

Eagle News



Issue 122 May 2021 - June 2022
The Magazine of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club



Year group reunions at the Founder's Dinner

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The Magazine of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club

Founded 1892

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May 2021 - June 2022

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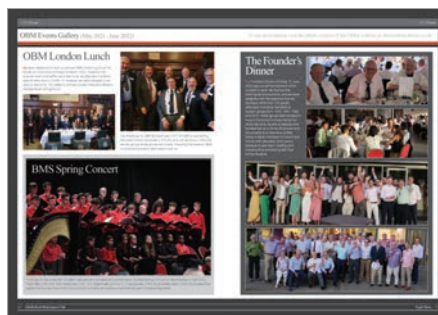
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Celebrating reunions between friends at the Founder's Dinner. See pictures on page 11.



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Letter from the Head

Alex Tate



I am delighted that life here at BMS has, in line with the rest of the country, returned to a post-pandemic 'normal.' It has been tremendous to reintroduce a full co-curricular programme, all manner of trips and activities out of school and to welcome visitors once again.

It's hard to believe that in August 2021, in the absence of public examinations, our A Level and GCSE students received grades which were once again generated by teachers using a range of evidence based on subject content delivered either in the classroom or online. We began the academic year in September by administering two coronavirus tests to our participating senior school students during the first week back, a feat which wouldn't have been possible without the help of a band of parents and staff. Twice-weekly LFD tests were still recommended, we continued to wear masks here at school and had to cancel large events. We had to restrict the number of visitors to our in-person Open Day in November and had measures in place to keep our visiting families, staff and students safe, and some events and activities continued online. Fast forward a few months and, despite fluctuating infection rates, we have learned, effectively, to live with COVID-19.

I thought I would take the opportunity to look back at just a fraction of the incredible successes we have celebrated throughout the past 12 months or so, some of which you will discover in more detail in the pages that follow.

In sport, our U11, U12, U13 and U14 netball teams were named County Champions following unbeaten paths to victory against some formidable opponents. The U16 rugby squad made it through to the second day of the National Schools Rugby Sevens tournament at Rosslyn Park after five

impressive wins. Our senior girls rowed their way into the BMS history books progressing to a second day at Henley Royal Regatta following impressive performances at Bedford and Star regattas and we have seen national representation in water polo.

On the stage, the production of *Made in Dagenham* received standing ovations every night with the accomplished musicians, dancers and actors in Years 11-13 displaying talent beyond their years. In May, a cast of more than 100 students in Years 7-10 delighted audiences with their spectacular performance of *Beauty and the Beast* which was made all the more impressive thanks to the incredible set and costumes. And the Junior School Christmas Concert involved every single student from Years 3 to 6, and it was clear to see how much they all enjoyed being a part of it. The countless music concerts, both large and small, formal and informal, have all been a joy.

I am always humbled by the commitment staff and students devote to supporting deserving causes, and to the BMS community for their incredible generosity. From the huge number of boxes of food and drink donated to the 'Christmas in a Box' appeal, to the 20 bags and boxes of sportswear collected for Kit Aid - a charity which recycles sports kit and distributes it to underprivileged children and adults in some of the poorest countries, the impact is enormous. Junior School Library monitors recently raised more than £200 for the Book Trust by selling off old library books and senior school students 'wore it blue' to raise money for brain tumour research charity Shay's Smiles as they celebrated the life of former student and for some, classmate, Shay Patel on what would have been his 15th birthday.

In May, a BMS team of ten students in Years 8 and 9, coached by a Sixth Form student won the online East Region FIRST® LEGO® League CARGO CONNECT Challenge against seven other schools. Their robot had to be composed entirely of standard LEGO® pieces, built around motors and sensors to allow the robot to be programmed to move and complete tasks. An astonishing accomplishment.

We had students across all age groups compete in national maths challenges and a group of talented Year 10 mathematicians won the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme Maths Feast in February. Sixth Form students challenged themselves in Physics, Chemistry and Maths Olympiads and did themselves and the school proud and two Year 12 students won the Commissioner's Cup at the debate finals of Bedfordshire's School Debating Competition run by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The House System goes from strength to strength and students participated in no less than 54 events this year including the hugely popular House Music competition, House Water Sports and Sports Day. Staff and students in Years 3-13 have enjoyed trips to Scotland, Wales, Norfolk and countless places in between. Some have learned survival skills as part of their DofE training or CCF participation and through them all they have made memories which will last a lifetime.

And finally, we were delighted that the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) once again rated BMS as 'excellent' in all areas this year, the highest grading possible, and I am extremely proud of what we have and continue to achieve here.

The BMS community is a very special one indeed and I am always so grateful to be a part of it. I was delighted that we were able to host several OBM events in person again during the past few months and I look forward to seeing many more of you in the weeks and months to come. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Eagle News* which, as always, is packed with news, features and memories from OBMs young and old.

With my very best wishes

Alex Tate
Headmaster

Become The Next *OBM Club* President

The President of the OBM Club is an honorary position which supports the External Relations Team in the management of the BMS alumni association. From Saturday 01 October 2022 we are inviting applications from our alumni for the position of OBM Club President for the period 2023-2025.

In the Memorandum of Understanding, which was put into place when the School took over the management of the OBM Club, certain criteria were stipulated regarding this appointment:

- The President will act as the figurehead for the OBM Club and serve a maximum two-year term of office. Upon appointment, the President will have the remit to engage or re-engage OBMs and help to support school fundraising campaigns.
- The President will have the necessary skills and attributes to act as a figurehead for the OBM Club and will be comfortable speaking in public.
- The President is required to attend certain events such as the Christmas Lunch, the Founder's Dinner and the London Lunch, and would be expected to attend others (which could be school events) where appropriate.

If you wish to be considered, please visit our website obmclub.bedmod.co.uk and fill out our online form.

Alternatively, you can write a supporting statement of no more than 500 words outlining your suitability for the post and email to externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk, or send it by post to Deborah Burrows, Alumni Relations Manager, Bedford Modern School, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7NT. This should include proposals on how you would personally be able to develop the OBM Club using your skills, expertise or connections.

Applications must be received by 12pm on Thursday 12 January 2023. Any received after this date and time will not be valid.

A shortlist will then be drawn up with help from the OBM Club Advisory Group based on the criteria outlined above. Shortlisted candidates will be featured on our website where the voting process will commence. It is customary that the incoming President takes up post at the Founder's Dinner in June so an announcement of the successful candidate will be made in advance of that date.

If you have any questions on the nature of this position and the commitment it entails, as well as any queries about the application process, then please contact

Julie Ridge, Director of External Relations on jridge@bedmod.co.uk.

"When it was suggested that I run for election as Club President I did not take long to decide to do so. It has been a very positive experience and rewarding in that the club enables OBMs to meet and reconnect. The School's staff are very efficient and helpful, so the post does not require a large commitment of time. As we return to normal events that were postponed over the last two years, my successor will be able to assist with these. I encourage OBMs to consider running. For me it has been a great honour to serve as OBM Club President."

Current OBM Club President Robin Wills (1960-69).



Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 10 December 2022 OBM Club Christmas Lunch

Friday 03 March 2023 OBM Club London Lunch

Friday 23 June 2023 The Founder's Dinner

Please be aware that these are subject to change

OBM Events Gallery (May 2021 - June 2022)

OBM's Live

On Thursday 13 May 2021 we held the ninth event in our OBM's Live series. On this occasion we were joined by former Director of Performing Arts Helen Rees-Bidder (1989-2014) who spoke about how she cultivated and managed the drama department during her time at the School. It was a funny, informative and engaging evening in which Helen shared fond memories of productions she staged throughout the years. Among the attendees were several members of a drama group Helen taught on Tuesday afternoons in 1990, named 'Not the CCF', in a parody of *Not the Nine O'Clock News*.



Focus on Finance

On Thursday 07 October 2021 we were joined by finance experts Chris McHugh (1975-1985), Josh Butten (2002-2010), Nicholas Luder (1993-2003), Louise Smith (2003-05), Rob Gaskell (1984-89) and Angharad Binnington (2006-08) for an online session open to BMS students and OBMs. Our panel answered a host of questions from students and shared their knowledge of the financial sector. Many of our students were interested in the qualifications and experience required to begin a career in finance, and the group gave extremely detailed and useful answers to these queries.



Careers Event

The annual BMS Careers Event for Sixth Form students took place on Thursday 24 June 2021, held online for the very first time. The afternoon featured 33 different sessions on topics ranging from apprenticeships and university pathways to specific career paths including finance, performance arts and medicine. Thank you to the 27 OBMs who kindly volunteered their time and expertise to speak with our students. If you are interested in getting involved with our career programme or mentoring current students or OBMs, please do get in touch with us on externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk.

OBM Events Gallery (May 2021 - June 2022)

OBM Christmas Events

Saturday 11 December 2021 saw the long-awaited return of our Christmas events.

Bruce Willey Memorial Match

The OBM team narrowly won a competitive game of rugby against the BMS 1st XV with a final score of 20-19. The OBM team captain Daniel Trott (2014-20) was presented with the Saunders Cup by John Saunders (1943-51), established by the Saunders family in 2019. Meanwhile Head of Rugby, Brett Richmond awarded the Bruce Willey Memorial Cup to Year 13 student Oliver Bridge for his performance during the game.



OBM vs Leavers Hockey

After a slightly delayed start as we took team photos and waited for the astro to thaw, our OBM vs Leavers hockey match was underway. The BMS 1st XI were victorious with a final score of 6-1, for which Year 13 student Grace Brady was presented with a brand new shield specially commissioned for this event.



To see more please visit the photo section of the OBM website at obmclub.bedmod.co.uk

OBM Christmas Lunch



The OBM Christmas Lunch was held in the Refectory, with guests welcomed by a group of BMS musicians performing some festive tunes. Everyone enjoyed catching up over a traditional Christmas lunch and we had a particularly special reunion table formed of the 1961 1st XV, known as 'The Invincibles' during their time at school for their fantastic and largely unbeaten game record.



OBM Events Gallery (May 2021 - June 2022)

OBM Sporting Events

In the spring of 2022, a host of OBM sporting events took place both inside and outside of school. Our thanks go to the BMS staff members and OBMs who acted as representatives for these events and ensured that they ran smoothly with the help of the External Relations Team.

OBM Water Polo was the first to take place on Saturday 12 March. OBMs came from far and wide to play, and it was a competitive and enjoyable afternoon as always, organised by Head of Swimming and Water Polo, Ashley Bygraves and Mark Bullerwell (1982-90).

OBM Hockey and Football followed on Friday 25 March, the last day of the spring term. There was a great turnout and we were lucky to enjoy beautiful weather for both events, followed by refreshments in the King Room.

OBM Rowing and Race Day took place on Saturday 09 April. This day consisted of several groups racing along a 400m course between the Suspension Bridge and the Butterfly Bridge along the River Great Ouse, followed by a two-course meal in the Bedford Swan Hotel. It was lovely to see so many OBMs and current students enjoying a day of rowing together, and our thanks to Mike Biggs (1991-2001) for his efforts in organising the day.

OBM Golf Day rounded off these events, occurring on Saturday 23 April at Bedford and County Golf Club. This was the reestablishment of the OBM Golf Society, which had been in a several-year hiatus. 33 OBMs played for prizes in categories such as 'nearest the pin' and 'longest drive', as well as two prestigious trophies: the Arthur Jones Rosebowl and the Ron Gale Cup. The former was won by Joshua Johnson (2007-15) while the latter was claimed by Paul Wildman (1981-91), Richard Ebbs (1955-61) and Tony Wildman (1960-67) were instrumental in steering this event and organising scorecards, teams and communications to players.



Water Polo



Water Polo

To see more please visit the photo section of the OBM website at obmclub.bedmod.co.uk



Football



Hockey



Rowing



Golf



Golf

OBM Events Gallery (May 2021 - June 2022)

OBM London Lunch

We were delighted to host our annual OBM Club London Lunch at the House of Commons on Friday 04 March 2022. Tickets for this popular event sold within just a few hours, as attendee numbers were limited due to COVID-19. However we were pleased to be able to welcome 120 OBMs for a three-course meal and drinks in the Members' Dining Room.



We would like to thank OBM Richard Fuller (1971-81) MP for sponsoring the event and Paul Nash (1973-80) and James Stonor (1990-95) whose groups kindly sponsored tickets, meaning that several OBMs in full-time education were able to join us.

BMS Spring Concert



A collection of OBM musicians and vocalists performed a varied repertoire in the BMS Spring Concert on Wednesday 27 April 2022. Robin Wills (1960-69), Alan Seabrooke (1961-70), Sage Ruskin (2014-21), Craig Beedie (1960-68) and Mike Ayles (1963-70) showed their support by joining the school choir, school orchestra and various ensemble groups.

To see more please visit the photo section of the OBM website at obmclub.bedmod.co.uk

The Founder's Dinner

The Founder's Dinner on Friday 17 June 2022 was our last formal event of the academic year. We themed this evening around reunions, and we were delighted with the response that we received. More than 120 guests attended, including members of reunion groups from 1972, 1981, 1982 and 2012. These groups were treated to tours of the School conducted by our Senior Monitors, as well as displays and booklets set up to show off pictures and documents from their time at BMS. Many notable members of current and former staff attended, and it was a pleasure to see them chatting and enjoying time reminiscing with their former students.



Tom's Medical Essay Wins OBM Scholarship

On Wednesday 21 April Sixth Form student Tom Piccolo was announced as the winner of the 2021 Robert Luff Medical Essay Scholarship. The scholarship was established by OBM Robert Luff CBE (1925-30) to support BMS students interested in Medicine as a career. Each year the competition is open to Year 12 students who are invited to submit an essay on a chosen topic.

Tom's essay, entitled 'What ethical issues must we consider when tackling childhood obesity?', was chosen by OBM Dr Sarah Long (2011-13) from the five essays submitted. The scholarship offers a prize of £1,000 deducted from each of the two years of Sixth Form school fees.

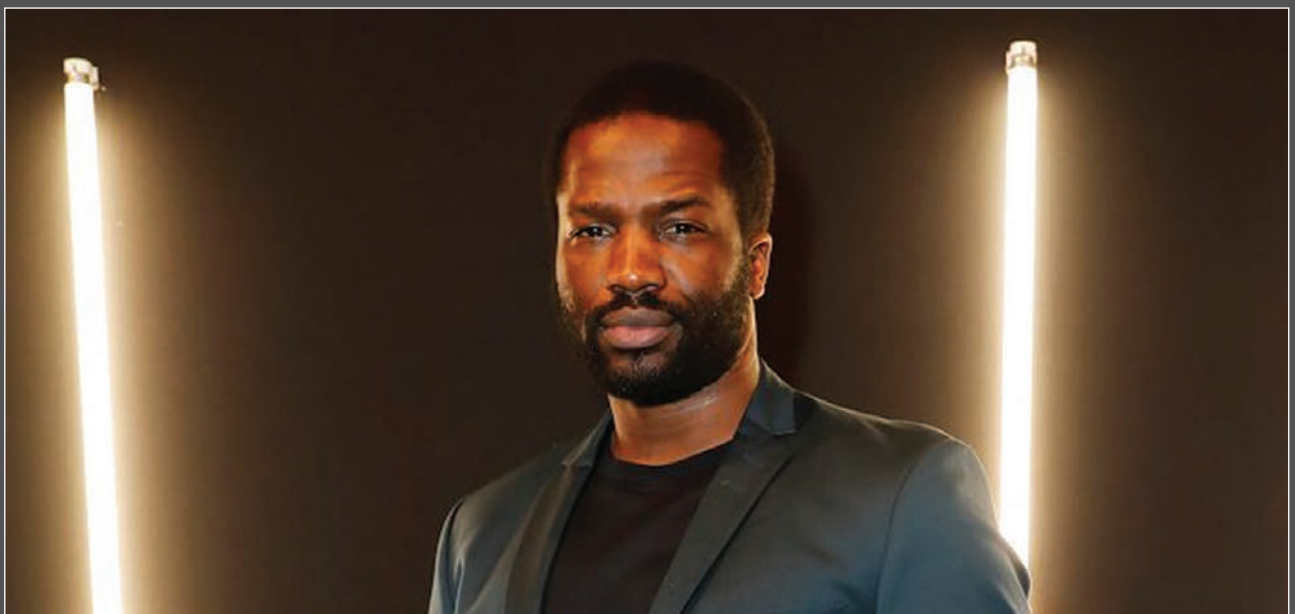
Dr Long commented: "Tom's essay was extremely well written, and he has clearly thought about the ethical principles extensively and made it his clear focus throughout. Congratulations and I wish him all the best with his future career."



Şopé Dirisù Shines on the Silver Screen

OBM Şopé Dirisù (2002-09) has had an extremely successful year, starring in three major motion pictures: *Mothering Sunday*, a romantic drama starring Olivia Coleman and Colin Firth adapted from Graham Swift's critically acclaimed novella, apocalyptic Christmas comedy *Silent Night* and science fiction thriller *Tides*. In 2022, he plays a lead role in *Mr Malcolm's List*, directed by Emma Holly-Jones, as well as reprising his role as Elliot Finch in the critically acclaimed Sky Atlantic series *Gangs of London*.

We were delighted that Şopé could make time in his busy schedule to attend our production of *Beauty and the Beast* and see some of the young dramatic talent being nurtured in the School.



Segun Akinola wins ASCAP Award

Congratulations to OBM Segun Akinola (2003-10) who was awarded an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Screen Music Award for the Top Rated Television Series category in 2021. This is a well-deserved recognition for his work as a composer of the music for *Doctor Who*.

It was lovely to see Segun in October when he kindly volunteered his time to return to the School and adjudicate our annual House Music competition. This was also the first time that one of the pieces performed in this event was required to be an original composition by students.



Matthew Appointed as Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet

Year 13 student Matthew Brewer was appointed as one of the seven Bedfordshire Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets for 2021/22 in a commissioning ceremony which took place at BMS on Monday 01 November 2021.

In this role, Matthew supports the Lord-Lieutenant in carrying out her duties as HM The Queen's representative for Bedfordshire. His selection and appointment acknowledges his outstanding contribution to the cadet service and to the community.

The BMS CCF Contingent Commander explained why Matthew was such a deserving recipient of this honour in his citation, stating that: "Sgt Brewer is an ardent supporter of the CCF and has taken part in all types of training, from adventure training in the Lake District to military skills training and annual camps. He is working towards his Silver Duke of

Edinburgh Award and has been active in his local community during the pandemic."

OBM and former Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet Rachel Radley (2012-17) also attended the ceremony, in which she gave a speech about her year of service. She added: "I met people from all over the country and learnt excellent communication and public speaking skills. I think it is crucial as a cadet to try anything that pushes you outside of your comfort zone."



Multiple Dance Accolades for Alyssia

In April 2022, Year 7 student Alyssia Power was accepted to the Mid Associate programme at the Royal Ballet School, alongside several other fantastic dance achievements.

The Mid Associate programme has just 75 spaces available to the whole country and receives at least 1,000 applications each year. Alyssia's audition for this took place in Birmingham in November 2021 alongside 50 other students, a process which lasted more than an hour. Now that she has been successful, she will attend additional Saturday morning classes at Birmingham Royal Ballet Studios to hone her exceptional dance abilities.

Alyssia was informed in May that she had also been successful in her two rounds of auditions to be part of the 2022 Residential Performance Company for the National Youth Ballet. The group will be performing at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham and Sadler's Wells, London following an intensive two-week training period.

As well as these achievements, Alyssia has been asked to join the Academy of Balletic Arts from September 2022. This is a vocational programme that offers further training to students who show potential for a career in ballet, run at the renowned Pineapple Dance Studios.

At BMS, she takes tap classes and is soon to start modern and jazz. In March 2022, she performed in the Year 7-10 production of *Beauty and the Beast*, showing off her skills in a series of complex dance numbers.

Alyssia said: "I was over the moon to find out that I got into the Mid Associate Programme and the Residential Performance Company. The standard of the dancers at auditions was very high, especially at the final audition for the National Youth Ballet. I felt such a pump of energy and joy when I found out about both programmes, and I can't wait to start."



Royal Academy Artistic Debut for John Lloyd

Painter and printmaker John Lloyd (1960-69) has had one of his works, *Dead Trees Pointing Accusingly at the Sun*, accepted for the 2022 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. The theme for the exhibition is climate, and his painting was inspired by the sight of a field of rapeseed when travelling near the Worcestershire village of Belbroughton in April 2021.

It is an expressive landscape wherein the yellow is a metaphor for global warming and climate change. Acrylic paints are layered thickly onto a canvas board over a base colour, then scraped back before fully dry to expose the underlayers of paint.

More of John's work can be found on Instagram: [@johnlloyd_quantrylane_art](#).



NCO Selection for BMS Sisters

Sisters Catriona and Evelyn Piper were offered places in the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain (NCO) Under 12's Orchestra and Main Orchestra respectively towards the end of 2021.

Catriona, Year 7, initially auditioned for the NCO Projects, a lower-level programme for those hopeful to be selected for the Orchestras in the future. However, the panel were so impressed with her audition video that they immediately offered her a place to play percussion in the Under 12's Orchestra.

Year 9 harpist Evelyn has been a member of the NCO for the past three years, but all members are required to re-audition annually and competition is very strong, particularly for the Main Orchestra. As well as being in the NCO Evelyn will also continue her membership of the National Youth Harp Orchestra of Great Britain and will study at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music Junior Academy.

The sisters will be studying with some of the best young musicians in the UK and will receive expert tuition from leading instrumental teachers and conductors. Both have also enjoyed residential weeks with the Orchestras over the 2022 Easter holiday, culminating in public performances.



Victory at OPCC Debating Competition

On Tuesday 29 March 2022, Year 12 students Samuel Manning and Zak Mounter took first place in the inaugural Schools Debating competition, hosted by the Office of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Current Police and Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye, pledged to launch this annual debating competition prior to his election in late 2021.

The competition took place over three rounds and saw students competing from Bedford Modern School, Sharnbrook Academy, Mark Rutherford School, Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Stockwood Park Academy, Redborne Upper School, Chiltern Academy and Icknield High School. The initial two rounds took place over Zoom, and the subsequent feedback allowed Zak and Sam to improve their technique, time management and critical thinking skills.

Stuart Baker, Head of Politics at BMS, said: "I was very impressed with the way our students conducted themselves throughout. I believe the initial rounds were an excellent way of garnering experience at public speaking in an online space, which will only become more commonplace in the future."

The final round took place at Bedford Magistrates Court, which meant that the students involved could experience debating in a

real-life parliamentary setting. The proposed motion was a contentious topic in a tricky format, in which the speakers were given six minutes to argue their position, but were free to be questioned by their opposition between minutes two and five.

Of this experience, Zak said: "We both felt nervous and did not expect such a large and full room with so many people involved. It was most definitely a tough debate with the opposition providing a strong emotional argument. I was over the moon when we won and really pleased to have taken part in such a tough challenge which developed our skills quite clearly round on round."

Festus Akinbusoye was quoted as saying: "The competition was a great spectacle of what our young people are capable of when given the opportunity. I am very passionate about giving young people the chance to develop not only their public speaking skills, but also their self-esteem and more importantly giving them the ability to talk about a topic from different angles – which they have demonstrated they can do very well."

The boys secured The Commissioner's Cup and a £500 prize for the School, which they hope to use to establish a reward for a future BMS debating competition.



Rory Hampson's Breakthrough Cancer Research



Rory Hampson (2006-12) completed his PhD research on 'Elasticity Mapping for Breast Cancer Diagnosis using Tactile Imaging and Auxiliary Sensor Fusion' at the University of Strathclyde in May 2021.

This involved the design and development of handheld breast imaging technology, based on touch sensors (akin to the touch screen of a mobile phone) which can detect breast lesions before they are evident to a person.

The aim with this type of scanner is to provide a more comfortable experience for patients, and to reduce the rate of unnecessary biopsies administered because of inconclusive test results as a result of standard X-ray mammography.

His research has solved several key problems in the field, including error control and repeatability between scans for lesion tracking over time and forming a complete view of the breast from multiple incomplete views whilst the patient is moving.

Rory is now a professional researcher at the university, and a research engineer at Pressure Profile Systems where he is looking into non-invasive blood pressure monitoring using tactile sensors in order to replace brachial cuffs.

Whistle Player Adam Named All Britain Champion



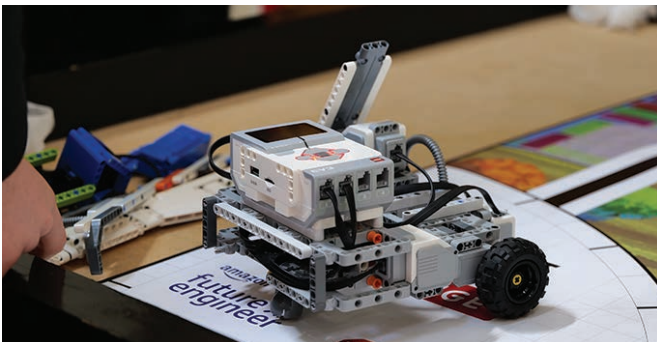
Year 10 student Adam Lloyd was named All Britain Champion for whistle playing in the 15-18 age group at the 2021 All Britain Fleadh, the national competition for traditional Irish music. He also won two silver medals for slow air playing on both whistle and flute and a bronze for his flute playing.

Triumph at Regional Robotics Competition

On Thursday 05 May 2022, a group of BMS students won an online East Region FIRST® LEGO® League CARGO CONNECT Challenge against seven other schools.

The FIRST® LEGO® League, established in 1998, is a programme which promotes participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects to children aged 4-16. Every year there is a new theme to the competition, and this year's was CARGO CONNECT. This challenged the students to imagine innovative solutions to real transportation issues, by designing a robot to complete a set of transport-themed challenges on a regulation game board before a panel of judges.

The BMS team comprised ten students in Years 8 and 9, coached by Year 12 student and robotics enthusiast Edwin. Their robot had to be composed entirely of standard LEGO® pieces, built around motors and sensors which enabled the robot to be programmed to move and complete tasks. They were also sent the LEGO® pieces required to make up the different missions on the board. Within their allotted two and a half minutes, the students completed six missions to a high standard, scoring 215 points overall.



Of this process, Edwin explained: "The group went through many iterations to improve their design. Their first designs were fragile and would sometimes even break between sessions, but this was a great opportunity for them to learn through rebuilding. They made a much stronger model, which they eventually used in the final competition."

Catherine Benson, Teacher of Design Technology at BMS, said: "It was so rewarding to see the students working together to accomplish this task. They worked extremely hard, and they were over the moon when they heard their final score. I was particularly impressed with how Edwin conducted himself, acting as a speaker for the entire group when discussing their final results with the judges."



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, we shared historic footage from our School Archive of the Royal Visit to BMS on Tuesday 11 May 1976. The Queen, along with His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, unveiled a commemorative plaque which can still be seen in our main Reception area, toured the School and met staff and students along the way. She concluded her visit by planting an English Oak on the grass verge in the middle of the gyatory. Our School Archivist also created a display documenting the visit which stood in the Refectory for students to peruse.

Celebrations took place across the School: students received assemblies on the topic and enjoyed themed food at lunchtime. The Junior School students particularly enjoyed themselves, playing games and having afternoon tea on the lawn in their finest dress. They were even visited by BMS royalty - the Headmaster's PA Julie Saunders - dressed as the Queen! They conducted their festivities with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem from the Junior School Orchestra and a Year 5 and 6 House Quiz on what they had learned about our monarchy.



Clean Sweep for BMS Mathematicians

In November 2021, Year 13 students Vithush Sivaharan and Luke Barton qualified for the UK Mathematics Trust Olympiad following their successful entries into the Senior Maths Challenge. This put them in the top 1,000 students in the UK. A further ten students qualified for the Senior Kangaroo, a follow-on round which placed them in the top 7,000 students in the country.

In the spring term, 100 students in Years 9-11 took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, an annual examination which requires the use of mathematical reasoning and techniques to solve interesting and difficult problems. Between them, the students achieved 21 gold, 27 silver and 29 bronze certificates. 27 students qualified for

the next round, putting them in the top 8,000 nationally.

Following this, a group of talented BMS mathematicians won the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP) Maths Feast, held at Longdean School in Herfordshire, on Monday 21 February 2022.

The Maths Feast is a competition for Year 10 students, designed to challenge young mathematicians with several rounds of both recreational and traditional maths problems. On this occasion, 15 teams of four participated from schools nationwide.

Eight BMS students attended in two teams, along with their teachers Mrs Fisher and Mr Millar. The students were selected as they had previously demonstrated exemplary mathematical and problem-solving abilities. Dheethya, Afsheen, Jonathan and Dominic (pictured) were the overall winning team on the day, even scoring an outstanding 100% in one of the rounds.



Success in Chemistry and Physics Olympiads

In February 2022, a group of Year 13 physicists entered the British Physics Olympiad along with more than 2,000 students across the country. Between them, they came away with two Gold awards, four Bronze 1, three Bronze 2 and one commendation. Ella Foley received a coveted Top Gold award, meaning she was just one of 170 students to advance to the next round.

The following month, 13 Sixth Form students received certificates for their participation in the notoriously challenging Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad. Year 13 student Simon Harrison achieved Gold, and four Year 12 students achieved Bronzes and Silvers, despite being only in their first year of A Level study.





James Secures Musical Theatre Place at RWCMD

Talented BMS singer and actor, James Probert, has been offered one of only 18 places to study Musical Theatre at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD), the National Conservatoire of Wales from September 2022. Launched in 2021, the three-year undergraduate programme offers students an intensive and immersive training experience covering acting, singing, dance and creative skills enabling them to enter and influence the world of music, theatre and related professions.

During his time at BMS, James has embraced every opportunity offered to him by the Performing Arts and Music faculties, which is where his growing passion for Musical Theatre began and has flourished. He has been in every production he could and most recently played the part of Harold Wilson in the Year 11-13 production of *Made in Dagenham*. He has sung in the school choirs from Year 3 and this year he also sung with the Groove Collective, the BMS Jazz Quintet and the acclaimed Year 13 Vocal Quartet, performing at festivals and other events locally. In 2021 he earned the highest result anyone has achieved so far at

BMS for the London College of Music's Diploma in Performance (DipLCM), and he holds a Grade 8 LAMDA acting qualification.

Mary Perry, Director of Music at BMS, explained: "What is so impressive about James is his versatility both as a singer and as an actor which is why he is so suited to musical theatre. His commitment and enthusiasm are second to none and it's been a delight to be a part of his development. We are very proud of all of his achievements and he will be hugely missed. I am thrilled that he is pursuing a course in Musical Theatre and look forward to following his journey over the next few years."

James added: "For me this really is an opportunity of a lifetime and I am so excited to be able to pursue something that I am so passionate about at somewhere as prestigious as RWCMD. The staff here at BMS gave me the confidence to apply as I have only ever sung, acted and taken qualifications here at school. It is thanks to the co-curricular programme that I am in the position I am today. BMS is an incredible place and the teachers have always encouraged and supported me to follow my dream."

Thomas Saunders Joins NFU Programme

At the end of 2021, Thomas Saunders (2008-19) was chosen as one of 14 farmers to join the National Farmers' Union (NFU) Young Farmer Ambassador Programme. The programme, which is in its third year, received more than 100 applications in 2022 and its selected ambassadors will now work to represent the sector both to the public and the union.

Brought up in a farming family, Thomas has always had an interest in agriculture, and having undertaken a degree in Rural

Enterprise and Land Management he now wants to promote sustainable farming practices in his work.

There are many ways this can be done. For instance, precision agriculture is an increasingly popular method whereby GPS tractor guidance systems ensure that tractors are working efficiently in fields and not covering the same area twice. The use of technology can also guarantee that crops receive the optimum amount of fertiliser or pesticides, rather than simply

applying the same amount across the whole field, which means that the overall amount applied is reduced.

Tom commented: "I would encourage everyone to think seasonally about their food. This will help to reduce the number of food miles that your meal has travelled. Eat asparagus, strawberries and blueberries only in the summer months, and look for frozen fruits in the winter as these are more likely to be homegrown. When it comes to red meat, I would encourage buying British produce, as the emissions from UK beef production are less than half of the global average. You can also look out for the Red Tractor logo when you are buying food in supermarkets, because this ensures that your food has been kept to high animal welfare and environmental standards.

"You can still enjoy the food you love, whilst being confident that you are choosing the most sustainable option."



Ben Scoops National Animation Award

Year 12 student Ben Mullan was named the Best Stop-Motion Animator Aged 15-18 in the 2021 Young Animator of the Year (YAY) competition, an initiative designed to showcase the talent of young animators in the UK. Ben created his winning entry, 'Insomnia', after writing and recording the accompanying song in the summer holidays. The winners saw their films premiered at the Manchester Animation Festival on Sunday 14 November 2021.

Ben is a self-taught film maker and has been entering and winning competitions since the age of 10. He has recently been interviewed by Into Film, a charity which champions film in young people's education, as he was the first person to win their Film of the Month competition twice. He also took part in a digital animation workshop last summer run by 3DAmi, a non-profit organisation promoting digital art amongst pre-university students, which is where he heard about the YAY competition.

Ben commented: "It began with an idea that came into my head at 2am one night when I was struggling to sleep and it grew from there. I really didn't expect it to get so much attention and I am so pleased to have won. I hope to pursue animation as a career and would love to work for Aardman Animations in the future".



NYT Selection for BMS Students

Year 11 students Oliver Edwards and Matt Roberts have successfully secured spaces for the 2022 National Youth Theatre (NYT) Junior Summer Intake Acting Course, after which they will be NYT Company Members.

This selective residential course runs for five weeks across the summer holidays and will give them the opportunity to hone their craft under the instruction of industry professionals, as well as meet and collaborate with other young actors from around the country.

Following a move from online auditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the boys were pleased to be able to audition in person at

school during their Easter holidays, along with around 30 other BMS students.

This process lasted three hours and was led by a professional NYT auditioner. Following an ensemble workshop and some drama games to get them warmed up, each student had a ten-minute individual audition in which they performed a monologue and had an informal discussion with the auditioner.

Matt performed a monologue from *A Brief History of Helen of Troy* by Mark Schultz whilst Oliver, who was the last BMS student to audition that day, performed an excerpt from *Blackout* by Davey Anderson. Of this,

he said: "I was feeling a lot of pressure about going last, but the auditioner asked me questions about myself and my monologue which helped to relax me. It was quite an emotional piece, so I found it tough, but she seemed pleased with it."

Matt added: "I'm really excited for the course this summer. I'm looking forward to meeting lots of new people who have similar interests to me."

The pair found out that they had been selected in May 2022. This is a fantastic achievement for them, especially as the NYT audition nearly 6,000 young people every year and can offer just 700 spaces on their acting courses.

Paul Stevens, Director of Performance Arts at BMS, said: "We are delighted and extremely proud that Matt and Oliver have been successful in their NYT audition. They will be following in the footsteps of actors like Matt Smith, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Rosamund Pike, along with several OBMs. To have the opportunity to work with professional directors and like-minded young actors in such a vibrant, creative and prestigious company will no doubt be of enormous benefit to their training."



OBM Honoured with Prestigious Fellowship

Ellis Bell (1957-67) was named as one of the 30 inaugural fellows of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) in 2021.

Ellis earned his doctorate at the University of Oxford and conducted postdoctoral research at Duke University in North Carolina. During his career he has served as the principal investigator on numerous grants for both pedagogical and scientific research and published articles and books in both areas.

His pedagogical research has helped to define a national undergraduate curriculum for biochemistry programmes. He has trained hundreds of undergraduate researchers as well as senior school students and their teachers.

The fellowship recognises Ellis for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of molecular life sciences through his work as a researcher and educator.



DON BROCO Return for Hometown Show

On Wednesday 10 November 2021 DON BROCO wrapped up their national tour after the release of their fourth album *Amazing Things* with a fantastic final show at Bedford Esquires. The band, which consists of three OBMs Rob Damiani (2000-05), Simon Delaney (1994-05), and Matt Donnelly (1995-05) together with bassist Tom Doyle, generously donated all ticket sales from the show to the venue after the difficulties they faced maintaining the premises during the pandemic.

Three months later, the group well-deservedly scored their first UK Number One Album with *Amazing Things*.



Hetty Awarded NYTC Place

Year 11 student Hetty Franklin successfully secured a place in the National Youth Training Choir (NYTC), a part of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.

The NYTC runs five auditioned choirs for young people and serves as a training ground for talented young singers such as Hetty to refine their musical skills. The prestigious group performs a diverse repertoire, and its members get the chance to collaborate with guest artists and musicians on residential courses. Hetty will be going on two such week-long courses a year.

Hetty underwent eight days of online auditions in the October 2021 half term, alongside around 100 other auditionees. She commented: "It was nerve-wracking because it's such a big choir, but they were really impressed with my musical achievements and said that we must have a very strong music department."

Hetty is an all-round musician and is very involved with the BMS co-curricular programme: she sings with the Groove Collective, jazz ensemble and school choirs as well as playing the trumpet in the brass group, orchestra and Big Band. She earned her Music School Colours in the 2021 academic year for her dedication and enthusiasm in the music department.



News



Made in Dagenham, performed in Bedford! In March 2022 students in Years 11-13 wowed audiences across four nights with their entertaining, compelling and thought-provoking performances. Set in 1960s Britain, the show tells the story of Rita O'Grady and her colleagues at the Ford Motor Co plant as they successfully fight for equal pay for women. Gender equality is a topic close to the hearts of the talented young people in the cast and is reflected in the co-educational ethos of the School.

In May, a tale as old as time came to the BMS stage as more than 100 students in Years 7-10 performed *Beauty and the Beast*. This enormous cast delighted a full house every night with their heart-warming rendition of this classic show.



The talented musicians and crew members should also be congratulated for their outstanding work, and the complex set designs and elaborate costumes for both shows were simply stunning.

Celebrating The Impact of Giving

We are always grateful for the generosity of members of the BMS community. OBMs and friends of the School offer to give back to BMS in a multitude of ways: regular donations, legacy gifts, volunteering career and mentoring expertise, and helping with events, to name but a few.

We contacted Sophie Lawrence (2016-21), who became the first recipient of the Donnelly Design Award in 2021, to hear the lasting impact that gifts donated by our community can have.

The Donnelly Design Award was established by Old Bedfordian Bill Donnelly, his brother Ted and his cousins, William and Ellen in memory of their fathers and OBMs Thomas Donnelly (1932-37) and William Donnelly (1929-35). Craft, engineering, design and youth development were areas dear to both brothers' hearts, and so this annual award recognises one Year 13 student for outstanding work in the subject of Design Technology, and allocates a cash prize to be spent on items for their first year of higher education.

Sophie began studying a BSc in Product Design and Technology at Loughborough University in September 2021, and her gift from the Donnelly Design Award was a kit containing necessary course textbooks, marker pens and fine liners, a French curve and a sketchpad.

She writes: 'The transition from being a student at school to a student at university is vast! There is nobody forcing you to get out of bed and attend those 9am lectures, so self-motivation is a key part of integrating yourself into university life. Whether you're catered or self-catered you'll also have to plan mealtimes around your lectures, labs or workshops – this can be difficult at first! But, like anything, you get into a routine and then this becomes second nature – eventually you love the independence and freedom so much that you forget you were even worried about living away from home!

Determining what knowledge and standard of work is expected at university can be a bit daunting. For example, in school I did not regularly fully reference my work so when expected to know how to do this in the first few months, I had to quickly and independently research and learn which applications to use and how to reference correctly. However, support is always available within the university and all my lecturers are friendly and patient to help me understand difficult topics in the best way they can – this is something I have greatly appreciated since starting my course.

Speaking of my course: I love it! Most 'lectures' are actually in the workshop being trained on and then using new machines I've never used before like a milling machine or being introduced to a new material like TPU or using a new finishing technique like spray painting. Sketching sessions are held in large studios so we can sit in groups and discuss our designs which is ideal to hear my peers' thoughts and suggestions to help me improve my work. I have very few traditional lectures, where I sit in a lecture theatre and make notes – even for my Electronics modules I'm in the Electronics lab soldering PCBs or using software like Quartus to programme a device to carry out a specific function. These are all useful life skills as well as skills I know I'll use in my placement year and future career which makes them valuable.

Winning the Donnelly Design Award and establishing contact with Bill Donnelly has been amazing. Through Bill's connections I'm in touch with David Baldwin MBE who is Chair of Trustees at St Peter's Life-Line, a charity helping communities out of poverty in Kenya.



Sophie (left) with donor Bill Donnelly and the winner of the award in 2022, Year 13 student Alice Habermehl

David passed my A Level shower project around his contacts in Kenya to see if it would be of use to the charity in their work. My design also made its way to WaterAid where positive and encouraging feedback was given and they stated that: "It would certainly be suitable for humanitarian interventions in disaster or emergency situations", which I was ecstatic to hear! Last time I spoke to David he had sent the design off to the charity's Polytech staff, where vocational skills of construction and carpentry are taught, to evaluate my design for practicability for local manufacture, cost, and general utility. If it proves viable and affordable, they would love to build several of the shower units!

Bill has also offered to help me gain business experience at Unilever, a company he worked with many years ago. This connection may also be beneficial in finding a company who would be willing to let me join their team in my placement year and to help me develop greater insight into running a business of my own one day.

I am forever grateful to receive the Donnelly Design Award and the box of design equipment and textbooks has proven useful in all of my modules - it has given me a huge confidence boost having recognition of my work. I hope that the next recipient also utilises the benefits that come with it!



Above: Sophie's final A Level project, a flatpack shower for use in developing countries, which includes a carbon filtration system to purify the water for drinking. The waste water is recycled for use in agriculture.

The Impact Continues



Year 11 student Charlie Blades was the recipient of the 2021 David Ball Scholarship. Established in memory of David Ball (1937-45), this has helped contribute to the cost of his school piano lessons, and encouraged him to lead as an example for younger BMS musicians.



Robin Wills (1960-69) has recently funded the 'New Starter Initiative', which hires smaller versions of more 'unusual' instruments (such as the bassoon) specifically for Junior School students. After six weeks of lessons, several students have continued learning to play these new instruments.



Year 12 student Seth Masih won the 2022 Hill Family Scholarship, established by Dr Adam Hill (1993-98) and his family. He will receive £1000 to undertake a volunteering trip in Bali, Indonesia in which he will deliver lessons to local children on fundamental health and nutrition.

Sport

Football

Year 10 footballers and Flitwick Eagles U15 Girls teammates Lily Galbraith and Tilly Shortland helped win the 2021 U16 Girls County Cup in June 2021.

The pair have been playing for the Flitwick Eagles U15 Girls for the past few seasons, Lily as a striker and Tilly as a defender. They led an impressive campaign in the tournament, with a convincing 10-1 win against Ampthill Town U16 Girls, and concluding with a 2-1 victory in the final against Luton Town Ladies U16.

Their coach, Ian Noble, commented: "Congratulations to both Lily and Tilly. This is the highest possible accolade in grassroots football and they should be delighted with their achievement. They have done the club proud! Special mention goes to Lily who has been named Player of the Year this season; her participation has been absolutely key in securing our victory."

Lily said: "It felt really good to win the cup. It has been great to receive so much support throughout and it was an amazing experience to play in front of so many people in the final. It was definitely the biggest crowd either of us have played in front of."



Shaun Jeffers Scores Winning FA Cup Goal

Footballer Shaun Jeffers (1998-08) scored the winning goal for St Albans City Football Club during their first round FA Cup match against Forest Green Rovers on Sunday 07 November 2021.

Shaun, who signed for the club in the summer of 2020, said: "It really was the magic of the FA Cup, you could not write the script any better: the underdogs from non-League against the top of League Two. Everyone always hopes for a cup upset, but could it be us? We were confident going into the game because we had a 14-game unbeaten run."



L-R Nick O'Quinn (1999-10), Robbie Hyde (1999-10), Shaun Jeffers.



"It was a special night and one I will never forget. I was very grateful that I was able to share this moment with family, friends and people from school who still support me to this day!"

Sophie Signed for Arsenal Girls Youth Academy



Year 9 student and talented footballer Sophie Harrison was offered a training contract with the Arsenal U16 Girls Youth Academy in June 2021.

Sophie, who has been playing football since she was five, was offered the chance to take part in some Arsenal Girls Youth Academy trial sessions after playing a match in early May 2021 against their U16 Girls squad. Sophie said that the sessions were: "intense and challenging and I really enjoyed playing with other girls of similar ability. At the end of the Arsenal trial process I was offered a contract to train with the squad and will play for them when a midfield position becomes free."

Sophie will train twice a week with the academy squad and will play around five matches a year when any of the current older year group midfielders play in the U21 team. If any of her teammates move

permanently up to the U21 squad during the year, she will be offered the opportunity to sign onto a full playing contract.

On her success, Head of Girls' Sport at BMS, Rebecca Woodgate, said: "I was delighted, but not surprised to hear that Sophie had been offered a training contract. Sophie is an incredibly talented footballer and all-round sportswoman with serious potential. I could not think of a player more deserving of this opportunity. We wish her every success over the next few years and are excited to support her on this journey."

Sophie added: "My hopes for the future are to get into the Arsenal Women's first team through this process and I would love to represent my country in the future. I am grateful to the coaches of my teams and staff at BMS for supporting and believing in me."

Tilly Scores Place on FA Regional Youth Network

In November 2021 Year 12 footballer Tilly Leather was awarded a place on the FA Regional Youth Network (RYN) for the Midlands as one of just two representatives from Bedfordshire. She is one of the youngest members and will now attend meetings twice each month to discuss development in football and influence change.

The purpose of the RYN is to ensure all young people have meaningful opportunities to develop themselves and positively influence the football community. Meetings are held at a regional and national level to discuss topics such as opening more sporting hubs in the UK, the development of female football and access for disabled players.

Prior to being selected for the RYN, for the past two years Tilly has been an active member of the FA Youth Council for Bedfordshire, an application-only youth leadership programme for players aged 16-25. At 17 Tilly is currently the youngest member and the only female.



Tilly has played as a centre back for the Hitchin Belles for the past few seasons but has recently signed for Bedford Ladies FC, the County Cup winners for the 2020-21 season.

Tilly commented: "I am really pleased to have been selected to represent my county in the regional network and to have the opportunity to be part of the national football community. I hope to pursue a career in football focusing on analysis and data so this will hopefully help me develop contacts for the future."

Hockey

Year 9 student and keen hockey player Alfred Warren, who is already playing in the BMS 1st XI, was one of only two boys from Bedfordshire to be selected for training in the U15 age group at the England Hockey Performance Centre in Northwood in April 2022. These centres provide talented young players with training and competition opportunities to continue evolving their skillset.



Sport

Athletics

Alex Wins National Athletics Title

On Saturday 19 June 2021, Sixth Form athlete Alex Alston won the U20 3,000m Steeplechase at the England Athletics U20 Track and Field Championships. His time of 9 minutes 16 seconds broke the Bedford and County Athletic Club record, which was set by Alex's running coach in 1981.

The event took place at Bedford International Stadium after a one-year break due to the pandemic, and involved participants from across the country who competed in a variety of track and field events.

Alex commented: "This is the first time I'd attempted the race as I usually compete in the 2,000m Steeplechase or 1,500m flat. I was also the youngest in the race so feel really pleased to have won and I'm especially delighted to have broken my own coach's record which has stood at the Club for 40 years."



He later went on to sign with the University of Kentucky on a full scholarship for middle distance running.

BMS Teacher Races in Montreal Triathlon

In June 2022, adventurous Geography teacher Amy Kelly (née Vaughan) represented Great Britain in the World Triathlon Sprint Distance Championships in Montreal. She placed 20th out of 47 women with a time of 1 hour 19 minutes and was the fifth British female to cross the finish line. This was an astounding result, especially considering that she has had to juggle intense mental and physical training alongside full-time teaching. Amy now wants to pass on what she has learnt through taking part in this incredible experience to benefit students in her pastoral role at BMS.



Rowing

Girls Row to BMS History

On Saturday 07 May 2022, two BMS rowing crews comprised of six talented young sportswomen won their respective events at the 156th annual Bedford Regatta.

The Women's Junior 16 quad (WJ16 4X), Olivia Johnson, Tabby Lord, Stella Norris and Ellie Sillar claimed victory over their competitors from Bedford Girls' School and won their next race against a team from South African Schools rowing association convincingly by three lengths. In their final and thrilling race against Mossbourne Rowing Academy, they maintained their focus and crossed the finish line two lengths ahead.

Olivia and Ellie then joined Lilly Brittain and Jess Watson to form the Women's Junior 18 quad (WJ18 4X) and together they rowed an extremely tight race against Great Marlow School A team. The judges declared this was to be re-rowed after a few clashes in the water, so despite their exhaustion, the girls turned the boat around and raced the opposing team once again. This was an exciting and intense race, in which they narrowly beat Great Marlow School A by just a few feet.

Jess commented: "When we knew we would have to redo the race, we were frustrated but so determined. We knew we could do it. This is our home event and we were so eager to win, everyone's head was in the same place. The atmosphere and support on the day really helped – the crowd sees BMS blades in the water and everyone just starts screaming their support."



Following this, they went through to their final, in which they beat Great Marlow School B team far more comfortably and celebrated their victory. All six girls were awarded tankards to commemorate their triumph at one of the largest single day river regattas in the country.

The WJ18 4X went on to race in the National Schools' Regatta later in May, as well as qualifying for Henley Royal Regatta in June. They made history on Tuesday 28 June as the first BMS girls' crew to win a race at Henley, finishing $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length ahead of Rob Roy Boat Club despite a strong headwind.

They were unfortunately unsuccessful in their row the next day against Shiplake College, but they gained valuable experience and are eager to keep improving their technique.



Sport

Lara Brittain Goes from Strength to Strength

Lara Brittain (2010-19), a keen rower in her time at BMS, had an exceptionally strong rowing season in 2021 as part of Reading University Boat Club. She writes: 'We attended Marlow Regatta which was held at Eton Dorney, rowing in the Championship Quad category and coming third overall.

The week after was British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Regatta, which is a three-day event at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham. This is one of the main events for Reading where I was racing all three days in a Lightweight Quad, Championship Quad and Lightweight Single.

We started off really strongly on the first day in the Lightweight Quad, winning the time trial by a massive 11 seconds and qualifying straight for the A final where we extended that lead in the final to 14 seconds, winning the event. The second day we raced the Championship Quad where we put in a solid row coming second to a very impressive Edinburgh crew. The last day we were all so tired but managed to put in a decent performance coming ninth in the single.

We had a week turnaround to prepare for Henley Women's Regatta which is one of the most prestigious events in the rowing calendar. I was racing in the Championship



Lightweight Double category. Wintech kindly lent us a brand new boat for this event so having a week of training to get used to a different boat was definitely appreciated.

Our racing started on the Sunday with a semi-final against Nottingham County Rowing Association with two girls who we knew had been strong this year. We stuck to our race plan and led out the start which allowed us to manage the race well and extend it to a comfortable lead by 500m. The final verdict was a win by three lengths.

This gave us some confidence going into the final. Having seen the Cambridge rowers we were up against compete at BUCS the previous week we knew it would be tough. They were identical twins, so we

knew we would have to row really well together in order to beat them. At the start we managed to gain a small lead which allowed us to see them the whole way down and respond well to any moves they might make. This race plan had worked well in the semi and was successful here in the final too, as we managed to extend our lead to just over one boat length by the finish.

Our determination to win carried us through the race and we were both so pleased we had achieved what we set out to do and win Henley Women's Regatta which was the perfect end to a really successful season. This made all the lockdown training worth it, and being appointed Women's Captain for next season, I can hopefully carry this success with me.'

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Rugby

England Rugby Star Joins BMS Coaching Team

Former England international rugby player Rochelle 'Rocky' Clark MBE joined Bedford Modern School as a permanent member of coaching staff in September 2021. This followed a hugely popular workshop she ran with our students in the preceding summer term.

Rocky, who currently plays as a forward for Saracens Women rugby club, was part of the 2014 Rugby World Cup-winning England squad and with 137 caps she is the most capped player of both men and women in

England international history. She was also appointed MBE in the 2015 New Year Honours for services to rugby.

Former Director of Sport at BMS, Simon Sinclair, said: "We are extremely fortunate to add someone with Rocky's experience, knowledge and coaching pedigree to our department. She has already made an impact on both students and staff, and we are looking forward to her contribution with rugby and other sports."

In her first term at BMS, Rocky coached alongside former Tonga international Soane Tonga'uiha, as well as contributed to the School's partnerships with Bedford



Blues and Northampton Saints. She commented: "I'm delighted to be a part of the illustrious BMS set up. The School has fantastic students, staff and facilities and I'm looking forward to the challenge of developing players and the rugby culture."

Rugby Tours

In October 2021, our Senior Rugby and Hockey squads enjoyed tours in Scotland. Between playing competitive games and training in Edinburgh and Glasgow, they also found time to try curling, tug of war and other Highland Games events, as well as visiting local attractions such as Edinburgh Dungeon and Edinburgh Castle.

Then, in November, our U11 Rugby and Hockey players had a great time on their weekend Suffolk tour. They played matches against Framlingham Prep and Finborough, winning six matches and drawing two.

It was a great experience for students of all ages, and they represented BMS exceptionally.



Sport

National Schools
Rugby Sevens

The BMS U16 rugby squad made it through to the second day of the National Schools Rugby Sevens tournament at Rosslyn Park on 24 March 2022. After five impressive wins they lost out to a very strong team from Harrow School who went on to become the overall winners.

Clubman of the Year
Award for Louie

Year 8 student Louie Brock became the youngest person ever to be awarded Clubman of the Year by Olney RFC in June 2022. This was as a result of his diligence both on and off the pitch helping with the weekly raffle, cleaning at functions and taking charge of the scoreboard for the first team. His sister, Year 10 student Hattie, was also named Clubman for the U16 Girls section of the club.



1st XV Receive Rugby Socks

At the beginning of the 2021 academic year, Head of Rugby, Mr Richmond, took part in the longstanding tradition of presenting the 1st XV with their rugby socks. This is part of the kit which signifies that they are the leading players at BMS. He congratulated them on their hard work and told the boys to wear the black and red with pride.

Water Polo

Eve Makes a Splash at International Water Polo Tournament

Year 11 student Eve Barnes travelled to the Czech Republic between 29 April and 01 May 2022, where she played for the Great Britain U17 Girls Squad in the EU Nations Junior Women Water Polo Tournament.



Eve is an accomplished water polo player who has been training for five years both inside and outside of BMS. She began playing for BMS at her first opportunity in Year 7, having previously been a member of the Junior School swimming squad.

In 2020, she was selected as one of 30 girls to join Swim England's National Academy Programme, as a result of her hard work and performance in the East Region U16 group. However, after only one session, the team shifted to an online training programme due to lockdown.

The National Academy returned to the pool in May 2021 and following just five months of training, Eve was selected for the GB U17 Girls Squad. This team has 24 players from across England, Scotland and Wales, just 13 of whom were sent to the EU Nations competition.

The girls flew out to Brno, Czech Republic on Thursday 28 April, had a brief training session in the pool and went straight into their fixtures on Friday morning.

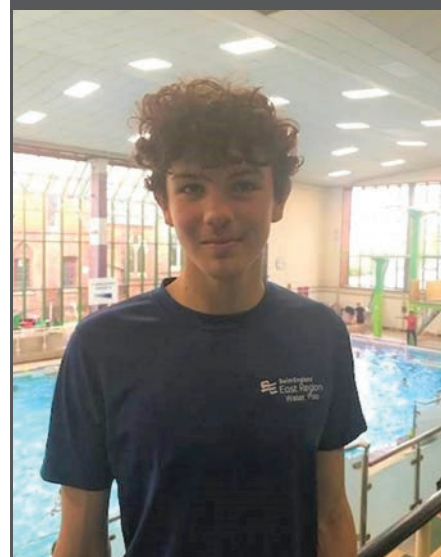


Over the weekend, they played against squads from South Africa, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Ireland and England. This tournament was a crucial development opportunity for the team to gain experience of competing at their first international tournament. Their key focus was on fitness and strength, as well as developing game systems tactics. Outside of the pool, the squad had the opportunity to solidify their bond by coping with the pressures of travelling and being away from home.

Ashley Bygraves, Head of Swimming and Water Polo at BMS, added: "I'm extremely impressed by Eve's hard work and dedication. This is an enormous achievement for a student of her age, and I commend her for her single-mindedness and determination in working towards her goals. I wish her all the best of luck for the future and we look forward to seeing what she does next."

Eve will be training hard to be selected for further competition and training camps, with the ultimate goal of competing at the European Championships in the summer of 2023.

Year 10 student Ed Carpenter competed in the U16 Inter-Regional Water Polo Tournament in December 2021. The team, representing the East Region, played against boys from Wales, Scotland, the North East and East Midlands over two days. Ed was the joint top goal scorer for the team, scoring seven goals in their final match.



Sport

Netball

County Netball Champions

Bedford Modern School's U11, U12, U13 and U14 netball teams were named County Champions following their participation in tournaments held in the 2021-22 academic year. All four teams remained unbeaten in their paths to victory, competing against some formidable opponents along the way.

The U14 team played their games at Bedford Academy during the Autumn Term and their win qualified them to compete in the Regional Schools Tournament in January. They placed third in the group stages, which left them just one rung away from progressing to the playoff stage.

In the Spring Term, our U11, U12 and U13 teams had their chance to compete in tournaments held at Bedford Girls' School (BGS) and at Bedford Academy. Notable performances came from Holly Freeman who scored two winning goals in the U11 final, and the entire U12 team who stayed calm under intense pressure in their final game against BGS which decided the tournament.

Head of Netball at BMS, Sam Brightman, commented: "I'm delighted that we are now County Netball Champions at four age groups. We are now in a position where we are competing for the top spot in every tournament we play in across all age groups, which is fantastic for the future of netball at BMS.

"I've been so pleased to see these students stepping up and striving to win. There is a real buzz surrounding netball at the School and the four County Champion titles are inspiring and motivating everyone."



Table Tennis

BMS Teams Unbeaten in County Championships

In February 2022, our U16 Boys' and U13 Girls' Table Tennis teams were both named County Champions in their age groups at their respective finals. The boys' final took place at Redborne Upper School, and the girls' team travelled to Leighton Buzzard for theirs; both teams were unbeaten in their path to victory. As well as this, our U13 Boys' team finished as runners up in their finals, held in Leighton Buzzard at the same time.



Impressive Display at Prague Grand Prix

Year 10 student Ben Dunkley had a successful three days at the Prague Grand Prix in June 2022 playing for the Table Tennis England U15A team, his first international competition. On the first day Ben won all of his seven matches and the team moved into the quarter-finals against the No 3 seeds. Despite some tough competition Ben made it all the way through to the final 16, playing his final match against the No 1 seed, Natanel Abramov, World No 58 ranked.



BMS Buildings Hit Half a Century

In October 2021 we were pleased to welcome Julia Donaldson to BMS as our School Archivist. She has delved into the materials in our School Archive and learnt about the rich history of BMS, with a particular interest in the history of our current school buildings.

She writes: 'December 2022 will see the 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for the Bedford Modern School buildings on Manton Lane, which are the core of the school premises today.



School Archivist Julia Donaldson

During some recent work to bring all of our historical records together in the main Archive store, we discovered some of the original architectural models and project documentation. These have highlighted how much thought and consideration went into the creation of the 1970s buildings.

Laying The Foundation Stone

The ceremonial stone laying was performed on Friday 01 December 1972 by Margaret Thatcher MP, who was then Secretary of State for Education and Science. As well as BMS staff members, Mrs Thatcher was joined by the Lord Bishop of Bedford and Her Majesty's Lieutenant of Bedfordshire. The School Archive still holds the silver trowel used for the occasion, along with the visitors' book, invitations and event programme.

After this landmark event – up until the official opening of the new school buildings in April 1974 – intense building work transformed the site. The result was a fresh, new learning environment for BMS students.

The 19th Century School Buildings

At the time the new buildings were commissioned, BMS was housed in central Bedford behind an imposing stone façade on Harpur Street, which will be familiar to many OBMs. This had been built in the 1830s to the designs of distinguished architect Sir Edward Blore.

As was fashionable in the early 19th century, this façade was Gothic in style and referenced the design of English medieval religious and civic buildings.

Despite its impressive street frontage, the School's accommodation comprised something of a patchwork of different spaces that had been adapted for use at various times.



The Blore Façade



Site of the Junior School and Music Department



The Science block



The quadrangle from the ground



The quadrangle from above



The tower

A Modern Vision

By contrast, the current BMS buildings commissioned under the leadership of Headmaster Brian Kemball-Cook were shaped according to a different ethos. Instead of looking to the past and focusing on creating an impression of grandeur, he had insisted that the architects should design the new buildings with the practical needs of modern education in mind. In his personal account, *The Rebuilding of Bedford Modern School*, Kemball-Cook wanted a 'new school in which every function should be properly placed... and in which the school might expand and flourish as a community.'

The plan was to have dedicated, specially-equipped spaces for the various Humanities and Science subjects to enable staff to employ modern teaching methods. These spaces were linked in logical ways to create subject-centre clusters. Common rooms were also a key feature, reflecting the fact that form groups had become a much more important part of BMS education over the two centuries since the School was first established. Despite this emphasis on functional specialisation, the use of materials such as brick and tile was aimed at creating a homely, domestic feel.

Another equally important part of this vision was that the new BMS buildings should be located in green space with room for the School to grow. This foresightedness has allowed for the creation of several additional spaces, including the Rutherford Building (2007), and the Science Centre (2017).

Looking Ahead

Since 1972, the BMS estate has continued to improve to reflect the ever-changing needs of its students, fulfilling Kemball-Cook's vision of being able to 'expand and flourish as a community.' This is only set to continue in the future.'



Buildings on the current school site



Sustainability and the BMS Community

OBM Kunle Barker (1984-91) is a property expert, writer and broadcaster who uses his knowledge of building development and environmentalism to raise awareness of how individuals can personally reduce their carbon footprint. Kunle visited students at BMS in November 2021 on his way to speak at the COP26 conference, answering questions and having some purposeful discussions with them about sustainability and the future of our planet.

We spoke with Kunle about his work and how we can inspire our students to believe that they can change the world.

What kind of work do you do and how is it sustainable?

In a nutshell, I influence how buildings are created and used, with a focus on making them sustainable. I have to consider the carbon emitted in extracting, producing and transporting materials used to make a building, and whether these materials can be broken down in future and used again. I also have to plan for the total energy needed when the building is being used; how much carbon will be emitted to keep it warm, cool, lighted and powered. It's important to consider natural design interventions here – for example, the orientation of the building and its windows will influence how much light and heat it will allow in or lose.



How did you become interested in or involved in this work?

It was probably around 11 or 12 years ago, when I bought my house. It's a lovely old Edwardian terraced house in London – but that first winter was so, so cold.

We thought: "What can we do to fix this?" They are the obvious answers, but we took the plunge to make the initial investment into double-glazed windows and renovating areas to make them very well-insulated. We also installed underfloor heating throughout the entire house, which wasn't particularly commonplace at the time.

Immediately I noticed that we were using 30-40% less gas – even though we had added extensions to the house. This was for three reasons: we had installed a new condensing boiler, everything was well-insulated which meant that the heat was being kept in, and the underfloor heating ran at around 40°C, whereas a radiator normally runs at approximately 70°C.

It struck me that if everyone was able to do this – or if every house was created to be like this – we would, as a country, be saving an enormous amount of energy and gas.

What are your personal views on the government's Net Zero Strategy to 'Build Back Greener'?

It's a great promise, but the problem is, 40% of the carbon footprint of this country comes from built environments – houses, schools, airports, shops. We have roughly 27-29 million households in this country, most of which are not fit for purpose. There are even houses being built right now with EPC ratings of C or below.

What we need is a national retrofit for a big chunk of these households, but it won't be cheap. I would estimate that a programme like this would cost around £50-60k per home on average. Rather than just setting ambitious and well-intended targets, the government need to truly take action and retrofit buildings in the UK. It can be done, as has been shown in Sweden and the Netherlands.

The future of building in the UK will be solar panels on every house, along with battery storage. There will be district heating systems wherein estates, streets and terraces will share energy between them on a microgrid. It is far more efficient to generate energy onsite and then share it around. Houses will also be built with composting facilities and waste disposal units.

What other personal changes have you and your family made so far?

We are definitely far more conscious of recycling. We could do more, but we are a lot better than we were. I'm extremely careful about food waste. Rather than doing one big shop a week, we have switched to a few smaller shops, and we have noticed a drastic reduction in our food waste.

We look closely at our water consumption, turning off taps and showers when we are brushing our teeth or washing. It sounds small but the point is that if everybody does it every day, it makes a big difference.

Likewise, we are careful to make sure we turn off our appliances when they are not in use and we have been signed up to OVO Energy for many years, meaning that all of the electricity supplied to our home is 100% renewable.

We have switched to an electric vehicle and I'm currently looking at installing a waste disposal system. Funnily enough, one of the best things we have done for our food waste is to get a rabbit!

What advice would you give to other OBMs or BMS students who want to be more eco-friendly?

When I visited BMS, what I found really interesting was that the Sixth Form students had a palpable feeling of climate grief and seemed very worried about their future. But the Year 6 students I spoke to had so much hope and came up with all these plans and amazing ideas with hardly any prompting.

I think the important message is to be mindful of how we talk to children about this topic – we need to give them hope, but also be realistic and recognise that all the responsibility can't fall on their shoulders at such a young age. They are cursed with all this knowledge but without much of a feeling that they can affect their environment. I think it is important for them to know that what we need are engaged, dedicated, passionate, well-educated people like them growing up to help us solve these problems.



Memory *Stir*

David Jenkins Staff (1979-2018)

writes: 'I was asked by Deborah Burrows to write a short piece about life after BMS.

In anticipation of retirement, we bought ourselves a 32-foot cabin cruiser with the intention of exploring the canal and river network of the UK. That has all been put on hold by the arrival of Henry, our first grandchild who was born almost immediately after the end of my final term. He's now coming up to three and is a delight. So, I needed something to occupy myself when Henry wasn't around and came across the Rothsay Education Centre which allows people to learn new skills. We enrolled in an Italian class and now two years later can sit of an evening and watch Netflix shows such as *Il Processo* or *Il Cacciatore* or *Suburra* in Italian. There is some great viewing to be had.

We also enrolled with Ann Marie Abbate at her Wednesday art classes at the Bunyan Centre. That was fun and then it stopped because of lockdown. As I am enjoying Italian so much, I decided to try out a couple of Art lessons. I discovered how good Zoom is for online Art lessons and now I do seven classes every fortnight. As well as this I experiment with the techniques we learn to do my own stuff. I've got very much into watercolour and coloured pencils. I share everything I do on Facebook and people write to tell me how much they enjoy the pieces.

Wrest Park



I have also taken a position as a school governor of BMS and I am a member of the Royal Yachting Association's (RYA) Inland Navigation Panel. The RYA represents the interests of boaters in the UK. I am also a member of the Royal Society of Biology to stay in touch with the world of Biology.

Finally, some years ago David Davies (1987-2005) who was Deputy Head Academic lured me into joining the Naval Dockyards Society and I have been their treasurer and Twitter manager for years but lately I have taken on the role of e-book manager and in that role have prepared 11 volumes and published them on Amazon.

All in all, life is quite busy!



The war memorial on the Bedford Embankment



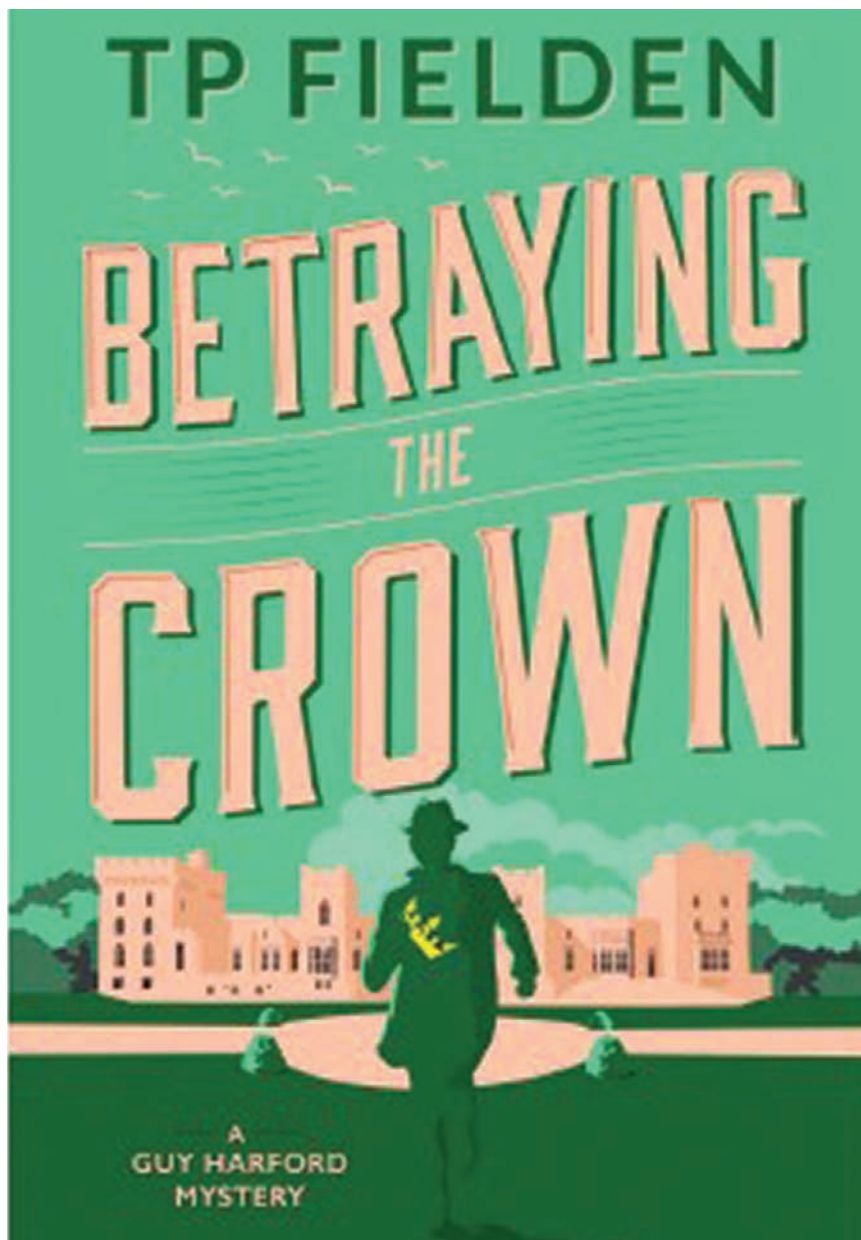
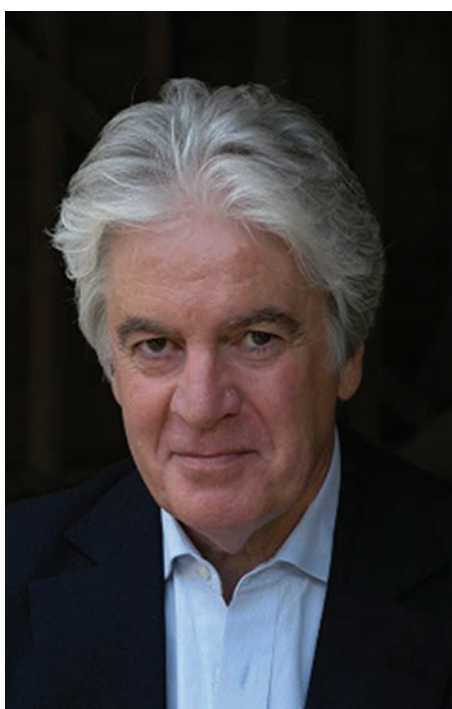
BMS teaching staff in the early 1980s

Christopher Wilson (1957-65)

OBM and fiction author Christopher Wilson published his seventh novel, *Betraying the Crown*, on 31 May 2022. This book, written under the pen name TP Fielden, completes his wartime Buckingham Palace trilogy: *Stealing the Crown*, *Burying the Crown* and *Betraying the Crown*, informed by Christopher's many years as a royal biographer and commentator.

He now returns to his English Riviera novels featuring local reporter-cum-sleuth Miss Dimont, which were recently bought by Kudos, TV producers of *Grantchester*, *Spooks* and *Broadchurch*. The dramas will feature Katherine Parkinson as Miss Dimont and will commence with a two-hour special arriving on television screens in 2023.

He also submitted a photograph of what he calls BMS's 'first-ever pop group!' 'The Blackouts', founded in 1961, was composed of (L-R) Brian Taylor (1957-62), Graham Lilley (1957-65), John Williams (1957-62), Christopher Wilson and David Britton (1957-64).



Memory *Stir*



The 2020 cohort were finally able to have their Leavers' Ball on Monday 06 January 2022, which had been postponed twice due to COVID-19. These students had their final academic year suddenly cut short on 20 March 2020, when all schools across the UK were closed and exams cancelled.

It was clear that staff and students still wanted the chance to celebrate this year group and so during the summer of 2021 Imogen Eales (2015-20) and Director of Sixth Form John White clubbed together and began planning the ball. After many

conversations in person and over the phone, it was decided that the event was to go ahead at The Sharbrook Hotel after the Christmas break.

It was a fabulous way for students and staff to reunite and discuss what a whirlwind the past two years had been. There were smiles all round as guests played roulette, listened to John's much-anticipated speech and danced the night away. Nearly 80 former students attended, including Year 11 and Year 13 leavers.



Janet and James Leydon

Staff (2004-22) (1969-74)

Jan writes: 'It was such a lovely surprise to receive a card from BMS on my 60th birthday. At the time I was in my seventeenth year at the School and had recently returned to teaching and coaching netball for the spring term. On closer inspection of the card, my husband Jim realised that he was in the picture of the procession to the new school site at Manton Lane!

Thanks so much to the External Relations Team for their thoughtfulness and giving us a special keepsake.'



John Mower

(1984-2021)

Former Director of Music John Mower retired at the end of the 2021 academic year after a 37-year career at BMS. During his time in post he inspired countless students and transformed lives with his passion, energy, and knowledge of his subject. Many OBMs submitted video messages for John thanking him for the enormous impact he had on them, which he was delighted to receive. He is succeeded by Mary Perry, with whom he has worked for many years.



Geoffrey Phillips

(1950-59)

writes: 'As a regular reader of *Eagle News* – and what a splendid publication for the OBM diaspora – I am tempted to make a contribution myself, spurred on by a number of articles by familiar names in the 2020/2021 issue.

First, Bill Avery (1951-57) still expresses regret at the School's move to the playing fields, so many years ago. I sympathise and agree with him. I have also been mystified as to how our foundation date of 1566 has been rescheduled to 1764. The loss of 'Big School' in the town centre and the subsequent move to co-ed rather undermined my connection with the School for many years.

Indeed, it was not until 2008 that I submitted a 'Memory Stir' article and received a response from Mike Stanbridge (1950-58), which renewed a great friendship after 50 years, and which has continued ever since. In his submission he mentions the corps camp at Thefford, which I also attended, though not in the band.



Geoffrey Phillips in his time at BMS acting in Henry V

David Harrison

(1950-57)

writes: 'Having reached the age of 82 I was reflecting on the influences the School had on my long life. I stress that I was a mediocre student but that never handicapped my self-belief. My thoughts are aimed to encourage the young OBMs as they embark on their careers, to treasure the special influences that their education has given them.

The single most important lesson has been to be self-reliant, have confidence in my decisions, but learn from the mistakes and deal with any situation confronting me.

The biggest legacies of my school days came from my teachers. My Geography master gave me a zest to see the world and in

particular a view of the potential of Australia which became my home in 1966 and never disappointed me.

My Music master and one of my fellow pupils gave me a passion for all forms of music leading to so much pleasure over my lifetime.

My love of good literature, although encouraged by my grandfather, was expanded during my schooling.

My enjoyment of all sports was nurtured by the wonderful facilities available at BMS.

Finally, I have maintained my faith which stems from the exemplary leadership of my Headmaster J E Taylor.

I hope my contemporaries have enjoyed equally fulfilling lives and have similar fond memories.'

Memory *Stir*

Another connection is the feature by John Wells (1952-59) in which he mentions the School Shooting VIII, along with a photograph. As captain, I, too, am in the photo and you will notice that some of us had been awarded full colours (a recent innovation at the time). What a shame that the rifle range no longer exists.

Even the obituaries keep us in touch. I was a contemporary of both Peter Taylor (1951-58) and John Quenby (1953-58) who wrote the obituary of Frank Boston (1949-57).

But now that I am back in touch, I very much admire the changes in the School and the enormous progress that has taken place over the decades. It even has a Foucault pendulum (incidentally, not listed on Wikipedia). The curriculum and activities have expanded immensely to a place that no one could even have contemplated back in the 1950s and it is a real source of pride to have a personal connection to such an eminent institution.

A further sign of the times is the easy signature to the Headmaster's letter: it is inconceivable that our Headmaster, the fabled J E Taylor, would ever have used even his Christian name, let alone a contraction of it!

Charlotte Fox (2008-15)

On 08 May 2021 Charlotte Fox, a designer at digital and creative agency Topham Guerin, took part in the launch of an advertising campaign for World Ovarian Cancer Day. Her work was displayed in more than 350 outdoor sites, including Piccadilly Lights and Times Square.



Adrian and Anne Hoare (1966-74)

During his time at BMS Adrian was a teacher in the History Department, Head of Middle School and Master in Charge of Fencing. His wife Anne was not a member of staff but was heavily involved in school life.

They write: 'The obituaries of Ted Howarth (1964-68), John Hale (1970-85) and David Berry (1964-2000) in the last edition of *Eagle News* did stir some memories for us both – good ones. Ted's wife, Anne, commented on the wonderful social life of the staff. It was a very friendly community which was very supportive when help was needed.

Our first child Katherine died soon after birth and Anne had wonderful support from some of the staff wives. Soon after our son Jonathan was born, he had to be taken by ambulance to Great Ormond Street Hospital where he spent the next six weeks. Once again, the BMS support team sprang into action. Hannah Potter, the wife of the Vice Master Michael



Potter (1957-91), kindly took Adrian down on a school day to get news about Jonathan. It is hard to believe, but at that time we had no phone as we lived in Turvey, where lines were not easy to get.

We particularly remember the kindness of John and Anne Hale. On one occasion, when Adrian had a Saturday fencing competition, Anne had gone to London to see Jonathan and she can still see John now, waiting for her at Bedford station. He took her home for a cup of tea, a lovely meal and good company until Adrian picked her up.

We wondered what Anne received her MBE for. Certainly, she and John were at the heart of the BMS community, getting people together. We visited them at Culver House and remember Anne with a huge tray of sausages for the boys' Saturday tea. Boarding life involved the whole family and the Housemaster's wife had a demanding role. It was made more challenging at the time because of the difficulty of acquiring domestic staff, partly because Texas Instruments nearby was attracting many of the potential candidates. Fortunately, Anne Hale was trained in Domestic Science and covered the gaps in the rota.

We kept in touch though with Anne and John over the years and visited them at Stamford. In 2015 we heard nothing, and two years later sent a card to Stamford School to forward it. Now we realise why we didn't hear from them and it's very sad to lose such a wonderful couple of friends.

Another colleague was David Berry and his wife Margaret who took over Shakespeare House after Ralph Easley (1954-70) stepped down. Anne can remember a favourite dish Margaret used to cook – chicken, almonds, raisins and rice.

David was an outstanding rowing coach and we loved to see BMS oarsmen in their boaters and blazers at Bedford regattas. We became very interested in rowing about which we knew nothing and enjoyed going to watch the crews and cheer them on. On one occasion we went to watch the BMS 1st VIII in the National Schools' Regatta at Pangbourne, racing against Hampton Grammar School.

In David's obituary, Neale Else mentioned his sense of humour. Adrian remembers it well! One day a very enthusiastic new member of staff, who was often talking about building up his department, was approached by David offering him a brick. On another occasion Vice Master Norman Frost (who could be brusque) called out "Berry?". David took time to turn round, before saying: "Oh sorry, I thought you were calling the dog."

Dan Dickey (1949-80) was another larger than life character who became Commanding Officer of the CCF. Adrian remembers him getting into some scrapes on CCF camps. He was once arrested while birdwatching near a secret establishment. On another occasion, a group of us staff were returning from a few hours off-duty in the evening and noticed fire engines approaching the CCF camp. When we reached the guardhouse, Dan was there to greet us and said: "Bit of a flap on chaps; I've accidentally set the training area on fire."

It was at BMS that Adrian was introduced to fencing when he was asked to take it on! He knew nothing about it but was sent on a ten-day coaching course in Loughborough and it soon became a major interest of his. He was pleased that the sport grew in popularity, and he developed teams to a high standard. BMS became East Midlands Schools' champions and had much success in a regular programme of school fixtures. Chris Simpson (1964-75), one of the school's best fencers at the time, contacted us some time ago and we are also pleased to know that Graham Watts (1964-74) had a distinguished career as a national fencing coach and member of the Olympic squad. Adrian is proud of what has been achieved. He spent countless hours coaching and driving teams in a minibus to competitions and matches often getting back very late. The boys were always a credit to the School wherever they went.

We also have memories of many former students whose cards to us were signed, often in abbreviated form such as: Nige, Jonny, Bob, Giff, Don, Noz, Rob, Joe, Tony, Andy, Moan, John, Martin, Dick, Nobby, Choppa, Chris, Graham, Nick, Arch, Peter, Jeremy H and Jeremy F, Kev, Bob, Gill and Olly. If they read this, they'll recognise their names! For Adrian,

teaching BMS pupils was always a privilege and a pleasure; so many of them were full of character and we treasure the cards they sent us.

Our years at BMS were some of the happiest in our careers with fond memories of many staff and students.'



Memory *Stir*

**Steven
Crow**
(1943-49)

Stephen wrote to the External Relations Team in 2021, detailing an incredible encounter he had with a fellow former student. He writes: 'In 1960, when I was the Export Manager of Fords in Kempston (now Fords Packaging Systems) the company took a stand at the British Trade Fair in Moscow. One afternoon a man came on the stand speaking excellent English. When I complimented him on his English, he said he had been a boarder at an English school. He now lived in Tallin, Estonia and had travelled to Moscow to see if there were any companies from Bedford at the fair. I said, "Which school?" He said: "Bedford Modern."

He was overwhelmed when I said I was an old boy. He was wearing an old boarders' tie bought at Beagleys, a school outfitter in the high street. His name was Yejim Saidleson. He was at the School 1934-39. In those days, apart from School House, some boys boarded with Masters. Saidleson boarded with Mr Mason, a Maths teacher who lived in Biddenham.

We had dinner together one evening and had a fascinating conversation. His father was a wealthy mining engineer who wanted his son to be educated at an English public school. In those days, Estonia was an independent democratic state. I am not sure why he chose BMS.

In 1939 Yejim obtained a scholarship to Oxford. I found out from the School that he was a brilliant and very popular scholar. He went home in August 1939, intending to return to Oxford and become a British citizen because he was afraid that Russia would overrun Estonia which, of course, happened. War broke out in September and he was not able to return. I think he was drafted into the army but when we met, he was a historical journalist.

Over dinner, he told me his parents had been murdered by the Nazis when they captured Estonia. He said, very bitterly, that the

perpetrator lived in Leicester. A few weeks later, back at home, I saw a paragraph in *The Times* which said that the Soviet Republic of Estonia was requesting the extradition of Klaus Schmidt wanted for war crimes.

When I visited the School, they were delighted and surprised that I had found Saidleson. They had heard nothing from him since he left the country in August 1939. They thought that he had been killed in the war. I didn't see Mr Mason – I think he had left – but E J Cooper was particularly amazed and corresponded with him. I didn't correspond because I thought it would not be good for him to be in contact with too many in the West. The Cold War was at its coldest.'



Yejim (left) and Stephen (right).

Sixth Sense Silver Jubilee Quiz

In celebration of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, our School Archivist Julia Donaldson found a fun quiz from the magazine *Sixth Sense*, a few issues of which were produced by BMS students in the late 1970s. A selection of these magazines were generously donated by OBM Karl Reynolds (1967-77) in June 2022. The questions are irreverent and very much in the satirical spirit of the times! They read:

HOW TO ENTER

The following is a list of crises that have occurred during the 25 years of the Queen's reign. All you have to do is put them in order of severity e.g., if you think (a) was the most serious enter this in the first place and so on. Then simply sum up the last 25 years in not more than TWO words and send your entry, on the back of a cornflakes packet, to:
Silver Jubilee Competition, c/o English Department, BMS.

The lucky winner will receive a free trip for two to the First Anniversary Celebrations at BMS. In addition, Silver Jubilee chamber pots will be awarded to the 10 best runners-up.

LIST OF CRISES

- (a) Devaluation of the pound in 1967
- (b) Suez
- (c) England's failure to qualify for the World Cup in 1974
- (d) The drought of 1976
- (e) The coal miners' strike of 1974
- (f) The death of Grace Archer
- (g) The 1970s
- (h) England's defeat by Hungary in 1953.

The last 25 years have been:

RULES

1. The competition will be judged by a panel of experts, whose decision will be as arbitrary as yours, but for want of anything better will be accepted as final.
2. No correspondence will be entered into, as we cannot afford the cost of the postage.

Bill Pullen (1946-53)

In September 2021, Bill Pullen contacted the School to discuss the latest issue of *Eagle News*. After a 52-year career of working in and managing hotels all over the world, Bill had written down his many fascinating stories and in 2017 published them in his memoir, *It Started at the Savoy*.

The following is a small extract from the early chapters of this book. It reads: 'In the summer of 1946, a few months before I turned ten, I went away to Bedford Modern School as a boarder in School House at No 1, Warwick Avenue in Bedford.

I started out in Junior Dorm, a room with six other boys. Things settled down after I had survived the normal rite of passage of being locked in what we called 'the oracle' for the night. This was just a small space at the bottom of a free-standing cupboard used for hanging our clothes with a bottom section under a shelf for shoes. Obviously, being the new boy, I was quite nervous. Luckily, I found out that the shelf was loose, sitting on supports on each side. Once I was sure the others had gone to sleep, I pushed it up, and with the aid of a wire coat hanger, I slipped the simple latch to open the door and crept back into bed. They had all gone through this routine previously, so I don't think they were surprised to see me sleeping soundly in my bed in the morning.

One of the more adventurous activities was the 'midnight dorm feast'. We all had 'tuck boxes' in which we kept the goodies sent from home, plus anything else we bought with our meagre weekly one shilling pocket money. The idea was to sneak these items up to the dormitory, where food was not allowed, and take turns staying awake to stand guard. Then, around midnight, we would be aroused by the one 'on duty' and start gorging ourselves. Unfortunately, the house matron's room was next to the dorm, and one evening our commotion and loud voices woke her up. She came storming into our room in utter shambles and angrily declared: "I am going to call Mr Belcher! Don't touch a thing!"

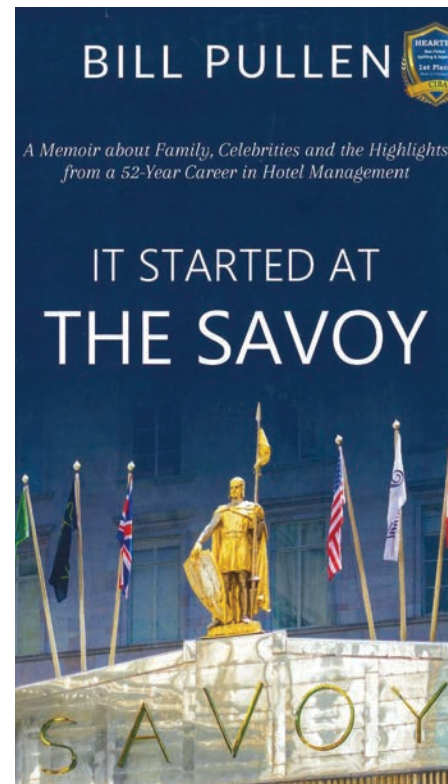
We looked around and figured we could just clean up a little bit. So, by the time he showed up in his dressing gown, it really didn't look too bad. She was standing behind him, just fuming, especially when he said something to the effect of: "Well matron, I have seen things worse than this. Now go back to bed boys and be quiet. Goodnight!" I don't think she ever forgave us.

At the start of the following school year, we got promoted to C Dorm. Mr Belcher was not quite so understanding when, early one sunny summer Sunday morning during his stroll up Warwick Avenue, he happened to glance up at the three-storey house. There he saw some of the boys in his charge, still clad in their pyjamas, straddling a peaked roof protruding from the double windows of the dorm. He just did not seem to understand that to be a true 'C Dormer' one had to straddle the peak of this loose-tiled, A-framed roof, ease oneself carefully to the end, touch the brick chimney, then turn around (a bit tricky, this) and retreat to the room. I really can't say that I remember exactly what he said but I do remember how mad he was. I am not sure if this tradition was ever continued.'

Paul Paviour (1940-48)

In the summer of 2021 we were delighted to receive a parcel, all the way from Australia, from OBM and composer Paul Paviour. The parcel contained a selection of his published compositions for our School Archive. We were incredibly grateful to be gifted such an amazing selection of work to share with our Music Department.

In a letter, Paul added: 'Probably everyone will consider me Methuselah, particularly as I'm probably the last pupil who was in the school the morning we were bombed in 1942. Not much schoolwork was done that day.'



Memory *Stir*

Aeneas Mackintosh (1891-1894)

Upon the discovery and exploration of the lost Endurance ship in the Antarctic, we delved into the life of OBM Aeneas Mackintosh, who joined Sir Ernest Shackleton on several expeditions and commanded the steam yacht Aurora, the second ship in the expedition in which Endurance sunk.

Mackintosh had received a Polar Medal for his previous work with Shackleton before the Ross Sea Advance Party, which aimed to lay supply depots along the Endurance's expedition route. He wrote about his fascinating experiences in *The Eagle* magazines from the early 1900s.



Jeremy Irvine (2000-08)

Jeremy Irvine played the hot-headed and opinionated Detective Sergeant Charles Masterson in the 2021 television series *Dalgliesh*, adapted from the novel series by P D James. He acts alongside Bertie Carvel, who plays the titular Adam Dalgliesh.

The show premiered with a six-episode run on Channel 5 in November and has since been renewed for two more seasons at Acorn TV.



Richard Claridge

BMS (1953-61), Staff (1967-2000)

writes: 'I was baptised Richard Bryan in 1942. In 1953 I was given a different name, by which I was generally known throughout my student and teaching careers at Bedford Modern School.

I was in the changing rooms after a swimming lesson. I had taken off my trunks and just finished drying myself, when I realised someone had hidden my clothes. Increasingly frantic to find them, I was running around naked. "Look at Rupert!" shouted Nicholas Lloyd (1953-61). "He's a little bare/bear!". This was a clever pun for an 11-year-old to make and presaged a distinguished career as a journalist; Nick became editor of the *Daily Express* and was awarded a knighthood for services to journalism.

From that day, I was known as Rupert or RB. (RB standing for Rupert Bear, a cartoon character popular with children, whose frolicsome adventures featured in every edition of the *Daily Express*, and also in book form, commonly given as a Christmas present).

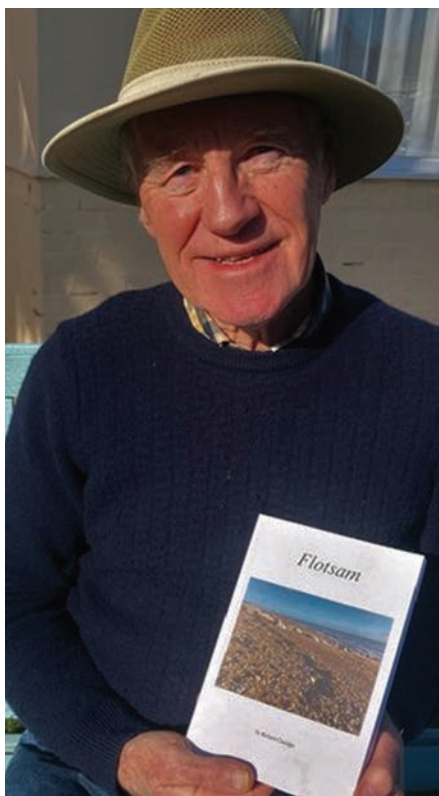
Although it was the convention that teachers addressed students by surname, outside the classroom they might use a Christian name, so among staff I was also known as Rupert. My parents rarely attended school events, but soon realised that teachers were not confusing their son with someone else when they commented on young Rupert's progress.

When I returned to BMS as a teacher, there were no students in the school to remember me as a senior boy. However, there were plenty with older brothers who had been my contemporaries, so the nickname was quickly re-established and surviving members of staff still addressed me as Rupert. 30 years later, the name had almost died out, probably because I was too old and crotchety to be identified with a happy little bear. Nevertheless, on my retirement, my friend and colleague Monica Hetherington (1977-2011) presented me with a framed page of Rupert's adventures in familiar cartoon form, the

coloured drawings created by her daughter Kate, and the authentically doggerel verse text composed by Monica. Monica is, incidentally, the wife of my former A Level English teacher, the matchless Peter Hetherington (1958-77).

In the autumn of 2021, I decided that it was time to replace my most primitive of mobile phones with a model that would impress my grandchildren. I identified a young lady as the member of staff in the O2 shop who looked to have the patience and good humour to cope with someone of my age and technical incompetence. I made the right choice, because Emma quickly supplied me with a device that met my needs and ability, and she got on with completing the contractual paperwork. After I had given her my initials and surname, she said: "RB... Rupert Bear! I used to love getting his annuals at Christmas when I was little." When I told her that Rupert had been my nickname as a teacher, we both laughed, and she said: "Did you wear yellow check trousers and a red waistcoat when you taught?"

This essay is an extract from Richard's recently-published book of memoirs, *Flotsam*.



John Dynes

Staff (1965-71)

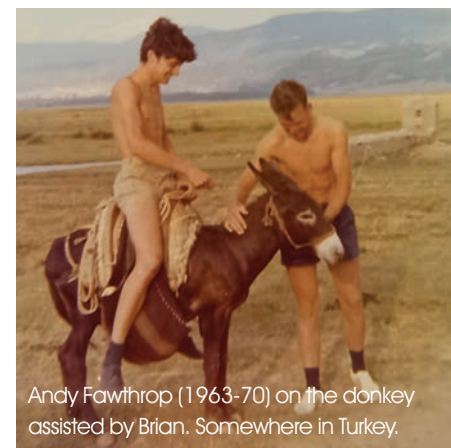
In Issue 121 of *Eagle News*, Nigel Armstrong (1964-72) wrote a memory stir recounting a school trip to Turkey 50 years ago. In response to this, John writes: 'I was also on the trip to Turkey in 1970.

The astonishing thing about the Turkish village deputation asking: "Have you come about the plane crash?", was that this had happened in 1945. We were the first 'westerners' that they had seen since then.

On our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's hike, we were similarly confronted by villagers in the middle of the night. However, this time there were many flaming torches and glinting blades. When asked what we were doing there, we said that we were on 'a walk.' "Why?" was their response. Walking for the sake of it was anathema to them and it took us a while to convince them that we were not a threat. Just crazy.

Later on in the trip when we arrived in Corfu (I think), seeing the Union Flag on our trailer, some Americans approached us with the phrase: "Do you speak English?" A wag responded: "Better than you do, mate", but happily this was not heard (or possibly ignored). They were most impressed that we had something to do with the Duke of Edinburgh. We did not disabuse them of their misconception.

We got back in time to get our A Level results. A memorable trip.'



Andy Fawthrop (1963-70) on the donkey assisted by Brian. Somewhere in Turkey.

Memory *Stir*

Engagements *and* Marriages

Sara Fallow and **Theo Rees-Bidder**
(2005-10) (2000-11)

Congratulations to Sarah Fallow and Theo Rees-Bidder who were married on Friday 02 July 2021 at Bassmead Manor Barns. The bride and groom parties, as well as the guest list, included many OBMs.

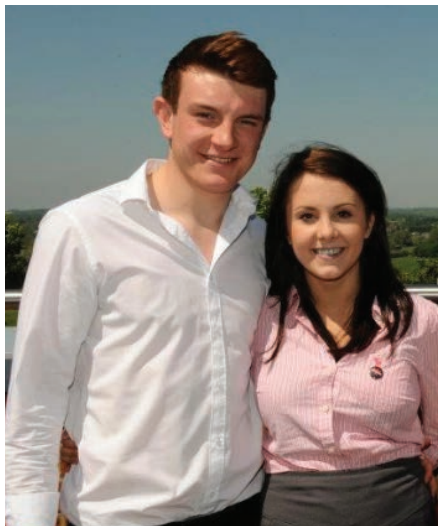
The two met at school and were good friends; Sarah was Head Girl 2009-10 and Theo was Head Boy in 2010-11. Their names can still be seen together on the BMS Heads of School board.



Jack Harding and **Katie High**
(2005-12) (2010-12)

Jack Harding (2005-12) and Katie High (2010-12) met at BMS, sitting next to each other in their Economics lessons. The pair were engaged on 01 May 2022, on their 10-year anniversary, at the top of Burgh Island in Bigbury-on-Sea. They have holidayed there often for the past decade.

They are planning for their wedding to take place in September 2024, surrounded by friends and family – many of whom are OBMs themselves.



David Curtis

(1961-67)

organised a reunion in April 2022 with five other OBMs who were in his Upper Sixth Form Biology group in 1967. He writes: 'Ian Kemp (1958-68), Michael Harvey (1961-67) and Mick Peake (1961-68) attended a lunch which I organised at a restaurant in London on 29 April 2022. We were joined by Richard Brown (1963-68), who was not in the 1967 group but was in the same exam group the year after. It was good to meet up with people I had not had any contact with since that summer, 55 years ago, and we had an enjoyable lunch discussing our various memories of life at the School, and in Bedford at that time, and finding out what we had all done since then.'



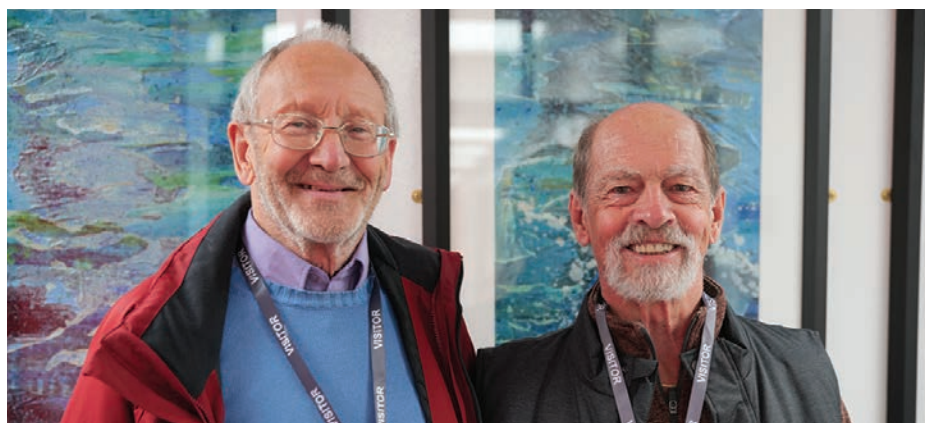
L-R Michael Harvey, David Curtis, Richard Brown, Mick Peake and Ian Kemp

Peter Habicht
(1952-59)

and

Paul Middleton
(1950-61)

In May 2022 we hosted Peter Habicht and former OBM Club President Paul Middleton for a tour of the School. Peter had travelled all the way from Massachusetts to visit his lifelong friend Paul, and we were delighted that the pair were able to squeeze in a visit. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, hearing their reflections on BMS past and present.



Memory *Stir*

James Wood (1991-2001)

On Saturday 24 July 2021 the members of the 2001 BMS 1st VIII rowing squad, organised by James Wood, reunited to row together almost 20 years to the day since their last race as a team.

James writes: 'While nearly all of the crew have stayed in touch regularly over the last 20 years, we haven't had the chance to get back into the boat as much as we would have liked to. We were lucky enough to have been joined by our old rowing coach, Richard Follett, who was still able to master the attention of a group who owe so much to what he created as part of the rowing community at BMS in 2001 and in the years prior and subsequent.

We were fortunate to be able to row in our old school boat, *Bill Bailey*, and it felt like we'd never left the carbon fibre hull. While age has brought us wisdom and experience, it has also - for the majority of us - challenged us on fitness, technique and ability. We didn't let it stop us and a successful (short) outing was held on the River Great Ouse with both older and younger generations of our families watching from the bank.

With our coach cycling alongside us, the years fell away and we thoroughly enjoyed being able to recreate the extremely formative years

for all of us. We even finished with a short 'fuse box' piece - a 250m lung-buster that was both hideously painful and exhilarating at the same time.

The bonds of rowing have kept our group close over the intervening 20 years and we are grateful for what the sport has brought all of us in our group. We will definitely be rowing together again and thank the School for allowing us this opportunity.'

The rest of the crew consisted of Hannah Wood, Mark Wood (1991-01), Matt Neame (1992-01), OBM Rowing Representative Michael Biggs (1991-01), Charlie Simpson (1994-01), Hugh Chapman (1998-02), Michael Smith (1992-01), and Steve Peet (1992-01). Kenelm Richardson (1998-02) and Mark Taylor (1996-01) were unfortunately unable to be present as they were overseas.

The group are also interested in getting back in touch with Charles Bavister (1994-01), another member of the 2001 crew.



Paul Bateman (1971-78)

writes: 'During a recent transatlantic crossing onboard RMS Queen Mary 2, I was waiting for a lecture to start when a gentleman asked if he could occupy the adjacent seat. We struck up a conversation and quickly established that although I live in Cornwall and he lives in Texas, we were both Lancastrians by birth and that our late fathers were both from the same small town of Littleborough near Rochdale. Having moved on to discuss the merits and otherwise of life in Cornwall, I cited the relatively long (five plus hours) train journey that I had made to a school reunion lunch in London. My new companion asked if the event had been worth the journey, to which I responded that it was excellent and had been held at the House of Commons. To my utter amazement he replied: "That must have been the Bedford Modern School London Lunch!"

Andrew had a younger brother, Jeremy Fawthrop (1971-80), who was at BMS. Sadly, Jeremy died a few years ago.

It is most definitely a small world sometimes!



On the left, Paul Bateman and on the right, Andrew Fawthrop (1963-70) on board Queen Mary 2 in the middle of the North Atlantic.

Philip Bunyan (1956-63)

On Wednesday 26 May 2021, OBMs and former Heads of School House David Waters (1955-61), Geoff Taylor (1957-62) and Philip Bunyan (1956-63) met in Malvern for a walk on the hills and a pub lunch. The trio had a good time catching up with one another, and it was the first time that David and Geoff have seen each other since leaving BMS 60 years ago.



David Lorimer (1941-50)



We were delighted to have David Lorimer and Raymond Mann (1947-50) visit BMS on Wednesday 17 November 2021 to watch our Big Band practice several jazz numbers in preparation for the Christmas Concert. The group was being conducted by Visiting Music Teacher Nikki Iles, who was awarded a British Empire Medal in the 2022 New Year's Honours List for 'services to music'.

David and Ray are long-time friends and meet as part of a group every fortnight to listen to and discuss different jazz pieces. During their visit

David kindly gifted our Director of Music, Mary Perry, several books and CDs of jazz compositions for BMS students to listen to. This included the magazine *100 Jazz Legends*, and a CD he had made containing 79 different tracks from artists represented in this publication.

In a note to students listening to these materials, he wrote: 'Enjoy the music I have tapped my foot to since 1947 which involves emotions which make me smile and happy – but it is also not unknown for water to well up in my eyes.'

Obituaries

Maureen (Mo) Claridge

Staff 1986-99

Died 28 August 2021.



Richard Claridge (1953-61), staff (1967-2000), writes: 'For 13 happy years Mo was the welcoming face on Reception. Glad to be back in England after a period spent in the USA, Mo quickly attuned herself to BMS. She understood its humour, its love of ironic understatement, its debunking of pomposity and pretence, and its enjoyment of uninhibited laughter. Lively and quick-witted, she was more than a match for southern wags who thought it humorous to mimic her Yorkshire vowels.'

Although much of her work was routine, putting through calls and passing on notes, she needed to deal with the unexpected, such as: when she received a bomb threat, supposedly from the IRA, and an evacuation was put into effect (there was no explosion), or when confronted by an aggressive parent, flushed and fired up over an abuse of classroom power, or when a teacher, in the throes of a breakdown, ran amok in front of her.

More commonplace at reception were distressed little boys, who had been so engrossed in table tennis in the Middle School common room that they missed their bus to Milton Keynes; exasperated mothers arriving with forgotten packed lunches, and

lonely individuals, students, and adults who just wanted a sympathetic chat. From time to time there were heavy breathers and lewd whisperers to deal with on the phone, and quite often an outraged citizen complaining that he had seen BMS students behaving like teenagers. Mo was equal to it all.

In 1989 she survived a brain haemorrhage, but returned to work within six months. Every year after that she regarded as a bonus. In 1999 ill health forced her retirement, prior to an operation for the removal of a lung, after which I too retired, in 2000.

We had married in 1993. We enjoyed the next ten years, socialising frequently with BMS friends, and spending much of the summertime caravanning and sailing in north Norfolk. We then moved to the south coast, where Mo was particularly happy, walking to the beach most days, and being visited regularly by our seven grandchildren - not all at once!

In keeping with her positive and cheerful outlook, Mo's service at Worthing Crematorium was made as 'un-funereal' as possible. There were spoken tributes to her bravery, her loving kindness and her sense of fun. Music included her hometown brass band, Brighthouse and Rastrick; *All You Need Is Love* by the Beatles; *Sailing* by Rod Stewart; and we all went out to the joyful strains of Ken Dodd singing *Happiness*.

Philip Abrahams

Former Staff

Died 01 August 2021.

Philip's daughter, Melanie Abrahams, writes: 'Phil was married to Christine for 32 years before she sadly passed away in 2012.'

He was a father to Paul, Lauren and Melanie and a doting grandad to Oli, Aston, Chrissy-Mae and Joanie. He had recently moved to Tuxford in Nottinghamshire to be closer to his daughter Lauren.



When Christine was alive, Phil loved family holidays to Zante and Crete, and more recently with the grandchildren to Lincolnshire.

Phil started his caretaking career in the 1990s at Sandy Secondary School before moving to Bedford Modern School, and then semi-retiring in 2013.

Phil always had a passion for cars, especially Formula One. He worked casual hours driving cars for a local car dealership and body shop, for which he had to stop due to COVID-19.'

Nick O'Sullivan

Staff 1987-91

Died 19 July 2020.

Nick taught RE in the Junior and Senior Schools, was Assistant Boarding Housemaster and successfully coached the BMS 1st VIII to win the Special Race for Schools at Henley Royal Regatta.

Nick's son James writes: 'Nicholas James Barnham O'Sullivan was born on 26 July 1956 in Balham. His early adulthood was a mosaic of study, including Geography with Anthropology at UCL, religious training at the Dominican Studium in Blackfriars, and an MA in Theology and Religious Studies at

Emmanuel (1984-1987). This unconventional background led him to a career in education, which he began by teaching Religious Studies and Philosophy at Bedford Modern and Norwich schools, during which time he also coached rowing.

As a teacher, he left a deep impression on his students. He was passionate about cultivating independent thought, encouraging adoption of an inquisitive, critical approach to academic life, whilst valuing kindness and compassion.



His success as a teacher and administrator led him to appointments as headmaster of Austin Friars School in Carlisle (2000-2003), as well as St Columba's College, St Albans (2003-2007). He then took on the role of Principal at Havelock Academy in Grimsby (2007-2011). In a catchment of acute deprivation, Nicholas oversaw significantly improved results and improved pastoral care, as well as closer relationships with parents and health and social care agencies. His career was characterised by a belief that education should be holistic, and he was adamant that improving grades was secondary to fostering more broadly educated, socially confident young people.

Beyond work, Nicholas had expansive interests in archaeology, history, philosophy and the anthropology of religion. He also loved poetry and composed his own verse. He never described himself as retired, and after leaving education devoted much of his time to his life-long passion for painting and fascination with colour.

He was an exceptional man of integrity, a loving husband, father and friend who is dearly missed. He passed away on 19 July 2020 at home in Norfolk, surrounded by his family.'

Tony Wills Staff 2004-09

Died 05 March 2022.

John White, former colleague and friend, writes: 'Anthony Richard Wills, or Tony to his friends, was employed at BMS from 24 July 2004 to 31 August 2009.

Tony had a successful career in industry before semi-retiring to become our DT technician. We were delighted that Tony made the decision to bring his vast technical knowledge to our department. He was fundamentally important to the department's success, as it went through significant changes, technological advancements and updates, many of which we are still benefitting from today.

Whilst Tony was an extremely skilled, intelligent and articulate technician, he brought much more to our team and the School as a whole. His infectious sense of humour, eye for fun, even naughtiness on occasion, made for a wonderful environment in which to work. However, perhaps the most important character traits he brought were based around his own beliefs and core values, as well as warmth and care for others, including my own children, for whom he regularly found gainful employment in their formative years. His beloved garden often needed watering in the summer as he and Gill spent yet another month on a cruise!

Tony was also heavily involved in organising the BMS Holiday Activity Courses, something he took great pride in.

John Robert Brownridge (1958 -65)

East House. Died 18 December 2021.

John's brother, David Brownridge (1955-64), writes: 'John was born in Bedford on 26 May 1949 and in due course joined his brother and three cousins at BMS. He saw out the last days of the JET era and the transition to Kemball-Cook, on which he commented insightfully in his contribution to *The BMS We Knew*. John enjoyed the sporting opportunities the school offered and excelled at cricket, his left-arm unorthodox spin bowling reaping many wickets for the First XI. After leaving school he took up racquet sports, representing the county at squash and tennis.



John made his career in the insurance world, working mainly at O'Connor and Co. in Northampton, where he specialised in pensions and became a Director. His Northampton location led him to be a keen supporter of the Saints and the County Cricket Club.

John had married Susan Death, a graduate of the former Bedford PE College, in 1972 and they made their home in the village of

Obituaries

Denton, conveniently between Bedford and Northampton, where they raised their three girls. After retiring early from full-time employment, he soon devoted himself to village life and became an integral part of the local community, researching and writing local history, unearthing archaeological remains and attending to any number of useful tasks around the village, not least the refurbishment of the village green horse trough.

Two of his particular interests in later life were fishing and fossicking, the former often at nearby Pitsford and the latter in many different areas of Australia where he and Sue for a number of years made a habit of travelling during the northern winter months. The finds would then be brought back as rough stones for John to craft into fine jewellery at leisure.

John did not enjoy the best of health in his later years and died just before Christmas 2021 after a short illness. He leaves Sue still in residence in Denton, his three daughters and four grandchildren, to whom he was a much-loved father and grandfather. The villagers of Denton will certainly miss him too.'

Roy Charles King (1948-55)

West House. Died 05 May 2022.

David Keep (1945-55) writes: 'Roy Charles King was quiet and studious, holding a place on the science side and leaving after A Levels to join the computing department at the Unilever Research Centre, Colworth House. He married Marie Jimminson and they had two children, Sally and Stephen. In 1968 he moved to Nestlé in Croydon, where he became Head of Market Research.

He became a Queen's Scout in the Priory troop where he had started, rather than transferring to the BMS troop. Because of the war, he came late to Hornby O Gauge and

Meccano but profited from skills learned with them, moving on to work on old cars in the railway yard behind their house in Prebend Street. His own car was a Riley saloon with the roof removed and a pre-selector gearbox. The last time we met he took me to Brooklands in an early hybrid car and explained how he had always been a fan of the ERA racing car.

We were keen cyclists and rode to Stratford-on-Avon, where we stood through *The Merchant of Venice* with Michael Redgrave and Peggy Ashcroft. Then we had to cycle to the Youth Hostel. The next day we crossed Salisbury Plain to Southampton and returned to Bedford via the long, slow ups and fast downs of the Chilterns. We were the first of our contemporaries to ride a hundred miles in one day to Marble Arch. The plan was to use a tandem but we failed to master it. The journey was slow and miserable in the traffic on the A6 and A5 and we saw nothing else of London except lunch at Lyon's Corner House salad bar, because you could eat all you liked!

He supported Marie when she was ordained as a local minister at St Mildred's Church, Croydon. Sadly he suffered from Alzheimer's disease and spent a year in Hall Grange Care Home, Shirley, where he died on 05 May 2022 after a serious bout of COVID-19.'

John Summerfield (1952-59)

West House. Died 05 January two weeks short of his 81st birthday.

Alan Norcott (1950-58) writes: 'John was born in Queens Park in 1941 and passed the 11+ to enter Bedford Modern. At school he became an accomplished rugby player and oarsman representing the School in the 1st XV and the 1st VIII during his last two years. Away from the sporting arena he made a great success of his time in the CCF. He joined the band and after working his way up

through the drums he finally became Drum Major. It was common to see him walking along the riverside in Queens Park, with his then girlfriend, throwing a dummy mace in the air until he had complete control over it. Below there is an account by G F Graves with more detail on this.



After leaving school John went to Cardiff University to study for a Science degree but left during the second term when he realised that he wanted to teach. The following year he enrolled at St Paul's College, Cheltenham where he gained his teaching qualification. He spent his full-time working life teaching physical sciences in secondary schools. He moved between Rugby, Baldock, Sunderland and finally Winterton where he was a successful Headteacher for 12 years. In 1973 he had married Gail and they subsequently had two daughters.

When he eventually retired he volunteered to work for Citizens Advice Bureau, looked after the village hall in Winterton, chaired the garden club and was on the Twinning Committee. This would have been enough for most people, but not John. He also started to help Gail with her successful ornamental grasses nursery. Before very long he had graduated from being the 'muscle' to becoming very knowledgeable about grasses and their propagation. Together with Gail he formed a well-known, formidable team who exhibited at shows and gave talks to garden societies within a two-hour drive of Winterton.

He is survived by Gail, daughters Jill and Lynn, and four grandchildren.'

Graham Graves (1954-59) writes: 'Just as I remember John, he appears to have died fully committed like an oarsman with a strong finish and no hesitation. I also recall how much he practised with the mace when he was chosen to be Drum Major in the CCF band. He mastered the mace and learned to toss it into the air. No other Drum Major before him had the skill or the nerve to do this when the Corps of Drums led the school contingents down the high street, and there was a good reason for it. The mace was heavy and unbalanced, and not made for this kind of display, but this did not deter John. He practised in fields by the river with guidance from a retired Drum Major of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. He also befriended the Drum Major of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders pipe band who encouraged John's skills and enthusiasm at Corps Camp one year, 1957 or 1958 I think. At school, John was always unfailingly cheerful with a ready chuckle and anecdote. I last met him at Henley a few years ago when he seemed to me to be more reserved, perhaps a requirement in a Headmaster, as I believe he was then.'

Richard Graves

(1944-48)

School House. Died 21 September 2021 after a short illness.

Richard's sons, Jonathan and Matthew, write: 'Richard Graves came to Bedford Modern School from his native Cambridge in September 1944. The life of a boarder in School House during wartime was so austere, he would later claim, that in winter pupils had to break the ice in their washbasins before breakfast. Notwithstanding, he loved his time at BMS and formed life-long friendships with contemporaries Johnny Arnold (1941-49), Hewitt Bramwell (1941-48), John Davis, and Dickie Jeeps. Tales of this band of brothers

going over the wall after hours for rationed treats abound, given added flavour by the sweet tooth they shared into later life. Richard was a keen sportsman, playing cricket for the 1st XI as a wicket-keeper batsman and 1st XV rugby at fly-half outside future English and British Lion scrum-half Jeeps. He also captained the school Fives team, "a sport it's easy to be good at", he would say, "because few other schools played it or understood the rules."

On leaving school in the summer of 1948, Richard returned to work on the family farms north of Cambridge. He joined Cambridge Rugby Club and played cricket for St Giles and the Diocese of Ely XI. Following his marriage to Barbara (née Gale) in 1955, the newly-weds set up home on Mitchell Hill Common, Cottenham, on the south bank of the River Great Ouse, and founded a family. When the loss of his left hand in an accident prematurely ended his club career, Richard taught himself to play golf again one-

handed, and learned from scratch how to fly-fish for salmon, a passion he would pursue on the River Wye and Royal Deeside for more than half a century. Showing courage and tenacity, he overcame his disability to not just carry on farming, but make a success of it.

He always looked to give back to the community that sustained him through good years as well as bad. This included 60 years of service on the Old West Drainage Board, 50 as a parish councillor, and as many again as trustee of three Cottenham charities. He continued to be active deep into retirement, travelling widely, not least to France to visit his family and friends there. He was a loyal attendee at Old Bedford Modernian reunions to the last.

Richard is survived by his wife Barbara, sons Jonathan and Matthew, and grandchildren Philip, Samuel, Benjamin, Alexandre and Eugénie.'



The Fives club, 1948, featuring Richard with his life-long friends John Davis (1941-48) and Dickie Jeeps (1943-49).

Obituaries

Michael John (Mike) Carter (1962-72)

North House. Died 26 October 2021.

Mike's sisters, Sue and Gill, write: 'Mike was a true Bedfordian. Born 20 December 1953 to parents David (1936-42) and Ruby, Mike lived his whole life at the family home in Clarendon Street.

After attending Clapham Road Primary school, Mike followed in our father's footsteps in attending Bedford Modern School. He took an active part in school activities: scout troop, cinema club, junior modern languages society and musical society as well as rugby, athletics, cricket, cross-country running and swimming. The playing fields and swimming pool were based at the top of our road, and so began a life-long love of sport. Swimming soon gave way to canoeing, a passion for which Mike maintained for the rest of his life.

Leaving school, Mike worked as a bookkeeper, whilst continuing to be involved in various sporting clubs around Bedford including Old Bedford Modernians' teams, where he was also a committee member and sporting rep.

Mike was extremely passionate about canoeing. Being a member of Viking Kayak Club for nearly 50 years saw Mike undertake just about every position possible including Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman. For many years he served on the GB Slalom committee officiating at the 1981 Slalom World Championships in North Wales and, at a national level, Mike was the bib officer for National Slalom competitions for veterans. He also held various positions with the British Canoe Union (BCU): Slalom Ranking Officer, BCU Slalom Selection Committee, and a member of the BCU Executive, to name but a few. Mike was fortunate to be recognised for his achievements and commitments to canoeing at various times, not least in 2008,

when he was awarded 'Official of the Year' by Canoe England. He had been nominated by international paddler, Etienne Stoff, who said: "Mike is the classic volunteer: passionate, deeply involved and tirelessly caring about the sport and its participants."

Mike had strong links with Bamberg (Bedford's twin town) and helped run many trips to and from there. He was also a regular attendee at the Bedford River Users group.

The last recognition for Mike's canoeing exploits was in December 2020, when he was nominated as part of the Bedford Sports Awards 25th Anniversary, which celebrates the sporting achievements of clubs or individuals affiliated to clubs situated in Bedford. Due to the pandemic, these were not able to be distributed in 2020 but, in

2021, Mike was recognised, posthumously, with the award for Service for Sport, for his contributions to Viking Kayak Club.

Mike was also an avid supporter of the Bedford Blues, going along with supporters to away matches as well as attending the grounds in Goldington Road in all types of weather.

Mike was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis over thirty years ago, yet this did not deter him. His stubborn determination not to give in to the disease meant he continued attending all the sporting events which meant so much to him. Until the pandemic hit, Mike would still be seen walking along on his crutches to various engagements, albeit a bit slower and a bit unsteady on his feet. He died suddenly at home on 26 October 2021.'



Robert (Rob) Adams (1957-65)

School House. Died 27 June 2022.

Michael Potter (1957-91) writes: 'BMS has a way of attracting the loyalty of its former students as is evident from the success of the OBM Club. Rob Adams who died so suddenly in June was a fine example of this. His time at BMS as a member of School House meant so much to him. His father was in the RAF and stationed most of the time abroad, and for Rob BMS offered security. I came to know him when in the last years of his school life he came to live with us as a refugee from boarding house routine. He valued the stability and rough and tumble of family life, and in later years he never failed to keep in contact. Whenever we met, he kept us entertained with reminiscences of his BMS experiences as, for example, when he had a spell in hospital and his English teacher, George Cullen (1954-89), got the rest of the class to write letters to him. Rob, characteristically, kept them all and four years ago turned them into a little booklet and sent a copy to George. Not all his BMS experiences were happy, but Rob bore no ill-will and seemed able to find a funny side in all situations. He was not an ambitious man: he worked first as a buyer for British Leyland, then for GKN, and finally for the Swedish upholstery business Bogesund. In all his dealings he was straight as a die. One of his great friends at BMS, John Bailey (1957-65) remembers him as a good mate and as a business colleague. They travelled together both in this country and abroad. Since the 1990s a number of us have regularly arranged to attend OBM functions both in Bedford and London and have shared the same table. It was at one of these events that Rob first met a younger OBM, Claudio Riccio (1987-92) with whom he immediately established a close rapport which developed into a regular exchange of messages and telephone conversations.

It is not surprising that Rob was generous as a volunteer for charities in Wellington where he and Ann eventually settled. More adventurously he spent a period in Ghana working on a children's project.

As in every aspect of his life, Rob was a devoted family man. Ann, his wife of 47 years, whom he met when working for British Leyland, regularly accompanied him to OBM functions in Bedford. On these occasions she tolerated, perhaps even enjoyed his anecdotes about

BMS in the 1960s. They adopted two boys, Paul in 1978 and Matthew in 1981, who spoke movingly about their father at his funeral.

We all expected to see Rob and Ann at the Founder's Dinner on 17 June this year. It was unspeakably sad to be told that he was so ill that he could not attend. We shall miss them both at subsequent events. We and the School have lost an irrepressibly loyal friend.'



Rob (far right) with his wife Ann at the OBM Club Founder's Dinner in 2019.

John Patrick Arnold (1941-45)

School House. Died 10 February 2022.

Before his death, John wrote an obituary to be submitted for *Eagle News*, sent to us by his son Robert. It reads: 'Born 17 March, 1928. When at school: captain of rugby, captain of swimming, captain of water polo, captain of London Public Schools, played as leader of the pack, forward for English schoolboys versus Welsh schoolboys.

Left school aged 17 and a half. Entered Army. Commissioned Royal Artillery. Awarded Sword of Honour as Leading Cadet.

Trained as a teacher at Loughborough College specialising in sport. In 1950, married Elizabeth Jane and had seven children. Became Headmaster of Norfolk Primary School.

As a result of studying art at evening classes, gained National Diploma in Design. This later led to two years post-graduate at the Slade School of Fine Art, University of London. Taught as a senior lecturer at Trent Park College London.

Retired to Norfolk in 1984. Kept two Jersey cows and 'lived off the land'.'

Obituaries

Douglas Fensome (1956-62)

County House. Died 23 December 2021.

Douglas's wife, Caroline, writes: 'Douglas was a scholarship boy, travelling into Bedford on the bus from Ravensden where his family have lived since at least the 16th century.

Douglas rowed at school and also enjoyed rugby, which he played into his fifties as a member of Bedford Athletic Rugby Club. He played the bugle and was in the corps of drums for the CCF.

When he first left school, he went into estate agency in Bedford where he was happy for a couple of years but upon being offered a job with a large housebuilding company decided to move to London. He thrived in this environment and quickly moved on to work for the Wates Group as a land buyer. It was during his time at Wates that he bought the show house on a new estate and moved to Letchworth.

A further promotion saw him at Costains House Builders, but he had a change of heart and decided to go back into estate agency with George Jackson in Hitchin.'

His classmate Brent Smith (1956-63) said: "Doug was a great friend and I miss him. We were at BMS together but had not kept in touch. One day, I got a call from one of my friends who owned Jackson's Hitchin Auctioneers and Agents asking me to call round and meet their manager. It was Douglas. We then worked together sorting out the affairs of landowners and really enjoyed working together."

He had many happy years with Jacksons and met some very good friends in and around Hitchin, but Bedford beckoned. His widowed mother was getting elderly and he wanted to be closer to her so made the move to Shaffesbury Avenue, with easy walking distance to school and a park to play in for our daughters Ellie and Charlie.

Douglas seemed settled until I showed him an advertisement in the paper for a land buyer at McCarthy and Stone whose office was then in Hammond Rd, about two miles away. It seemed as if fate had put it there. An interview and immediate job offer soon saw him become land director.

Nothing lasts, a recession saw housebuilding suffer and Douglas was looking for a job - but not for long. He decided to join County Homesearch as a search agent, finding houses for clients who either didn't have the time or felt otherwise reluctant to purchase by themselves.'

Jonathan Haward, the Managing Director of County Homesearch had these words to say at Douglas's funeral: "The immediate reaction from those I have spoken to has been his unswerving honour, truth and integrity. Douglas was one of the most dependable people I have ever come across and a great team player."

Douglas always had a keen interest in food and he was never happier than when sitting before a white tablecloth in a good restaurant. He was a very keen cook and was always producing new and interesting dishes (often with too much chilli!), some more successful than others.

His friend David Warren added: "I was fortunate to be party to a number of short breaks in France where Douglas was able to indulge himself in matters culinary. He would treat any meal with the same anticipation and appreciation, whether it was a plateau de fruits de mer royale in the old harbour in Biarritz or coffee and a sandwich in a motorway service area. He liked to eat. He liked to drink. He liked good company. He was the embodiment of good living - a bon viveur."

The internet allowed him a whole new persona as a 'foodie' on Pinterest, he posted photographs and recipes and had many hundreds of followers.

At the age of 70 he eventually retired but unfortunately health problems started not long after. He suffered two strokes and developed heart failure, but he was never downcast, continuing to enjoy OBM functions, afternoons at the 'Blues' and his social life in The Castle pub.

Douglas died peacefully, at home in Bedford, aged 76.'



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Thank you for reading and for your continued support of the OBM Club.

If you wish to submit an obituary or memory stir for the next edition of *Eagle News*, please email externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 23 June 2023.

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If you would like to know more or want to give back to BMS, please get in touch or return the donation form enclosed.

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Thank you