt that he would have made an outstanding doctor; the world is all the poorer for his loss.'

Mr John White, Director of Sixth Form writes: 'Amandeep was a lovely character within what was a wonderfully close knit friendship group whilst in our Sixth Form. They were and remain a pleasure to be associated with and it was absolutely no surprise that so many of them wanted to mark his passing by being in attendance at his funeral. Amandeep is such a sad loss to his family and friends. He will live on in our hearts, such was the impact whilst he was with us.'

There were many others, too many to include.

Amandeep – forever in our hearts.'

balisansoa61@gmail.com



Bill Boutall

1837-45

North House, died 30 May 2019.



Bill's daughter, Sue Giordano writes: 'Bill was born in Bedford, and as a teenager in the second world war attended Bedford Modern School, helping out his parents in the evenings at the Bull Public House in London Road, which they managed. He became Head Boy and remembered having to cane some of the younger boys, then meeting up with them again in later life. He briefly went into the army but was glad to be dismissed due to low blood pressure.

After a short spell teaching at Rushmoor School, he went into the family business of Turf Accountants in Castle Road. This was certainly not his chosen career and he planned to go back to teaching as soon as funds would allow. He married a PE college girl, Beryl, in 1949 and they had two children, Susan and David. At the age of 40 he finally fulfilled his ambition and attended Teacher Training College, followed by many happy years at various schools in Bedfordshire. In 1974 he and Beryl were divorced.

At this stage he became very involved with music and singing, and it was at Bedford Choral Society that he met his future wife, Mary. They were married shortly afterwards and were blissfully happy until she sadly died in a car accident in 2006.

Music has been the major interest in his life since then. He loved both jazz and classical music and sang with several choirs. For the past 10 years he has been one of the mainstays of 'Music for Memory', leaving an enormous legacy of jolly action songs for people with dementia and their carers.'

Charles Robert 'Bob' Pearson

1944-47

School House, died 21 February 2019.

Charles's brother, John Pearson (1944-47) and niece, Margaret Brown write: 'He was born on the 31 May 1929 to Charles Robert Pearson and Olive Pearson (née Nock) in Dudley, Worcestershire and called Bob like his father. On medical advice he did not return to Egypt with his parents, and was left in England with his grandmother and her niece in Walthamstow and later St Albans until he was seven. He lost a year in early schooling because of a mastoid infection. Once recovered, he joined his parents and 16-month-old younger brother Anthony (1944-47) in Egypt, after which Bob and Anthony were always in the same class at school. Their parents wanted their sons to learn both French and later German, so they spent four years at the College de La Sainte Famille in Cairo. By then the war had started and so they were moved to English School Cairo, where they matriculated several years earlier.

They returned to England just before the end of the war in September 1944 and became boarders in School House at BMS, where they were initially known as Wog major and Wog minor. Bob took ordinary level Higher School Certificate in his first year, advanced level in

his second, and obtained a minor scholarship to Trinity College Cambridge in his seventh term. (This was the first 'post-war' sixth form and was very successful in achieving many university places). Bob played rugby for the 1st XV and rowed at Henley in the first boat. He was then 'called up' into the Army, where he went to OCTU and was commissioned in the Royal Artillery. He was posted in AA to Shoeburyness until he had completed his National Service. He then went up to Trinity (1949-52) to read Natural Sciences specialising in Biochemistry, obtaining a 2.1 degree. He played rugby and rowed through college.



He then joined ICI, for whom he worked at Brixham, Devon on effluent disposal – as it affected the rivers and shoreline where it was pumped out. He and his brother, who had joined ICI after leaving school with Bob, continued to work together on effluent issues (once publishing a paper together on estuarine effluent disposal in a joint IChemE/AIChE symposium). In addition to his role as Technical Manager of the Brixham Laboratory he spent a proportion of his time

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working for Head Office in various capacities, also for clients outside ICI, in the UK and overseas, on a consultancy basis. Hence he spent considerable periods travelling at home and abroad, and gave many papers at international conferences. During his time in Brixham he was an enthusiastic rugby referee, gardener and sailor.

He met his wife Pamela (née Wigley), who was then teaching at the Perse Junior School, at the ADC (Cambridge Amateur Dramatic Club) during his time at Trinity. They were married in 1952 soon after he graduated. They had two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, born and brought up in Brixham and were a close family who enjoyed seaside and countryside activities.

Bob took up ICI's offer of early retirement in 1982 and was glad to return to the Middle East, to Jeddah, where he worked for IAL (International Aeradio Limited, part of British Airways), as Project Manager for a contract with the Meteorological and Environmental Protection Administration of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Two years later he came back to England, to Bishops Waltham in Hampshire, where he and Pam lived for the last thirty plus years of their lives. Becoming a Member of the Institute of Chemical Engineers and registering as a Chartered Engineer, he set up his own Environmental Studies and Consultancy firm, carrying out a very wide range of projects, including transport and distribution problems, and major hazards, to name but two. He took a keen interest in local matters, chairing the Bishops Waltham Society for many years.

During his latter years Bob spoke fondly of his time at BMS, recalling particularly the extra responsibilities exercised by the Sixth Form boys, while many of the masters were on active service or waiting to be de-mobbed. His three years at the school clearly provided a very formative experience. He died on 21 February 2019, aged 89, Pam having pre-deceased him by three and a half years. He is survived by his two daughters, three grandchildren and ten great grand-children, and by his brother Anthony.'

Geoffrey Charles White

1944-50

County House, died 07 January 2019.



Geoff's son, Richard White writes: 'Dad was born on 10 January 1931 and grew up in the village of Aspley Guise in Bedfordshire with his two older sisters, Jean and Joyce. They lived in a house with no electricity, no running hot water and no indoor toilet. Dad always recalled a very happy childhood – he loved the outdoor life and time spent with his parents in their very long garden, something that no doubt fostered his later interest in gardening and his 'green fingers'. He won a scholarship to Bedford Modern School and his passion for sport began to blossom. Dad was a very good rugby player, playing for Bletchley Rugby Club's 1st XV and captaining them in the early 1960s, finally becoming Chairman at the end of that decade.

Dad spent his whole career in the Civil Service and his role as a Customs and Excise Officer took him all over the United Kingdom, from

the whisky distilleries in Scotland to the port of Southampton. He enthusiastically regaled stories about his visits to bonded warehouses and greyhound tracks, of dipping tanks and collecting duties on alcohol and tobacco.

Dad married Eileen Woods in 1958 and they started their home and family life together in Leighton Buzzard, before moving to Heath and Reach in 1965, along with me, my sister Rosie, and the youngest, Jo, who was born that year in our family home.

Dad became a pillar of the Heath and Reach local community – he was an Allotment Trustee, a Parish Councillor, and heavily involved with the church, where he was a Churchwarden, a bass in the choir, and a pantomime scenery maker amongst many other things. Up until he died, he was still writing *The Villager* article in the parish magazine and had done for many years – this was something he loved researching and was particularly interested in, with its mixture of history and village life.

Friends and family formed the core of Dad's life. He always showed a huge sense of love and pride for all of us, and his nephews and nieces, and great nephews and nieces. He was a wonderful and much loved Grandad, giving so much of his time and energy to his grandchildren and receiving so much joy and happiness from them in return.

Sport always featured prominently throughout Dad's life, and his involvement with his beloved Aspley Guise Cricket Club was indeed almost lifelong. Dad was deeply honoured to be given one of Derek Randall's England caps by the player himself at a dinner event, to recognise his amazing services to the club, which continued right up until his final weeks.

Mum and Dad enjoyed more than 48 years of happy marriage and when Mum sadly passed away 12 years ago, Dad worked tirelessly, using all his horticultural skills and talent, to turn part of a field they had recently bought at the back of their Thomas Street home into a beautiful garden.

It was very special for Dad to find happiness again with Mary, and they married in 2011, when I was honoured to be his Best Man. More recently, Dad and Mary moved back to Leighton Buzzard.

In the last couple of years, Dad enjoyed a more leisurely pace, but still took an active interest in his family, the community, sport, history, gardening, and his large collection of stamps.

Right until the end, Dad retained his wonderful sense of humour, commenting in hospital that he wished the nurses would put some gin and tonic in his drip!

Dad, Geoff, was much loved and will be greatly missed by us all.'

Norman John Friskney

1948-58

Died 15 November 2018.

Norman's daughter, Helen Corkin writes: 'Norman Friskney was educated at Jesus College Oxford, where he read geography. His university career was interrupted by the Second World War. He fought on the battlefields of Southern Italy where he served as a young officer in the 8th Army – as recounted in his 2013 book, *With Gun and Gown*. In 1944 he married his wartime sweetheart Kathleen Afford. After the war he finished his degree and then taught geography at BMS until 1958, when he became headmaster of Wilson's Grammar School, Camberwell (later renamed Wilson's School on its move to the London Borough of Sutton). He retired from there in 1983.

Kathleen predeceased him in 2015 after a long and happy marriage. Norman died peacefully after a short illness and will be remembered with much love by his family and friends.'

Richard Graham Knight

1945-51

Culver House, died 04 April 2019.



Richard's wife, Laline Knight writes: 'We have sadly said goodbye to my wonderful husband Richard (Ricky) at the age of 84 after a very brave battle with oesophageal cancer.

Ricky was born in Torquay, Devon and was sent as a boarder to Bedford Modern School during wartime. He was very soon spotted as a very good swimmer and diver and joined the school team. He left school in 1951 and returned to Torquay in Devon where he continued his swimming with the Torquay Leander Club and began a career in refrigeration and air conditioning, first as an engineer and eventually as a sales director, interrupted by National Service in the RAF from 1955 to 1957, partly served in Germany.

When he returned he was introduced to motor sport by a friend and this was to become his main interest for the rest of his life, being involved in all local club activities, stock cars, Autocross, hill climbs, sprints rallies etc. We married in 1961, and had two sons, Timothy and Jared, who also carried on the motorsport with him, followed eventually by three grandsons, all racing karts! The two

granddaughters were not interested, strangely enough! Ricky was marshalling at many events including Goodwood Festival of Speed, Wiscombe Hill Climb etc until 2018, when unfortunately the illness began. Just before he passed away he won a Lifetime Achievement Award from Torbay Motor Club which meant a great deal to him.

He was a wonderful, loyal husband, friend and family man, much loved and greatly missed by us all, and always so full of life and enthusiasm.'

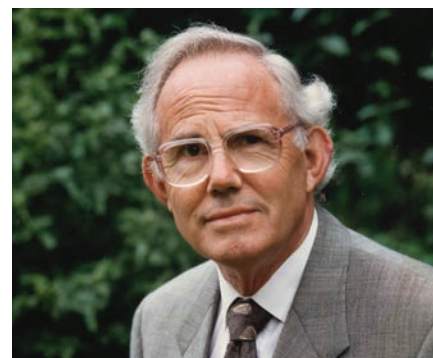
Benjamin Gordon Shorten

1936-44

East House, died 08 April 2019.

Ben's daughter, Jackie Hargreaves writes: 'My father was known as Ben at school and Gordon at home. He lived his whole life in Bedford which he held in great affection. He was born on 12 March 1927 at 25 Rothsay Road. His early education was at a tiny private school in Albany Road. He went with his older sister Rosemary and six other children where they sat round a large table and were taught by a 'seemingly elderly lady'.

Starting at Bedford Modern School in 1936 aged nine was somewhat of a shock after that genteel beginning. However he found the staff very kind, notably Miss Haines and Miss Hepworth who took classes Junior A and Junior B.



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The majority of Ben's time at BMS was in war time and he wrote down many of his memories which were printed in *The BMS We Knew - A Book of Memories*.

Ben loved sport, notably rowing and rugby. He won his East colours and 1st VIII colours for the school and represented the school at Henley Royal Regatta. He later rowed for Bedford Rowing Club. After school he played for Bedford Athletic Rugby Club for seventeen seasons until wear and tear prevented further playing. He moved on to refereeing for East Midlands Referees Society but found this much less satisfying than playing. He then tried his hand at golf which he enjoyed but never mastered. A friend ruefully described his playing as 'consistently inconsistent'.

Dad wrote that the team spirit, so encouraged by Headmaster Henry Liddle, imbued life at BMS. The friendships made at school became lifelong. The work of the OBM Club, *Eagle News*, OBM dinners and other events helped keep him in touch with old friends and he was most grateful. He was president of the OBM Club in 1998.

He left school to go into the family business, Bedford Plough and Engineering Company. In 1945 he was balloted to work in the mines as a Bevan Boy. This was deferred due to his father's serious illness. However he was called up to the Army on the day of his father's funeral and served as a 2nd Lieutenant in India. In 1947 he returned to work in the family business until it was sold in 1955. He then joined Sterling Foundry Specialists (later BQ Industries) progressing to Director.

One of the greatest satisfactions of his life was his appointment as a magistrate from 1979 to 1997. This led to close links with the Bedfordshire Probation Board, mediation for the Court Welfare Service and management of the Peterhouse Alcohol Rehabilitation Project in Bedford. As a younger man he was a Round Table and later joined Rotary.

Ben was a lifelong Methodist - St Paul's and then Priory Methodist and held many positions of responsibility within these

churches. He met his wife Jean in church and they married in 1952 and had three children Jackie, Wendy and Tim. They lived in Kimbolton Road until Jean developed Alzheimers disease and they moved to Ladyslaude Court. Dad embraced being Jean's carer with the dedication that he showed in everything he committed himself to, learning all he could about dementia and becoming her primary caregiver. When she needed full-time nursing care he visited her every day. They were married for 61 years. Last year he received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for his work with the Tibbs Dementia Foundation.

He was a much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He took an active interest in all his family did. He had a phenomenal memory for names and dates, a wicked sense of humour and showed great strength of character. Many people spoke of him as a true gentleman.'

Austen Ralph Hawkins

1930-36

County House, died 05 December 2018.



Austen's son, Andrew Hawkins (1967-77) writes: 'On a sunny day in the Spring of 1944 Major Austen Hawkins was summoned to Royal Marine Headquarters to be told about his next command and was instructed to select his number two. All he knew was that the targets were code-named Gold, Juno and Sword. He arranged to meet and brief his friend in Simpson's-in-the-Strand, and over a beer persuaded him to join what was sure to be one of the easiest missions of the war: re-taking Guernsey, Jersey and Sark. Normandy proved to be a little more difficult, but he added France, Holland and Belgium to a war-time travelogue that included Egypt, Italy and Borneo.

Whilst he never did make it to the Channel Isles, his subsequent work for Shell, ANZ and BNP took him around the world.

He married his beloved wife, May, in Nairobi in 1950, where they had their two boys. Later postings took them to Ghana, Oman, Turkey and Nigeria.

Forced to leave BMS at the age of sixteen, following the death of his Father, he worked as a Civil Servant before joining up. The experience shaped the lives of all around him.

His father and two uncles had owned a hat factory in the town of his birth, Luton. The Great Depression closed the factory and left his Father (a sickly veteran of the First World War) unemployed. His death meant that Austen needed to work to help his mother, brother and two sisters.

Leaving a school that he loved and foregoing University were his only real regrets, and thus education and personal development became his great passion and purpose. He made several personal sacrifices to ensure his sons received the best possible education. Whilst in his career in Personnel Management he was ahead of his time in championing the advancement of his diverse work-force around the world.

Living to 99, he had what he described as 'a very good innings', although he joked about

surviving a few dropped catches and run-outs along the way. Whilst 06 June 1944 was perhaps the most memorable, a plane hijacking in the Middle East in the 1970s featured high on the list, along with suffering a suspected heart attack on a flight to Los Angeles where he was planning to follow the 1994 World Cup. The flight was diverted to Reykjavik, and he was pleased that his letter of apology to Richard Branson was met with a personal response.

His chief recreation was watching football, especially Luton Town Football Club where his cousin was Chairman, and access to the Director's box with Eric Morecambe was a great perk.

He retired in 1985, choosing Bournemouth because he felt it would be a great place for friends, children and grandchildren to visit. It was also convenient for the annual trip to the BMS lunch which he enjoyed well into his nineties (always keeping count of whether he was yet the oldest of the Old Boys).

He continued his travels throughout his retirement – annually to San Diego to visit his eldest son, Mark and twice to Normandy to tell his family the story of the D-Day landings at Juno beach.

When in 2015 the French government announced the decision to award the Légion d'honneur to all surviving D-Day veterans, Austen's eldest Grandson, Jack, secretly nominated him. The medal arrived just in time to make Christmas 2015 especially memorable.

The eulogy at his funeral given by Mark Hawkins (1962-71), praised Austen's selflessness, humility, frugality, commitment and work ethic, all traits of what has been called 'the Greatest Generation'. Afterwards the family enjoyed a curry made with Austen's 'special' recipe.

No doubt he would have wanted it to be a bit hotter.'

Colin Oliver Smith

1933-40

County House, died 01 July 2019.



Colin's daughter, Helen Melville-Smith writes: 'Colin Oliver Smith passed away peacefully aged 95. He was a pupil of Bedford Modern School from 1933 to 1940, when he left to take up an apprenticeship with Rolls Royce in Derby.

His older brother Arthur Edmund Smith had been a pupil from 1922 to 1928 and left to become an apprentice cadet and progressed to a Master Mariner in the Merchant Service. He died in 1996 aged 84. Colin, after the end of WW2, returned to his home in Bedfordshire and worked as a motor engineer alongside his father at Shefford Garage in the Clifton Road. Colin met and married Eunice in Derby in 1950 and they both moved to Campton, Bedfordshire where they lived for more than 63 years together. They had one daughter, Helen, in 1954.

Colin was a well-known figure in Shefford and continued to run the garage up until he retired in 1990. After the death of his wife in 2013 he moved to a Residential Home near Royston to be nearer his daughter where he was well looked after and made a lot of new friends.'

Alan Taylor MBE

1942-50

South House, died 22 November 2018.

Alan's son, Jonny Taylor writes: 'Alan Bernard William Taylor was born in Bedford to Bernard and Nancy Taylor on 12 October 1931. His father was a civil servant and musician who taught piano and served as organist and choir master at St Cuthbert's Church, Bedford. Some of Alan's earliest memories were of singing himself to sleep accompanied by the sound of the piano in the room below.

Music was always an integral part of Alan's life. His musical talent was fostered by his father who introduced Alan to the piano and choral singing at the age of five. Between the ages of seven and 18, Alan studied the piano with Ethel Dimer, a former pupil of Clara Schumann. She shaped his technique and instilled a lasting awareness of the importance of musical interpretation. Alan also studied the organ, acting as assistant organist (in support of his father) at St Cuthbert's between 1944 and 1950, and began to compose. In 1949, he gained his LLMCM Diploma at the Royal College of Music. Alan won a scholarship to Bedford Modern School in 1941. Here he thrived, despite the rigours and anxieties of a wartime childhood. The School's lively musical life was supplemented by activities linked to the BBC's wartime evacuation to Bedford in 1942.

Alan joined the BBC Singers every month to sing for the daily service. This was recorded for broadcast at St Paul's Church, Bedford or, as the BBC described it, 'somewhere in England'. He attended BBC concerts given by visiting musicians such as Glenn Miller and Sir Adrian Boult (who, according to family legend, nearly ran Alan over on his way to a rehearsal). Alan left school in 1950 with A-levels in Music, English and French.

Obituaries



After completing national service in 1952, Alan studied music at St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Here, he admitted to a 'tremendous feeling of inadequacy' but graduated with an Honours degree and post-graduate diploma in education in 1956. His tutors, Hubert Nicholson, Thurston Dart, Patrick Hadley and Boris Ord, were some of the most influential and charismatic British musicians of their generation. One of Alan's favourite memories was hearing Boris Ord rehearse his new arrangement of the Christmas carol *Adam Lay Y'bouden* with the choir of King's College.

Sport was also important to Alan. As a pupil at Bedford Modern, he participated in various activities, including rugby (alongside Dickie Jeeps, the future England international), cross country, cricket, tennis and badminton. He excelled at Rugby Fives and captained the Cambridge University team which defeated Oxford in 1956.

Alan met his future wife, Julia Williams, at a school dance in 1949. Julia, then aged 17, quickly became the centre of Alan's life. They married at St Cuthbert's in 1956 before moving to Retford, Nottinghamshire. Here, Alan took up his first appointment as Director of Music at King Edward VI Grammar School and Julia began to establish her own career as a pioneering social worker, specialising in the care of the elderly. Their first child, Hilary, was born in 1957, and their second, Jeremy, in 1959. Jonathan, their third child, followed

in 1963. Together, Alan and Julia forged a strong creative partnership, based on a shared love of music, the arts, gardening and foreign travel. But their family was always of central importance. They were proud, loving and supportive parents, juggling the multiple demands of family and professional life throughout their 40-year marriage.

Alan discovered music was at a low ebb on arrival at King Edward's School, but soon re-established it as a central part of school life. During his five years at King Edward's, Alan developed the philosophy of musical education which underpinned his work as a musician, teacher and composer. He believed absolutely that music offered something for everyone and consistently worked to engage everyone and anyone in musical activity, regardless of their age or ability. For him, music was a source of pleasure, inspiration, creativity, comfort, achievement and, above all, community. Over the years, many people credited their appreciation of music to Alan's influence. His next appointment as Director of Music at Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys in 1961 provided a fertile proving ground for his ideas. During his 35 years there, Alan established and maintained a first-class music department, building a team of talented instrumental and academic music teachers who excelled in their various specialisms.

Christmas was always a busy period in the School's musical life, reflecting Alan's personal love of Christmas music. The annual School Carol Service at St Martin's-in-the-Fields, London and (from the 1980s) St Alban's Cathedral, was supplemented by regular performances at Christmas concerts with Leon Lovett's English Baroque Choir and London Oriana Choir in the major London concert halls. Taking inspiration from Sir David Willcox, Alan regularly arranged and composed carols for the choir to sing, a practice which was one of his greatest pleasures.

A personal highlight was the choir's participation in Sir Georg Solti's landmark production of Bizet's opera *Carmen*

alongside Placido Domingo and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in front of the Queen Mother in 1973. Sir Georg challenged Alan to teach his choristers to 'sing like cathedral-chorister-urchins'. Alan's success was such that the choir featured on the subsequent recording. Alan's remarkable energy was not confined to Haberdashers' during these years. He served as Church Organist at St Nicholas' Church, Elstree and St John the Evangelist, Stanmore. He was a rigorous yet sympathetic examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (with fond memories of examining convicted prisoners at HMP Wormwood Scrubs). He served as President of the Music Masters Association in 1988. Any remaining leisure time was devoted to gardening, decorating, carpentry or driving his family across Europe in a succession of Ford Cortina's.

After retiring from Haberdashers' in 1996, Alan's immediate priority was to support Julia in her final illness. Music was his consolation and focus after her death in 1998. He served as Course Director for the English Schools Orchestra for many years, accompanying the Orchestra on tour to Australia. His involvement with the Chipperfield Choral Society was a cherished source of friendship and personal pleasure, while offering a new outlet for creativity. Alan served as the Choir's Patron alongside Dame Emma Bell from 2011. Every year, he composed a new carol for the Choir to perform in its annual Christmas concert at St Paul's Church, Chipperfield. Delia Meehan, the Choir's Director, eventually persuaded Alan to publish his carols. Three volumes of his Chipperfield Carols were published between 2016 and 2018 and have proved extremely popular amongst amateur choirs.

Alan's contribution to Music and Music Education was recognised in 1982 with the award of an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1997.

Alan is survived by his three children.'

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