

# Eagle News



Issue 118 July 2018 - January 2019  
The Magazine of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club



## *1918: We Will Remember Them*

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## The Magazine of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club

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Staff and students participated in a full week of activities to celebrate the Centenary of the WW1 Armistice, including a dramatic piece entitled *1918: We Will Remember Them*. See feature on page 12.



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# Letter from the Head

Alex Tate

Welcome once again to the latest edition of *Eagle News* which I hope you will find as interesting and informative as always.

We enjoyed considerable success in the summer with our A Level results being, once again, the best in Bedfordshire. More detail about this can be found on page 18. Meanwhile our students sitting their GCSE examinations also did themselves proud. In a period of significant change to both syllabus and grading I was delighted with their results. It is so satisfying to see all their hard work pay off particularly when they juggle academic commitments with so many other school activities. It was a pleasure to see so many of them return in September to begin their A Level studies; the next important chapter of their BMS journey.

I was moved and very proud of how we, as a school, celebrated the centenary of the armistice in November which signaled the 'stopping of arms' and led to the formal end of the First World War in 1918.

We know that some 14% of those OBM's who joined up fell in WWI, and their names are recorded on the School's War Memorial, which was unveiled in 1923 in the Memorial Hall of the School's Harpur Street building, and in the Roll of Honour, published in the December issue of *The Eagle*; the school magazine at the time.

A second memorial plaque was added at a later date to include additional names missing from the original memorial. When we moved to our current location in 1974 the memorial tablets were removed and now hang on the wall in the Quads.

This year, however, we remembered all those who contributed to the war effort many of whom served and survived. Each student and member of staff 'adopted' one of the 1,100 Old Bedford Modernians by wearing a commemorative lanyard detailing the identity of one which included their name, who they served with, dates of birth and death and a link to a personal profile on the Imperial War Museum's (IWM) Lives of the First World War Digital Memorial; a rich source of historical detail bringing the past to life. I was given former Headmaster Henry Liddle who was custodian of the School from 1922 to 1946 and was fascinated to read of his involvement. I do hope you enjoy reading our special feature in this issue of *Eagle News*. It really was a very special week here at school and so important to inform our current students about the sacrifices which were made in order for us all to enjoy the lives we live.

In my last letter I asked for your thoughts and comments on whether the School Song should continue to be sung at OBM events and I was very pleased indeed with the volume of responses I received.

As you may well imagine views were mixed but two points came over rather more strongly than others. There is clearly an emotional attachment to the song, which forms part of the school's rich history, and many of you want to continue to have the opportunity to sing it. Understandably therefore, there was resistance to changing the words and I can see how that may well be counter-productive. The fact remains, however, that the song has not been sung for many years and focuses solely on boys. I am, therefore, grateful to a number of OBM's who highlighted that the song can easily be sung as it is, with the individual choosing to refer to 'boys' or 'girls' according to their preference. I would therefore like to try this the next time we sing the song and hope that it provides a suitable compromise for all.

I do hope you enjoy discovering, in the pages that follow, just a flavour of the huge variety of activities which keep our current students busy, catching up with some familiar faces in 'memory stir' and remembering the lives of those who are no longer with us. Please do keep in touch and send in your own stories. We are always delighted to hear from you.

Alex Tate  
Headmaster

## Dates for your Diary

- 01 March** OBM Club London Lunch (sold out)
- 15 March** House Captains' 20 Year Celebration
- 16 May** Classical Showcase
- 07 June** 50th Anniversary Reunion
- 14 June** The Founder's Dinner
- 03 July** Henley Royal Regatta

# OBM Club President 2019-21

**When the School took over the management of the OBM Club in January 2016 it was agreed that the President would be elected from the OBM Club membership in its widest sense beginning from 2019-21. We are delighted that two excellent candidates have been nominated and their details appear below.**

There are two ways to register your vote:

1. Access a simple voting form by visiting the OBM section of the BMS website. You will be asked to enter your name and email address so that we can ensure that no-one votes more than once.
2. Complete the form which can be found on the flysheet enclosed with this issue of *Eagle News* and send it to us using the address on the form.

The closing date for votes is 09.00 on Friday 29 March 2019. Votes received after this time will not be counted.

## Adam Nicoll (1986-93)

Adam has more than 20 years' experience in B2B marketing across magic circle law firms, 'big 4' consultancies, global recruitment consultancies, working as both a fee-earner in those environments and as a freelance marketing consultant. With more than a decade's experience in recruitment and executive search, he has also had considerable exposure to B2C channels to market too. He holds a BA (Hons) in History from Bristol University and is a Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP) Practitioner.

Adam writes: 'As someone that has been part of the new OBM Club Advisory Board for the past few years, and the opening speaker at last summer's BMS Careers Fair, along with having arranged a couple of dozen 'class of 1993' reunions over the last couple of decades, I feel heavily vested as an OBM. In that, I know I am not alone.'

What I believe the Club could benefit from right now however, is someone who has a very strong appreciation of the power of networks, which is what my business as a Marketing Director of the World's largest recruitment company enables me to leverage. As someone born in 1975, by dint of chronology as much as anything else, I have one foot in the analogue era, and one in the digital, so able to see the advantages of both mediums to maximise the Club's reach and help tap into those elements of the middle segment of OBMs who have 'gone missing' from our grasp, not least my own year group.

I have also been, until recently, on the Board of Governors for Princess Helena College, for three years, helping to shape their marketing/business strategy, their reach with the old girl's network and securing funding for various projects.

The current nature of my job does send me abroad several times a year and I also have a young family, but knowing the OBM calendar pretty well I am hopeful I can book the relevant dates in well in advance and hope that corporate life is kind to me for a couple of years.'



# Please cast your vote

## Robin Wills (1960- 69)

**Robin**, a retired Senior Consultant Process Engineer, has 43 years' experience in operations, commissioning, and process design, including 14 years in plant operation and commissioning; 32 years in process design of onshore and offshore oil and gas facilities, five years in Liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant off-sites design and four years' experience of refinery design. He also has extensive experience of upstream oil production and gas processing, including refrigerated Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), both on and off-shore. He holds a BSC (Hons) in Chemical Engineering from Birmingham University is a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and a Chartered Engineer.

Robin writes: 'I attended BMS from 1960 to 69 as a boarder in School House so this year marks fifty years since I left. In that time the school has gone through significant changes, from being a direct grant school to an independent, co-educational school. BMS has continued to develop and thrive. The OBM Club has played its part and supported these changes.

I would develop the existing regular events; Christmas Lunch, London Lunch and Founder's Dinner, to include a wider variety of OBMs particularly the younger ones. We could celebrate more anniversary events; I am in the process of arranging a celebration for those who left BMS in 1969. I would encourage other year groups to do

the same and these could become regular events, perhaps on a rolling decade-based system (for instance in 2020 those who left in 1970 could stage a reunion). Other anniversary events could be included for those who left 10, 25, or 40 years ago.

Since 2013 I have organised OBMs to return to participate in the BMS Classical Showcase Concert. This has been very successful and their participation enables them to see directly how the school music department maintains its high standards.

This participation reflects my own interests but other events lend themselves to OBM participation and I would encourage others to do likewise and would assist wherever possible.

I have been a member of the school's Foundation Board since it was set up in 2015. The remit is to raise funds for bursaries; to date we have sponsored one pupil through the Sixth Form. I would continue this work and encourage other OBMs to join us.

In talking to many OBMs over the years I have noted how many have mentioned that BMS gave them the basis for them subsequently having successful careers and enriched lives. I would encourage OBMs to continue to give back in terms of assisting with careers advice and at the successful networking events which are being held.

I would encourage increased OBM support for the school through both annual giving and Legacies. I have been working with Julie Ridge and Deborah Burrows (and their predecessors) on both of these aspects and will continue to develop our ideas for these aspects of fund-raising. Having myself received charitable assistance at BMS I am committed to helping others.

During my school days, and subsequently, I have worked with many people, from all walks of life, different countries and cultures. Working with the increasingly diverse membership of the OBM Club will be a pleasure and I can continue to use skills developed during my professional career.

### To sum up I would:-

- continue to encourage participation in existing OBM events and school events
- focus on developing more reunions of year groups
- raise the awareness amongst OBMs of both annual and legacy giving giving to BMS.

I would consider it a great privilege and honour to be OBM Club President.'



## OBM Events Gallery (July - December 2018)

### Memory Lunch

We invited some of our more senior OBMs for lunch on 03 July to share their memories of school life which we recorded to form part of a living archive. Four OBMs attended: Robbie Robinson (1936-42), Timothy Wadsworth (1947-55), Christopher Rome (1949-54) and Chris Perry (1949-55), who together had a combined age of 337. Archivist, Jenny Ulph, was able to provide some items and photographs from their school era which helped to prompt some fascinating tales. For Christopher and Timothy it was the first time that they had been reunited since leaving BMS. It was a privilege to hear all of their entertaining stories and recollections of school days.



### Girls' Sports Tournament

On Saturday 15 December, a good number of OBMs returned to school to take part in netball, hockey and rugby competitions.

For the sixth annual Girls' Tournament we had seven teams representing OBMs that left between 2012 and 2018. The girls 1st XI won the tournament on goal difference against last year's winning team, the 2016 leavers.

The 1st XI also took on an OBM team in an exhibition hockey match. Deputy Head Girl Sarah Baxter captained the BMS team which drew with the OBM team, led by her sister Emma.



# Bruce Willey Memorial Match

Following their win in last year's match the OBM team once again claimed victory, with a final score of 19-13. The OBMs started well with two tries in the first half to take a 12-0 lead. The 1st XV managed to come back well in the second half after a penalty kick in the 65th minute, putting them in a position to win the game. However the OBM team controlled the ball to maintain their lead and win the match. The Bruce Willey Memorial Trophy was awarded to current student Thomas Van De Sande who gave an outstanding performance with some key runs with the ball throughout the game.



# OBM Christmas Lunch

This year we welcomed more than 80 OBMs, their guests, former and current staff back to school for the annual OBM Christmas Lunch. The event began with music from the school's Jazz band, *The Groove Collective*, and those that attended enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal and catching up with old friends. It was excellent to see guests visit from as far away as the United Arab Emirates and Germany.



## OBM Events Gallery (July - December 2018)

# OBM networking events

Our programme of OBM professional networking events is going from strength to strength. We are grateful to Tanner Pharma Group and OBM Jonathan Bracey (81-90) for hosting the most recent one at Tanner's UK HQ just outside Harpenden on 14 November. The event focused on the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare sector and attracted both those already established in these industries as well as OBMs looking to pursue a career in these or related fields. Guests enjoyed listening to guest speaker Rino Coladangelo (1963-69) who talked about his career and future developments in pharmaceuticals and to the presentation given by Jonathan and his colleague from Tanner. The attendees made lots of useful contacts and connections and for Halina Akhtar (2013-15) an offer of employment.

Halina explained: "Like many graduates at my age I felt that the event might not be best suited for me as I had just finished University and started a graduate job. However, I made my way to attend the networking event not knowing what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised to meet a lot of students who were in a similar situation as me and it was lovely being able to catch up with them.



"Further to this, there were a lot of individuals who have been in the pharmaceutical sector for many years. It was very eye-opening hearing about their experience and the key information they had learnt over the years. It was a pleasure being able to talk to them as they had a lot of advice for someone like me, at an early stage of their career. I was able to speak confidently about possible next steps and alongside gain many new contacts for help in the future or even a job!

"During the event, I spoke to Jonathan Bracey, managing director at Tanner Pharma UK, who was very welcoming and easy to talk to. I had spoken about my time at BMS, what I had studied at University and my job role at GSK. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that Jonathan had an opportunity at Tanner Pharma. Following the event, I had contacted Jonathan regarding the position, which resulted in an interview and subsequently a job offer as a Quality Operations Coordinator.

"I would definitely say that this opportunity would never have happened if it wasn't for BMS organising the event. Therefore, I would encourage everyone to come to these events as they may be pleasantly surprised, just as I was."

Vijay Patel (2003-08) also commented on the evening, saying: "I really enjoyed it and will definitely look to attend future events if possible. There was more than enough time to network, and that was the most appealing part for me. It was great to speak to students who had recently left BMS - hopefully I can help one or two of them gain placements in the coming year if they do indeed decide to take this option at Uni. I'm happy to try and help out with any careers events held, and have conversations with students."







Julie added: "Having left BMS in 2017 to study Economics at University, the OBM networking event was a great opportunity to meet established professionals in the finance industry. Not only did it allow students or graduates alike to be further enlightened of the potential working world they may choose to enter, but a casual and friendly environment to create opportunities and a strong personal network.

"Having met Charlie at the event, it was great to have been offered work experience at his firm. The placement was both insightful and informative, giving me a chance to explore this sector in finance and understanding how the job role may look day to day. Not only did this opportunity allow me to discover what options I may wish to pursue career wise, but valuable practise in tasks I can apply to future roles."

We are keen to develop the programme still further and would be delighted to hear from OBMs willing to host such an event at their place of work and equally suggestions of professional sectors on which you would like us to focus. We have a fantastically diverse and successful membership network which is of real benefit to OBMs and current students. Please contact [externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk) or call Deborah Burrows 01234 332663.

## Why attend a networking event?

Julie Rogers (2011-17) and Charlie Wade (1986-97) both attended the Finance-focussed event on 04 May at the Landsdowne Club in London.

We asked Charlie why he felt the event was useful and he said: "I've benefitted greatly from the OBM network over the years, both professionally and socially, so was delighted to attend. Not only was it good to catch up with some old friends, but also nice to be of use to the current generation of recent leavers and graduates looking to get into our industry. Having spoken to a few of them and explained what we did as a company, I then was happy to be in a position to give work experience to Julie Rogers, showing her how we look after all manner of personal finance including mortgages and investment/ pension planning and encouraging her to contribute meaningfully to our business."



## OBM Events Gallery (July - December 2018)

### 2020 Cricket

The traditional end of term T20 OBM Cricket Tournament took place on Friday 13 July. It was a fantastic day in the sun with lots of support from OBMs, current and former staff and parents. For the second consecutive year the OBM 90s, captained by Jay Lockwood (93-02) lifted the Chinneck Cup.



### Henley Royal Regatta

It was fantastic to see a strong turnout from the whole BMS community to support our rowers at Henley Royal Regatta on 04 July, with OBMs, parents and current students visiting the BMS gazebo. There was an eventful start to the day when our competition, King's College School, crashed during warm up, resulting in a delay of some hours for our rowers. Despite that a great day was had by all.



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

## 1998 Leavers' Reunion

On Friday 06 July we welcomed back more than 30 OBMs to celebrate their 20th anniversary since leaving school in 1998. The group enjoyed a school lunch in the refectory, followed by a tour of the school, taking in sights old and new and the day culminated in a touch rugby match against current BMS staff. It was fantastic to hear about what our former students having been doing since leaving BMS. Thank you to Adam Kamyar (1989-98) for being the driving force in organising this reunion. If you would like to organise a reunion for your own year group, please email [externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk) and we'll plan a day for you!



I N V I T A T I O N

## Calling all singers and instrumentalists

You are warmly invited to join the School Choir and Orchestra for the Classical Showcase on Thursday 16 May in the Howard Hall. Music will be sent out in advance and there is an afternoon rehearsal preceding the concert which begins at 7.30pm. This year's programme will include Tippett's Five Negro Spirituals and Handel's Zadok the Priest for choir, and, for orchestral players, Mozart's Magic Flute Overture and Rossini's The Thieving Magpie. OBMs who have not taken part before are assured of a warm welcome, particularly those who have left more recently so that we can increase OBM participation across all age groups. It is a good chance to catch up with friends from school days, meet other like-minded OBMs, and to support the school's music making.



If you wish to take part please respond by e-mail, marking it **Classical Showcase Concert 2019 – OBM**, to [robinwills@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robinwills@hotmail.co.uk) with a copy to [dburrows@bedmod.co.uk](mailto:dburrows@bedmod.co.uk). Please provide an address to which the music can be sent but previous participants need only provide this if they have changed their address since last year.

# Commemorating the Centenary of the First World War Armistice

Staff and students at Bedford Modern School commemorated the centenary of the end of World War One in a rather unique way during their annual service of Remembrance on Friday 09 November 2018.

Each student 'adopted' one of the many Old Bedford Modernians who served during the war. They were issued a card on a commemorative lanyard detailing the identity of one of these men which included their name, who they served with, dates of birth and death and a link to a personal profile on the Imperial War Museum's (IWM) Lives of the First World War Digital Memorial. This gave more information about their OBM's life, bringing the past to life.



More than 1,100 OBMs and former staff, who attended BMS somewhere between 1875 and 1918, contributed to the war effort and some 80% of them served and survived. Once the war finished they returned to their families, took up civilian employment and helped shape the environment we know today. The youngest OBM to serve was just 14 (having volunteered under age) and the oldest was 59.

They served in every branch and at every level of the Armed Forces and the international nature of the School's community at that time was reflected in the service of its OBMs in the armies of countries across the British Empire.

Three Palmer Brothers; Hubert Leslie, Sidney James and Wilfred Osborne attended BMS during the early 1900s and are representative of the 1,100 OBMs who served. Their father owned a shop selling general wares on Mill Street in Bedford.

On the onset of war all three brothers joined the Army; two with the Lancashire Fusiliers and one with the Manchester Regiment. Miraculously all three survived.

Combined Cadet Force Contingent Commander, Alex Smith, has devoted many hours of his own time during the past 18 months to develop the BMS section of the IWM Digital Memorial. Following a request for help it then became a community initiative with surviving family members coming forward to provide information on the individual men.

He said: "This project will leave a lasting legacy for current and future generations to remember and reflect on the huge contribution that these men made, not only during the time of war, but in the years following. While in the past we have rightly focused on those who paid the ultimate sacrifice; for BMS that totalled 201, the centenary of the end of the war is the right time to reflect on those who returned and continued with their lives and contributed so much to our times. It has been humbling to discover more about them."

The programme of commemorative events and activities included the installation of a silent silhouette of the iconic image of a 'Tommy' outside the main entrance creating a poignant reminder to all. A photograph of Field Marshal Earl Roberts of Kandahar VC inspecting the BMS OTC in July 1914 was made into a full size wall covering creating quite an impact for visitors. Information banners were placed around the school giving details of BMS before, during and after the war and assemblies set the scene of life 100 years ago and included performances of two of the wartime greats; *'If you were the only girl in the world'* and *'Keep the home fires burning'* interspersed by letters and poems from our school archive.



To conclude, on the evening of 16 November, a cast of students from Years 9 and 10 performed a dramatic re-telling of tales from the depths of the trenches to the heart of the home front in *1918: We Will Remember Them*. Adapted for the stage and directed by Head of Speech and Drama, Mrs Leather, the show featured three separate elements which were skilfully interwoven. It began with *Letters from a Lost Generation*, a memorable selection of correspondence written during the First World War focussing on the lives of Vera Brittain and her fiancé Roland Leighton. The letters span eighteen months as their love story weaves through the war.

The second part was from *The Canary Girls*, a story focussed on the thousands of women joining the war effort in the munitions factories. Battling the 'shell crisis' of 1915 they were prime targets for enemy fire, and routinely carried explosive chemicals which carried the risk of them contracting fatal diseases. The effects of their work were immediately visible, a lurid shade of yellow that stained their skin and hair which earned them the nickname of the Canary Girls.

The final piece was an emotional performance of *Journey's End* by R C Sherrif, written in 1928 drawing from the writer's own experiences from the front line. Set in a dug-out in the trenches in Saint-Quentin, Aisne, the story unfolds over four days from 18-21 March 1918, just before Operation Michael, a major German Military offensive. The quiet claustrophobia of the dug-out is home to 'C' Company as they wait nervously for the next big push.

Headmaster, Alex Tate said: "It was a powerful and though-provoking performance. That such young actors were able to manage the emotional content so expertly was quite remarkable. It was a very special evening and a most fitting tribute to all those who served their country in whatever capacity during the First World War."



# Bedford Modern School and the First World War

## The Outbreak of War

On 27 July 1914, the annual inspection of the School's Officer Training Corps took place outside the old School in Harpur Street.

The following day, Austria declared war on Serbia following Archduke Franz Ferdinand's assassination. As Russia mobilised, Germany declared war on Russia and France, invading neutral Belgium and Luxembourg. As a result, just eight days after this photograph was taken, Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914.



Cadets were inspected by Field-Marshal Earl Roberts of Kandahar, VC.

## School life during the War

For those too young to fight, life in School continued much the same, with regular sports fixtures, although the annual 'Theatricals' and Old Boys' Dinner were cancelled from 1915, resuming only towards the end of the War.



Bedfordshire Archives, BMS/ACP/21

In May 1917, a Natural History Society was formed which thrived in School for the rest of the War.

This photograph shows the Zoological Section on their trip to Southill Lake during the final months of the War.



## The Eagle

Throughout the War, the School magazine printed letters from OBMs in the Forces and published lists of awards and casualties. A special edition in July 1918 reported on an important event in the history of the School.



Image reproduced in *The Eagle*, July 1918

## Bedford Modern School in 1914

The School had had a permanent Cadet Corps from 1900 (renamed the Officer Training Corps in 1908). On the outbreak of war, many OBMs and some Masters signed up for military service. Life in School would continue relatively unchanged but pupils saw visible signs of the war within days in Bedford.



BMS OTC brass uniform badge from the School archive



BMS Cadets at Camp, 1909 Bedfordshire Archives, BMS/P365

The School's playing fields – and much of the town – were occupied almost immediately by more than 17,000 Scottish troops from the Highland Division, who were billeted in Bedford until May 1915 due to the town's central location and excellent transport links.



Postcard showing Highland troops and men waiting to enlist on the School playing fields, Aug. 1914 Courtesy of OBM David Callwood.



## The Royal Visit 1918

On 23 June 1918, King George V and Queen Mary visited Bedford and the King inspected the School's OTC jointly with Bedford School.



Image reproduced in *The Eagle*, July 1918

## The Officer Training Corps

In late 1916, cadet training was increased to ten hours per week and a Military Training Class was added to the curriculum. By the end of the war, membership of the School's Officer Training Corps had increased to around one third of its pupils.



Non-commissioned members of the OTC outside the Pavilion, c1917. Bedfordshire Archives, BMS/P899

## O.B.M.s and Military Service

In total, more than 1,100 O.B.M.s served their country during the First World War, fighting in all theatres of war. Several Masters also served and H.E. Crane, a Languages teacher, died of wounds in October 1916. Unlike most Public Schools, research has shown that O.B.M.s generally enlisted as soldiers rather than officers, although commissions often followed soon afterwards. A high number served in technical or support branches of the Forces (such as the Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery, Army Service Corps, Royal Flying Corps, Royal Navy and Royal Army Medical Corps).



O.B.M.s Sidney, Hubert and Wilfred Palmer. Amazingly, all three survived the war. Photo courtesy the Palmer family.

## Decorations

*The Eagle* published a comprehensive list of decorations awarded to O.B.M.s. Amongst these were at least 32 DSOs and 57 MCs. Major George Wheeler was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for his valour in Mesopotamia in 1915.



Originals on display in the School Reception



Major Wheeler's VC medal courtesy of Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove

## Commemoration

The First World War ended at 11 am on 11 November 1918, with the signing of the Armistice. The playwright Christopher Fry, (A.H. Harris while at BMS) who joined the Junior School in the last months of the war, remembered the long-awaited day, a Monday, 85 years later in a letter to the School: "We were all eagerness for the great historic moment to arrive! And then the bells of St Paul's Church, and of all other churches in the town, rang out and excitement and joy took us over. We hammered on our desks and cheered, and expected that school would be abandoned and we could join the crowd in the market place. But .... class continued as though the world hadn't changed."

*The Eagle* reported that 'this school has done its share, but at a cost.' Those who died were commemorated on the War Memorial, unveiled in 1923. Portraits of Major Wheeler, VC and Lt. Col. Edgar Mobbs, DSO, a former England Rugby Captain, were added in 1926. The memorial tablets listed 167 O.B.M.s who gave their lives during the War. Recent research has suggested this number could be as high as 201.

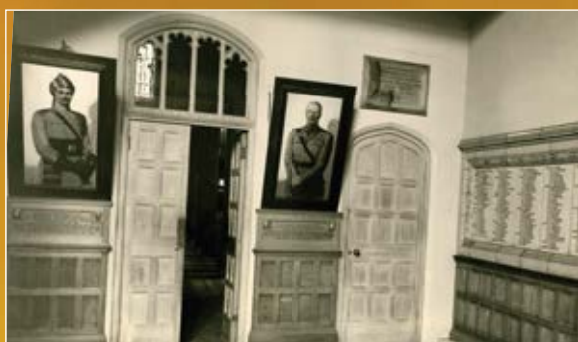


Image of Memorial Hall courtesy of Bedfordshire Archives, BMS/P244

## News

# Junior School Music Prizes

On 13 June, 49 of our talented young musicians battled it out for the annual Junior School Music Prizes. The students showcased a wide variety of music, performing songs from *Rewrite the Stars* to Bach's *Gavotte*.

This year's adjudicator was Gill Johnston, a musician and bassoonist who is the Director of Musicale Ltd and founder of the National Children's Wind Orchestra. She was full of praise for the way the students acquitted themselves and also commented on the excellent attentiveness of the audience.

There were four winners overall, one in each Junior School year group. In Year 3, Alyssia Power won with the Trad French arr Davies piece *Dans la foret Laintaine* on piano. Martha Culhane (Year 4) impressed with her



interpretation of *Over the Rainbow* by Harold Arlen on cello. John-Henry Hope took the Year 5 prize with Bergmuller's *Ballade* on piano while the Humphriss Prize for Music in Year 6 was won by Thomas Harvey who played *Intermezzo* by Zoltan Kodaly on violin.

## 'Six pins and half a dozen needles'



British artist and OBM Alex Chinneck (1992-03) has completed his latest monumental artwork entitled 'Six pins and half a dozen needles' on Assembly London.

This landmark public artwork is Chinneck's first permanent sculpture and follows projects that include a 35-metre inverted electricity pylon, a melting house constructed from 7,500 wax bricks and a hovering stone building for London's Covent Garden Piazza.

Reaching 20-metres above ground level and weighing ten-tonnes, the artwork theatrically animates the structure from which it leans, uniting Chinneck's signature use of art, architecture and engineering to create an ambitious combination of surrealism and spectacle.

Constructed from 4,000 bricks and more than 1,000 stainless steel components, the installation represents a 14-month collaboration of British art and industry with engineers, steelworkers and brick-makers working alongside the artist's team.

Speaking about the artwork, Alex said: "The work was conceived to engage people in a fun and uplifting way. Although we use real brick, it was designed with a cartoon-like quality to give the sculpture an endearing artifice and playful personality. I set out to create accessible artworks and I sincerely hope this becomes a popular landmark for London and positive experience for Londoners.

Following 14-months of development, this represents my studio's first permanent project and we are excited to be working on more. Forthcoming artworks include a trail of four sculptures with a combined height of 163-metres that will be constructed from over 100,000 bricks."

The artwork, commissioned by AXA Investment Managers - Real Assets, is situated on Assembly London, a major mixed-use urban campus comprising four buildings totalling 220,000 sq ft. The space will be home to offices, retail units and restaurants designed to create a highly collaborative community based work environment. Prior to redevelopment, the site functioned as the home of a publisher for over two decades and the artwork appropriately resembles a torn sheet of paper, albeit monumental in size, weight and complexity.





# BMS student excels in National Chess Final

**Year 9** student, Toby Cox, excelled in the national final of the UK Schools' Chess Challenge in Peterborough on 15 and 16 September. After succeeding in multiple qualifying stages, Toby competed against 33 top players in Years 9 and 10 in his section of the competition final and took home an impressive joint fifth place.

The tournament is for children aged six to 18 and is the world's largest chess competition of its kind, seeing 40,000 children from 1,280 schools and clubs take part every year.

To reach the national final Toby first had to qualify at several different stages. In the first stage he played once a week at school, for seven rounds, with only the top scorers going through. He then competed in school and club groups, county finals and the national semi-finals and his success in these secured him a place at the national final.

Mr Killen, Toby's form tutor, said: "Congratulations to Toby on this impressive achievement which is made even more commendable by his unassuming attitude. I will follow his progress with interest."

Toby is pictured playing in the Gibraltar Junior International Chess Tournament, as part of the national junior chess squad.



# Ben drums his way to #FUTUREBEAT Final

**Year 11** student Ben Williams won the regional final of Yamaha's #FUTUREBEAT, a competition for drummers aged 18 and under, on 13 September in Birmingham. Following his success, Ben went on to perform in the national Grand Final in late October.

In the first stage of the competition Ben submitted a video of himself playing drums unaccompanied. From the video submissions, 64 promising drummers were selected to perform live at eight Regional Finals across the UK, for which Ben successfully qualified.

Upon reaching the final for the Birmingham region, Ben was sent two accompanying tracks to which he had to add drums. The eight regional finalists then performed to an audience comprising family, friends and the general public. The judges marked each drummer on a variety of factors including groove, timing, technique, versatility and expression.

For the Grand Final, held at the Yamaha Headquarters in Milton Keynes, Ben received mentoring from some of the country's leading drummers and had the chance to perform with a professional band, in front of an eminent judging panel who decided on an overall winner. Unfortunately he narrowly missed out on the top spot.



# A Level success for BMS students

Staff and students once again celebrated outstanding A Level results this summer, with a third of all students obtaining three A grades or better. Whilst the proportion of students gaining C grades or above fell nationally, an impressive 51% of grades achieved were A\* - A, up 6% from last year. A\* grades increased to a fantastic 17%, against a national average of just 8%, and more than 80% were A\* - B.

Eryk Sokolowski received the highest grades in the School with four A\*s in Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths securing him a highly sought after place at the University of Cambridge to study Engineering.

Top performing female student Lydia Clelow obtained three A\*s in Chemistry, Physics and Maths and is now studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham.

Not all students chose to go straight to University. Amy Leaning, for example, began an apprenticeship at award-winning Soaring Falcon Accountancy. Amy has been at BMS since Year 3 and achieved a fantastic A\*AA in DT, Business and Economics.

Headmaster Alex Tate said: "It has been an absolute pleasure to watch this year group grow and develop during the past 12 months and they should be very proud indeed of what they have achieved.

"It is a tremendous set of results and some of these young men and women have surpassed all expectations on the grades that they have received. However the class of 2018 have contributed so much more to the life of the School in numerous different ways and for that I would like to extend my thanks."



# David Ball Piano Scholarship launched

Year 8 student Evie Hrydziusko has been named as the inaugural recipient of The David Ball Piano Scholarship. This annual award has been established in memory of OBM David Ball (1937 - 45) by his partner Janet Clark to benefit and provide encouragement for promising young piano students at BMS.

David, who died on 29 April 2017, was a talented all-rounder during his time at BMS, both academically and in sport, as well as being an accomplished pianist. He was President of the OBM Club in 2005. During his career as an international town planner he travelled widely in Africa and the Pacific where he managed to continue his musical interests and to play the piano for both his own and others' entertainment.

This unique scholarship is designed to encourage students to pursue their love of playing the piano and could be used to pay for lessons, extend current lessons, or provide an extra lesson each week.

The scholarship will be awarded annually for ten years. Applicants should show musical promise, demonstrate a commitment to their musical studies through regular practice and performance, and contribute to the general musical life of the School. They must show true potential as a keyboard player, exceptional talent and demonstrate a desire to develop. Applicants will be assessed by a panel to include the Director and Assistant Director of Music, together with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Julie Ridge, Director of External Relations, said: "This is a most fitting tribute to David whose memory will live on here at BMS in the form of this scholarship. We are only able to enrich the lives of our current and future students as extensively as we do as a result of the tremendous generosity of people like him."

For more information about legacies or to find out about other ways of supporting and inspiring current students, please contact [externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk](mailto:externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk)



## Year 11 Model United Nations

On 20 September all students in Year 11 took part in Bedford Modern School's Model United Nations conference as the year group's Academic Extension day. The aim was to develop students' skills in public speaking and the art of persuasion, as well as to learn more about the United Nations and current affairs.

The morning began with an introductory session from Mr Baker, Head of Politics. The students were then split into representatives of twenty different countries and collaborated in seven committees, researching a range of contentious international issues. The

matter of migration, problems with climate change and the right to free speech on social media were powerfully and sometimes fiercely debated.

During the afternoon the year group reassembled for an emergency special session: Russia is planning to colonise the moon! Students enjoyed superb speeches from Emily Jones representing Australia, Huw Sheppard representing Brazil, Henry Hamer representing Germany, and Tanaka Mubheja representing Russia.

Helen Denison, Academic Extension Coordinator for Years 11-13, said: "The quality of questioning and the spontaneous answers from speakers were impressive. The judging panel, which consisted of Year 13 Politics students and OBM Cambridge University undergraduates Vincent Rustill and Bayley Hockham, had a tough decision to make on which country impressed the most."

It was a close competition but the panel decided that Germany's emergency resolution was the most persuasive, delivered confidently and articulately by Henry Hamer.



## Farewell to long-serving members of staff

On 05 July, the Headmaster hosted a special lunch to say thank you to two long-serving members of staff for all they have done for BMS.

Mr David Jenkins retired after 39 years and Mr Phil Smith after 38 years. Their guests included current and former members of staff; Sue Jacobs, Brian Simpson, Steve Harvey, Richard Chadwick, Jo Newton, Ian Hay, Ron Standon, John Foulkes, John White and Robert Brand.



## BMS student selected for NYO

Talented musician Tarek Eldin in Year 13 has been selected to join the cello section of the highly-acclaimed National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (NYO) following auditions in September and October.

More than 700 young musicians applied for a coveted place in the Orchestra, all playing at post-Grade 8 standard. The panel were impressed with Tarek's playing and ensemble skills and felt that he had the ability to make a significant contribution to the Orchestra which comprises 164 of the best young players from the UK aged 14-19. Tarek secured one of only 18 places in the cello section which is an extraordinary accomplishment.

Tarek will now take part in residential rehearsal courses followed by concerts playing under some of the world's finest conductors in some of the most prestigious venues in the UK. The orchestral training and preparation offered by NYO is second to none.

All NYO musicians also take a leadership role within the NYO Inspire programme at the heart of which is the power of peer inspiration and learning. They share their musical skills with other teenage musicians and help them to develop orchestral playing.

Tarek was inspired to audition after seeing NYO perform Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story* earlier in the year. As well as being a member of the BMS orchestra, choirs and ensembles he has also played with the Chineke! Junior Orchestra, a youth orchestra formed of black and minority ethnic (BaME) musicians, Aldeburgh Young Musicians and Britten Sinfonia Academy.

Director of Music at BMS, John Mower, said: "This will be a life-changing musical experience for Tarek requiring a great deal of commitment and a lot of his time, but we are sure it as a challenge he will relish. We are delighted for him and very proud of all he has achieved."



# BMS student becomes Lord-Lieutenant Cadet

Caleb Savery, in Year 13 was appointed as Cadet Colour Sergeant for 2018/19 by Helen Nellis, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire at a ceremony held at Dunstable Community Fire Station.

Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets act as ambassadors for their organisations and support the Lord-Lieutenant in carrying out her duties. Duties can range from accompanying the Lord-Lieutenant on a Royal Visit, to reading a prayer at the Lord-Lieutenant's Annual Service of Thanksgiving in front of up to 500 guests. It is considered an honour and a privilege to be selected as a Lord-Lieutenant Cadet and competition for selection is very strong.

Caleb has been involved with Bedford Modern School Combined Cadet Force (CCF) for four years and is the Senior Cadet of the Army Section, which has more than 70 cadets in it. He is also a Senior Monitor at BMS and volunteers for 'A Different Brew' Café project in Clapham, run by Bedford Opportunities for Learning Difficulties.

BMS Contingent Commander, Alex Smith, said: "As a young man, Caleb is thoughtful, measured, proactive and articulate. As a leader, he sets the bar high, continually demonstrating the highest standards of bearing, presentation and turn out. His high standards coupled with his natural kindness, ability to listen and his nurturing nature ensures he gets the best both from himself and his fellow cadets."



## Learning through experience

Some Year 13 linguists at BMS have been developing their language skills by debating topical, and at times rather complex, themes completely in Spanish. They use the opportunity to expand their vocabulary, practise their listening skills and learn from one another. Most recently they tackled the subject of racism and discrimination which is challenging even in English.

The group of six; Charlie, Preana, Kara, Ellie, Ite and Ritika, who are all studying A Level Spanish, began their lively discussion focussing on FC Barcelona player Dani Alves's treatment by opposition fans back in 2014. The story centred on his reaction to a banana being thrown onto the pitch, to which he responded by eating it. They were able to practise their speaking skills through discussing a real-life topic and tackle aspects of Spanish grammar at the same time. They were also able to share their own personal experiences and understand more about each other's

opinions. Learning in this way brings their study to life and makes it all the more memorable and enjoyable.

Earlier in the year, the group travelled to Rosas in Spain, an annual trip where BMS sixth form students are given the opportunity to experience both learning and working in another country. Practicing their language skills in a real world context is highly effective and results in rapid linguistic development. Ritika explained: "It was an incredible experience that allowed us all to fully immerse ourselves in the culture of Spain. The intensive language course and serving in local hotels and restaurants helped us improve our Spanish significantly in just one week!"

Rossana Reed, Head of Spanish at BMS, added; "I am very proud of these young men and women who take their studies very seriously. It is crucial that they are proficient enough in Spanish to be able to tackle the demanding A Level

syllabus but more importantly they are becoming more and more confident in using Spanish in conversation which is a skill they will be able to use whatever they choose to do in the future."



## Arkwright Scholarship success

**OBM** Hannah Phillips (2012-2018) who received an Arkwright Scholarship in 2016 while at BMS, has now been awarded one of only three Arkwright Undergraduate Engineering Scholarships. This is valued at £12,000 over the duration of her University course studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Southampton. Funding is being provided by the Eranda Rothschild Foundation.

Furthermore, BMS Sixth Formers; Maddie Kent, Kyle Van Der Spuy and Sam Szeto were also awarded a coveted Arkwright Scholarship at a ceremony held at the Institution of Engineering and Technology in October. The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships programme is the most prestigious scheme of its type in the UK. 393 students – including a record-equalling 113 girls – were handpicked from 1,600 hopefuls who applied for the scholarship in 2018.

The scholarships consist of an annual financial award to each scholar and to their school, together with enrichment activities such as mentoring and industry visits that enhance a scholar's experience of engineering in a real-world context. Current Year 13 students Archie Denne and Tristan Rayner received scholarships in 2017.

All of our Arkwright Scholars from 2016-2018 have gone on to study Engineering courses at University. Former Head Boy Thomas Allen is currently studying at Imperial, Hannah Phillips at Southampton, Milen Patel at Nottingham, Thomas Mullan at Durham and Alexander Brand at Queens Belfast.



## Junior School House Music

**Our** Junior School students had great fun taking part in their annual House Music competition on Friday 12 October. Each House sang one ABBA song and one film song, in their attempts to impress the adjudicator with their musical talents. Some students also played instruments to accompany the performances.

This year Steve Moss judged the competition. Steve is currently the Musical Director (MD) of *Les Misérables* in London and was previously the MD for the *Mary Poppins* UK and International tours earlier this year. The shows Steve has worked on range from *Cabaret* and *Miss Saigon* to *Wizard of Oz* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Steve said: "It was a brilliant afternoon, I loved it. All the students were so good which made it very hard to judge. Competitions like this are great because, whilst music isn't about competition, it encourages more people to take an interest and get involved which everyone did today."

The competition ended with an awards ceremony where each House was recognised for what they did best. Congratulations to Liddle who were the overall winners and were presented with the Junior School House Music trophy which is brand new this year.



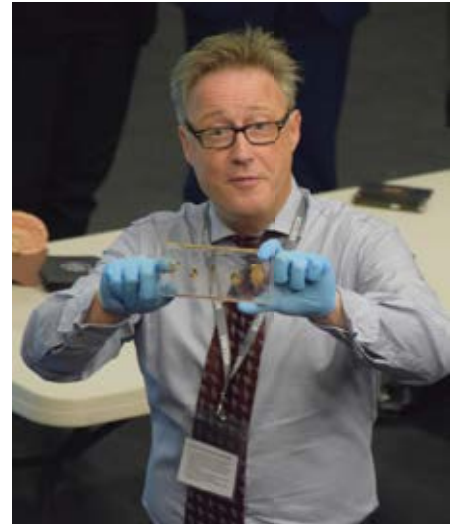
## BMS sixth formers get cerebral

On Friday 14 September our sixth form students quite literally had tutorials on the brain! Dr Guy Sutton, an expert in neuroscience and genetics, visited BMS and spent the morning with our Sixth Form Biologists and in the afternoon it was the turn of our Sixth Form Psychology students.

Dr Sutton is the Director of Medical Biology Interactive and an Honorary Consultant Assistant Director at The University of Nottingham Medical School, where he contributes to teaching medical students at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

The students learnt about a range of topics during the day, from brain anatomy, stem cells and neurobionics to how much brain we can lose, classifying mental illness and the criminal brain. The students also had the chance to watch a sheep brain dissection, with some students even participating.

In the evening, Dr Sutton gave a presentation entitled *A gene for this and a gene for that* as part of our Bousfield Speaker Programme which offers parents and students in Year 9 and above the chance to hear leading national speakers on a variety of topics throughout the year.



## OBM Lodge Award

Thomas Forster (2014-2018) has received The Old Bedford Modernians' Lodge Award for Personal Achievement for being an outstanding ambassador for the School through his exemplary contribution

to Outreach activities; especially for his dedication and leadership with the Dementia Walking Project. Thomas's natural kindness and consideration has enabled many vulnerable adults to enjoy

such diverse activities as ballroom dancing and sailing, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. His support and overall involvement in the life of BMS generally during his time as a student has been much appreciated and he is a very worthy recipient. The award was presented by OBM James Lees (1997-2002).



## News

# Celebrating Achievement

On the evening of Thursday 05 July nearly 100 Junior School students were joined by their families, staff and special guests for the annual Junior School Prize-giving ceremony in the Christopher Fry Hall which recognises some of the fantastic work completed this year by our youngest students. The awards cover a variety of topics from year group prizes for achievement and progress to citizenship. There are also six named trophies presented for topics including sport and drama.

The Guest of Honour this year was OBM Elliott Bonassera who joined the Junior School in 1995. In the Senior School Elliott played cricket and rugby at first team level and won the school prize for Spanish. He went on to study Economics and Spanish at the University of Bristol and since graduating has been a broker in London working for ICAP. Elliott spoke fondly of his time at BMS and gave a motivational address to the prize-winners.

Head of the Junior School, Mrs Rex, said: "It is evenings such as this that remind me why Bedford Modern School is such a special place and that is due entirely to the commitment and enthusiasm of students and staff alike. As it is not possible to award every child with a prize the recipients should be very proud of themselves; they richly deserve this acknowledgement of their efforts. It was also wonderful to welcome Elliott back to BMS. He had one of the most positive attitudes I have ever seen in a child and is a superb role model for our current students."

On the following evening, we were delighted to welcome saxophonist and Grammy Award-winning Tim Garland to present the Senior School Artistic Achievement Awards. This annual event is a show in itself and celebrates the wealth of artistic talent at BMS, with prize-winners in the disciplines of drama, dance, art, creative writing, music and film studies.

Brought up in Kent, Tim studied at the Guildhall School of Music and has had a base in London ever since. He joined the Ronnie Scott's band aged 23, going on

to win prizes from the BBC and the Parliamentary awards. He is one of the few UK jazz musicians to have gained recognition in the States, and has been the creative force behind several award-winning ensembles.



He has taught at Newcastle University and The Royal Northern College of Music, and become known for merging the worlds of modern concert music and jazz. Recent CD releases have included *Songs To The North Sky*, *One* and *Weather Walker*, which have received numerous awards and rave reviews.





On Thursday 12 July it was the turn of our aspiring young sportsmen and women to be recognised at the annual Sports Awards evening. As well as team and sport-specific awards, leavers' caps were presented in recognition of excellence and outstanding achievement and leavers' tankards and salvers in recognition of commitment and endeavour to sport. The guest of honour this year was inspirational England netball player, Eboni Usoro-Brown (nee Beckford-Chambers).

Eboni played for England Netball at under-17 and under-19 level before being named as under-21 captain in 2009 leading the squad to the World Youth Championships. By that point she had already made her senior Roses debut, against Malawi in 2007. She joined Team Bath Superleague in 2005 helping the Blue and Gold secure four Superleague titles during a five year spell after which she found success in Australia. She has since returned to Team Bath Netball where she was named Captain for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Superleague seasons.



After helping England to bronze medals at both the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games and 2011 Netball World Cup, Eboni was named as Player of the Series as England recorded a historic 3-0 series whitewash against Australia in 2013.

She also represented England at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and 2015 Sydney World Championships. To date, Eboni has earned 90 senior international Caps and is a member of the 2018 Commonwealth Games England Roses Netball Team that brought home the Gold Medal. Alongside her netball achievements, Eboni graduated with a 2:1 in Law (LLB hon) and Masters in Commercial Law from the University of Bristol and is successfully combining a flourishing legal career with continued success on the netball court.



Finally OBM Geoff Irvine (1954-58) presented the Academic Awards at an evening ceremony on Friday 21 September. Geoff joined BMS in September 1954 by way of a scholarship, utilising the old 11+ system without which it would have been impossible for him to attend.

By his own admission, any sporting and co-curricular activities were of far more interest to him than his academic work, which resulted in him leaving school early in an attempt to join the Royal Navy. He later became a partner in a bricklaying business in 1963, which he sold in 2007 when the company's annual turnover was £60 million.

He became Chairman of Bedford Blues Rugby Club in the early 90s, and has made great progress within the ranks of the RFU including becoming a board member of the very successful Rugby World Cup 2015.



## Sport

## Football

Year 10 student Alice Habermehl is going from strength to strength with her footballing achievements. She has recently been selected as one of two goalkeepers for the Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) U16 team as well as for the U16 Arsenal Player Development Programme.



Alice started playing football with her older brother in their garden before joining the BMS girls' football club in Year 9. Whilst at a BMS football tournament, Nigel Mitchell, the manager of Bedford Ladies and Girls Football Club U14s, spotted Alice and invited her to join the team.

Over the summer, Alice successfully tried out for the U16 Arsenal Player Development Programme and she is now coached by former professional goalkeeper Rich Lee, who mentors her and offers specialist goalkeeping coaching. In October she was coached by Miguel Miranda, another former professional goalkeeper, on a four day training camp at Sporting Lisbon in Portugal.

Rebecca Woodgate, Head of Girls' Sport, added: "It was really exciting to hear that Alice has been selected for the ISFA U16 National Football Squad. It goes to show that hard work, dedication and passion really do pay off. I would like to wish Alice every success with ISFA and Arsenal and look forward to hearing more about the exciting journey she is embarking on."

## Netball

## Miss Brightman named Sports Coach of the Year

BMS Head of Netball, Sam Brightman was awarded Sports Coach of the Year at the Bedford Sports awards in December. Seven other coaches were nominated in her category from a range of sports.

Alongside her full-time job as Head of Netball at BMS, Sam is working towards her Level 3 Coaching Award as she voluntarily coaches the Swiss National squad, travelling to Switzerland monthly to lead the coaching sessions. She has recently accompanied the U17 Swiss squad to the Netball Europe U17 Championships where they came home as runners up. Sam is also able to find time to mentor other coaches at the Mavericks Netball Futures Academy Hub in Bedford.

Sam's commitment to coaching is second-to-none as she voluntarily gives up a lot of her time to help others be the best coaches they can be.

Organised by Bedford Borough Council, the Bedford Sports Awards have been a highlight in the local sporting calendar for the last 23 years. This year there were more than 90 nominations across 10 categories, with a panel of 17 judges deciding on the winners.

On winning the award Sam said: "I am very pleased and very shocked to have won."

We are delighted for Sam who richly deserves this recognition.



## Table Tennis

On Saturday 12 January nine BMS students competed in the Bedfordshire County Individual Table Tennis Championships held at Lincroft School. The group excelled in their categories, with three semi-finalists, one runner-up and two winners.

Reaching the semi-finals were Charlie Searle (U13s), George Whitley and Alex Smith (U16s),

who performed well throughout the competition. Ben Dunkley reached the U13 final but was beaten three games to two to finish as runner-up.

The winners on the day were Noah Levens, who won the U11 Consolation Singles, and Ben Reddy who beat OBM Farhan Kayani in the U19 final. As County Champion Ben will now go on to the English Schools Table Tennis (ESTTA) National Table Tennis Championships in Wolverhampton on 27 April.



## Equestrian

Suzie Todd, currently in Year 9, has had a successful year in competitive endurance horse riding, receiving multiple awards during the season and moving from novice to open status at the end of 2018. She has also been named Endurance Great Britain's Young Volunteer of 2018 for her voluntary services to endurance riding.

In her competitive riding Suzie was named Endurance GB's Reserve Junior Champion and winner of the Harvey Trophy, which involved completing ten competitive rides with a total distance of 417km. She took first place in her 40km novice class representing the Cromwell Group (Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire) at the Inter-Regional Championships, who named her novice highest points winner for the season. She was also awarded the Endurance Open Shield by her own pony club, Whaddon Chase.

Suzie's volunteer work has included promoting the sport amongst pony clubs, writing articles for newsletters and representing Endurance GB at various horse shows during the year, including Royal Windsor.

Her goal for the 2019 season is to complete a one day 80km ride, to be picked for the regional team again, and hopefully selection for the England team in the Home International competition later in the year.

Suzie commented: "I'm really pleased that my 2018 season went so well, it has been a lot of hard work but also great fun. I am really proud of my pony Dutchdream Spetter. He did everything I asked of him and more. He's awesome!"



## Cross Country

On Wednesday 16 January BMS were named the overall winners of the annual Bedfordia Cross Country Race. The event took place at Lincroft School and involved more than 700 competitors from 30 schools.

Overall the BMS boys and girls teams finished in first and third place respectively, with some outstanding contributions from all age groups. This included the Year 7 girls taking third place in their event.

Special mention goes to our Year 5 and 6 students Joe, Lorcan, Aleks, Oliver, Alfred, Bertie, Teddy and Macharia (pictured) who won their event with a score of 83 points, well ahead of second place. Six of the eight runners finished in the top 23 from a field of more than 200 boys, including two in the top 10. An outstanding achievement.



Following on from this success, the boys also took first place at the Bedfordshire District Championships, which took place at Priory Park on Thursday 24 January. Competing against 15 other schools they finished with a total of 73 points, well ahead of second place.

Head of Junior School Sports, Tim Bucktin commented: "The boys have trained really hard. Their effort and determination is fantastic and they are a credit to the school."

## Sport

### Rugby

The 1st XV appeared live on national TV in November, in BT Sport's *Rugby Tonight*. The boys were involved in live demonstrations alongside current and ex-professional rugby players. They were wearing their new rugby shirts, which were handed out to them by OBM Mark Denney (1984-93).



OBM Michael Phillips (2007-14) once again competed in the Oxford vs Cambridge varsity rugby match at the beginning of December for Cambridge. Oxford won with a 38-16 victory.

Michael is pictured scoring for BMS at Twickenham in 2012



### Forthcoming Sports Events

- OBM Water Polo - 16 March
- Rowing Race Day and Dinner - 23 March
- OBM Football - 29 March
- OBM Hockey - 29 March
- OBM Cricket T20 - 13 July

### Lizzie Adam on top form



OBM Lizzie Adam (2012-17) returned to BMS on 12 September to present us with her England U20 Women's Rugby shirt which we will display here at School. Lizzie has just signed an academy contract, so she is now up for selection for the World Series and for the full England side.

We asked Lizzie about her achievements and what advice she would give to those just starting out. She said: "I can't believe I'm training full time and that this is essentially my job. It is insane! It still hasn't sunk in that I get to go to training every day and train with World Cup winners and Olympians. My advice to any BMS student looking to go into rugby is that you have time, there is no rush. If you aren't selected for the team you want to be in initially, work hard and in time you never know what may happen. There's no need to panic if you aren't being selected now, just enjoy playing."

## Rowing

It has been a busy start to the academic year for our rowing crews.

On 06 October, BMS Boat Club had an incredibly successful day at the St Neots Small Boats Head 2018, their first head of the season. Many BMS students took home wins but special mention to the Op 4x- who had the fastest time of the event with an impressive nine minutes and 14 seconds. At the end of the tournament BMS Boat Club were awarded The Victor Ludorum, a trophy for the most successful club of the day.



Only a week on from the outstanding team performance at St Neot's Head, our students were back in action, this time on home water competing at Bedford Small Boats Head. Every member of the boat club from the J15s to the seniors showed incredible determination and resilience as they battled the relentless rain throughout the day. Our committed Parents Support Group also provided the best wet BBQ ever! The W16 coxless squad excelled with the crew of Hope Chouffot, Georgia Smith, Ellen Fletcher and Emily Watson winning their category by some 24 seconds over competition from Putney High School, Mossbourne Rowing Academy and Guilford Rowing Club. Our senior squads went on to win five events: Lizzie Rowe won the WJ18 singles, as well as doubling up with Boat Club Captain Lara Brittain to win the WJ18 doubles category. Joe Herbert and Matteo Peluso put in a fantastic row in their pair to win a senior pairs event and then joined forces with Joe Walker and Rajesh Paul, as all four boys changed discipline to race in a quad scull, which the boys went on to win beating local rivals Bedford School and Star Club, as



well as crews from Emanuel School. The senior coxed four of Aaron Smith, Caleb Avis, Ethan Carr, Jake Young, coxed by Sam Szeto were also victorious winning another senior category and beating Bedford School and Oundle Town.



On Saturday 03 November Lara Brittain, Abi Ngwang, Jess Read and Lizzie Rowe competed at the Fours Head of the River at the Tideway in London featuring in the Junior Challenge coxless quads category. The last 2K of the race was all about holding on to their blades as the waves became ever bigger but our girls coped brilliantly and went on to win their event. They picked up their medals at an event held at the historic Fullers Brewery in London in January.

Later in November, sixth formers Jess Read and Joe Walker participated in the Great Britain early identification trials in Boston, Lincolnshire on 17 November. All Jess's hard work more than paid off as she was placed 15 out of 99 scullers; an outstanding achievement.

Although sculling is not his preference, Joe still put in a great performance against some strong competition and came 128th. The following day, 18 November, the crews were out in force once again competing in the Star Head with event wins for the girls eight, J16 4+, WJ16 2x and the senior boys pair.

And finally on 08 December our rowers made their way to the Olympic velodrome to join thousands of competitors at the British Rowing Indoor Championships. More than 160 Concept2 indoor rowing machines were lined up ready to be used by first-time racers through to Olympic champions.

It was a fantastic event and a first for some of our younger rowers but the senior girls once again triumphed taking home a silver medal and joint 5th place.

OBM's Gavin McWilliams and Autumn MacKay competed in the U23 World Rowing Championship in July. Gavin finished in fifth place in M4+ and Autumn finished fourth in W8+.

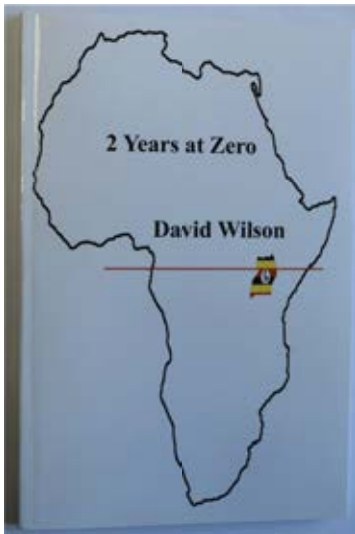


# Memory *Stir*

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## David Wilson 1952-55

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writes: 'I started at BMS in 1952 and left in 1955 to do my compulsory two-years' National Service in the RAF Regiment in Germany. Prior to this I was at Oakham School. My father was Station Master at Shefford and Henlow Camp. I studied A and S level Geography and French.

After National Service I went to St Edmund Hall, Oxford University to read Geography. After doing a one-year post graduate Diploma of Education, I took up a teaching post at King Alfred's Grammar School in Wantage, Oxfordshire in 1962.

In 1966 I took a two-year secondment teaching contract to go to a Senior Secondary Boarding school in Western Uganda, on the Congo border. My book, *2 Years at Zero*, tells all.

I returned to teach at the school in Wantage until 1982, when I (and family) started the Yorkshire Dales Field Centre, based at Giggleswick, North Yorkshire. This was a totally new venture - a great risk, but which became very successful. We had a happy seven years teaching fieldwork to school groups of up to 30 A level students.

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Family commitments decided we should move south, and I took a teaching job at St Bede's School in East Sussex, teaching Geography and being heavily involved in the Sports programme.

I finally retired in 2008 to concentrate on finishing the book, gardening, and playing church organs'.

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## Ruth Fox 2010-17

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is a mental health advocate, author and public speaker. Having gone through her own difficulties with depression, she has now written a book about an event where she suffered an injury at the age of 14. Ruth struggled to recover mentally, and consequently discovered football as a way to keep her grounded and pulled her from the brink of suicide. Ruth now continues to raise awareness of mental health in the work she does daily.

The book; *Within the White Lines, How the Beautiful Game Saved my Life* was published on 09 November 2018.

Ruth dedicated her book to Mr David Donoghue (pictured), who was her biology teacher at BMS and supported her tremendously with her mental health while at school.



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## Howard Smyth 1952-56

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reminisces about his time at BMS, and writes: 'School House, 1 Warwick Avenue, built in the 1880s, burned copious quantities of coke and coal, for cooking, for heat in the fireplace in the main study/dining hall, and a strange heating contraption for the tuck room (an outside furnace which heated a U-shaped pipe circulating tepid water where our tuck boxes and CCF uniforms were hung). Small gas fireplaces in the study and the 'Bridge' completed the heating system for the boarding side of the house. Access to the upper floors was a well worn, narrow, curved, stone staircase. Never a fire drill, it's doubtful the ancient fire extinguishers would have worked, and bars on the ground floor windows would have prevented escape. The electrical system was original, 110-20 voltage, powering vintage Ediswan, vacuum tipped, faintly glowing light bulbs. Pure lead pipes provided all drinking, cooking, and bathing water. PJ had a small exit hatch added through the wall in 'A' dorm, to the King's side of the house.

Dress code for School was strictly enforced (sometimes with a cane), with no attached collars (studs), cuff links, no Windsor knots, no hands in pockets while walking, no more than two abreast, and head gear (cap, boater, or CCF beret), at all times when outdoors (other than sports). School House colours were Blue and Gold, and ties and scarves always bore the colours (black ties on Sunday). A double stripe on a tie indicated achievement in some sport, as did a red stripe on one's blazer.

Food was primarily awful, however rhubarb pudding and curried rice was delicious, and kippered herring (at tea) was like eating the bottom of a shoe, with bones. Rationing, until 1954 cannot be blamed for the live ants in the cooked potatoes, nor the occasional spider emerging from a pile of toast. 'Bubble and squeak' and fried bread wasn't that bad, but I never got used to the hair on the bacon rind. To offset the lack of sweets a jar of maraschino cherries and chewing gum from

the Embassy, were safe in my tuck box. "Got any gum, chum?" was a standard refrain from my mates.

Three Masters with unique personalities - 'Hank the Yank' Turner, Chemistry (American-like accent) was asked whether or not the Germans made soap of human beings. To the amusement of the class, he replied: "fancy washing your face with your grandmother." Norman Frost had a somewhat volatile personality, throwing any item handy at any boy guilty of any indiscretion (carbide in an inkwell, talking out of place). Flamboyant Dan Dickey directed one of Shakespeare's plays involving a chase scene, with student actors coming down the aisles from the rear of the Hall. One boy, a little carried away, yelled: "get the bugger!", followed by chuckles from students and stunned silence on the part of the parents.

Overall, my experience at BMS was enjoyable, and I was actually homesick for BMS and England when our family returned to the States in August 1956.'



## Segun Akinola

2003-10

is working on BBC's Doctor Who as the sci-fi show's new composer reinventing one of the best-known tunes on TV. Segun graduated from The Birmingham Conservatoire with a BA in Composition and has been recognised as a rising star among British Composers, following his selection to the BAFTA Breakthrough Brits programme in 2017.

Photograph courtesy of David Shoukry (2002-11) – former BMS teacher

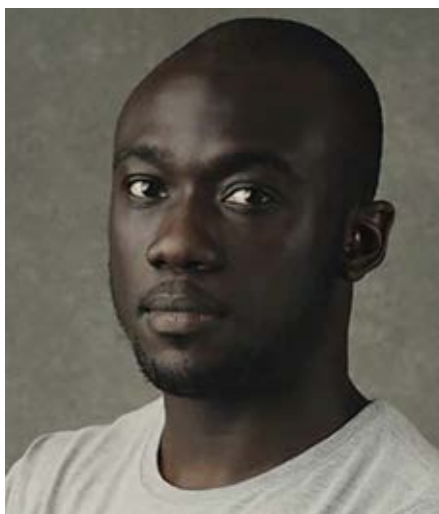
## Adrian Foot

1984-90

writes: 'Since leaving BMS I lived and worked in London for a number of years and ultimately founded a gaming technology agency. I was then lucky enough to enjoy a number of overseas assignments including living and working for six years in The Middle East (Dubai), six years in Asia (Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore) before three years living and working on the US East Coast between Washington and New York with JP Morgan and SAP.'



After 15 years overseas Adrian returned to the UK two years ago and now lives with his wife and two children back in Bedford. Adrian is the Global Head of Recruitment for a Dutch/American technology company and spends his time between Bedford and Holland.



## Andrew Taylor

2002-12

and

## Todd Cartwright

2001-12

Todd Cartwright writes: 'After completing my time at University (2015) I was lucky enough to spend some time volunteering for a British charity. Newborns Vietnam support the welfare and education of staff and facilities in Vietnamese neonatal intensive care units (NICU) in Da Nang and Hanoi by arranging, in person, medical training for Vietnamese doctors and nurses by British and American neonatal experts. These practitioners are supported by the Royal College of Paediatrics. During my first trip I worked inside the Da Nang Women and Children's hospital conducting a procedural audit of the previous visiting Doctors and Nurses' findings, linking increases in frequency of hand washing with reduced infection rates amongst a variety of other cause and effect parameters.



Simply being in an Intensive Care ward in a Vietnamese hospital is an eye-opening, grounding experience. The show of resilience, determination and survival can be seen in both the parents of sick children and the hospital staff. The parents sleep in the stairwells as they have travelled so far to access the hospital, often pleading for their children to be helped as we entered the ward each day. The nurses, earning less than \$100 a month, give their own money to buy extra supplies such as nappies and blankets because the state funding usually runs out. I returned again in late 2017 but before then Andrew was able to take a trip in the summer of 2017.'

Andrew continues: 'Unsurprisingly, this was my first experience in a NICU and it really opened my eyes to the medical challenges that face

# Memory *Stir*

mothers and infants in a developing nation such as Vietnam. Being a tropical climate, the heat and humidity was at times overwhelming and the variety of medical issues present are vast. The UK doctors and nurses I met could not help but be overwhelmed by the rarity of some of the patient's cases and the scale of challenge compared to the United Kingdom.

The greatest inspiration and lesson I have learnt from my time volunteering for Newborns Vietnam undoubtedly comes from the individuals involved and the great work they do. Even on the darkest of days, the doctors and nurses remain extremely positive and upbeat, never short of smiles and determination to learn from their mistakes, develop their profession and continue to improve the quality of care they provide. This hard-working attitude and positivity has inspired Todd, Lauren, and I to challenge ourselves and enter the Da Nang Iron Man 70.3 in May 2019, with the intention of raising funds for a mobile incubator. This incubator will allow the Da Nang Hospital for Women and Children to support infants in hard to reach areas, giving even more newborns a chance in the future. We would greatly appreciate any contributions to this cause.'

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## Chris Holmes

1979-86

A chance encounter at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) allowed Colonel Chris Holmes and newly commissioned Second Lieutenant Drew Turner (2009-13) to meet up and talk tactics. Drew's very smart locker layout provided the perfect background. Chris is always keen to support any OBMs thinking of joining the Services and is delighted to offer advice and guidance. His details are available via the school's External Relations Office.



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## Richard Holmes

2004-11

is a reporter on BuzzFeed News' investigations team, led by Heidi Blake. Focusing on exposing corruption and issues of national interest, he has previously published an investigation which became the series *From Russia with Blood*, a Pulitzer prize finalist. In December, Richard was announced as the New Journalist of the Year at the British Journalism Awards. He was commended for his recent investigative series focusing on the quality of children's care homes across the UK. The judges said: "This was a heavy-duty public interest story that really matters exposing major shortcomings in standards of care for vulnerable children."



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## Theo Cassell

2004-15

returned to BMS at the end of the winter term to visit the new Science Centre and fortunately was able to catch up with a few of his old teachers, including Neale Else, Sukhraj Sumal, John Fitton, Robert Brand and Lynn Winters.

Theo is currently in his third year studying Veterinary Medicine at the University of Nottingham.





## John Bell

1958-67

writes: 'Since attending BMS my career has focused on science and science education and the success I have had owes much to the education I received at BMS. From School I went up to Oxford and read Biochemistry, receiving my BA in 1971 and my D.Phil in 1974 before coming to the United States as a post-doctoral fellow at Duke University in North Carolina. In 1978 I took my first faculty position at the University of Rochester in New York before returning to Oxford to be acting tutor in Biochemistry at St Peter's College for two years while my own former tutor, Peter Newall, was involved in university administration.

Since returning to the United States in 1991 I have held three endowed professorships in different institutions: Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota where I started the Biochemistry program and was the Glass-Hamrum-Langsjoen Professor of Biochemistry 1991-2001. In 2001 I was recruited by the University of Richmond in Virginia to start a biochemistry program and held the Floyd D. and Elizabeth S. Gottwald Chair of Chemistry 2001 - 2007. During a two year sabbatical I was a Program Director for Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB) at the National Science Foundation in Washington DC, in the Biology Directorate, and was a member of the Vision and Change Working Group and the MCB CAREER Program Representative. In 2015-16, I was appointed the Knapp Chair of the Liberal Arts and Visiting Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of San Diego in California, where I still teach Biochemistry, although now semi-retired. During the period 1997-2010 I was a member of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education and Professional Development Committee, chairing the committee from 2003-2010. In 2015 I was the recipient of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Award for Exemplary Contributions to Education.

So what put me on the path to a successful career in Science? At School I was not particularly academic- I was on the swimming

team (Captain in my last two years) and the Waterpolo team, and the Chess team (Captain in my last year), I spent time as student editor of *The Eagle* as the school magazine was then known, I was head of East House, and my final year was Deputy Head Boy of School. Like all athletes at BMS I was influenced by PJ King to strive for the best; from Charlie Wilson (swimming coach) I learned the benefits of hard work and from Idris Hussey and Malcom James (Chess) I learned the importance of thinking ahead! From Norm Frost (who I really didn't like while at BMS) I learned the importance of, in the immortal words of Nobel Laureate Bob Dylan to 'not criticize what you don't understand' - anyone who remembers Norm Frost will know what I mean.

My burgeoning love of science however resulted from the many hours of Biology and Chemistry classes with 'Killer' Heath and 'Hank' Tanner and it was there that I discovered the intricacies of biology and the explanations that lay in Chemistry. Their focus on hands-on science as well as theory has informed the rest of my career.

In 2000 there was an article in the Times Higher Education Supplement, entitled 'Ability to recite fails to excite' about my work, which led to an article, in 2001, that I wrote in Nature Reviews entitled 'The future of education in the molecular life sciences' both of which helped change the focus of science education in the US and beyond and led to the 'Vision and Change' initiative which now dominates discussion of education in the molecular life sciences and places the emphasis on hands-on science as well as foundational theory rather than rote memorization.

Thankyou BMS for not only the memories of School but also the foundations of my career.'



## Paul Middleton

1950-61

returned to BMS in October to deliver an insightful talk on publishing to some of the Sixth Form English students. After graduating, Paul went on to become the Managing Editor of UK books for Reader's Digest.



## Andy Curtis

1954-62

Former BMS cricket coach, Andy Curtis recently held a reunion lunch in the Taverners restaurant at Lord's of some of the 1980 Under 15 Lord's Taverners' Trophy winners.

He comments: "Five of the remaining players were on various business trips abroad - which, if nothing else, illustrates what a good investment career-wise a BMS education offered - and presumably still does."



Left to right: Andy Curtis (Coach) Nigel Chinneck (Assistant Coach), Simon Crowther, Nick Robinson, Dominic Lobo, Tim Lord and Alan Fordham (Captain).

# Memory *Stir*

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## Philip Pettman 1955-62

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writes: 'I do enjoy reading *Eagle News*. It is interesting to connect my memories of school days with the photos and information about my contemporaries.

I don't know whether these photos will merit inclusion in the journal but it does go to show how easily recognised Dick Greenhalgh would be from a snap of 56 years ago.

The full group photo was taken in the Summer of 1962 on a camp site near Fribourg, Switzerland. We had travelled from Thun and managed to get separated before entering the sandy tracks of the Black Forest. It seems remarkable that we actually got to the same campsite despite not having any means of communicating (no smartphones or GPS in those days).

This was our penultimate stop before returning to Paris. The last campsite was in Provins and I can still remember the barman who poured us samples of kirsch and banane into a selection of hastily washed medicine bottles.

Three of us had just finished our last year and I had obtained permission from Cadbury's to start two weeks later to enable me to take part in the tour. I confess to having lost contact with

the school and schoolmates relatively quickly (even before coming to Italy) and was very grateful to Ollie Sanders and Bernie Mulhall for having taken the time and effort to trace the 1961 XV which reconnected the link.'



We had a necessary stop near the top of the Sustenpass to allow the recovery of the boiling brown water from the radiators using multi-functional enamel mugs.

Picture below, L-R: Dick Cecil Greenhalgh (driver and probably the main organiser of the tour also nicknamed Baron Hatvani), myself (principal role - communications with the natives), V R 'Satch' Southgate (driver and enthusiast), Cris Phillips (photographer and driver), Malcom Two (philosopher and 'fall guy' for drivers at the end of their stint), John McDonald (anchor man and problem solver - changing four wheels in three successive days), Paul Watson (philosopher, driver and calming influence), Pete Darlow ( the youngest of the group and other interpreter).



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## Robin Wills 1960-69

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Justin Lavender (1960-69) sang in a concert in the Cadogan Hall to mark Chinese National Day and the 25th anniversary of The Chopsticks Club on 29 September 2018. The Chinese Ambassador to the Court of St James attended. Justin sang songs of Tang dynasty poems in Mandarin in the first half (world premiere) and Robin sang with Mandarin Voices in the second half. As there were only three tenors Justin joined them too but was excused from blowing into a bottle or crinkling paper! After that they had a well-deserved pin.



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## Oliver Sanders 1956-63

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Met up with OBM Robert Robinson after contacting the External Relations Team who put them in touch with each other. Oliver writes: 'I found that Robert was living in Melbourne. I was going to visit my son and family in Perth, so we agreed to meet up in Adelaide. This meant a two-day car drive for Robert and Anne and a three and a half hour flight for my wife and I from Perth.

We met up for a meal on the Friday evening and spent Saturday and Sunday touring around Adelaide and area visiting tourist sites, vineyards etc. It had been almost 50 years since we had last met in Bedford but after five minutes it was as though we had been together ever since leaving school.

We swapped photos of times at school and many memories especially of mutual friends who I had seen but obviously Robert hadn't. We have kept in touch by e-mail since our return, and I am sure we will get together again on another of my visits to Oz.'

Oliver passed the 11+ to gain entry to Bedford Modern School from Wootton Primary School. His father, L C Sanders (1921-23) had previously attended BMS.

He left school in 1963 with the intention of qualifying as a pharmacist, but too much time on the rugby field and athletics track meant that he did not pass the necessary A-Levels. After two years of working for Boots the Chemists in Bedford, he decided on a change of direction into pharmaceutical wholesaling. He joined Sangers in Bedford and after moves to London, Maidstone and Surrey was managing their largest UK branch at the age of 24.



Oliver continues: 'In 1973 I joined Unichem as a Regional Manager and continued with them until 1988 leaving as a Deputy Head of Operations. In 1989 I joined Thorn Lighting managing the UK distribution side throughout many reorganisations only to be made redundant in 1992. After redundancy I took over a florist shop in Purley, Surrey with my daughter, who did all the artistic work, for nine years and finally retired in 2002 aged 56.

Whilst in Maidstone I met my wife to be Jackie and we have been married for 47 years with a son and daughter who have produced five grandsons for us to spoil.

Unfortunately both of our children were born partially hearing which gave us a great challenge to bring them up so that they could live a normal life in the hearing world. Fortunately we achieved this with the help of The National Deaf Children's Society and for many years I was Chairman of the Surrey Branch.

I gave up rugby and athletics shortly after leaving school, but took up golf in 1969. I managed to achieve a low handicap of seven and I am still able to play off 12. My son immigrated to Perth, Australia in 2008 where he is a senior systems analyst with BHP Billiton so my wife and I have managed to travel extensively throughout Australia and incorporated 3-4 days stopovers en route in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai and Brunei.'

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## Robert Robinson

1956-61

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writes: 'Married to Anne, also from Bedford, on Saturday 19 February 1966 my new partner and I landed in Toronto Canada as emigrants on Monday 21 February, ready to begin our new life together. We moved fast and got an apartment, me a job and a '56 Chevy within three weeks.

Our son, Peter, was born in Toronto in 1970. He and his wife Sarah and our two grandchildren live close by in a seaside suburb south of Melbourne.

I began my business life helping to build Douglas DC 9 aircraft fuselages and wings and progressed to fixing manufacturing faults (some of my own making!) as a Liaison Engineer. Life in Canada was interesting and always busy. Anne and I both worked, she in a bank handling gold bars and me moving from job to job until I settled on large construction projects.

We stayed in Canada until 1981 and during that time we moved from Toronto to Edmonton, Alberta then to Calgary and then back to near Niagara Falls, each time with involvement in the Procurement and

Contracting side of heavy engineering; a Heavy Water plant in Ontario, a Tar Sands plant in Alberta together with a world-scale size Ethylene plant near Calgary. With my job as Contracts Manager with Foster Wheeler – a company based near Niagara Falls – I made several overseas trips. Some of these were to Australia and when the time came for our next move, I made inquiries with major construction companies in Eastern Australia and met with some success.

We moved to Melbourne in 1981 and, apart from a short stay in Perth (Western Australia), we have continued to make our home here. In 1999, I began working overseas as an expat taking senior assignments in Nigeria (three years), Indonesia (one year), Papua New Guinea (two years) and Japan (one year). My career is almost at an end but upon finalising my overseas commitments I completed assignments on a 30-billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in North-Western Australia and several large gold, copper and zinc mines in Eastern Australia. We live in Mornington, Victoria, which is a small seaside town, a short drive from Melbourne.

I still play golf, certainly not to Ollie's standard and I walk each year in France or Spain. I walk the Camino either from Le Pu en Velay to the Pyrenees or from the Pyrenees (St Jean Pied de Port) to Santiago di Compostelle, both of which are about 800km.'

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## Chris Perry

1949-55 (Former School Bursar)

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The Red Eagle has landed at Frinton-on-Sea! Chris and Sally Perry send fond wishes to everyone at BMS and the OBM Club. Although retired for approaching 20 years they just wanted to let everyone know that they are still flying the BMS flag in sunny Frinton-on-Sea. Their newly decorated beach hut has just undergone a facelift and been repainted in the school colours, complete with red eagle number plinth!

# Memory *Stir*

Chris writes: 'If any old boys or girls are ever in the vicinity, we would be delighted to see them for a stiff G&T or Pimms. You shouldn't have any problems finding the beach hut!'

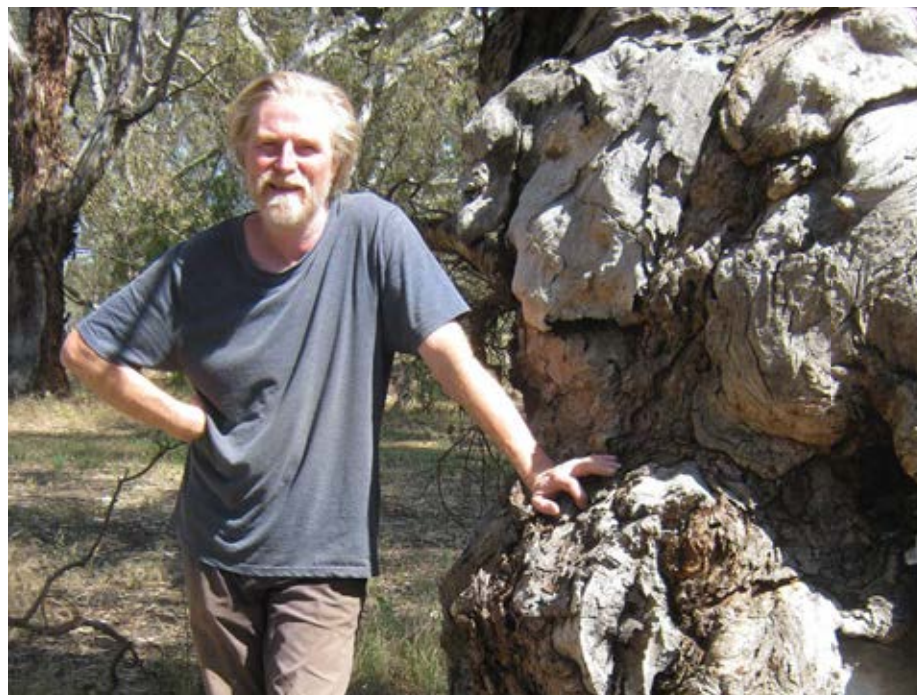


**Stuart Scoon**  
1972-80

writes: 'I was reminiscing recently about my time at BMS from 1972 to 1980. Some fond memories were reawakened when I saw a photo of my old school mates in *Eagle News*. I wish to thank Deborah Burrows for putting me in touch with Dave Hurley and also thanks to Dave for putting me in touch with Andy Tyler. Deborah asked if I would write a short piece about my life since school days. This follows.

I left BMS and completed Art Foundation studies before obtaining a degree in sculpture from Cheltenham Art School. Whilst at Art School I spent summers as a water bailiff on the Isle of Lewis chasing and being chased by poachers on a private salmon fishing estate. I soon realised my tender BMS manners were not the ideal qualifications for separating a brute from his hard won salmon although my fitness from years of water polo and rugby training were handy in escaping some hairy situations.

After graduating from the Royal College of Art (Sculpture) in 1987, I was ready for something completely different working as a timber faller in the Oak and Beech forests of Hampshire. During my time as a timber faller I had a couple of accidents one involving a chainsaw when it kicked back and sliced through my finger into the palm of my hand. To this day I remember being driven at speed to Winchester hospital and my head hitting the roof as the car I was in took off going over a humped-back bridge! My altercation with a chainsaw accelerated a return to sculpture and I accepted a position at the Phillip Institute of Technology in Melbourne. After leaving this position I went to live in the Australian bush where I essentially remained for the next 25 years following my love of living in forest environments.



I returned to timber falling for five years when I worked as a bush firefighter for the Victorian Government where I was privileged to be of some service and also see many of the beautiful forest wilderness areas of Australia.

Here's a funny story from my years in Tasmania. I was in my small boat on the Derwent River as the yacht *Wild Oats* was approaching the finish line at Hobart wharf. I was amongst the throng of the world's media, cruisers and thousands on shore watching when my steering suddenly jammed. My boat was going round in circles! After the boat completed one and a half circles and, just before I was about to enter serious panic mode, I managed to free the steering. I exited the situation with heart pounding counting myself lucky not to be front page news the next day.

For the last 15 years I have worked with people who are homeless. I am currently renovating a historic house with my wife Debra amongst a red gum forest in the goldfields region of Victoria.

P.S. Belated thanks to Richard (Chadders) Chadwick.'

**Peter Richardson**  
1951-60

returned to BMS in August. He was in Bedford as part of the Leighton Buzzard Voluntary Patient Transport team. Peter was a solicitor for 48 years and now helps to take patients to and from various medical appointments.



**David Plaskitt**  
1961-68

and

**Ian Kemp**  
1958-68

Former Head Boy, David Plaskitt and Ian Kemp came back to BMS in November to see the school. It was lovely to see them both, and hear about what they have been doing since they left school back in the sixties. They even managed a brief visit to the School Archive which turned out to be quite a trip down memory lane!



**Nigel Tibbutt**  
1955-65

a retired DT teacher visited the school in August. Nigel lives with his wife on the Isle of Wight and this was his first visit back to BMS since leaving the 'old' school back in the sixties.



**Bayley Hockham**  
2009-16

returned to BMS in September to talk to some Sixth Form students who may be considering a degree in History or applying to Cambridge. He gave sound advice and answered their questions. Bayley is currently studying History at St Catharine's College.

**Rob Harrison**  
2013-18

and

**Sam Hodgkiss**  
2011-18

On Saturday 11 August 2018, OBMs Rob and Sam completed their cycle from John O' Groats to Land's End for the charity Ambitious about Autism, who offer specialist education and support for young people with autism. They managed to raise an amazing £1513.



**Olivia Smith**  
2014-16

It was fantastic to see OBM Olivia featured in the 2018 Summer edition of *CMI Magazine*. Olivia (top-left on the front cover) was interviewed for the article on apprenticeships as she is currently completing the Pearson Rotational Degree Apprenticeship.



# Obituaries

## Richard Wildman

1956-65

1997-2016 (staff)



North House, died 27 July 2018.

**Richard** attended Bedford Modern School as a student from 1956 to 1965 and subsequently returned to the school in 1997 assisting the previous archivist, Andrew Underwood, for two years before taking over the position himself in 1999. He was also secretary to the OBM Club for 16 years before his retirement in 2016.

His brother, OBM Stephen Wildman (1960-69), writes: 'Most of you will have known Richard as an historian of Bedford – in the last three or more decades, perhaps the historian of Bedford: always willing, and rarely failing, to provide the answer to a question about a date, a building, or a personality. You probably know his many books, which remain standard, such as

*Bygone Bedford, Victorian and Edwardian Bedfordshire from Old Photographs* and *Bedford: A Pictorial History*. Or his involvement with local societies, serving on many committees, including the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society, the Bedford Architectural Archaeological and Local History Society (President, 1996-2009) and the Bedford Art Society, of which he had been President since 2010.

Others will have known him as the proprietor of a secondhand bookshop in Mill Street, and latterly as Archivist at Bedford Modern School and Secretary of the OBM Club. Richard had a genuinely encyclopaedic knowledge of the school, its staff and alumni, fostered by our father Sidney having been a pupil in the 1930s. He showed great loyalty to BMS, not only maintaining its history but keeping people in touch with each other, organising many lunches, dinners and reunions. He was delighted to renew the School's association with the playwright Christopher Fry, whose last play *A Ringing of Bells*, written for and dedicated to the school, was performed at the Olivier Theatre in London in 2001 (happily, on Richard's birthday), and with Jefim Seidelson from Tallinn, Estonia, who Richard thought must have been the only person to have attended an English public school and fought with the Red Army. Such sidelights into history always gave him great pleasure.

I may say that I share his love of books, history and architecture, in which respect we were disappointments to father, a talented mechanical engineer, in showing little (or, in Richard's case, no) aptitude for things scientific or mechanical. Richard would have struggled to wire a plug and never attempted to learn to drive, although to his credit he did master e-mail! Instead, we both developed a love of history – encouraged in Richard's case by Ralph Elliott at BMS – and literature (in mine, by Peter Hetherington). After Clare College, Cambridge, Richard taught history at Sharnbrook Upper School and at the Convent School, before opening his bookshop in Mill Street in 1978,

appropriately opposite the former Howard Congregational Chapel of 1849, which he had also campaigned to save, along with the Blore façade and Priory Terrace, ably restored by the architect Victor Farrar.



I thought of calling this '65 Years in a long shadow' but that would be unfair. You have heard the bare bones of Richard's life; let me give you just a few memories of things we did together, which I treasure.

- Going to interview Arthur Peer in 1964 for *The Eagle*, one of the oldest OBM, born in 1874. For Richard, he was living Bedford history; I was just as impressed that he had done homework for a boy who went on to play cricket with W G Grace.
- Going on a W H Allen Christmas outing to the pantomime in London, on a special train, with balloons on the front; and our being taken by mother to the Theatre Royal, Northampton, to see the last of the music hall entertainers, such as Windy Blow and Wilson, Keppel and Betty.
- Family holidays abroad – father was an intrepid driver, and we once got to Vienna in a Vauxhall Victor – and at Southwold, at least once a year, usually twice, for 50 years until last year. Richard had almost as many books and pictures of Southwold as of Bedford, and one of the last things I read to him was a new book on George Orwell and Southwold.
- Being in the audience for the final of radio's Brain of Britain in 1966, which Richard very nearly won.

- Visiting art exhibitions in London, which would become a major part of my later life – the earliest I remember were *The Bauhaus* and *Matisse* in the late 1960s.
- Helping out in the Mill Street bookshop, meeting all the local characters who came regularly, not least Bedford's ragged-trousered classicist Mervyn Lee.
- And the many, many visits to Peacock's auctions, going back to Lime Street days, and encounters with other Bedford characters, such as Harry Newman.

After father died, more than 25 years ago, and mother, just four years ago, there was still Richard to keep me in touch with Bedford, even in the last difficult years of his struggle with PSP, a cruel variant of Parkinson's. Except for his student years – in Cambridge, not too far away – Richard never left Bedford, and never wanted to. Like those figures receding into the past – F W Kuhlicke, Ralph Conisbee, Joyce Godber, Pat Bell – Richard has himself become part of Bedford's history.'

Tributes to Richard came pouring in to the External Relations Office, following the news of his death. His funeral was attended by a great number of OBMs, current and former staff and three generations of Headmasters.

**Tony Keaveney (1978-83)** writes: 'I have so many memories of Richard's bookshop, more recently a connection through the OBM Club, but most of all of Richard as a teacher at the convent of the Holy Ghost in Bromham Road. In about 1975 (aged about 10), I recall him taking a lesson for my class and reading a story with incredible animation, voices, passion etc. such that it stuck as 'how to read a story to children' and will be my abiding memory of Richard.'

**Christopher Wilson (1957-65)** writes: 'In the brief glory days before I was found out I sat next to Richard in 1A1, and we remained friends though not close – our mothers knew each other, etc. His braininess set him apart but he was a kind person, and once having found his calling within BMS the school gave

him all the family he needed, and he repaid that by the archival masterpiece he left behind. He was also a local historian and he edited or wrote half a dozen books on Bedford. A hardworking and remarkable person and, being one of us, a sad loss.'

**Clive Dolan (1957-64)** writes: 'I barely knew him at school, being too far out of his league, but learned to appreciate him for all the help he gave us for the organisation of our reunions. He was wonderful and they would not have been possible without him. He was a lovely guy and unstinting in his helpfulness.'

Julie Ridge, Director of External Relations at BMS, spoke warmly of Richard saying: 'Richard was quite a character around school and the dedicated guardian of BMS history for some 18 years. He delivered an enlightening lecture during the school's 250th celebrations in 2014 where I learned more about the history of the School - and Bedford more generally - in one hour than any number of hours poring over books would have taught me. His passion for the subject was infectious. He will be sorely missed by former and current staff and students and the many, many OBMs who he met and we will ensure that his legacy will live on here at School.'



## John Singfield 1950-56

Died 21 July 2018 in Bedford South Wing hospital.

Mrs Singfield writes: 'John was born in Isleworth, Middlesex, August 1938 where the family lived. Following the declaration of war in 1939 the family moved to Liverpool for a short while, before then moving back to London, just in time for the Blitz! The family finally settled in St Ives, Cambridgeshire where he went to the local school.

In 1950 he became a boarder at BMS, which would give him an endless supply of stories to tell around the dining table for years to come. Whilst at BMS he met Richard 'Dick' Amos, who became a lifelong friend until his death in 2008. At school John played rugby and began rowing, racing in the 1st VIII and continuing through the summer holidays being a founding member of Lady Rohesia Boat Club. These experiences ignited a passion that was to remain with him throughout his life and provide John with some of his proudest moments.

When John left school he worked for a while in the family business, before he was conscripted for National Service; from here he joined the RAF. After Bridgnorth he had various postings, including RAF Henlow and Cardington. These postings enabled him to take up rowing once again. He competed in many regattas during his time in the RAF and through his pastime John made a group of friends, who were to become instrumental to the next chapter in his life, because from here John decided to stay in Bedford and in 1960 became a founder member of the Star Club.

In 1962 he met Gloria and was also posted to RAF El Adem in Libya for two years. John and Gloria married in May 1964 whilst he was still in El Adem. John completed his National Service in April 1965.

# Obituaries

Once married they moved to Wootton for a period and this is where they started their family. A few years later they moved to Bedford completing their family of two sons and one daughter. John remained in Bedford until his death. John grew to love Bedford, especially the embankment, which held a lifetime of happy memories for him.

During his working life, he worked for a Plumbers Merchant and then decided to take the plunge to become his own boss. He built up an independent Plumbers Merchant and Kitchen and Bathrooms showroom business, successfully running this for 25 years.

He also spent a lot of time in the South of France and owned a property for nearly 30 years enjoying many, many happy times and never tiring of the view of the Mediterranean from his balcony. And as is the way with John, he and Gloria made more lifelong friends amongst their neighbours and even had the opportunity to show them around Bedford.

John had three children who all followed their father's lead and achieved great success in rowing. This gave him a tremendous pleasure in passing on his passion for sport. He also had six grandchildren who he adored and was never happier than when they came to stay.

In later life, John took up rowing again enjoying success at veteran level. Eventually competing was replaced by coaching in which John gained some notable achievements. Initially this was with Star Club where he built a women's squad that won national honours. His coaching brought John back to BMS for a few years where he had great success coaching at J14 level winning regional and national honours. He also coached at Bedford School and Star Club, where he took great pride in getting good results. John threw himself into the rowing world, giving back as much as the sport had given him. He passed his passion on, not only to his own children, but to many a student. A good few we know continued in the sport because he inspired them to do so. For the past number of years John enjoyed an easier pace of life, playing golf at Mowsbury Club twice a week. He prided himself on his swing and in being able to get around an 18-hole course up until his untimely death.

John was taken from us far too soon. However, as well as many other memories we have of him, his good-hearted tales of 'old-fashioned boarding house discipline' and 'nipping in to the pub for a pint of light and bitter on the way back from chapel' will stay with us forever. BMS was a large part of his life which helped shape John into the gentleman we all loved.'

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## Richard Buck

1934-36

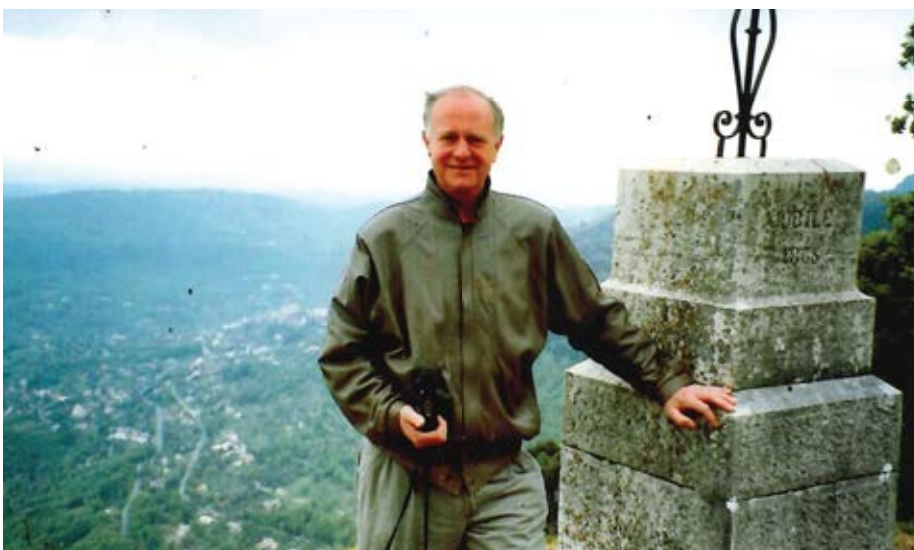
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Died 11 June 2018.

His daughter, Janice Reynolds writes: 'Richard Buck, called 'Dick' for most of his life, was my dad. He was born in Bedford in 1922 and lived there for two and a half years, when he was considered to be robust enough for the family to join his father who was working for W H Allen in South Africa. After two years there, the family moved to Egypt where his father was beginning a massive project to build pumping stations and power stations to irrigate the Nile Basin. They lived in the desert in a bungalow built by his father, and Dad had vivid memories of this time. Nomads regularly pitching tents outside their compound and inviting him and his father for meals where they were served the sheep or goat eyeballs. Also a visit from the King when he came to commission the first power station and gave Dad a football, although he always said he would have preferred one of the Scimitars the bodyguards carried.

Although it must have been a solitary life with a tutor living in the house, there were 1,000 workmen on site, most of whom had families with them and Dad played with some of the children and learned a little Arabic which he remembered all his life. Weekends and holidays were spent in Cairo, and visiting the Pyramids and the tombs in Luxor sparked Dad's lifelong interest in Ancient Egyptian History.

When he was 12 years old, he and his mother came home for 12 months' leave. They lived in Kempston and Dad went to Bedford Modern School. Never having been to the school or played any team sports, this was a difficult time at first. Being slightly built he soon found a niche as a cox in one of the rowing boats. I'm sure that he didn't mention he had never learnt to swim!





Back in Egypt, Dad was enrolled as a weekly boarder at a school in Khartoum and returned to Cairo for weekends, and it was then that his father was killed in a car accident. Dad was flung out of the car and seriously injured and had to spend six months in hospital in Cairo. Eventually he came back to Kempston and he returned to Bedford Modern School until he was 16 years old, when he became an apprentice at W H Allen.

During this time, he took his turn at fire-watching on the roof at night and, most importantly, he met a fellow apprentice's cousin called Hilda. Dad's apprenticeship finished in 1943 and he spent the rest of the war years going out on sea trials on destroyers. These were rigorous tests lasting a week, straight out into the North Sea from Newcastle. The engines and all the armaments were tested to the limit and Dad was given the honorary rank of Lieutenant Commander so he could give orders on board ship. He was highly delighted as it meant he could buy cheap pink gins in the Officers' Mess.

In September 1945, he and Hilda were married and were together for 67 years. They were both fiery, strong-willed people and argued frequently, but were devoted to each other throughout their long life together.

I was born in 1947 and enjoyed a happy childhood with loving, supportive parents and lots of laughter in the house.

After the war, the Admiralty wanted to examine a German submarine engine, so Dad was sent to Hamburg to remove one. Despite not knowing the language and amid the devastation from the bombing, he also had to make the arrangements to get it air-freighted home. But that was all in a day's work for my Dad, he even found time to find and buy a doll for a little girl.

Shortly after this trip, Dad moved to the Research and Development department which was developing gas turbines in consultation with Frank Whittle. During this collaboration, they were running a turbine at full speed when it exploded, flinging a blade through the factory roof and crashing down on a bicycle in a garden in

Queen's Park. Dad emptied his wallet and the petty cash and sent the foreman to buy the best bike he could find. The owner was very pleased and said they could do it any time they liked. Health and safety was a little more lax in those days.

During this time, Dad was experimenting with plastic and fibre glass for industrial use and in 1981 he was appointed manager of a new plastics department in Kempston, to manufacture engineering components in plastic. He also made some rather more unusual objects; a church steeple in Brickhill is his, as is the golden bull which hangs in the High Street, and he made the plastic moulds for replacing balustrading along the embankment.

Dad finally retired at 70, but immediately became a consultant for British Mica where he worked on contract to fireproof the underside of London Underground trains, and also a technical director of Card Safe, which at the time was a new innovation to safeguard credit cards.

In his seventies, he enthusiastically embarked on business trips to Hong Kong, Japan, Sweden and Belgium and he insisted on travelling to China to check out the working conditions in the factories they used. Dad's life was not all work. I remember days out and always a family holiday and as an only child, my friends were often invited along. As I got older, Dad was

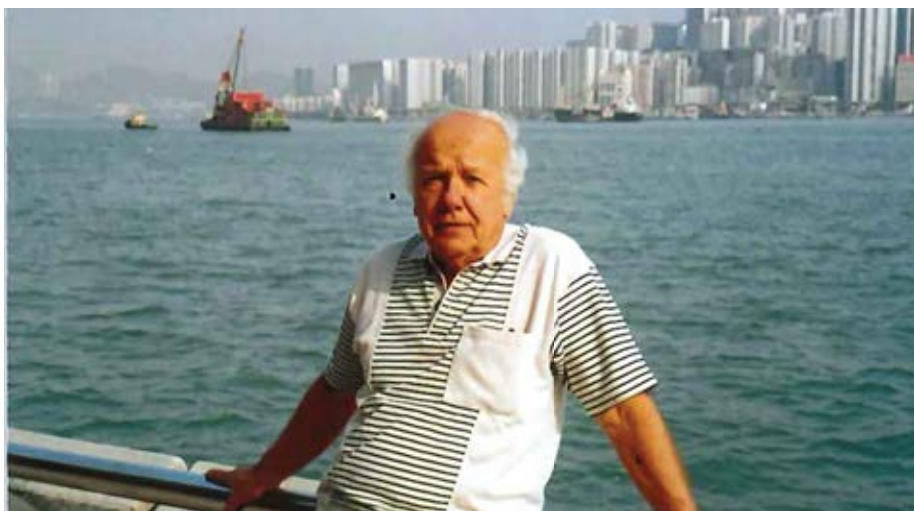
always ready to give lifts to me and also my friends.

He was very interested in cars and motor racing and always owned a slightly unusual make of car, and when, as a teenager, I was the proud owner of 1954 Austin, he painted it for me, by hand, three times! Purple, then pink and lastly tangerine.

DIY was a favourite hobby and he always had a project on the go, whether it was building a complete fitted bedroom or a very sophisticated go-cart for his grandsons. He was a lovely grandad to Stephen and Paul. They especially liked going for a walk because he could always produce pocket money from the trunks of trees. Later there were endless games of boules and beach cricket on joint family holidays. He and Mum loved family trips to the theatre or pantomime and every significant birthday and anniversary was celebrated with a big party.

Dad was a keen golfer until stopped by arthritis and when he finally retired he became a member of Probus.

Sadly, Dad was not in the best of health when he became Grampy to the great grandchildren particularly Ava and Elodie, but Lauren is old enough to remember him playing card games and taking part in the quizzes which he loved.'



# Obituaries

## Graham Threader 1978-83

South House, died from Leukaemia on 06 July 2018.

His wife Mel Threader writes: 'Graham was born in Luton in February 1965, to Ted and Norma Threader. The family, including his younger brother, Andrew, lived in Flitwick. After attending Woodlands Middle School,

Graham joined Bedford Modern in 1978. Graham, or 'Ted' as he was known to many of his school friends, was a keen rugby player and supporter, though he never made it past the School 3rd team!

After leaving School in 1983, Graham joined Birmingham Polytechnic, where he completed a three-year degree in Business Studies. During his time in Birmingham, he also joined the Birmingham University Officer Training Corps. This activity ultimately influenced two key paths in his life – meeting his wife, Mellie, and joining 269 Battery (Reserves), Royal Artillery, where he was an officer for around 18 years.

After graduating, Graham first became a graduate trainee with Coca-Cola and then moved on to a sales role with BRS National Freight. In 1990, he joined the management team at Scottish and Newcastle (S&N) Brewery and remained with the Company in a number of senior and Board roles within the Wines and Spirits division, for 17 years. This involved several relocations including Hertfordshire, Lancashire and eight wonderful years in Scotland.

After leaving S&N, Graham worked for a number of smaller, independent wine companies, before ending up as Category Manager for wine at Booker Cash and Carry. Graham and Mellie married in Tring, Hertfordshire in 1995 and were lucky enough to later welcome both a son, Ben and a daughter, Amy whilst living in Scotland.



[L-R: Graham Threader, Tony Inchbald, Tim Goodwin, Ian Benson] [Photo – Graham Threader]

The final relocation with S&N brought the family back to Tring where Graham became a weekend coach at Tring Rugby Club, as well as a member of the local Tring Brewery.

In August 2015, Graham was diagnosed, completely out of the blue, with a rare form of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. He was incredibly fortunate to be admitted to University College Hospital in London and remained under their care throughout his illness. Whilst he spent a significant amount of time in hospital, he lived mainly at home. A bone marrow transplant from his brother followed in February 2016. He made a brilliant comeback with a new lease for life and only three months later, he crossed off his first bucket list item by attending the Isle of Man TT motorcycle event, travelling on his beloved Moto Guzzi V7 Racer.

Graham remained in remission for around 16 months and returned to work at Booker during that time. He kept up his fitness as much as possible, which played a significant part in his physical and mental wellbeing.

Days after running the London Virgin 10k in July 2017, he learnt that he had relapsed. Graham was given the timely opportunity to

take part in ground-breaking clinical trials for CAR T-cell therapy (immune-therapy where cells are genetically modified and put back in to the blood system to fight the cancer). This therapy has been recently approved for a very small number of children and young adults in the USA and UK, though Graham did not have age on his side and his treatment was unsuccessful.

Graham was the most incredibly positive, funny and inspirational patient the hospital team had likely ever cared for. He was determined to keep fit and happy during his illness and always looked amazingly well. His journey was followed by an independent documentary maker, commissioned by the BBC. This 90-minute documentary will be aired on BBC2 in the Spring of 2019.

Graham remained firm friends with his group of OBMs, and the 'Bedford Boys', as they called themselves, were all reunited most recently at the wedding of Tony Inchbald in April 2018.

Graham was a very dedicated and loving husband, father, brother, son and friend. He chose *Love Can Move Mountains* and *The Bare Necessities* as the music for his funeral, which says it all.'

## Alastair Munro MacConnacher

1942-46

North House, died on 07 July 2018.

His wife, Ann MacConnacher writes: 'Alastair was born in the Govan district of Glasgow, not far from Rangers Football Club's Ibrox Stadium. He was the second son of the family. His father was a Scot and his mother a Bedford lass. They first met in 1914 when the Scottish regiments were billeted in Bedford before being sent to the front to fight in the First World War. His father was a Pipe Major in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The family left Glasgow for Bedford when Alastair was thirteen, so he always retained his Scottish accent. At Bedford Modern he was nicknamed 'Jock'.

In 1947 at the age of eighteen, Alastair was conscripted into the Army. He joined his father's old regiment, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Shortly after basic training, he and his regiment were posted to Malaya (now Malaysia) to repel communist insurgents who were moving south on the peninsula.

This was the beginning of his overseas life because after completing his two years of National Service, he couldn't settle and it wasn't long before he was looking at overseas opportunities. A position in a tea estate in India arose and he decided to accept it. So, at the age of twenty-one, he sailed to Madras (Chennai) to join his plantation in the Nilgris Hills of Tamil Nadu and it was there that he discovered that he had a very good facility for languages. He became fluent in conversational Tamil. He worked hard on estate work, but Saturday nights offered an opportunity to let his hair down a bit at the famous Ootacamund Club in Ooty where apparently various exploits took place that must remain shrouded in mystery! His seven years as a tea planter left with him a remaining love for the

Country and its people throughout his life and he was still able to converse in Tamil with other speakers right up to the end of his life. When he left India, Alastair travelled, via the Seychelles, to Africa and secured a position as a Colonial District officer in northern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). He was in charge of a small army and navy that patrolled a large lake that bordered with what is now DR Congo.

At the age of twenty-nine he returned to Bedford where he met and married his wife, Ann Parrott. Their married life started together in Salisbury (now Harare); Alastair working for Caltex in sales. It was there that he met a Director of Rothmans International which led to a long career in Sales and Marketing, living in Malta, Fiji, Cyprus, Egypt and Greece, regularly travelling around the Middle East. It was in Malta that he became a proficient scuba diver, trained by friends he met serving in the British Navy in Valletta. His other love was sailing his Mirror dinghy which he built from scratch from a kit, which he enjoyed sailing in Greece.

On taking early retirement, one of the things he did was to return to his beloved India, taking two months travelling throughout with just a backpack. He also enjoyed a voyage of the British coast aboard the STS Lord Nelson, a sailing ship owned by the Jubilee Sailing Trust.

He leaves behind his wife, two daughters and five grandchildren.'



## Clive William Smith

1944-49

West House, died 27 May 2018, a day before his 85th birthday.



His wife Jean Smith writes: 'Clive attended Bedford Road School, Kempston and passed for Bedford Modern School aged 11. Leaving school in 1949, he took an apprenticeship as a carpenter/joiner for five years in the family business.

He joined the choir at the Transfiguration Church, Kempston and became a Server at Holy Communion.

During National Service in 1954, he joined the Royal Engineers in Rippon Yorkshire and became a Demolition Instructor.

In the early 1960s Kempston Residents and Ratepayers Association was formed. Clive was Secretary and became a Councillor in Kempston Urban District Council and was elected Chairman of the Council in 1968; a hectic year of official functions including a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

Clive has also been involved with the Addison Centre Kempston. Plans to build the hall and contracts drawn up, Clive was one of three to sign the deeds, one of three trustees, Chairman, Vice Chairman and retired in 2015 after 46 years.

# Obituaries

Clive worked for Bedford Borough Council as a Senior Clerk of Works in the Civil Engineering Department for 16 years, but was made redundant and transferred to Anglia Water as a Contracts Manager. He retired in 1995. He joined Bedford University of the Third Age (BU3A) and Probus Club of Kempston.

In March 2003, Clive was presented with an award by the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, Clifton Ibbett, in recognition of his great and valuable service to the community.

Clive was very interested in Kempston history and wrote many articles for *Kempston Calling*. He was a founder of Kempston Historical Society and in 2011 Clive planted a walnut tree close to the Grange in memory of Addison Howard, who was killed in France in 1916, aged just 23. His mother, Mary Howard, gifted the park to the people of Kempston and planted a tree in 1937 in her son's memory but it was blown down in a storm.

Clive was married to Jean for 61 years. He will be sadly missed by Jean, daughters Julia and Sue, grandchildren and great grandchildren.'

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## Geoffrey Reynolds

1934-42

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Died 31 July 2018.

Gordon Slade (1943-48) writes: 'Geoffrey Reynolds was born in 1924 in Devon Road, Bedford, the youngest of four children. His father William Reynolds ran a steam ploughing business which involved sending teams of men and traction engines into East Anglia for sometimes weeks at a time to fulfil contracts he had obtained. He also ran an Agricultural Engineering business from premises in Newnham Avenue. This no doubt instilled in Geoffrey a life-time passion for steam engines and matters connected to the agricultural industry.

He was educated at Bedford Modern School where he was what can be best described as an average pupil with no great interest in sporting achievements. He was however taught to play the organ and piano – a hobby at which he excelled and was still taking lessons in his seventies, and even eighties. He left school in 1942 and entered the family business which by now concentrated on agricultural engineering. His father and brothers were very innovative engineers having designed a piece of equipment called a 'pick-up reel', which improved the performance of the combine harvester and was produced by a firm in the Midlands, as I've been told.

Geoffrey's interests were however concentrated on joining the RAF and flying. I first met him in late 1943. He was on embarkation leave when he came to the school and I was detailed to take him to meet a particular member of staff. He looked very smart in his uniform with the white flash in his forage cap indicating that he was an air-crew under training.

He was sent overseas to the USA on a troopship, the former 'Empress of Japan'. Whilst in the States he trained to be a fighter pilot at a base in Florida – a very demanding course which he passed with flying colours. On return to the UK, the war in Europe was drawing to a close and he became 'surplus to the requirement'. Undaunted he volunteered and was accepted into the Fleet Air Arm and trained to take off from a carrier's deck because the Pacific War against Japan looked as though it was going on for a few more years. However the dropping of two atomic bombs resulted in Geoffrey returning to 'civvy-street'.

His father had died when he was away, so he returned to care for his mother and assist in the business, which was eventually sold. He purchased Tenant Farm in Ravensden and as the farmhouse was in need of restoration he took a year's course at Mander College where he learnt numerous building skills, including bricklaying.

At the age of 63, he met and married Wendy Stanton and they were blissfully happy and travelled extensively. However things were not to be and tragically after just two years she passed away. I regret to say he never really overcame their loss.

He was initiated into Old Bedford Modernians' Lodge in 1953 and they met in Freemasons' Hall in London. He went through the various offices of the Lodge and was installed as Master in 1965. His zeal was recognised by appointment to high ranking Provincial rank. In his Mother Lodge he held the office of Almoner where he performed excellent service in several tragic cases. He was also a member of the Holy Royal Arch where he was awarded a Certificate of Merit on a very rare appointment.

Geoffrey was a regular attender at Ravensden Church and St Peter's Church, Bedford. Frequently attending one service and then going on to St Paul's for a cup of tea and a biscuit and enjoying the company of fellow worshippers.

When the farm was sold, he moved into a bungalow in Bedford at the foot of Cleat Hill. His health deteriorated over the last eight years. He continued to drive until last year and surprised us all by taking an hour's ROSPA driving test in late 2017 and passed. His main interest however involved studying the Stock Exchange results avidly.

Four months ago, home nursing became an impossibility and it was necessary for us to find accommodation with 24 hour nursing in Airedale Nursing Home, where he was able to spend his last few months with dignity, love and care.'

## Graham Rice

1934-39

County House, died 16 June 2017.

Graham's sister, Mrs Zita Pilgrim writes:

'Graham always spoke with great affection of his time at BMS, which ended just prior to the outbreak of war in 1939. He was brought up in Woburn Sands where his family had a garage business and so he was a member of County House, travelling to school on the Bletchley line with a group which included his friend and neighbour, Don Partridge. An all-round sportsman, Graham spoke on many occasions of the valued influence of P J King. A talented oarsman, he was a member of the successful BMS rowing crews at Marlow and Henley Regattas in 1938 and 1939. He enjoyed athletics, especially cross country running and was adept at the hammer and shot. An able rugby player, he was usually amongst the forwards. He also showed a talent for boxing and was an enthusiastic member of the School Cadet Force, joining camps in Yorkshire and Salisbury Plain.

As a small boy Graham was taken by his father on a short pleasure flight and this gave an indication of the path that his life would take. In 1940 he joined the RAF and made his first solo flight in 1941. He built up a wealth of pilot experience with the Blenheim, Beaufighter and Mosquito aircraft amongst others, before joining 141 Squadron, Fighter Command, which was formed to provide high-level support operations for Bomber Command, after the huge losses of 1942. Much of his night-fighter training took place at Cranfield Aerodrome. The plan was to send British Mosquito night-fighters out over Germany and Occupied Europe to mix with the bomber stream, patrol the target area and destroy enemy fighter aircraft. The operation was code-named SERRATE and the secret of its early success lay in a homing device that enabled the 141 Squadron navigators to detect the emission signals of

the German airborne radar equipment used by their night-fighters. During 1944 Graham and his navigator, Jimmy Rogerson, made a number of successful sorties to destroy enemy aircraft. Graham became a very young Flight Commander. At the conclusion of their tour of duty, both Graham and Jimmy were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The effect on these young crews of such traumatic events, along with the inevitable losses, was immeasurable, and is described by Michael Allen DFC in his book *Pursuit Through Darkened Skies*, where there is a full account of 141 Squadron's operations. In spite of a number of hair-raising incidents, in one case flying so low over the sea while being pursued by an enemy fighter, that his propeller tips were bent by contact with the surface of the sea, Graham was fortunate to survive the war without injury, an indication of his flying abilities. A great deal of skill was required to service, maintain and test these aircraft and their weaponry, and a member of the team, Don Aris, later compiled a detailed Squadron History which is held at the RAF Museum at Hendon.

After the war Graham decided his future lay in civil aviation and on joining British European Airways, he was posted to Jersey, where much work lay ahead in the development of the airport after the German occupation of the Channel Islands. He was involved in an intensive programme of pilot training, as continental and domestic routes were opened up, and he gained flying experience with aircraft such as the Dakota, the Viscount and the Trident. In 1959/60 Graham was posted to Manchester, where Ringway Airport was in the early stages of its development. New terminal facilities opened in 1962, heralding continued expansion into the international airport there today. BEA merged with BOAC to become British Airways and Graham eventually became Flight Manager of the Super One-Eleven European Division at Manchester. A memorable occasion for him was in 1975 when he was invited to fly a Super One-Eleven into RAF Church Fenton during an air display, having last flown from there in 1943 whilst undergoing advanced night-fighter training.

Graham retired from British Airways in 1979 with more than 17,000 flying hours to his credit. He and his wife Jan, whom he had met and married whilst both were stationed in Cornwall in 1942, moved to Queensland, Australia to be nearer to their daughter Anne and her family. Both enjoyed an active outdoor life there. On their regular trips to the UK in the 1980s and 90s Graham spent many Saturday afternoons watching rugby and cricket matches at the school field, where his nephew Guy Pilgrim was a participant. He keenly followed the development of BMS during those years.

Jan supported Graham wholeheartedly throughout his career and he cared for her devotedly during a long period of ill health. In later years he was fortunate to enjoy a happy second marriage with Dianna and they welcomed many old friends to their home in Brisbane. Graham very much felt that he had been privileged to play a part in the 'golden age' of British aviation. In possession of a vivid memory and a fund of anecdotes, he was ever mindful of the loss of so many of his contemporaries at such a young age during the war years. He was especially proud of his great-grandson Luke, who is a helicopter pilot with the RAAF, and his great-granddaughter Gemma, a recently qualified nurse. Graham will be greatly missed by family and friends both in Australia and the UK.'



# Obituaries

## Leslie Dilley 1938-45

East House, died 01 September 2018.

Les's daughter, Pippa Atkinson writes: 'Les Dilley died aged 90 at his home in Bristol. He lived his early years in India where his father had a military posting. He returned to Britain to live in Bedford and attended Bedford Modern School for his entire education, becoming Head Boy in his final year.

He left school to join up and became an officer in the Army, but he decided to leave to study at Loughborough and pursue his love of rugby, which he then continued, playing first-class rugby at Bedford Rugby Club.

Les's career was mostly in the timber trade, but it was his passion for sport and his overwhelming love for his family that inspired his life.

Les was survived by a much-loved and loving wife, Liz, two daughters and three grandchildren - all of whom adored him for his unbounded generosity and quirky sense of humour.'

## Rosemary Elizabeth Tubman Staff 1963-78

Died 26 October 2018.

Rosemary's son, Karl Reynolds (1967-1977) writes: 'Rosemary died peacefully at home in Wells, Somerset on 26 October 2018. My mother, better known to everyone at BMS as Liz Reynolds, was the Headmaster's secretary from c1963 to c1978. During those years she worked alongside Mr J E Taylor, Mr B Kemball-Cook and Mr P Squire in what were very significant years in the school's history. I think for her the most memorable events during

those years were the school's move from Harpur Street to Manton Lane in 1974, when I remember, somewhat embarrassedly, marching through the streets of the town, and the visit of the Queen to officially open the new school building in 1976.

My mother worked with Mr Kemball-Cook during his entire tenure as Headmaster and she always had many happy memories of the staff team - both the teachers and other administrative staff and she kept in touch with many of them right up until her death. Although my brother, Gary, probably found my Mother's proximity to the Head and Deputy Head slightly more disconcerting than I did her knowledge of and friendship with the school staff was never too nerve wracking for us both! Although she went on to work very successfully in several local businesses in St. Neots and then in London after leaving the school, I think that her time at BMS was genuinely the working environment that she enjoyed the most.

My mother was always interested in my BMS friends and Mark Johnson, Andrew Hawkins and Russell Matcham, all OBMs from my time at the school, joined me to celebrate her life at the Mendip Crematorium on 14 November 2018.'



## Maurice Webb 1935-41

Died 15 August 2018, aged 93.

Maurice Webb, was a local fruit and vegetable merchant and a popular committee man at Bedford Rugby Club in the 1970s and 80s.

Less well known was the fact that he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal, the Atlantic Star and the Legion D'Honneur, by the government of France, for his bravery in the Second World War.



Maurice James Webb was born in Willington on 24 August 1924, the son of Jack, a wholesale fruit and vegetable merchant, and his wife Lily. After the local primary, he won a place at Bedford Modern School where he excelled at Maths and was keen on rugby. He was 15 when war broke out and he joined the Home Guard, looking after the railway station on the Bedford to Bletchley line. He enlisted in the RAF in the summer of 1941 by saying he was 18. No one, of course, checked.

Barely 20 years old in August 1944 he was navigating a Mosquito after an attack on German shipping in the Gironde estuary when his aircraft was hit. One engine was totally incapacitated and, with the other struggling, young Maurice and his pilot bailed out before the plane crashed.

He landed in an orchard and lay quiet until dawn when he was found by a cyclist (replete with beret and onions) and looked after by a farmer and his family. His pilot was also rescued and the pair made it back to England under cover of darkness in a small boat after help from the French resistance.

Soon the pair were back in the air attacking enemy vessels in the Norwegian fjords – a dangerous mission because there was only one way in and one out.

Maurice Webb rarely spoke about the war in his business life or at the Blues where once he was the stadium announcer and chairman of the social committee which he ran with his wife Hazel who he met at the club and who survives him after 67 years of marriage. He was honoured by the Blues and made a Life Member.

At the service of thanksgiving held at the Bedford Crematorium in Norse Road on 06 September, his son Vaughan filled in the gaps of his war time story, saying: "He told me he had never been so scared in his life. I am very proud to have his medals at home."

By way of a postscript to the 1944 crash landing, Vaughan told how he and his father returned to Brittany and met the family who looked after him following the crash landing. The farmer's daughter presented Maurice with the silk from his parachute which she had used for her own wedding dress. Maurice in turn donated it to the World War Two Experience Centre in Leeds.

After the war he took over the family business which involved getting up at 3.30am and driving up to Rugby with a lorry load of produce to supply local greengrocers. It was a business that flourished until the arrival of aggressive supermarkets in the 1980s.

The respect in which Maurice was held at the Blues was clear by the number of former Life Members, players and administrators present at the service, including Budge Rogers, Tod Slaughter and Gareth Davies. The entrance music was the RAF March Past. Banners were carried by members of the Bedford branch of the British Legion and of the Royal Air Force.

## Michael Edward Layzell

1953-62

North House, died 28 August 2018.



Michael Edward Layzell, David Jones, Alan Brown, Stephen Ogle.

Michael's friend David Jones writes: 'This is, in part, an obituary of our friend Michael and partly a memoir of our times together. Michael passed away shortly after his 74th birthday. Of course, he was never Michael at School, just Layzell, because in those far distant days every one was addressed by their surname, although Michael may have been on the School roll as Layzell major, since his younger brother, Alastair, was also at the School; it is only in recent years that we have become comfortable using first names.

In brief, Michael joined BMS in the Junior School and probably skipped a year when moving up into Senior School and then progressed steadily in the A streams until, in the sixth form, he concentrated on Maths and Physics, winning a State Scholarship which took him to Imperial College London and a degree in Maths. After his degree in 1965, Michael spent a year working for Voluntary Community Service Wales as the coordinator for youth groups in Cardiff and during that time decided to go into social work. After completing a diploma in social and administrative studies at Barnet House in Oxford in 1967, he became a child care officer in Tower Hamlets, London, and by 1971 was a senior social worker running the office in Spitalfields. In 1976 he moved to

Brent becoming the youngest Assistant Director in the country, staying there until 1986 when he moved to Hertfordshire as Area Director. He retired in 1996.

Michael's year in Cardiff in 1966 did more than just change his career from Maths to social work, it was also when he met Julie and the two married in April 1969, living near Ilford; two sons were born in 1972 and 1975.

In 2002 Michael and Julie moved from London to a house in Wales near Chepstow and became immersed in improving the house and extensive grounds as well as being deeply involved in village life. Michael became the logistics officer of the village committee, organising a range of very ambitious events.

So, what of the school years? In the 1950/60s BMS was a world of wet mackintoshes, long corridors and absolute silence in the Memorial Hall, ruled over by the headmaster, JE Taylor (JET), who seemed, even at the time, to be a caricature of an Edwardian Headmaster. Then, as now, examination results mattered to the academic reputation of the school and none more so than the entrance examinations to Oxbridge. Around the time we were in the third year it was decided that it would be a good idea to push some of the brighter boys into taking O Levels a year earlier so they could spend a third year in the sixth form preparing for the entrance examinations. Academically it was probably a success and certainly in Michael's case he gained a prestigious State Scholarship, but it also had a big influence on our lives in other ways. Because the school year pays no attention to birthdays there is always a range of ages in a class so, for some statistical reason, a bunch of us ended up with our standard three A levels at the age of 16 and the prospect of another two years before we could go to University; some of that time was spent preparing for entrance and scholarship examinations but two years is a long time at that age. The obvious answer would be a gap year, but they had not yet been invented, so we were pretty much left to our own devices. We were all scouts, this

# Obituaries

being the more civilised alternative to the compulsory CCF, and we formed a small group that later turned in to a Rovers Crew, with the help and guidance of two scout masters, Len Halstead and Peter Dean.

Our activities included pretty much everything, and more, that is covered in the present School's outdoor activities and Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme. In addition to good works there was help with the Scout troop on field days and summer camps hiking in Germany and an expedition to the Cairngorms, the latter with the objective of being the first ever to launch a canoe on Loch Avon. There was also a lot of hitch-hiking to Snowdonia and, in our final year, a camping and climbing expedition to Kandersteg in Switzerland. The weeks after examinations and before the end of term were virtually free and, in the Summer Edition of *The Eagle* (1962), Michael writes: '...a small party of us went climbing in Wales; then moving across to the Peak District, returned via Coventry to visit the new Cathedral...' In the Peak District we were heading to Edale where we had been camping and climbing before and, on this occasion, Michael was driving his Father's car, presumably only very

recently having passed his test. Edale lies at the bottom of a steep hill and, at the top it was suggested that to save petrol Michael could turn off the engine and coast down but, of course, with no engine braking we went faster and faster ending half way up a grass bank by the side of the road in a cloud of burning brake linings, shaken, stirred, and laughing nervously.

Those two years were both enjoyable and formative in that we learned how to organise, have fun and take responsibility, despite the incident at Edale, and Michael was at the forefront of it all with a particular talent for organisation and lists.

After leaving school we went our separate ways until, 40 years later, we had a reunion, the Rovers Return, and have continued to meet every year. We will miss Michael now but will be forever grateful that we knew him back then when we were emerging into the wider world and learned the one important lesson of life; never coast downhill.'

Pictured below: Alan Brown, Len Halstead, Stephen Ogle, Michael Edward Layzell, David Jones and David Bonham.




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## Russell Berrington

1939-49

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South House, died 28 September 2018.



Simon Berrington, Russell's eldest son writes: 'Russell William Austin Berrington died aged 87. He enjoyed his school days, gaining his school colours in the water polo first team. Russell told us about the school long swim he did, which amazingly was to swim in the river between the Town Bridge and the Suspension Bridge.

After school he did his national service in the RAF and upon completion joined the Ordnance Survey; training in Southampton, and then working and making maps in Leicester and Norwich.

Russell met his wife to be at this time and within a few years they were engaged and married in September 1956.

Following maps, Russell turned to planes, coming back to Bedford in 1954 to work for the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Thurleigh. The following year he moved to the Aircraft Research Association (ARA) as an Aerodynamacist. Known as Russ at work he made many friends and remained with the company until retirement in 1991. He travelled to Norway, Italy and Germany on aero projects too secret to discuss with the family.



Russell played hockey and cricket for ARA and for many years Alma and Russell enjoyed playing Badminton at Shire Hall Badminton Club, Bradgate Road.

In 1963 Simon was born and James came along in late 1964. Family holidays are a source of cherished memories for them all. Half term holidays in the Lake District, in mixed weather, were a regular event. Dad's pockets always contained polo mints or Kendall mint cake if two small boys were very lucky. Summer meant the beaches of Wales, Devon and Cornwall and then later camping in France.

Moving into Larkway in Brickhill, Bedford in 1969 meant lots of gardening and DIY along the years. Simon and James remember the abundance of Sunday bonfires, cooking potatoes in the fire and 'helping Dad', along with the amazing go-kart he made for them. Being a Grandfather was also a great joy to Russell; he was able to show Izabel and Imogen how to dig and eat carrots fresh from the garden just as he had done with Simon and James.

Russell was Chairman of the St Andrews Scout Group and for many years ran jumble sales and barn dances to fund-raise for the scouts. Both Russell and Alma stayed close to Scouting and up until a few years ago were on the Scout Shop rota at Putnoe. As well as walking holidays with family, Mum and Dad were members of the ARA Walking Group and Rothsay Ramblers, leading walks around Bedfordshire and travelling the country on walking holidays. A pub lunch was the welcome reward at the end of a walk. Once retired Mum and Dad travelled a lot both in the UK and abroad.

Dad had a fall at home in 2015 which resulted in a bleed on the brain, surgery followed and whilst recovering much of his old self and humour his mobility was never the same. Continued health problems since have meant he developed a lot of new friends at the hospital.

A move to retirement housing at Miller Place in Putnoe was long in the planning, but Russell was only able to spend one night at the new apartment. An infection in his eye, which turned into sepsis, nearly got the better of him, but he recovered and moved to Airedale nursing home enjoying his view of Bedford Park from his window.

Russell and Alma were lucky enough to have shared 62 very happy years of marriage - something of which they were both very proud.

Russell was a man with great generosity of spirit, he valued everyone and treated all who crossed his path with warmth, kindness and respect. He always saw the good in people and we have never heard him say a bad word about anyone.

He is survived by his wife Alma, his son Simon and his wife Kay, his son James and his partner David. His grandchildren Izabel, Imogen, Lottie and Ben, and his great grandchildren Isaac, Micah and Emily.'



## Stephen J Lawson

1967-74

East House, died suddenly on 20 July 2018.

This tribute, written by Richard Claridge (Staff 1967-2000), incorporates contributions from Garry Boon (1963-74), David Breeze (1963-74), Paul Stekelis (1963-73), and Mike Wickham (1963-74).

Richard writes: 'Steve came to BMS via the 11+ in September 1967. As a First Former, with a quizzical, erudite manner that remained an endearing characteristic throughout his life, he wrote imaginative stories that in their content and literary style reflected the remarkable range of his reading. One of these was published in *The Eagle* with a footnote from the editor; 'The author is twelve years old'. This was the first of frequent contributions from him in prose, verse and drawings that appeared in the magazine over the next seven years. His flair with words also found an outlet in debating and politics societies, which were his main interests outside the classroom. English was the subject he loved most, and it was fitting that he obtained a place at Wadham College, Oxford, to study English Language and Literature.

After university, Steve worked briefly in advertising in London, and then returned to his family home in Bedford, where he lived for the rest of his life. It saddened his many friends that he never found a suitable career to harness his talents, but there were occasions when these were memorably deployed, such as when he gave a best man's speech, full of humour and insight, at a friend's wedding, or a moving eulogy at a funeral. His Catholic faith was important to him and he took pride in being a godparent. The interest he showed at school in politics and debate was life-long. He joined the Social Democratic Party soon after it was launched and went on to be closely involved with Bedford Liberal Democrats up to his death. His knowledge of politics was encyclopaedic.

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Steve's greatest gift was his ability to nurture and maintain friendships. While at Oxford, he frequently visited OBM contemporaries at Cambridge, to find out how they were coping with student life. Reciprocally, he arranged for them to visit him, to meet and exchange ideas with his university friends, and to experience Oxford ways. In the role of diplomat and cultural ambassador, he was in his element. For the rest of his life, he was at the centre of a web of relationships connecting people around the country. He was always phoning, writing, visiting, arranging gatherings, often acting as a catalyst between third parties, leading to friendships that would not otherwise have happened. Thoughtfulness towards his friends was apparent in the way he took the trouble to track down and procure for them books and articles that he knew would appeal to them. Widely read, he was a source of inspired and eclectic literary recommendations. His friends will always cherish the books he gave them.

Devotion to friendships was the essence of Steve, and the coming together of so many at his funeral on 28 September, 2018, embodied his legacy to us all.'

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## Harry Edward Feneley

1938-43

North House, died 28 January 2018 at the Malfings Care Home, Fakenham, Norfolk.

Mrs Aileen Fox, Harry's daughter writes: 'Harry was born on 20 September 1926 at Queens Park Bedford. He attended Bedford Modern School and lived all his life until 2014 in Bedford and Kempston apart from time in Derbyshire as a Bevin Boy. He moved in October 2014 to Fakenham to be nearer his daughter. A service followed by cremation was held at Mintlyn Crematorium on 23 February 2018 and a thanksgiving service held on Friday 06 April at Kempston East Methodist Church. His ashes were interred with those of his wife Cicely in the Church grounds.'

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## Christopher Lovell

1953-59



County House, died 13 October 2018.

Claire Perusko, Christopher's daughter writes: 'Christopher (Chris) was born on 08 March 1942 at home in Felmersham.

He attended the local village school passed the eleven plus and went to Bedford Modern School. He was a bright student and excelled at all sports but his favourites were rugby and rowing. He competed for the school for many years and also enjoyed running including the school's steeplechase. There is a video of him rowing the Great Ouse with his team on the BMS website.

At sixteen, he left school and got a job at Unilever research in the food technology department. He met Elizabeth, (Liz) a few years later and subsequently married and settled in Felmersham. He continued to work in food technology and processing. He carried on playing rugby for Colworth House.

Chris was offered a job at McVities, which meant a move to Oxfordshire, where their first child, Catherine was born. This was a new challenge to Chris in setting up a new factory and working in a different environment.

He continued to play rugby and to fish which was a great interest of his. They had twin girls and life was very busy! A move back to Bedfordshire, Chris worked as a factory manager in the food industry for a couple of firms in Milton Keynes and Bedford. Chris was diagnosed with MS in his mid-forties, this led to a gradual decline in his mobility but as a couple they still enjoyed life to the full especially holidays. They lived in Riseley and were active in the many clubs and societies the village offered. Liz worked back at Unilever and was there until her retirement.

The children eventually moved out and settled down, and Chris loved being a granddad to his six grandchildren. He enjoyed many holidays abroad especially on cruise ships and visited many countries, a favourite being the Caribbean and also a trip down the Suez Canal.

Chris was a great cook and enjoyed experimenting with different tastes and flavours and loved to cook for his family.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.'

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