

THE OLD BRADFORDIAN

The Old Bradfordians Association Magazine



Acclaimed
journalist and
Bradford Beacon

Anita Singh

News
Features
Events
Obituaries

2020 Edition

WELCOME



... from the President

Welcome to the 2020 edition of this fine journal, slightly later than normal, but definitely not cancelled by the dreaded virus. The team has worked hard in ensuring that the 'spiky' fellow does not get the better of us – well done team!

At the end of the AGM in September 2019, what was my closing statement is now ringing in my ears: "We look forward to another splendid year!" Well, I got that wrong! There may be an opening for me in politics! 2020 has indeed been a strange, and yet memorable year – but probably not for the reasons we would have wished.

The 2019/20 academic year got off to a good start with the Annual Dinner returning to the Price Hall and a fascinating talk from Detective Superintendent Helen Millichap (1993) on the issues around policing the capital and the knife epidemic, followed by a sneak preview of her new task – recruiting 20,000 police officers at the start of Boris's reign. The run up to Christmas was, as always, busy and interesting with an excellent London Club Dinner with guest speaker OB Charlotte Lockley (1985). Representing the OBA at Founders' Day was an honour, and the Christmas concerts were up to their usual high standards. A highlight of the term was the event to mark 35 years of co-education; Lindsey and her team put together an excellent event, 'Leading Ladies', to celebrate this anniversary which was extremely interesting.

At this point, things seemed to be going well and we all looked forward to an interesting 2020. We started the New Year with a lovely service led by the Bishop of Ripon to bring the WW1 project to an end. It was at this point that the rumours from the East became a reality and the coronavirus pandemic was upon us!

Life became very different and indeed was a challenge for us all. The determination to succeed kicked in and we adapted to deal with the situation. We all became adept with Zoom, managing to hold a limited AGM and a committee meeting, the latter being well attended – future food for thought. Online Speech Day and Founders' Day did not have the usual feel, but were excellent in that members could keep in touch and showed us we were not succumbing to the ravages of the 'spiky' chap.

Dr Ian Holland
(1966)

OBA Committee
President

I would at this point like to give a special thanks to Simon, for his continuing support, and to Lindsey and her team who set about trying to ensure contact with the OB Community was maintained and that older members closer to School remained safe. Lindsey established a befriending scheme with help from a wide range of people associated with School past and present. At Christmas, some small gifts were circulated, and a raffle organised. In addition, a series of online talks were arranged involving Steve Abbott (1972), Adrian Moorhouse (1982), Roger Mosey (1976), Richard Nerukar (1982), Dr Amir Khan (1999) and Deborah Sides (2006). I have to admit of all the organisations that I am involved with, BGS came out tops in regards to keeping in touch with its members. Congrats Lindsey and her team.

Initially, I thought what would I write about – well it's about time I stopped before I receive my annual reprimand from the editor for too many words! However, before I close, I would like to repeat my thanks to all concerned in maintaining our spirits through these dark times; my Committee, all helpers, Simon, Lindsey and the team. The latter team has been marvellous especially as during the year, Rebecca and Emma moved on as part of their career development. I should like to thank both for all their support to the organisation and wish them all the very best for the future. Their places were taken by Donna, who looks after events and the OB Committee, and Luke, who has a data remit. In the new team, Jess has moved over to communications and marketing. It is wonderful how under Lindsey's leadership, the team has gelled together in what has not been the easiest of circumstances. Well done and thanks to you all.

Finally, I wish you all the very best – try to take care and stay safe as the Government keeps reminding us and best of luck with your vaccinations!



... from the Headmaster

Welcome to this latest edition
of 'The Old Bradfordian'.

I write these words on day three of the latest national lockdown. It is 9:35am on Wednesday 6 January 2021. I expect to hear later a confirmation that public exams in England will once again be cancelled and there is no question that the tests facing our country and the world at large are grave. Above all else, I worry about the long-term impacts on our young people. So, what can we do?



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster



The answer: to strain every sinew and do what we possibly can to safeguard the wellbeing, education and therefore prospects of our BGS pupils. This is what we have done, what we are doing still – exhausting but worthwhile. It is a privilege to lead Bradford Grammar School (BGS) through these difficult days and I am proud of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cycles of lockdown interleaved with direct teaching of whole school and specific cohorts, including vulnerable pupils, individual year groups and the children of critical workers for example, with attendant volumes of instruction and statutory guidance, have presented significant but not insurmountable challenges.

As the first lockdown loomed, we didn't have long to prepare. France, Italy, South East Asia, amongst others, were ahead of the UK in terms of the progression of the virus, so we contacted peer group schools overseas and learned from their initial experiences, readying our resources, workforce, communications strategy and adapting governance structures – the list goes on. Business plans had to be rewritten without delay, costs controlled. Difficult decisions were taken regarding the workforce and programmes of expenditure.

As the first 2020 lockdown began, and remote education took over, we adjusted to a new school routine, and quickly too. We were determined early on to sustain pastoral, academic and co-curricular (wider learning) provision, and mimic as far as was practicable the rhythm of a normal school day. At the same time, we understood it would be beneficial to deliver age appropriate programmes, begin steadily with remote learning in order to leave no one behind, and build in the opportunity for incremental improvement to keep things fresh. We also sought to deliver a degree of flexibility, recognising that both pupils and teachers would be facing many various pressures. All the while, our BGS people were falling ill, families and friends were distancing, and we lost loved ones, me included. Balancing professional and personal lives was not straightforward, and it remains far from easy today. The task is an uphill one – educational, operational and commercial, and is ongoing still. As I write, it is arguably our toughest yet.



IF YOU HAVE INTEGRITY, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS. IF YOU DON'T HAVE INTEGRITY, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS

Alan K Simpson



BGS has purpose, strength of character and resilience. By necessity there has been a muscular element to our meeting of the present conditions. But we are kind, patient, empathetic and ultimately supportive of each other too. This balance of qualities will see us through. We behaved compassionately and correctly, and showed some resolve. In many ways, I believe we are now a better school than we were before the pandemic struck, and challenges are inevitably therefore morphing into opportunities for future development and growth.

Other independent schools nationally are reducing their bursary commitments and wider public benefit work to realise savings to survive, if at all possible, these times of increased cost, borrowing and decreased income. It is only through the visionary support of our benefactors that means-tested fee assistance – Assisted Places at BGS – can be maintained, an activity that strikes to the core identity and ongoing ambitions of BGS, our collective mission.

A new Development & Old Bradfordians' Office was established in November 2018, with the aim of reconnecting and supporting the community of Old Bradfordians which exists across the world. A key pillar of the office's remit is to work with Old Bradfordians who are interested in supporting the next generation of talented pupils. This could be through careers and university advice, mentoring, work experience, or supporting bright but disadvantaged children with Assisted Places. To enable this and to help launch a new campaign, The 1662 Fund was established in November 2019.

The 1662 Fund forms part of the School's accounts and a Development Committee chaired by Lady Morrison (Chairman of Governors) has been established to support proactive fundraising. The committee comprises benefactors and School Governors.

The need to do this vital work is as much about safeguarding the School's future and academic standing, as it is about contributing to social mobility in Bradford. Bradford is already the fifth most deprived area in the UK, with almost 50% of all children living in poverty according to national statistics.

BGS receives a huge volume of competitive applications each year but is currently only able to provide funding to 5-10% of all those applicants who request support. We must invest in the talent on our doorstep and stay true to our School's vision of providing an outstanding education to all with the potential to thrive here, irrespective of background or means. This aim is enshrined in our 1662 Royal Charter and has always been a key part

of the School's ethos. There is no more important work ongoing at BGS than to embed benefaction and public benefit, not just in the heart of any given Headmaster, but at the centre of the whole school community and our shared endeavour. This laudable activity is gathering pace and is one example of the growth and renewed sense of community and common cause at BGS.

I'm not ready to look back and take stock. There is no sense of triumph or hubris in my words or deeds. But there is hope for the future and a job to do with your assistance.

My humble thanks are extended to Governors, colleagues, pupils and their parents, and of course our Old Bradfordians and friends for your kind messages of understanding, encouragement and collegiality, and for your practical support of the School's ambitions. Please do not underestimate your value or potential to make a difference. Collective action must continue for the good of the young people at our School and also for those who will follow them in years to come. As a parent and teacher, I am proud to be part of BGS.

Hoc Age!



Simon Hinch

Brian Parker
Editor and former
Chemistry teacher
(1976-2005)

Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the 2020 edition of 'The Old Bradfordian' – the news magazine for the OBA.

Many thanks to all the members of the Old Bradfordians' Office who have continued to work at School despite the chaos outside. Thank you also to the OBs who have written to me directly. It is always a pleasure to hear just how well you are doing.

You may have noticed that this issue is a little later than in previous years. The magazine will now run per calendar year to allow us to better reflect activity throughout the year, with a springtime publication release, so please expect future issues around a similar time. This year, we are publishing hard copies and the magazine will appear online. If there are any OBs who would like a hard copy and did not receive one, please contact either myself or the School.

Recently, I had a FaceTime chat with two ex-members of U6BP (2001), Kate Lowe and Juliet Raine (who now lives and works in Sardinia). That form of 10 pupils produced three NHS consultants, a registrar and two other doctors, a physiotherapist/ergonomics specialist, and, possibly even more! What a great school BGS is! I also recently received a thank you note from James Ashwell (1993). He even remembered one of my sayings from an A Level Chemistry class 27 years previously! This was followed by an email from Mark Rigby (1980), a past cross country runner. And lastly, but not least from Professor Phillip Preshaw (1986), who is presently Professor of Dentistry at the University of Singapore. I cannot convey the pleasure it gives me to receive emails from past pupils and to see just how well they have done over the past years.

As I write this, I am visited by Matt Wilde, Donna Reynolds and two Sixth Form students with a Christmas present from BGS. What a super school this is!

Keep safe, keep well.

parkerbbandm@gmail.com



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REMEMBERING ...



Summer Concert
17 June

Open Science Lecture with Prof. Andy Carr (1977) – 'New for Old; a short history of surgical replacement of body parts'
21 June

Speech Day
25 June

BGS 'In Conversation' with British novelist Ross Raisin (1998)
29 June



Diary dates

At BGS, we have a varied events programme for all members of the BGS family. Giving the uncertainties around the current COVID-19 situation, we have only published dates for the summer term. We will communicate any developments with you as and when we know, and update the website accordingly.

A Year in Review: Development & Old Bradfordians' Office

I hope this edition of 'The Old Bradfordian' finds OBs and friends safe and well.

2020 was certainly that most overused of words – unprecedented. In different ways, the past twelve months have presented us all with challenge, loss, and upheaval. Characters have been tested; kindness has won out, and the ties of community have sustained us. Here in the Development Office, we have worked hard to play our part and ensure that you have felt connected with one another and to your old school.

It's strange to think that 2020 began with what now seems rather outrageous: an actual physical event, thanks to the hospitality of OB Peter Mason (1974) who hosted a hugely enjoyable evening in his Leeds bar The Dog House. Sadly, the arrival of COVID-19 just a few months later ensured that this was the first and last in-person OB gathering of 2020, as reunions and anniversaries were cancelled with great alacrity during March.

Though it has been tough, the resilience and on occasion, downright heroism of OBs has shone through: from the OBs doing their bit to keep the public safe and support the NHS, to the fortitude of the Class of 2020, who have missed so many traditional school milestones (we will correct this when we can!).

Whilst 2020 presented us with great challenges, the BGS family stayed connected. Perhaps one of the silver linings of life 'going virtual' has been the opportunity to strengthen bonds with OBs located across the world, minus geographical or travel constraints: during our North American Reunion, or in conversations with OBs based as far afield as Hong Kong and Japan.

As these pages reveal, OBs did whatever they could to support School and one another: delivering virtual careers talks, volunteering alongside current students to reach out to self-isolating fellow OBs and participating in our first ever online event programme: 'BGS In Conversation'. With Assistant Heads Gary Woods and Paul Merckx serving as Bradford's answer to Paxman and Parkinson, we were joined by a host of inspirational OBs for some hugely popular events. Sincere thanks to all of our guests for offering an alternative to Netflix!



Above: (L-R) Luke Jones, Donna Reynolds, Lindsey Davis and Jessica Alred

OBs also supported School by increasing the number of students who can benefit from Assisted Places. The new 1662 Fund and 1662 Development Committee chaired by Lady Morrison has ambitious hopes for the future; since the Fund's inception in November 2019, the Committee has helped to raise more than £800,000 in the form of endowed and 'pay as you go' bursaries. This includes brand new sponsorship gifts and a first for BGS, in the form of a remarkable year group gift from the Class of 1975 and 1976. The whole school community is deeply grateful to all those who have generously donated.

We also appreciate the feedback received in response to last year's survey. We have taken on board your comments: the need for more varied events, for instance, which appeal across the generations, and will continue to learn from you as to how we can help you stay connected.

Finally, you may have noticed some changes in the Development Office: this year we said farewell to Rebecca Bull and Emma Wragg, who moved on to careers in school

administration and campaign communications respectively. I'm sure many OBs will join me in wishing them well and thanking them for all they did for BGS.

THOUGH IT HAS BEEN TOUGH, THE RESILIENCE AND ON OCCASION, DOWNRIGHT HEROISM OF OBS HAS SHONE THROUGH ...

Upon Emma's departure, Jessica Alred, previously Events Coordinator, accepted the position of Communications & Marketing Executive. Jess has a wide range of experience in this area and we were thrilled that she accepted the post. Jess will oversee the production of key School publications and manage the School website and social media output. We also welcomed our new Database Officer Luke Jones, who is responsible for looking after your data and managing the technical aspects of Beyond Bradford. In September, Donna Reynolds came aboard. As Old Bradfordian & Events Coordinator, Donna will work closely with the OBA

Committee to deliver and grow our events programme – virtual or otherwise! – and serve as the key point of contact for OBs.

We look forward to working with everyone and send you all the best for what will hopefully be a happy and healthy 2021.

Lindsey Davis
Director of Development & External Relations



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Here we celebrate some of your good news stories. Further stories can be found on the School website and our exclusive OB networking platform, Beyond Bradford.

To share your stories, please email oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com. Whether it be a birth, wedding, award win or other achievement, we want to hear them all!

○ **Clare Kelly (2010) has recently been promoted to Creative Manager at Universal Music Publishing Group in London, specialising in music for Film & TV. Clare sends her sincerest wishes and thanks to all the Music, Art and English teachers for making her time at BGS so enjoyable.**

In October 2020, Jonathan Emmett (1989) was named among the 2020 VenuesNow All-Stars for his architectural contribution to the sports industry.

Jonathan studied architecture at Edinburgh University where he gained his master's degree. Having spent an internship year in the USA during his degree, he decided to return and gained a place at The Southern Californian Institute of Architecture where, in 1997, he was awarded The Degree of Master of Architecture. He remains in California and has had a very interesting career in his chosen profession. He is now Design Director and Principal of Gensler Architects – a large practice of some 5000+ professionals networked across 50 offices throughout the world.



○ **Professor David Weir (1957) has recently been appointed as Professor of Enterprise and Director of External Engagement at Huddersfield Business School, Huddersfield University.**

Local artist Richard O' Neill (1989), has recently won a prestigious industry award having been voted Digital Artist of the Year for the North of England 2020 by the Corporate Livewire Prestige Awards. The judges were impressed with Richard's personal nature, consistency of reviews and overall attentiveness. Richard recalls: 'I am truly delighted to have won this award in what has been a very difficult year for everyone. It is so gratifying to have all your hard work acknowledged in this way.'

Richard is a digital artist specialising in contemporary travel art, inspired by the beautiful scenery of his home county of Yorkshire and beyond. His award-winning designs have featured internationally in books and magazines, large-scale art installations, promotional videos and advertising campaigns. Throughout November and December, Richard's work was also featured on the Bradford Big Screen as part of the 'Artist's Choice' presentation in Centenary Square. He has produced a brand-new series of prints of local Bradford landmarks to mark the occasion.

Visit www.richardoneillart.co.uk to see some of his work.



○ **On 1 October 2020, Roger Charnley (1952) and his wife Judith (née Dunford) celebrated their 60th diamond wedding anniversary. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, they were unable to have the large party they had hoped for and could only celebrate at home on their own! Family and old friends did pay them a socially distanced visit however to wish them well!**

Roger and Judith were married at Ryan Street Methodist Church, West Bowling, Bradford, on Saturday 1 October 1960. Several OBs comprised the escort on the day. They included John Dawson (1951) as Best Man, and Raymond Hill (1954), John Peebles (1952) and the late Richard Gillgrass (1953) as Groomsmen. They have remained good friends and keep in regular touch; very sadly, Richard Gillgrass died just over a year ago, on 13 January 2020.



Having sat her online final exams for university, Melissa Knapton (2017) graduated from the University of Warwick with a first class honours degree in Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics, and was awarded the MORSE prize from the Department of Statistics for an outstanding overall performance in the MORSE degree.

Melissa was due to start her graduate job in September 2020, but due to COVID-19, it was slightly delayed. In November, she started her role as a Retirement Analyst with the Willis Towers Watson graduate programme in the Leeds team. She receives one day a week study leave for her professional exams, which she is hoping to take in April, on her pathway to qualifying as an actuary (specialising in pensions).



Despite lockdown, Rik T Bryan (1990), launched the new Bladder Cancer Research Centre at the University of Birmingham on 1 November. This is the first dedicated bladder cancer research centre in the UK, and one of very few worldwide.

Read more about the BCRC at www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/bladder-cancer/index.aspx





Celebrating the Class of 1975 & 1976 Assisted Place

Congratulations and sincere thanks to the Class of 1975 & 1976, who came together in true Hoc Age style to establish a brand-new Assisted Place just in time for Christmas!

After a challenging year in which many families have faced increased hardship, this really was the best Christmas gift we could have hoped for.

Launched thanks to a challenge fund generously established by Ian Hudson (1976), Robert Leechman (1976), Mark Hardaker (1975), and Philip Hanson (1976), the Class of 1975 & 1976 Assisted Place is the first year group gift to BGS of its kind. A child who would otherwise be unable to attend BGS will now be arriving in September 2021.

The incredible support generated by this campaign will help us to preserve the diverse and inclusive school community we are so proud of. Assisted Places also make a valuable contribution to social mobility in Bradford, transforming the lives of recipients. We are extremely grateful to the Class of 1975 & 1976 for their collective, and truly remarkable, act of generosity. Everyone who donated has helped BGS turn the clock back a little to the days of the Direct Grant era, when lack of funding was not a bar to admission. Thank you.

As we seek to increase the number of Assisted Places at BGS, we welcome similar year group initiatives. Please contact Lindsey Davis, Development Director for more details at ldavis@bradfordgrammar.com

Major benefactor honoured with OBE

One of Bradford Grammar School's major benefactors has been honoured with an OBE in this year's New Year Honours list.

Lyn Shears joins her late husband and Old Bradfordian, Trevor, in receiving an OBE for setting up The Shears Foundation and for her services to charity.

The Shears Foundation has sponsored schools and bursaries at BGS for more than 12 years, enabling 20 students from low and middle-income families to receive an outstanding education, nine of whom are still in school.

One student to excel thanks to the foundation is Daniel McNab, who left school in 2019 with three A*s and one A grade in his A Levels. He is now studying for a degree in Computer Science at the University of Leeds, as part of a degree apprenticeship sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

The foundation was set up by the Shears in 2006 and has distributed grants of almost £13m to a wide range of charities, most of them in the North of England. Lyn was also honoured by the Prince of Wales when she was awarded the Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy in 2014.

Said Lyn: 'I was very humbled to receive this unexpected and exciting news and it feels amazing to join Trevor in this honour.

'When Trevor and I set up The Shears Foundation we didn't expect to receive awards and honours, we did it because we found ourselves in a very fortunate position and wanted to give something back.

'Soon after starting the foundation, we quickly discovered that giving is good for you. I've often said that we get as much out of giving the grants as the groups that receive them. Over the years we have met some incredible, dedicated and selfless people who give their hearts and souls to the charities they work for.'

Since losing her husband in 2014, Lyn said her son-in-law Bruce Warnes had been instrumental in keeping the foundation going.

'My particular thanks go to him,' she added. 'The Shears Foundation is very much a family affair and I'm delighted that new generations of the family are getting involved. It's so rewarding to pass on our ideas of philanthropy to our family and know that they also want our foundation to go on into perpetuity.'

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster, said of Lyn's honour: 'I am very proud of BGS's association with the foundation and congratulate Lyn on her well-deserved accolade. I see every day the impact of the foundation's support and have no doubt that the young people who benefit from such remarkable generosity will pay it forward throughout their own lives. One can ask for no greater legacy.'



Above: (from top) Daniel McNab (2019) celebrating his A Level success with his parents; The late Trevor Shears OBE (1961) with Lyn Shears OBE, Chair of the Shears Foundation



Linzi Maybin (2007)

November 2020

Community dentist Linzi Maybin, who launched a charity to help special needs children and refugees enjoy happier dental experiences, is in line for a national award.

Linzi launched Happy Teeth Outreach in October 2019 and has already supported more than 600 vulnerable children.

The charity visits schools and refugee clinics to screen children in a familiar environment, educating them on healthy diets and oral hygiene and giving different types of free toothbrushes, toothpaste and stickers away.

Now the charity is one of eight which have been shortlisted for an ITV National Diversity Award in the Community Organisation Award for Disability category.

Linzi, who works for Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust, is no stranger to awards, having won the British Society of Paediatric Dentists' Innovation Award.

Happy Teeth campaigns to improve the oral health of young people with disabilities in Yorkshire, through educational programmes in schools, training and awareness for parents and dental and healthcare professionals, including school nurses and support staff.

Read the full story here:

<http://bit.ly/happy-teeth>



Sir Nigel Poole (1983) honoured with appointment to the High Court

December 2020

Sir Nigel has been appointed a Justice of the High Court (Family Division) by the Lord Chief Justice and started his new role in October 2020.

Sir Nigel has had a distinguished career at the Bar for the past 31 years. He joined Kings Chambers, in Manchester, in 2004, where he specialised in personal injury and clinical negligence and enjoyed working on the Northern circuit. Latterly, he was known for his tireless work as Head of Chambers at Kings and was appointed as a Recorder in 2009 and as a Deputy High Court Judge in 2017.

Sir Nigel said of his appointment: 'It is a great honour to have been appointed to the High Court bench. In the short time I have been sitting I have already had to preside over many interesting and challenging cases including serious medical treatment decisions in the Court of Protection. I have very fond memories of my time at BGS, from Clock House to the Sixth Form, of the teachers, and of the many activities I enjoyed there including drama, music, sports, and scouts. Whilst at school I had no ambitions to be a lawyer or a judge, but the grounding that BGS gave me has been invaluable in my career.'

Sir Nigel is the second OB to be appointed to the High Court following Sir Stephen Morris (1976), who sits on the Queen's Bench. The pair are two of only 100 High Court judges in the country.

Lindsey Davis, Development Director at BGS, said: 'Our heartfelt congratulations go to Sir Nigel on his well-deserved appointment. Sir Nigel's success speaks powerfully to BGS values of working hard, striving for excellence, and making a positive contribution to wider society.'

'Having two Old Bradfordians as High Court Judges is such an achievement and we're very proud to count them amongst our community.'

TV doctor returns to BGS

October 2020

A popular doctor from a hit Channel 5 observational documentary show returned to BGS to give a fascinating lecture to staff and students.

Dr Amir Khan (1999), who appears on 'GPs: Behind Closed Doors' and features regularly on 'BBC Breakfast' and ITV's 'This Morning', also enjoyed a socially distanced tour of BGS during his highly anticipated visit.

The GP's lecture was streamed live as part of our 'In Conversation' events which have featured lectures from many of the School's inspirational OBs.

Dr Khan recently published his Sunday Times bestseller, 'The Doctor Will See You Now', charting the highs and lows of his 15 years as a doctor. He is a partner in one of the UK's busiest surgeries and is a GP trainer and honorary senior lecturer at Bradford and Leeds universities.

Lindsey Davis, Development Director said: 'We were delighted to welcome Amir back to school and to show him how the School's facilities have expanded and developed since he was last here. Our 'In Conversation' events have proven really popular and Amir's lecture was no exception. We're grateful he took the time out of his busy diary to come and see us.'

David Barraclough (1967)

April 2020

David Barraclough was appointed as the Under Sheriff of West Yorkshire on 6 April 2020.

After being articled with Last Suddards in Bradford, David practised as a commercial property solicitor in Leeds until his retirement from Radcliffes Le Brasseur.

David is also the President of the Yorkshire Union of Law Societies, Chair of the Yorkshire Legal Support Trust, and a Director and Past President of Leeds Law Society. In October 2020, he was elected a Council Member of the Law Society of England and Wales, and in December 2020 he received the award for the Yorkshire Lawyer of the Year in the Yorkshire Legal Awards.

Congratulations to David from everyone at BGS.





Old Bradfordian looks to revolutionise student lettings market

October 2020

Olivia Dovernor (2016) has won the support of the Royal Bank of Scotland as she aims to shake up the student lettings market with her new app.

Olivia wants to help fellow students navigate the stressful property market, initially at St Andrews, home of her former university. She has crowdfunded the first round to develop her app, The Student Bubble, and is in talks with consultants behind a major UK property platform to expand the app's reach to other university towns.

Olivia studied for a degree in chemistry at the University of St Andrews and, while there, found the private student lettings market was fraught with time consuming application processes and a general lack of transparency.

After learning to code herself, Olivia pitched her idea successfully to a front-end app developer, who has more than 140 successful apps and previous experience developing technology in the property industry. The current round of crowdfunding, along with founder investment, will pay for the development of the minimum viable product (MVP) and take the app to market.

The Royal Bank of Scotland match funded the initial funds with a £2,500 donation under its Backing Her Business scheme, which supports female entrepreneurs.

Said Olivia, who has just started a PhD in chemistry at the University of Cambridge: 'It's great that RBS has backed the project and myself as a young female entrepreneur. Our plan is for the app to help future students at the University of St Andrews initially and then look to expand into other similar university towns across the UK.'

Olivia has also received support from OBs via Beyond Bradford, our Old Bradfordian professional network.

To read the full story, visit <http://bit.ly/BGS-OB-OliviaD>



OB's younger self appears on national magazine cover!

May 2020

After recognising his 15-year-old self on the cover of national publication 'Private Eye', Old Bradfordian Ed Paget (2016) reflects on his time at BGS and recalls the photoshoot where it all began.

'It was a bit of a shock seeing myself at the tender age of 15 on the cover of a national publication. I remember a well-staged photoshoot taking place

(for what now I can't seem to remember), but I remember the brief being 'look like you've reached a difficult question', so I'm glad my acting skills – which I put to good use in the school's 2016 production of 'Grease', and have since carried forward to university – came in handy!

'It also brought back fond memories of my time at BGS, where I focused my A Level studies heavily on languages (Spanish and French) with

Geology as my third option just to keep things interesting!

'[At the time of writing,] I'm currently sitting my finals for a degree in Spanish, French and Catalan at Cambridge University (St John's College), and am planning to start an MA in Creative Theatre Producing at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in September 2020. I guess guess theatre has always run in my veins and it's nice that 'Private Eye' has noticed!

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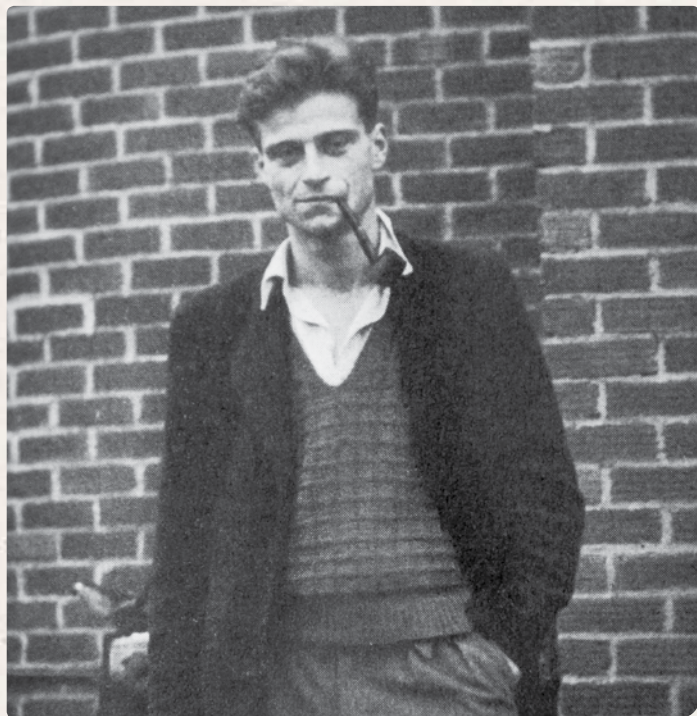
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- Post job opportunities
- Create a new group and invite members to it
- Share memories or organise a new group or event through a real time news feed

This is your platform, and exclusive to OBs. Sign up is quick and easy <https://beyondbradford.com>

App available on Android and Apple devices



Left: Former BGS schoolmaster, Harry Rée, served as an undercover agent during the Second World War

Harry's life as an agent was only discovered by his son Jonathan, an author, historian and philosopher, in 2016 when he was contacted by a French soldier who was keen to track down relatives of the prominent resister.

Jonathan soon found himself on a train to France where, at an impressive civic ceremony to rededicate a memorial plaque, he was astonished to discover his father's role in the fight against Germany.

Said Jonathan: 'He worked directly or indirectly with around 400 supporters, including women and children, not just men, and became extremely close to them. Almost half were arrested at some point, and in many cases imprisoned and tortured, while dozens were executed or deported to camps in Germany from which they were unlikely to return. I can see why he didn't want to talk about it.'

Jonathan, of Oxford, read dozens of histories and memoirs and looked through piles of family papers. He travelled around France to talk to people who had known Harry and found pages and pages he had written on his return, most of which were either unpublished or anonymous. Slowly, he began to piece together the dangerous reality of his father's war.

Said Jonathan: 'He had actually signed the Peace Pledge at university and was in a reserved occupation as a teacher, but he later reconsidered his position.

BGS schoolmaster's double life in Churchill's 'secret army'

July 2020

A new book has unveiled the double life of a former BGS schoolmaster who served as an undercover agent for Churchill's 'secret army' during the Second World War.

Former BGS languages teacher, Harry Rée, told relatives his eight months spent in France, in 1943, had been like a 'glorious summer holiday,' where he cycled around and enjoyed people's hospitality.

But he was actually an agent in Churchill's Special Operations Executive, known as Churchill's Secret Army or Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare, where he was tasked with sabotage and subversion behind enemy lines.

Harry was parachuted into France in April 1943, after training in sabotage and silent killing and how to pass yourself off as a native Frenchman. He went on to devise a system for smuggling messages to London, organised dozens of parachute drops and gave instruction in sabotage techniques. He directed operations with the French Resistance against railways, canals, warehouses, electricity supplies and factories.

One of the charismatic teacher's greatest successes was in persuading Rodolphe Peugeot, the son of the Peugeot factory owner, to sabotage the family premises at Sochaux, which had been commandeered to make parts for Nazi tanks. In return, Harry persuaded the RAF not to carry out another bombing raid on the factory by making a pact to keep up with regular sabotage operations.

“
HE WANTED PEOPLE TO KNOW HOW ORDINARY AND MODEST THE REAL HEROES OF THE RESISTANCE WERE
”

'He would have hated to have been portrayed as a hero. He always praised the ordinary unheroic deeds of the men and women of France who enabled him to be part of the Resistance, people who had risked their lives for him.

'He must have been deeply affected by tragedies, such as the death of his devoted assistant Jean Simon, who was gunned down in their favourite café, or the retired schoolmistress Marguerite Barbier, who loved him like a son and died in a concentration camp.'

Harry fled France with stomach wounds after being shot by a German military policeman who had found his safe house. He spent five months recovering from his injuries in Switzerland at the same time as coordinating activities back in Franche-Comte.

After the War, Harry received the Médaille de la Résistance Française and Croix de Guerre, and was appointed DSO, OBE and Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur.

He went back to his teaching career, joining BGS in 1949 where he worked until 1951. He later became Professor of Education at York University and retired to an old farmhouse in Ribbleshead, in the Yorkshire Dales.

After his extensive research, Jonathan captured his father's story in a book 'A Schoolmaster's War: Harry Rée – A British agent in the French Resistance'. He says his father intended to write his autobiography but died in 1991 age 76 before he got the chance.

'I think he would have thought, if there had to be a book, he would have liked it to have been like this one,' he says. 'He wanted people to know how ordinary and modest the real heroes of the Resistance were. He never forgot them and never forgave himself for his part in what happened to them. He never ceased to wonder at his absurd good luck at getting out alive.'



Message from Lesley Purcell, Clarkson Library Manager

Spurred on by the publication of 'A Schoolmaster's War: Harry Reé – British Agent in the French Resistance', we are seeking a copy of the book Harry penned about his war years. Reé wrote 'Jours de Gloire' under the pen name Marcel Pavigny. Written in French, it proved useful to Harry in getting his pupils to study the language, as they were all really keen to read of his exploits!

The book only comes up for purchase very rarely and is difficult to get hold of since the publication of this latest book. We are therefore asking if anyone from the OB community has a copy that they would be willing to part with for the School to preserve in the archive. We promise that if a copy is offered, it will be treasured. Students today would certainly be interested to find out more about such an interesting former BGS teacher, especially the historians, and languages students.

If you are able to help, please email oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com



From top: A dish made during the reign of the emperor Yongzheng (1723-35). It had a crack in the middle of it, but it's extremely finely painted and could well have been made for the royal court. Stanley bought it with the crack ... it didn't bother him (the belief in Kintsugi is that objects become more interesting and beautiful by their scars). Its presale estimate was £3-5,000 but it sold for above £200,000 even in the condition it was in. It went back to mainland China to a major collector.

A Junyao purple-splashed dish, Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368). It had previously belonged to the collector George de Menasce. It has a presale estimate of £1,500-2,000 and sold for £35,000.

This vase is probably from the period of Shunzhi (early 17th century) and the beginning of the Qing Dynasty. It was also very rare and did well even considering its condition issues. Estimate £1,500-2,000 and sold for £29,000.

Below: Robert Stanley Hope Smith (1928) pictured with his wife and son



A passion for Chinese art

Unknown to anybody apart from close family members, Old Bradfordian Robert Stanley Hope Smith's (1928), passion was collecting Chinese Art.

Stanley began collecting Chinese art pieces in 1946 from local auction houses, shops and privately. His wife, Joan also shared his passion and they made further purchases on weekend trips to antique fairs. Stanley was partially disabled; having suffered from Polio as a child, he walked with a cane and wore a leg brace. A lot of the Chinese porcelain he bought was not in perfect condition, but Stanley somehow related the items' imperfections to his own disability. He did, however, manage to buy some pieces with great provenance irrelevant of condition. In 1950, he was elected a member of the Oriental Ceramic Society (OCS).

Family members were the few fortunate enough to see the porcelain collection displayed in their back room. Stanley passed away in November 1979 and Joan remained a member of the OCS for the rest of her life. Her grandchildren remember her teaching them about the Chinese dynasties while referring to the pieces still on display. Joan died in 2000, and the family then decided to sell some of the pieces at auction.

The story of the unknown Yorkshire collector caused a few ripples in the Chinese Art markets – the 31 pieces sold for more than their pre-sale estimate, with a combined total of more than £630,000. It is amazing that through his passion, an OB who died 41 years ago now comes back to life with his name mentioned on a list of last century's Chinese Art collectors and will be a reference for future collectors.

'Whomsoever You See'

By Dick Hazlehurst (1964)

The COVID-19 lockdown of 2020 has provided many people with the opportunity to sort through drawers full of old papers and shelves full of old books and publications. In my case, these items included back issues of 'The Old Bradfordian', notably the Summer 2010 issue.



Above: (from top) Dick Hazlehurst (1964); 1962 class photo – Dick Hazlehurst is seated on the second row, in the centre

On page 15, I spotted a column entitled 'Strike Action'. Towards the end of the article was reference to at least two more films ('Tell Tale' and 'Explosion') produced in the sixties. There was at least one further film produced by the BGS Film Society during that time, however. I know because I produced it, with help from a few others. It was called 'Whomsoever You See' and we made it in partnership with the Wyke Amateur Lifesaving and Swimming Club.

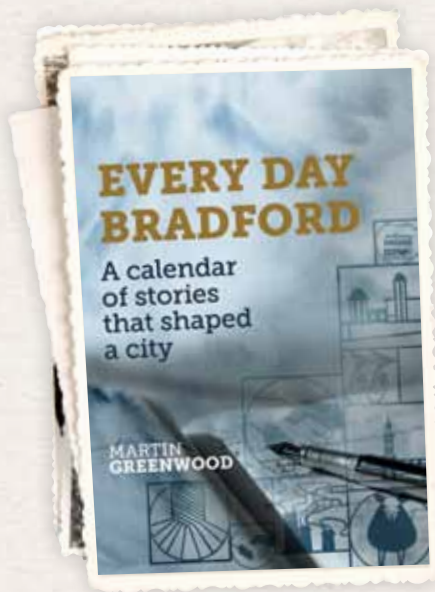
After reading the article, I tried the wonders of modern science and Googled 'Whomsoever You See'. Imagine my astonishment when the very first result came up: <https://www.yfanefa.com/record/7773>

The Yorkshire Film Archive website includes a detailed summary of the content of the film, together with the text of the entire dialogue. It was an instructional film about techniques of life saving.

We sold copies to various organisations – the one I most vividly remember was the Metropolitan Police Training School at Hendon where I, as a shy and over-awed 17 year old, was entertained to lunch by several fairly senior officers, before we had a showing of the film, which they then agreed to buy.

The Film Society which had produced the masterpiece 'Strike Action' had been decimated by the departure from school of the entire production team, notably the three David's: Barker, Brown and Illingworth (I think they were). I was a year below them and found myself almost the only remaining member of the Society, when they left. For the planning, filming, and editing of 'Whomsoever You See', I was helped considerably by Paul Dobson who was in the year below mine. We received a good review in Films User; I still have a copy of that issue.

My school days at BGS were much too busy to allow time for Classics! To my parents' dismay, I only managed 'O' levels in Latin, Greek and Ancient History. So I left BGS and went to Bradford College for two years to study A Level Physics, Chemistry and Zoology – just well enough to allow me to study Pharmacy at what was then the London School of Pharmacy (now part of UCL), becoming only the second OB to go there, the other being Professor Tony Fell (1960). If I had not done that, then I would not, 52 years ago, have met my wife, Judy, and things would have been very different.



‘Every Day Bradford’

Bradford’s rich history presented in a unique way – a memorable story for every day in the year.

By Martin Greenwood (1964)

It is now over fifty years since I left Bradford, but it still has a strong hold – I have now just published a comprehensive history. This new book is no conventional narrative of Bradford’s history. It celebrates each day in the year with some important stories from 1212 to 2020. One of Bradford’s oldest institutions that has survived and thrived over the centuries is its Grammar School.

BGS figures in many stories from the first known date, when it was granted a Royal Charter (1662) to the arrival of a government inspector (1870). Then, it was a failing school, but new legislation and the appointment of a new headmaster (1872), the legendary Rev WH Keeling, turned it round to make BGS one of the leading schools in the country.

The most important stories, of course, relate to a long list of distinguished alumni, starting with Archbishop Sharp of York, close friend of Queen Anne preaching at her coronation (1702) to David Hockney (1952), one of the world’s most celebrated artists, receiving the prestigious Order of Merit from the current Queen in 2012.

OBs include the 18th century astronomer who later gave his name to a crater on the moon, the 20th century astronomer who invented the ‘Greenwich pips’, the historian who was the leading biographer of Adolf Hitler, the heavyweight politician described by many as ‘the best Prime Minister we never had’, the bacteriologist who prevented the ‘Bradford disease’, the high-flying civil servant and renowned poet recited at each Remembrance Day, the satirical weekly columnist published every week for nearly 50 years, the inspiration behind the regeneration of Saltaire and the oarsman who has won the most Boat Races.

In short, this new book provides a unique record of BGS’s contribution to the development of Bradford and to national life.

‘Every Day Bradford: a calendar of stories that shaped a city’ can be ordered from most UK book outlets and online stores.

Follow on Twitter [@BradfordBoy](#)



THIS NEW BOOK PROVIDES A UNIQUE RECORD OF BGS’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRADFORD AND TO NATIONAL LIFE



Looking back ... 1919

It isn’t the first time the BGS community have faced a global pandemic. The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 and 1919 killed millions of people worldwide, including approximately one million First World War servicemen. Former BGS teacher Private Reginald Lloyd was one of the victims of this fatal illness and died just before the rugby match of his lifetime.

As reported in the ‘Telegraph & Argus’, April 2020

Quarantines and temporary hospitals were set up across the district when the pandemic reached Bradford. Many of the patients were returning soldiers from the war, including Private Reginald Lloyd, who had served with the Army Service Corps as a motor driver. Reginald arrived at Bradford Grammar School in 1912 to teach Classics and English, and to assist the boys with rugby, having been captain of his Oxford college rugby team in 1909-10.

Retired head of history, Nick Hooper, researched Reginald as part of his study of OBs in the First World War. His story is particularly poignant as the deadly disease ended his life just before what would have been a match of his lifetime.

After being examined on 23 January 1919, Reginald went on demobilisation leave. ‘Two forms in his Service Record note that he was discharged “for Cough” – this may be the first sign of his fatal illness,’ says Nick.

‘He returned to Bradford and clearly his return was noted, for on 15 February the Yorkshire Rugby Union selection committee picked him to play as a three-quarter against the New Zealand team at Bradford on 8 March, alongside FE Steinthal OB, of the Ilkley club and a pre-war England international.

‘Sadly, Lloyd may already have been too ill to be aware of this selection. The doctor who attended him stated ‘My opinion is that this condition was undoubtedly brought about by his service in the army’. He died from cardiac failure brought on by influenza and pneumonia and was buried at Scholemoor. His funeral was attended by representatives of masters and boys from the school.’

To view the full ‘Telegraph & Argus’ article visit <http://bit.ly/PrivateReginaldLloyd>



Above: Former BGS teacher, Reginald Lloyd (left) featured in the ‘Telegraph & Argus’ in April 2020 (right)



Final WW1 ceremony pays tribute to over 230 fallen Old Bradfordians

January 2020

A remembrance project paid its last respects to over 230 OBs who gave their life to serve their country in World War 1.

Over the past five and a half years, Bradford Grammar School's Old Bradfordians' Association (OBA) has collaborated with the School's former Head of History, Nick Hooper, to reveal the identities and stories of those former pupils who died during the First World War.

At the last ceremony, attended by the Lord Mayor and led by The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Ripon, the School specifically remembered Harry Woodhead, Charles Jolly, Leslie Priestley and Maurice Smith, who were the last to die from their injuries or diseases.

Trevor Smith, the Project Manager for the OBA, said: 'The project has paid tribute to each of the men on the 100th anniversary of their deaths. The first former pupil to die was Captain Jonathan Edward Knowles aged 32 on August 23, 1914, at Mons – he was possibly the first British officer to be killed in the war.'

'The School's high death toll is believed to be because many of the men had trained while still pupils at an officer training corps started at the outbreak of war or previously with the Bradford Territorials.

They went on to provide a large proportion of officers for the Bradford Pals, leading men into battle from the trenches.'

The final ceremony remembered all those from the School community who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War: those who were killed in action, or by subsequent disease, the bereaved, the lost, the families which were shattered, and those who held in silence unspeakable memories of warfare.

Trevor continued: 'It's been a very emotional project from the start, recognising the suffering and heartache suffered by many BGS parents and families. The BGS community has worked tirelessly crafting commemorative crosses and personalising biographies for each and every soldier – no small undertaking, but one which gives powerful expression to the contribution that Bradford and BGS made to the war effort. We have also learned so much about people's lives in the City as it developed in the period leading up to and during the War.'

BGS Headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe said: 'This has been a remarkable and poignant act of remembrance led by Nick and Trevor. It has brought together all members of the Bradford Grammar family, current and former pupils, parents and staff, and a great many prominent civic figures.'

'We have come together and commemorated as a community. Profound, deeply moving and a project that has connected the School and our friends to moments in our shared history.'



Befriending scheme

In the wake of lockdown, School launched a campaign to combat social isolation amongst self-isolating Old Bradfordians.

Twelve trained volunteers – current students, recent school leavers, and a BGS parent – took to the phones to chat, offer practical support, and alleviate loneliness amongst the over 65s. More than 150 OBs received calls during a four-week period, speaking of how 'really rather amazed' they were to receive a call.

Students did their best to maintain these connections as the coronavirus crisis continued, culminating in a Christmas drop-off of goodies made by our Executive Chef Dean Winter to locally based OBs.

More than 220 OBs were also sent Christmas messages written by our students, which seems to have informally launched something of a pen pal arrangement! Many OBs have written back to students to share their memories of school and offer advice and perspectives about life, the universe, and more besides!

This campaign continued into the 2021 national lockdown, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our students – all keen to support those who came before them.

In February 2021, members of Year 12 took to the phones with the aim of connecting with even more OBs. At the time of writing, more than 400 OBs have taken calls, sharing warm and appreciative thanks to School for staying in touch. Students have really enjoyed the experience and learned a great deal about BGS history. True Hoc Age spirit in action!



Left: Enzo Cilenti (1992)

Speech Day 2020: going virtual

June 2020

Speech Day is an historic and regular fixture in the BGS calendar, providing a chance to celebrate student achievements and reflect on the school year. Not even a global pandemic was going to stop us from observing this milestone. As COVID-19 continued to confound the world, we took the event virtual.

Chairman of Governors Lady Morrison and Headmaster Dr Hinchliffe were joined by Heads of Year in celebrating the resilience of the BGS family during lockdown, thanking staff for their efforts, and commending students on all they continued to achieve. As in typical years, students also made their own contributions: Head Prefect, Emelye Gill, delivered a lovely speech and introduced our guest speaker, and students, Kate South and Lydia Crabtree, provided two incredible performances. A montage of images from the year demonstrated that Hoc Age spirit was in no short supply during the lockdown, showcasing an array of academic and extracurricular student activities.

We were very grateful to our guest speaker, Old Bradfordian and star of stage and screen Enzo Cilenti (1992), who ‘joined’ us for the occasion. No stranger to the camera, having appeared in ‘Game of Thrones’, ‘Guardians of the Galaxy’ and ‘Luther’, Enzo delivered an inspirational turn which included a beautiful oration of Max Ehrmann’s poem ‘Desiderata’. An affecting work at the best of times, the poem bore particular resonance for the Class of 2020, whose final year at BGS was marked by so much external disruption.

The event was streamed to students, staff, parents, governors and VIPs on 26 June, and it’s fair to say, there was nary a dry eye in the house as we came together, whilst apart, to reflect on the most unusual of years.

Founders’ Day 2020

By Donna Reynolds,
Old Bradfordian &
Events Coordinator

An iconic day in the School calendar, one that usually fills Bradford Cathedral with so many people from the BGS community, Founders’ Day took a a very different turn in 2020. However, it was still as special and memorable as in years gone by.

As the newly appointed Old Bradfordian & Events Coordinator, this was my first big event. Having never attended a Founders’ Day service before, it was all new to me and with COVID-19 rearing its head, we knew the service would not be able to take place in the usual way. Social distancing, track and trace, face mask wearing and reducing an audience from 650 attendees to 36 were the new challenges ahead.

New traditions were welcomed, such as a representative from each Junior School year attending the service. The pupils were mesmerised by the greatness of the cathedral and captivated by the musical performances and readings; it was wonderful to introduce our younger BGS pupils to Founders’ Day.

Although the service was shorter and the audience smaller, the ambience was perfect and special. We also recorded the service, which is something we have never done before. In a world where virtual events are now the new normal, we were able to share Founders’

Day with the BGS family far and wide. All students across Junior and Senior School watched the service in classrooms with their tutors and we shared the video with OBs worldwide. The feedback we received was heart-warming – it definitely left me with a great sense of pride that I am too now part of this amazing BGS family.



Make your
mark ...
... Help them
make theirs

Remembering BGS in your will is one of the most personal and significant ways you can help to safeguard the future of talented young people in Bradford, and that of BGS itself.

All legacy gifts, regardless of size, help us to pass on the transformative gift of a BGS education.

To learn more about making a bequest to your old school, please contact Lindsey Davis, Director of Development & External Relations.

ldavis@bradfordgrammar.com
01274 553710



Peter Higgins (1981),
co-founder of Charles
Tyrwhitt Shirts and trustee
of Mary's Meals visits BGS

In December, we were delighted
to welcome back Old Bradfordian
Peter Higgins, who joined us for a day of
assemblies and student talks at the
Junior and Senior Schools.

Peter, co-founder of Charles
Tyrwhitt Shirts and a trustee of
the charity Mary's Meals, spoke
to students about Mary's Meals,
which helps to feed children
in some of poorest countries
in the world across Africa,
Asia, Latin America and the
Caribbean, by building schools
where a school dinner is offered
as well as an education. The
average annual cost of feeding
a child in one of these countries
is £15.90. Mary's Meals helps
children whose families are not
able to access schooling and
who are struggling to feed them
without help.

Thank you, Peter, for taking
the time to visit us and for
supplying the Junior School
pupils with the Mary's Meals
iconic blue mug collecting
boxes. At the time of writing,
we have exceeded the target
we set to achieve by the end of
the school year, and have raised
over £20,500.

If you would like to make a
donation, please follow this link
<http://bit.ly/BGS-MarysMeals>



Beyond BGS:
Old Bradfordians
giving back

In Spring 2020, we launched Beyond
BGS: our new online Higher Education
& Careers programme.

Beyond BGS complements our Old Bradfordian professional
networking site Beyond Bradford, by giving current students
the opportunity to hear from OBs at critical points during their
time with us: before making decisions about A Levels and post
BGS destinations.

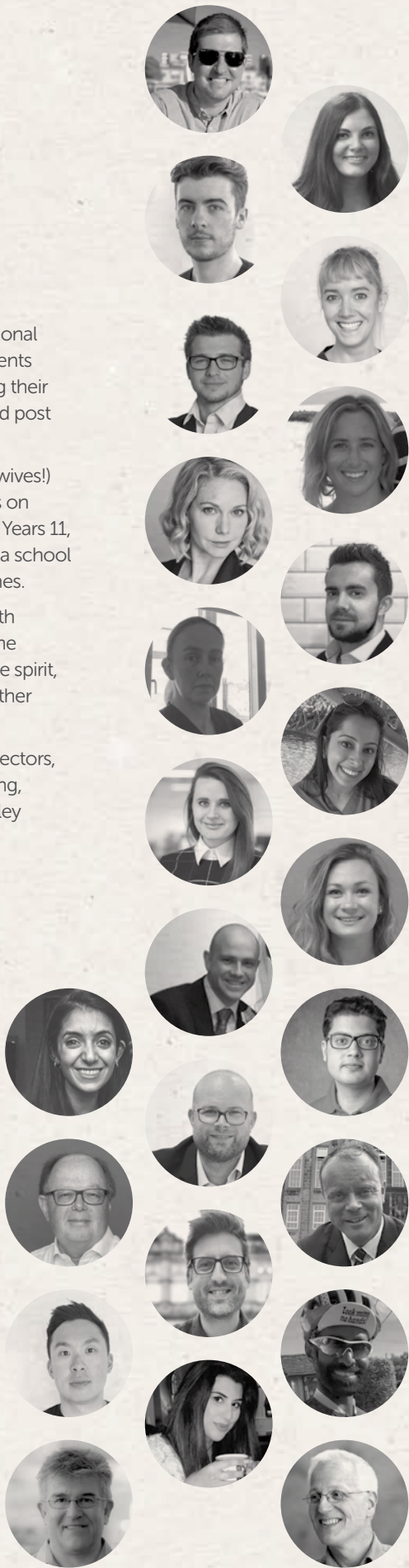
Thank you to all those OBs, friends (and in some cases, wives!)
who participated. Speakers delivered lunchtime sessions on
Microsoft Teams, taking questions from BGS students in Years 11,
12, and 13. It was a fantastic way to augment as 'normal' a school
experience as possible, during the most abnormal of times.

Following our initial call to action we were inundated with
generous offers of support from OBs and members of the
wider BGS family. Powered by that indefatigable Hoc Age spirit,
OBs saw lockdown as a challenge to be surmounted, rather
than an obstacle!

Old Bradfordians gave students insights into a range of sectors,
from musical theatre and retail to medicine, policy making,
consultancy, and law. Speakers came from as near as Ilkley
and as far away as Paris.

An incredible 24 OBs generously gave their time
to school between May and December, with more
sessions booked for the rest of the school year.
If you'd like to be involved in a future session, please
contact oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com

Aiysha Puri • Andrew Hoffbrand • Anthony Yeung
Charles Ross • David Morris • Dominic Cox
Edward Hainsworth • Emma Williams • Fran Young
Hannah Rawson • James Newton • James Wood
Jonathan Heap • Kudsia Ali • Laura Ogden
Linzi Maybin • Lizzie Ayre • Matthew Denby
Monica Duggal • Olivia Thomas • Omar Bahadur
Peter Higgins • Saravanan Chettiar • Simon Sammons



Bradford Beacon

Bradford Beacon

Anita Singh (1992)

She may have spent more time listening to the band The Stone Roses than being a member of the debating club or playing sports, but for this year's Bradford Beacon, Anita Singh, the essay writing taught at BGS paved the way for a successful career in journalism.

With most of the country in lockdown as we type (January 2021), the arts industry is just one which has been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. For Anita Singh, arts and entertainment editor at 'The Telegraph', gone, for now, are the art exhibitions, book launches and engaging theatre visits which were a regular feature of her working life. In their place, have been months working from her North London home amid bouts of home schooling for her children, aged five and seven. Fortunately, the British public's obsession with box sets and increased screen time means the TV critic has had plenty to keep her busy.

'I'm lucky in that I write about TV as well as covering the arts,' she says. 'TV viewing has really grown over the past few months and it's not showing signs of slowing down. Also, my job remit includes covering the BBC, which has been at the centre of much political debate this year, so that has kept me busy. In terms of the arts, my coverage has focused on the people who work in that industry – highlighting how tough this year has been for them without jobs and trying to keep up pressure on the Government to help them.'

Like many Old Bradfordians, Anita may enjoy living in London, but she remains a true Northerner. She joined BGS in the Sixth Form after attending Bradford Girls' Grammar. 'I really loved my time at BGS' she recalls. 'I studied English, Politics and History and the teachers really taught you to think for





yourselves. One of my favourite teachers was Dr Sisson, my English teacher. I can remember he loved 'Tom Jones' by Henry Fielding and he would play bits of classical music to us and talk about trains because he loved trains. He was eccentric, and definitely didn't stick to the syllabus, but he taught us so much. He used to say, 'you have to have flair in all that you do!'

'I also remember our history teacher, Dr Devlin, who was completely the opposite. He was terrifying, and we would stay up late doing our homework because the thought of not handing it in to him made you feel sick. I don't think I ever got more than 16 out of 25 for an essay. But I had a lot of respect for him and the way I write now for 'The Telegraph' owes a lot to the way he taught me to write.'

Unlike some of her peers, Anita wasn't an avid fan of BGS's many extracurricular clubs.

'I would love to be able to say I was one of those people who was in the debating club or doing lots of sports ... or was a prefect, but I really wasn't,' she says, laughing. 'It was the 90s, so I was into The Stone Roses and walked around in DMs.'

After Bradford, Anita moved North to study English at Newcastle University before heading straight to London. She had a brief job in advertising ('I realised it was awful, and we parted by mutual agreement') followed by a couple of years temping in a hospital.

'I was on reception in a unit for older people and it turned out to be a really good grounding for interviewing people when I became a journalist,' she says. 'I'd always harboured an ambition to be a journalist – from a young age I loved magazines and newspapers. It just took me a while to get there.'

Anita took a course in journalism at the London College of Printing (now the London College of Communication) and cut her teeth working for a news agency in London. One minute she would be covering court cases at the Old Bailey, the next door-stepping the Hollywood actor Hugh Grant for a story for 'The Sun'. She later joined the national news agency, the Press Association, and worked with them for five years in roles ranging from being on the news desk to showbiz correspondent.

After five years, Anita joined 'The Telegraph' as its entertainment editor, where she works today. She's also written a book, 'The Story of the Great British Bake Off', a behind-the-scenes-look at the popular TV show, which she says was fun to write.

One of her favourite interviewees, she says, was fellow OB and artist David Hockney (1952). 'Everyone was talking to him about art, but I was like "hey we went to the same school!"' she says.

It's clear, like Mr Hockney, that she's a proud Northerner. (Her Twitter bio reads: 'Daily Telegraph' arts and entertainment editor. TV critic. Bradfordian ...) Pre-COVID, Anita would regularly return to Yorkshire to visit her parents in Allerton with journalist husband Martin, the last time being when she chaired a talk at the Bradford Literature Festival.

'We drove past BGS only a few months ago and he said: "It's just like Hogwarts!"' she recalls.

She's delighted with being named a Bradford Beacon and jokes that she's waited 25 years for the honour.

'Seriously,' she adds. 'I was totally thrilled to hear about it. My mum still sends me 'The Old Bradfordian' magazine. She'll want to get a few copies of this one!'



Could you be our next *Bradford Beacon?*

We want to share stories of Old Bradfordians like Anita Singh, whose achievements in their chosen field inspire others to succeed. This is your chance to celebrate OBs who embody the BGS values of excellence, service, and that quintessentially northern characteristic, 'grit'.

To make a nomination, please email Lindsey Davis, Development Director at ldavis@bradfordgrammar.com

Liz Heard

(2014)

Liz left BGS in 2014 and completed a degree in Biological Sciences at Oxford University. After university, she followed her passions for conservation and education, exploring various careers ranging from a marine wildlife guide, to education tech, tropical research scientist and even wine journalism!



Throughout university and beyond, Liz volunteered for several environmental causes, including the non-profit Planet Patrol whose mission is to clean up the planet and (re) connect people with nature through community action. This volunteering was rewarded with a full-time position at Planet Patrol, where she sits at the helm of delivering Planet Patrol's global campaigns. She is involved in everything from research and strategy development, to creative direction, partnerships, fundraising and management of a network of 100+ reps delivering clean ups globally.

Find out more about Planet Patrol: <https://planetpatrol.co>

Blaine Thomas

(2020)



At the time of writing to us, Blaine was more than halfway through his first term at Oxford, having only left BGS earlier in the year, and he could not believe how fast time had gone.

Oxford is, in many ways, exactly what he expected: historic buildings, fancy halls, lots of traditions and an intense workload. In other ways however, it has been very different to what he imagined: 'For all the Oxford specific terminology, matriculation ceremonies, formal dinners and punting, Oxford is less intimidating than I had thought. You quickly get used to these Oxford customs and there is, surprisingly, something quite enjoyable about dressing up in subfusc at the end of your first week and parading the streets of Oxford before celebrating being an official Oxford student with drinks outside the Radcliffe Camera' Blaine recalls.

Life at university with COVID has definitely been difficult at times but Blaine has still managed to make friends from not just across the UK but across the world. He has made the most of all the opportunities available, joining the African-Caribbean Society, the Law Society and the Oxford Union. Evening meet ups with friends and walks around the University park have provided relief from the impossibly long reading lists he gets each week (although he does love his subject!). Being awarded the scholarship by Eversheds Sutherland was a great way to mark the halfway line of Michaelmas Term and Blaine looks forward to the rest of the year ahead.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We caught up with two recent leavers to find out what they have been up to since becoming Old Bradfordians!



Meet Omar Bahadur

Omar Bahadur (2014) is looking to achieve global success with his caffeinated water concept, Faraday. He talks about his entrepreneurial journey and plans for 2021.

What led you into the energy drinks market?

My reservations with energy drinks were with their impractical packaging that couldn't be resealed, artificial ingredients, and their high sugar content. My engineering background sparked my problem solving and creativity. I thought 'what can I do to address these issues?' The result was Faraday.

How did you build your brand?

After graduating in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Bradford in 2018, my first job was a trainee car salesman (sales is a crucial part of entrepreneurship) prior to progressing to two further jobs before going full time on my business. I would work on Faraday in the evenings and weekends. One minute I'd be liaising with food scientists, refining the right flavour, and the next the graphic designer to perfect the packaging and branding. In July 2020, we had our first production run after two years of the R&D phase, investing countless hours in the lab. I named the brand Faraday paying homage to Michael Faraday, the great British inventor. In physics, the 'Farad' is a measure of the ability to store charge, it could be said: 'Your ability to store charge is fulfilled with each serving of Faraday, helping you reach your potential!'

**DON'T BE
AFRAID
TO FAIL,
EXPERIMENT
OR REACH
OUT FOR HELP.
KNOW YOUR
STRENGTHS
AND
WEAKNESSES.**

What challenges have you faced along the way?

I've faced challenges from all aspects: the recipe, packaging, supply chain, legal and sales. Our initial packaging iteration was a glass bottle, but while the focus groups appreciated the resealable merits, they disliked the fragile and cumbersome nature of it. We went back to the drawing board and ended up with an aluminum bottle. The recipe has taken more than 100 iterations to get right – masking the bitter caffeine while maintaining low sugar and natural ingredients was no small feat. Meanwhile, it took almost a year to register the US trademark for Faraday and countless emails to find the right suppliers. During our first production run in July with the Glasgow factory, our cap applying machine failed, causing us to fill less than expected. Sometimes you have to make the best of a situation!

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your business?

The pandemic has been fairly positive for us. We secured a bounce back loan and had a new website designed courtesy of a professional agency that donated the fees of building it to charity.



What advice would you give to other would-be entrepreneurs?

Working in a sales job will equip you with invaluable skills when launching your business while earning much needed money to be able to invest. A business can be very cash hungry, so try stay employed for as long as possible before going full time on the business. A brief business plan will force you to think about the many key aspects of starting your business. Don't be afraid to fail, experiment or reach out for help. Know your strengths and weaknesses.

What did you take away from your time at BGS?

Focus, resilience and harnessing collaboration in a diverse atmosphere.

What plans do you have for the future of Faraday?

Faraday is currently in a proof-of-concept phase. We're selling the Faraday cases via our website faradaydrinks.com and offering free UK delivery. We're also stocked in 10 independent stores throughout West Yorkshire including a couple of petrol stations in the south. For the future, we're in the process of developing further flavours, filling our next run of Faraday into a resealable can and offering smaller pack sizes with free delivery. Watch this space!



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

The Old Bradfordian community is truly international, with more than 6,000 OBs based across 40 countries.

We love hearing about your international experiences and have used lockdown as an excuse to reach out to find out what some of you have been up to.

Hopefully those reading might spot some familiar names and faces amongst the following stories. If you have your own international tale to share, let us know by emailing oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com

beyondBradford

Thanks to
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Ian Walker (1995)



'In 2016, I left teaching at BGS and departed on a new adventure overseas as Head of Physics at Dulwich College Singapore (DCSG). I have now returned to Yorkshire after four fantastic years.

Professionally I was well prepared by my experiences as a member of BGS staff to establish a new physics department at DCSG. From the first day I built positive relationships with my students and supported them in striving for excellence. It was challenging to construct a physics department from scratch, but I reflect that BGS helped me to be able to just 'get on with it'. I started as the lone physics teacher and have left behind a successful department of five teachers alongside a full-time technician. During my four years, I introduced the IGCSE and IBDP course, with the department achieving 92% 9-7s in the first three IGCSE cohorts and students obtaining offers from top UK universities to study science and engineering.

Singapore was a very fulfilling experience, both professionally and socially. Whilst in Singapore, I was delighted that I maintained my links with BGS. This all started with assistance from the OBA who put me in touch with David Hug (1986). David welcomed me to Singapore, and we enjoyed meeting up to discuss our common associations of BGS and the British Army. It was David who involved me with the Sandbag Veterans' community whilst in Singapore. Our actual first visitors were Stuart and Caroline Taylor. Stuart remains the Head of Design and Technology at BGS. We enjoyed an evening in our new condominium; though admittedly with limited furnishings and having to enjoy drinks from the only mugs we had! Stuart was not the only Design and Technology teaching OB I met in Singapore, Andrew Carruthers (1995) also visited DCSG with his design and technology students.

When I started at DCSG, the Head of Mathematics was Nolan Brook (1984). Sadly, Nolan was very ill, and subsequently died during my first year at the school. Before his death, we shared several conversations reminiscing of experiences of being taught by Dr Andrew Jobbings. We shared our love of both our subjects and education for its own sake; not just for the passing of qualifications. He was a tragic loss, taken from his family and the education community far too early. It was my privilege to be his son Steven's form tutor and physics teacher. Upon Nolan's death, the OBA were able to share articles with Steven and I about his father from old editions of The Bradfordian. I am delighted that Steven is now commencing his university studies of the Natural Sciences back in Yorkshire.

Running was always a big part of my BGS experience, so in Singapore I joined the Park Runs community with my son Edward. I remain the 'plodder' that Selby Brock referred to in the Old Bradfordian magazines of the past; my son on the other hand has quickly developed into a faster runner than me. It was great for him to meet two legends of BGS running whilst in Singapore. Michael McCartney paid us a flying visit in every sense of the word. Michael was only with us for 24 hours, but in true 'Macca style' managed to fit in the West Coast Park Run, finishing first, alongside visits to some of my favourite food and drink outlets across the island. Edward and I also went to watch Jonathan Brownlee (2008) win the 2018 Singapore Super League Triathlon. We were sat right by the transition area and Edward was lucky enough to spend time with Jonathan after the race.

Working overseas was a fabulous opportunity for myself and my family. The BGS network around the world can help make that experience possible and more enjoyable.

I encourage OBs to use the OBA. Henry Walker (2012) is now the OBA link for South East Asia, so, when travel allows it, make contact. Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention one other OB that I met up with several times in Asia, New Zealand and Australia. That of course is my sister Claire Bowles (1996) – she now lives in Melbourne and is the Sustainability Lead for i2C Architects.'



Andrew Devine (1995)

Andrew moved abroad after graduating from Edinburgh University in 2001.

'I didn't have a plan; I just wanted an adventure – and to delay what seemed like an inevitable move to London', Andrew recalls.

Andrew ended up in broadcast journalism after a stint in advertising/PR. He got some freelance work at Deutsche Welle (Germany's equivalent of the BBC World Service) and went on to help them set up a 24/7 rolling news station in 2015. He is now the deputy head of TV news in Berlin where he runs a newsroom reacting to breaking global events.

'This is perfect for me because I'm an absolute news junkie. It's also given me the opportunity to meet some incredible people and to work on special projects like developing new TV shows for young audiences in Africa and Asia', says Andrew.

Andrew would encourage anyone considering working abroad to go for it. 'Even though it can be tough at first, young people in particular have so much to gain and so little to lose from the experience.'



Henry Walker & Ravi Prasad (Both 2012)

Old Bradfordians Henry Walker and Ravi Prasad now find themselves working in the sunny climes of Singapore.

Henry studied at the University of Bradford graduating in Business Economics, including a year working as an Economist with the Department for Work and Pensions. Following university, Henry moved to Singapore and joined Trafigura, a leading global commodity trading house. Initially as a graduate recruit, Henry completed rotations in operations and trade finance. He then spent two years in Geneva managing a fleet of oil tankers as a junior Charterer, before returning to Singapore in January 2020 to launch the Asia freight trading business for Trafigura subsidiary Puma Energy. Henry's role involves managing commercial shipping activities for the company, East of Suez Canal.

Ravi studied Economics at Cambridge University. After a stint in investment banking in London, he moved to China, initially to pursue a master's at Peking University. Following that, Ravi joined the UK Foreign Office, and spent a further two years in Beijing working on UK-China Trade Policy at the British Embassy. Last year he moved to Singapore, still with the UK Foreign Office, but now covering South East Asia. His role involves strengthening the UK's economic and trade links with this rapidly growing region including through Free Trade Agreements.

Both Henry and Ravi continue to enjoy life in Singapore, which is a melting pot of different cultures, food and people. The island nation also positions itself as a gateway into South East Asia, presenting exciting work and travel opportunities (in a normal year!). Both OBs meet up regularly, most recently for drinks at Singapore Cricket Club – one of Asia's oldest and premier sporting clubs – where they reminisced about many glorious BGS cricketing victories on the Colts Square!

They are planning a wider OBs in Singapore meet-up in 2021 and would be happy to offer advice to any current BGS student or OB considering a move to Asia, either for study or work. They can be reached at walkerhenryj@googlemail.com and ravi.prasad@fcd.gov.uk





Lila Palmer (2003)

Anglo-American Lila Palmer has been bouncing back and forth between North America and the UK her whole life; in fact the pandemic has been the first time she's not been back in England at least every six months.

'It's the Betty's withdrawal and family still settled in the Dales that bring me back', she recalls. But since upping sticks from London for New York in 2017 to take up a coveted fellowship in the triennial Composer Librettist Development Program run by American Lyric Theater, the former opera singer has gone from strength to strength.

Lila is a librettist and producer who specialises in concealed or historically overlooked narratives, with an active secondary practice in creating activation events for museum interpretation, including the London Transport Museum, Museum of London and many others. Despite being grounded by pandemic restrictions, 2020/21 has been something of a banner year for Lila, after a globetrotting 2019 saw her hosting Medici TV's coverage of the International Tchaikovsky Competition in St Petersburg and partnering with the British Army on a new work exploring the intersectional experiences of female soldiers, 'Dead Equal'.

Harking back to her early career as a children's book editor, Lila's adaption of Wilde's fairytale, 'The Selfish Giant', with international jazz star Clarice Assad will premier this season at Opera Saratoga. 'Splintered', a Nutcracker fantasia with Justine Chen and Jorge Sosa is also in development at American Lyric Theater. 'Opera Murder Club', an installation opera with Tamar-Kali Brown is in production for 'LA Opera' and 'American Apollo' her opera with Damien Getter about John Singer Sargent and his African-American muse, Thomas McKeller, will also debut at The Kennedy Center in April 2021, along with 'This be Her Verse', a song cycle commissioned by South African soprano Gold Schultz (2020 Last Night of the Proms).

British audiences will be able to catch the rescheduled premier of her children's cantata, 'In Her Own Valley', with Grace Evangeline Mason for the Liverpool Philharmonic later this year.

Lila was recently named Interim Managing Director of American Lyric Theater, the company who brought her to New York. She is currently facilitating a major diversity and equity initiative, alongside a strategic rebranding.

Taking the opportunity afforded by living without her suitcases by the door, in November 2020 Lila married Indian-Canadian conductor and early music specialist Joshua Anand Slater in a five person Anglican ceremony in Boston, Massachusetts. Composers John Corigliano and Mark Adamo witnessed. The couple hope to have a blessing at Southwark Cathedral, where Lila remains a member, in August 2021. They currently reside in Manhattan with their rescue English Mastiff.



Yuan Yang (2008)

Yuan Yang has been working in Beijing for the past four years, where she is now the deputy bureau chief of the 'Financial Times'.

She writes mainly on the intersection of technology, society and geopolitics, with a particular interest in



labour issues. After leaving BGS in 2008, Yuan studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Balliol College, Oxford.

Her first job after university was working as a full-time representative of the Oxford University Student Union, where she was Vice-President, focusing on the problem of sexual violence on campus. After being convinced by the ongoing debate over higher education funding that economists are listened to more than philosophers, she studied an MSc in Economics at the London School of Economics. She then founded the charity Rethinking Economics, now headquartered in Manchester, and which campaigns for curriculum reform in economics. She left Rethinking Economics for an internship, writing about development economics at 'The Economist', and then joined the 'Financial Times'.

Yuan has been COVID-stranded in Beijing for the past year and unable to see her parents in the UK. However, she is happily able to roam more or less freely in China given the low incidence of COVID-19 cases now. She is also a member of the WeChat social messaging group 'Yorkshire in Beijing', and would be very happy to organise a meet-up with any Old Bradfordians who venture her way.



Simon Peel (1980)

It is now 50 years since Simon started learning geography with Mr Eggleston and then with other teachers, including Mr Parker at O-Level. He never expected that he would live and work in the countries that he learnt about.

But Simon's life and career in the bakery and ingredients industry, has led him to living in ten countries, across three continents, including ones that when he was at school were unheard of and hidden behind the Iron Curtain. Simon has experienced the Mediterranean (Turkey, Spain, Israel and Greece), the Baltic Sea (Denmark, Lithuania and Latvia) as well as Asia (Malaysia) and now the USA.

'People often ask which was my favourite, and the answer is that I don't have one, as each is different in its own right' recalls Simon. 'On my first overseas position in Turkey, my boss gave me the following advice. He said that whilst you will always have difficulties and challenges, in every place you will meet good people and have good memories – remember those.'

Living overseas has pros and cons. 'The benefits are that you get to see and learn about the world 365 days a year, and not just in a few weeks' holiday. You get a deeper learning and perspective, seeing many things from the local point of view, learning about culture, religion and politics, and spending time in the local homes of colleagues and friends. The children experience different cultures and have friends of a really global nature.

'On the downside, you lose stability and contact with family. With respect to my case, stability is lost due to relocation every few years. However, when you live in an international environment, even if you stay put, your friends and your children's friends move on. With respect to contact with family, a lot has changed since living in Turkey with one phone call per month and plenty of letter writing, compared to today when we have Zoom, FaceTime, email and YouTube. You need to find the balance between return trips to the UK and using the time to explore the countries and sights around where you live. We have been in Upstate New York for five years now and as a family have still to cross the Mississippi.'

Whilst many people work in the same place for most of their lives and then look forward to travel in retirement, Simon is looking to stay put when in retirement. 'We have a house in Greece and a farm in Lithuania and that sounds just fine!'



TRANSFORMING LIVES: ASSISTED PLACES AT BGS

Providing an inclusive and diverse environment in which young people can thrive is integral to the BGS mission. Throughout the centuries, BGS has been a true lever of social mobility for bright children from modest backgrounds to reach their potential.

Our 1662 Royal Charter. The transformations wrought by headmaster WH Keeling during the Victorian era. The Direct Grant system (1944-79) and subsequent government Assisted Places scheme. They are the foundations on which we continue to build.

When government Assisted Places were abolished in the late 1990s, Old Bradfordians were determined to preserve BGS's egalitarian spirit in deed as well as word, giving generously to the Hoc Age campaign. Today, many hundreds of BGS pupils have benefitted from a free or partially subsidised education here.

Assisted Places enrich our school community, city, and the wider world. BGS spends an average of £900,000 annually on Assisted Places, enabling around 10% of our student population with funding. We are grateful to the friends and benefactors who provide around a third of this support.

We hope that our new 1662 Fund, will, with your help, double the number of talented children on Assisted Places here. Children who would otherwise be unable to attend BGS.

As the stories which follow demonstrate, Assisted Places really do change lives.

[bradfordgrammar.com/
support-bgs](http://bradfordgrammar.com/support-bgs)



‘The generosity of the donor who sponsored my Assisted Place allowed me to obtain a high standard of education, gain valuable experiences, and pursue the career of my dreams. I hope one day I am in financial means to support someone else and give them the opportunity you kindly gave to me.’

Old Bradfordian and recipient of the Roger Bowers Assisted Place, (2020)



Ruby Hendry (2017)

‘Without funding given to me by BGS, I feel certain I wouldn’t now be following my dream of becoming a professional opera singer – I received truly inspirational support and opportunities from the music staff at BGS.’



Blaine Thomas (2020)

Recipient of the Sir Ken Morrison Assisted Place
‘I’ve wanted to go to Oxford since I was 11, but I never thought when I lived on a council estate, that I’d ever get to go. I can’t stress enough how important I think it is that institutions like BGS continue to contribute to social mobility. One day, I hope to be in a position to give back, so someone can have the same enriching experience I’ve had.’



Paul Murphy (1981)

'I won a Bradford City Council scholarship to BGS. BGS offered an environment where most people were at least as bright as me. This competition spurred me on and gave me the first taste of the Hoc Age spirit. Teachers like TJ Harrington, BB Parker, L Butler, R Thompson and others encouraged me, a working-class boy, to sharpen my critical thinking, express my fledgling ideas and gain confidence in sharing my opinions. I left BGS shortly after my 17th birthday, as the first person in my family to win a place at university.

The importance of a broad education, neither polarised towards exam hothousing nor unfocussed experientialism, made it easy to justify sending my son to a private school (it succeeded in its task; Dan graduated in Medicine from Oxford and as I write is working in A&E in London).

I've been reasonably fortunate in my career, and attribute this in no small part again to Hoc Age and the attitude – built on the rugby pitch and in the classroom – of 'put your head down and get it done'. I have mixed with industrialists, academics, politicians, and others who have excelled in their fields, and continue to express my (by now hopefully somewhat better formed) ideas and opinions with sincerity and enthusiasm.

I've been lucky to work and live outside the UK, in Germany and Switzerland. The idea of leaving my homeland, while somewhat scary, allowed me to draw once again on Hoc Age and make it happen. While this makes it more complicated to attend OBA events, I'm still proud that some of my strongest, most enduring friendships were made at BGS. Most of us strive to belong to something, be it a political party, a religion, a sports team or a community. I still believe that I belong to the BGS community and have a bond with thousands of people I will never meet – people who attended the same school and learned the same values. Long may that bond continue, socially and professionally.'

•



Ian Hudson (1975)

'Having myself benefited from an Assisted Place, and understanding the important role that BGS played in my life on so many fronts, I feel very strongly that I should try to give others the same opportunity in life.'

•

John Hamer (1987)

'I was fortunate enough to get an Assisted Place at BGS. I remember the mix of pupils from all backgrounds was beneficial to everyone, exposing us to the widest range of characters, attitudes, beliefs and experiences. You had to learn to communicate and get along with people from all those different backgrounds. I think that's a really important part of any good education and it has been invaluable in later life, both personally and professionally.'

•



Dr Linzi Maybin (2007)

'BGS was the launchpad to developing me into the person I am today. I was given a bursary to attend BGS, as I am from a low-income single parent family. I would never, and I mean never, have gone to university and got to where I am today without the incredible teachers and support from BGS.

Now a dentist, the determination and drive I learnt at BGS has endured. Last October I set up a charity called Happy Teeth Outreach, which educates trainee dentists and provides special dental support to children with special educational needs or who are affected by the refugee crisis. In 2020, the charity won a national award for outstanding innovation. None of this would have been possible without BGS.'

•



Saffah Farooq

Upper Sixth student at BGS and recipient of a Sovereign Health Care Assisted Place

'I was so happy to get a place. I never thought I'd study at a private school and it brought a lot of happiness to all of my family, especially my dad who's had to endure chemotherapy and has been in and out of hospital.

I was nervous before joining but the people were really welcoming, and the teachers were all nice. You get a lot of support from the teachers to help you succeed.

With everything going on with dad it's made me even more certain that I want a career in medicine.'

•



Natalia Dannenberg-Spreier (1999)

'Access to BGS allowed me to flourish, and the education and confidence I got from studying there has set me up for life. The friendship group that I have from the school has also been a huge source of support along that journey. I am currently based in Bonn, Germany, where I work as Head of Brand and Engagement at the International Paralympic Committee.'

•



Gary Thornton (1975)

'My time at BGS was life changing. When I joined as an 11-year old scholarship kid from a council estate I thought I knew everything; I quickly realised that I didn't. I made some lasting friendships and we still regularly get together 45 years later.

I've had a varied and rewarding international career as a Chartered Engineer. I have developed and managed projects in the USA and across Europe and was the first non-US person to be accredited by the US Department of Energy as a Data Center Energy Practitioner (DCEP).

BGS opened my eyes to a world of possibilities; it taught me how, not what, to learn. I loved every minute.'

•

Mark Learmonth (1982)

'My parents could never have afforded to send me to BGS.

The education I received at BGS as a result of an Assisted Place, established a trajectory to Oxford and an international career which, almost 40 years later, I am pleased with. I am grateful for the outstanding education I received.'

•

Andrew Meehan (1973)

'There is no doubt that receiving a City Council scholarship to BGS changed my life. These were abolished shortly after I left, but the decision by the school to continue the same ethos of helping children from less affluent families to enjoy the same experience as I did is one I fully support. My wife and I are proud to sponsor children at BGS.'

•

Robin Bell (1960)

'Thanks to BGS I developed all-round: in Modern Languages, rugby, and swimming. I got a Hastings Exhibition at The Queen's College, Oxford. I then worked in Export Sales for over 25 years with ICI Plc.'

•

David Bate (1962)

'I was fortunate to secure a West Riding County Scholarship place. Although, like many youngsters, I found some aspects of school life irksome, as the years have passed, I have become more and more aware of what an excellent rounded education I had.'

•

Barrie Scott (1980)

'My parents struggled to keep both me and my brother at BGS when we both ended up there at the same time, but a bursary made a world of difference.'

•

Richard Haigh (1994)

'My Assisted Place provided access to a world class education that was otherwise not affordable to our family. It took me from the back streets of Bradford to heading a major public organisation with the education and grounding BGS offered me.'

•

Tymoor Khan (1999)

'Coming to BGS was the best experience I could have imagined. It has really set me up for life and really taught me that not only can I compete with the best, I can also become the best with hard work and determination.'

•

David Whitlam (1978)

'Being awarded a free place at BGS in 1970 changed my life.

I enjoyed captaining the Cross-Country team, singing in the choir, chairing the Modern Languages Society but, more than anything, I revelled in the excellent language teaching. As a mad linguist and a very studious one, I collared the amazing Courtenay Lloyd for lunchtime Norwegian lessons, followed by O level and A Level Russian. From BGS, I progressed to Oxford to read Russian and German.

My subsequent career has taken me across the world, including a short stint living in Russia. This most definitely has its origins in gaining that free place.'

•

OBs COMBATTING COVID

From 3D printed visors to helping NHS staff and key workers with a bike scheme, OBs have given back to society during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here at BGS, we give thanks to our NHS heroes.



JOSEPH HILL (2017)

May 2020

Joseph Hill (2017) was thanked by grateful NHS staff after making almost 100 visors on his 3D printer.

Joseph, originally from Brighouse, is studying electronic and computer engineering at Brighton University, and initially wanted to help his mum and her NHS work colleagues have access to comfortable PPE equipment.

Joseph has owned a 3D printer for more than two years and said he had seen the amazing things it could create.

The first visors were basic, but after tweaking the settings to improve the equipment, Joseph was able to print the visors in under 40 minutes each, instead of two hours, and save on cost and weight.

Read the full story here: <http://bit.ly/josephhill>



LUCY WELLINGS (2009) AND CHARLOTTE SUMNER-BEDFORD (2010)

May 2020

Two enterprising friends helped NHS and other essential workers secure bikes to travel safely as part of a national campaign.

Lucy Wellings, a nurse on London's COVID-19 hospital wards, and friend Charlotte Sumner-Bedford, set up the Tour De Thanks scheme, where they encouraged people to donate or lend much-needed bikes to NHS staff and other key workers.

The campaign launched when Lucy had her bike stolen. The 28-year-old, who would normally work as a paediatric and adolescent research nurse specialist at University College London Hospital, was reassigned to a COVID ward and needed her bike to get to work.

The nurse eventually tracked down her stolen bike, which had been sold online, but the experience made her realise how reliant she and her colleagues were on bikes as safe modes of transport during the pandemic.

Lucy's school friend, Charlotte, was keen to help after being furloughed from her work as assistant manager at Albert Hall in Manchester. She created the artwork for Tour De Thanks and connected people and bikes via Twitter and Instagram.

To donate or lend a bike, find Tour De Thanks on Twitter and Instagram.

Read the full story here: <http://bit.ly/tourdethanks>

GREG COX (2015)

May 2020

Enterprising OB Greg Cox and his two university friends launched a venture selling PPE masks for the public at cost price.

Greg, originally from Ilkley, Cogan Wade, and Frederik Filz, met at St Andrew's University and were shocked when they saw the mark-up was as high as 500pc on some masks and other protective equipment.

Greg, who left BGS in 2015 and is studying for a Masters in African Studies at Oxford University, said they started their initiative, Mask Bros, after the volunteering charity they had founded, Students Against Corona, needed to buy PPE equipment.

The friends were shocked at the price gouging which was happening and launched Mask Bros in response. They sourced the high-quality masks from contacts in China and Hong Kong and in less than two weeks, the trio had already sold more than 145,000 pieces, having reduced the price from £1.45 to approximately 26p per mask.

The friends had originally been distributing the masks from their flat in St Andrew's, where they had been staying since lockdown began, but since found a fulfilment centre.

They make enough money to cover their costs, such as website and advertising fees, by charging a flat shipping rate.

For more information log onto: <http://www.maskbros.co.uk>

Read the full story here: <http://bit.ly/maskbros>





MICHAEL GROTH (1971)

April 2020

TV presenter and musician, Michael Groth, kept himself busy during lockdown by writing and performing a song for our frontline workers. Titled, 'Strong Enough', Michael wanted to express his thanks to the NHS and also help to raise some money.

Michael, who used to present the TV show 'That's Life' with Esther Rantzen, said: 'I created the video because I was, like most of us, really moved by the bravery, devotion and caring of all the nurses and key workers battling on the frontline of the health and care services. To see how many were losing their lives, I felt we as a country were failing them – there was a lack of PPE and support.'

The song features different vocal treatments to switch between a patient and a nurse. Michael added: 'I tried to offer a degree of hope with the line "nothing lasts forever, nothing lasts for long" and convey the need for strength from both the health workers and from the public to beat this dreadful disease.' As well as sharing his song, Michael is raising money for the NHS with the money generated from purchases.

View Michael's song on You Tube at <https://bit.ly/michael-groth>

Download the song at <http://bit.ly/strongenough-download>



... IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT POEMS WRITE ME BECAUSE THEY POP UP AND HAPPEN AS JOHN LENNON PUT IT, WHILE YOU ARE PLANNING OTHER THINGS.



The collection, called Viral Verse, features 120 poems – almost all of which were written specially for the volume – expresses memories of loss, struggle and renewal, and captures moments of humour and sadness of people living through the pandemic.

David had three poems published in the book, titled 'Starling Dance', 'Journeyman' and 'Bovine Social Spacing'.

Said David: 'I wouldn't be so grand as to call myself a poet. But I started writing poems during my BGS days in the 1950s and since then have presented my work regularly over the years in venues like folk clubs and I did once win a competition called 'Bards in the Bog'. But it's fair to say that poems write me because they pop up and happen as John Lennon put it, while you are planning other things'.

All profits from the book will be donated to the NHS Charities Together COVID-19 Appeal.

For more information on the book, visit www.viral-verses.com



PROFESSOR DAVID WEIR (1957)

September 2020

Professor David Weir has had a selection of his poems published in a new book reflecting on the Coronavirus crisis.

David is one of a selection of contributors to feature in a book of poetry capturing the mood and emotions of people caught up in the Coronavirus pandemic which was published thanks to a University of York professor.

Professor Stephen Linstead brought together more than 50 poets and 30 illustrators from York, Yorkshire and beyond to create a unique and unparalleled volume in aid of the NHS Charities Together COVID-19 appeal.

TRIBUTES TO A TEACHER WHO INSPIRED A GENERATION

Old Bradfordians and teachers mourned the loss of Selby Brock, who encouraged many young athletes, among them Team GB members, to excel in their chosen sports.

July 2020

Selby Brock, who died on Sunday 12 July 2020 at Bradford Royal Infirmary, following a short illness, inspired generations of runners at Bradford Grammar School (BGS) where he taught maths and history for 36 years.

His former colleagues spoke of his personal warmth and commitment to BGS running, which saw him build one of the best school running clubs in the country with fellow teacher Tony Kingham. Old Bradfordians recalled how he encouraged students of all running abilities to try their best and that they still run today because of him.

Mike McCartney, lead teacher for cross country at BGS, said Selby's passion for cross country remained undimmed, even after he retired in 1997. He could often be seen overseeing a time

trial in Lister Park, or on the old school track and would drive students on Saturdays to fixtures all over England.

Said Mike: 'It was this enthusiasm and level of dedication which helped Selby and Tony build the most successful school running club in the country. It produced countless runners who were awarded representative honours for Yorkshire, who ran at a national level or like Richard Nerurkar, went on to represent Great Britain in the Olympics.

'In an era before "sport for all" became commonplace, Selby made running fun, whatever the ability level. He was very much the quintessential, old style school master who managed to combine his running commitments with a full teaching timetable and duties as a form tutor.

'I think the word legend can be overused, but in the context of schools and what education is all about, I can't think of a better one when I think of what Selby has achieved and the massive influence he had on so many people. I know he will be sorely missed.'

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster, said: 'Selby will be remembered fondly and with great admiration by many BGS colleagues, Old Bradfordians and their families. He devoted much of his life to BGS and our Cross Country Club and his influence cannot be overstated. He will be greatly missed.'

An online Book of Condolence can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/selbybrock>



Right: Selby Brock inspired a generation to fall in love with running



EVENTS

BGS 'IN CONVERSATION'

2020 saw our events programme change dramatically. In May 2020, we launched our virtual 'In Conversation' event series, which has been a great success!

We would like to thank our inspirational Old Bradfordians for taking part: Film producer, Steve Abbott (1972), Olympian, Adrian Moorhouse (1982), Former Head of BBC News, Roger Mosey (1976), globally renowned marathon runner, Richard Nerurkar OBE (1982), TV GP, Dr Amir Khan (1999) and Team GB Analyst, Deborah Sides (2006).

Please get in touch at oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com if you'd like to be involved. We will be continuing throughout 2021 and beyond.

If you missed out, or would simply like to re-watch these talks, they are available via our YouTube channel <http://bit.ly/YouTube-BGS>



Adrian Moorhouse • Dr Amir Khan
Deborah Sides • Richard Nerurkar
Roger Mosey • Steve Abbott

OLD BRADFORDIANS NORTH AMERICA 2020 REUNION

By Sam Craig (1994)

An in-person reunion scheduled for Seattle was destined not to happen in 2020. Undeterred, the endlessly enthusiastic North American alumni leadership team of Len Audaer (2004), Brian Cousins (1969), Dave Huggins (1956), and Russell Taylor (1972) determined it was time to test collective technology skills with its first ever virtual meeting, taking place on 15 October 2020.

It was very encouraging to have over twenty OBs attend, several for the first time, calling in from all across the USA and Canada. The North American alumni leadership team were all in attendance, and the group was joined by guest of honour, Headmaster Dr Simon Hinchliffe, and Lindsey Davis, Director of Development & External Relations. Sam Craig (1994) served as master of ceremonies.

The meeting served as a chance to reconnect with fellow OBs and learn about the School's latest activities and achievements. Sam began by providing an update on known North American OBs, with the combination of the group's historical database and the more recent Beyond Bradford North American Membership group indicating close to 300 active members. Members included those located not only in the USA and Canada, but also members from Central America and the Caribbean.

Sam thanked the Headmaster for giving up his evening and invited him to address the group. Simon began by updating the group on the School's academic and sporting achievements prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. He went on to highlight the financial challenges encountered by independent schools generally across the UK against an increasingly challenging economic and political environment in recent years, reassuring the audience that BGS remained in a stable financial position.

Simon then provided an insight into how the School had to shift in March 2020 in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. It pivoted quickly, providing a virtual learning environment for pupils, also providing pastoral care and financial assistance where needed. Support was also given to the local community through foodbank donations, PPE production and as a hub for education for essential workers. While the School had endured many challenges, he explained, he was proud of its achievements and felt BGS had emerged stronger through it all.

Simon described the school's long-term strategies as two-fold. First, to refresh the Junior School, with a Junior School Headmaster, Richard Ribeiro, recently appointed. Second, Development, which reflects the School's public benefit to its surrounding community. He highlighted the Development Office that was reimaged in 2018, followed by the launch of The 1662 Fund. The 1662 Fund was launched with the backing of significant benefactors and the School's governors, with the aim of doubling the number of students offered Assisted Places.

An open discussion ensued with questions regarding diversity, technology and ways OBs can help the School. Various OBs shared their experience of supporting Assisted Places at BGS and encouraged the group to support the School's development efforts.

Sam highlighted the School website as an excellent resource to become reacquainted with the School and its activities. This included a virtual video tour to see what the School looks like today. For US residents, Sam also mentioned it is possible to tax efficiently donate to the School through its affiliation with the US-based British Schools and Universities Foundation.

Sam thanked all those in attendance and confirmed plans to host an in-person OB reunion in Seattle in October 2021, travel permitting. The meeting concluded with a collective Hoc Age and well wishes to all.

REMEMBRANCE

We record with sadness the deaths of the following Old Bradfordians and offer our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Obituaries

With thanks to John Bennett (1973),
Obituaries Editor



John Bernard (Ben) Bairstow
(1952)

25 March 1933 -
30 January 2020

Born in Denholme, the fourth child of a blacksmith, he started school at the Thornton Infants School and won a government-funded scholarship. At the end of his first year at the Senior School, he was moved into the Classics stream, and the course of his life was set, culminating in a Cambridge Open Exhibition reading Classics. National Service was still mandatory. After service in the Royal Horse Guards, including an 18-month posting to Cyprus, he decided to become a teacher. His first permanent teaching position was in the Classics Department at Ilford County High School for Boys in 1959. That year he met Dorothy Bent, who was teaching at the Essex County High School for Girls, and they married. He was commissioned into the RAFVR as a pilot officer. In 1966,

he advanced his career by moving to Tanzania (the former Tanganyika) followed by Australia and then Christmas Island. They enjoyed an active retirement, both being active in the Uniting Church and local community clubs and enjoying cruise ships. Ben maintained a lifelong passion for stamp collecting, leaving a sizeable collection.

Stuart Baker OBE

(1972)

1 April 1954 -
3 November 2020

Stuart used the train to get to school, getting off at Frizinghall and this may have influenced his choice of career. After graduating from Oxford in Chemistry, he began as a trainee at Barrow Hill in a smart uniform with peaked cap before going on to manage Preston Station, followed by York. After this, he moved into senior management, first with what is now LNER and then with one of the many predecessors

of Northern. In 2002, he joined the Strategic Rail Authority and then the Department for Transport. Despite reaching these heights, he remained in touch with his roots, giving talks and slide shows to groups in and around Bradford. He personally ordered the new Sheffield Tram-Train from Spain. In October 2017, he suffered a severe stroke from which he never really recovered, losing the battle in November 2020.

Michael Berry

(1969)

26 November 1951 -
26 November 2020

Michael was in, not only the 1st Cricket Team, but also the School's successful winning senior team for Cross Country. He continued Classics at Hull University, graduating in 1973, then went to Leeds University for a teaching course. He taught Classics at De Aston School, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire until early retirement to work

in the charity sector. Keen on sport, he played squash to county level in Lincolnshire, ran a few marathons and was a team member for Bradford Bridge Club, playing in the Yorkshire league. He was a keen supporter of Bradford City FC, holding a season ticket for many years. Michael assisted in writing a number of articles in the Telegraph and Argus and Bradford City including research on his maternal grandfather Harold Hartley who served in the First World War with the Bradford Pals, becoming a Lieutenant in the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Nick Emmott

(1993)

25 September 1976 -
4 January 2020

Nick attended BGS from the age of 11 until 1993 when the family moved to Sussex. He went on to have a successful career in the restaurant trade including Mosimann's, Quaglinos and Marco Pierre White's Titanic. More recently, he was General Manager at English's and was given the opportunity to open the new Bistro Pierre in Eastbourne. He died unexpectedly, leaving behind a young family. His sister Lyndsay and parents Bob and Carole passed this information via a long-standing friend Genevieve Youldon.

Tony Fearnside

(1953)

28 June 1934 -
18 April 2020

Following school, Tony graduated with a BSc in Forestry from the University of Wales in 1959 and the following year emigrated to Australia. He worked for almost 60 years in the forestry sector in countries including Nepal, Italy, Solomon Islands, Bhutan, China, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, and India and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). He was a life-long member of the Theosophical Society and President of the Canberra Branch. When diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2008, he joined Parkinson's ACT, becoming a committee member and bulletin editor. He endured various health ailments for many years with fortitude and determination. A summing up of Tony's life would be that he was a true Renaissance man.

Submitted by Tony's life partner Janet (Janice) Scarabottolo.

John Greenwood

(1951 and English Master, 1959-1965)

6 April 1933 -
22 September 2019

John began at the Manor Row site, where he participated in the farming scheme instigated by R B

Graham during the Second World War, moving in 1949 to Frizinghall as a senior pupil. A keen rugby player, he was in the First XV and attended Drebley to which he was to return as a master. After National Service he studied English at the University of Sheffield, then after three years at Wellingborough Grammar School he returned to BGS under the direction of his former English Master Ken Grose. As other young teachers were to find, BGS was a natural steppingstone for promotion – to head of department in a Wiltshire comprehensive school. He kept his BGS links, attending OBA Annual Dinners. During retirement John continued to live in the Wiltshire village of Hullavington, remaining active, taking charge of various U3A courses in English literature.

Richard Hardy

(1945)

22 September 1927 -
5 December 2020

Richard won an Open Scholarship to Trinity College Cambridge to read Classics and his daughter Fiona Crutchley tells us that the whole school was given a day's holiday to mark this achievement. She also reports that he had been selected to go to Bletchley Park to help with studying Japanese. This was something known to the

Headmaster and not his family but was cancelled due to the fall of Japan.



Barry Hoffbrand
(1952)

18 March 1934 -
23 September 2020

Barry Hoffbrand grew up in Bradford, the son of a tailor whose parents had fled Latvia in 1901 and whose service during the First World War included sewing soldiers' uniforms. Barry's first school was the state primary, Green Lane but in 1944 the family moved from the centre of Bradford to just beyond Frizinghall. Together with his younger brother Victor, he then attended Albert Road Primary School in Saltaire. Both brothers obtained scholarships to BGS, starting at Thornville, progressing in 1946 to the senior school in Manor Row and then in 1949 to the new building. From 1952 Barry studied at The Queen's College Oxford and University College Hospital, London qualifying in medicine in 1958. He was appointed Consultant Physician to the Whittington Hospital in 1970 and later directed its major postgraduate teaching course as well as editing both the Postgraduate Graduate Medical

Journal and the Journal of the Apothecary Society. He founded the Nephrology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine where he served as Vice President and was a member of the Council, Royal College of Physicians. At BGS Barry won the Henry Maufe art prize; David Hockney was another winner. After retirement, he developed his talent as an artist and also wrote learned papers on aspects of medicine he detected in paintings by Hogarth and other famous artists.



**Anthony (Tony)
John Beresford
Hope
(1963)**

16 August 1945 -
26 December 2020

Tony died peacefully at home in Manchester on 26 December 2020. Tony studied classics at BGS, and after leaving school spent five years working as an articled clerk with Rawlinson, Greaves & Mitchell. He then went on to take business studies degrees in various universities and business schools, including Liverpool, the London School of Economics, and Manchester where he was appointed professor. In 1996 he published 'Transforming the Bottom Line'

(co-authored with his younger brother Jeremy [sadly deceased]). Tony was blessed with the most incredible memory. This rare talent allowed him to internalise a whole mass of facts, anything from, Thucydides on the Peloponnesian War, the songs of Gerry and the Pacemakers, and including the weekend's football results for all matches, delivered with panache every Monday morning at the Hutton door. He was also good enough to get a trial with Huddersfield Town and was a fanatical supporter of Burnley FC.

Tony leaves wife, Pamela, four children, Daniel, Emily, Anna and Sophie, and two younger sisters, Moya and Maeve.



**Rev David Michael
Johnson
(1954)**

29 May 1935 -
11 August 2020

David became deputy head boy, and captain of both cricket and rugby, being commended by Headmaster R B Graham as 'an excellent captain of cricket'. His enthusiasm for cricket continued as he captained the Yorkshire Under 19s, played for the Navy, later for Sarawak and coached at Sevenoaks School. He read Classics

and Theology at St Catherine's College Cambridge, where he met his wife Pat, who was reading maths. He went to Headingley Methodist Theological College, gained a PGCE, and after ordination, taught at the Methodist Secondary School, Sarawak, East Malaysia, for ten years. From 1974, David taught at Sevenoaks School, Kent, (an international school), computerising and running the school library. Retiring to Ullswater with Pat, his wife of 59 years, he enjoyed numerous class reunions. He died of Parkinson's Disease.

**John Gordon Lodge
(1961 and OBA Past
President, 1989)**

9 May 1944 -
11 August 2019

Gordon won a scholarship to Bradford Grammar School, following which he became one of the youngest Assistant Branch Managers of Bradford and Bingley Building Society. He quickly progressed through the ranks to achieve his final position as General Manager. Relocation came with the job; from Bradford, Northampton, Blackpool, Morecambe, Hull, Bristol, Wokingham and finally returning to Bingley in 1983. He retired in 1997 at 53, following 37 years' service. He continued his role in 57 Squadron (East Kirkby), becoming pivotal to the annual reunion.

He finally represented an Association formed to commemorate the Squadron his father once served in. He was a member of Shipley Golf Club for 36 years, becoming treasurer in 1985. As a member of the Old Bradfordians Association since leaving school, he joined the committee in 1984 as Assistant Treasurer, becoming Vice President in 1988, President in 1989 and an active committee member into the 1990s.

**William (Bill)
Morrell
(1952)**

14 September 1935 -
12 January 2021

Bill was born on 14 September 1935. His family home was in Hawksworth, near Guiseley. He entered Thornville in 1944, and in 1947 progressed to the senior school, located at the time on Manor Row, and from 1949 on Keighley Road. He studied modern languages and played rugby and cricket. During the summer, outside school time, he enjoyed watching the Yorkshire XI, and the England cricket trials at Headingley. He maintained a passion for the sport throughout his life. He also worked on a farm near Sledmere in East Yorkshire, as part of a popular scheme employing boys from urban schools to help out with the harvest. On Friday night forays

into Bridlington, he got to practice his dancing in the town's dance halls, and to sample the odd under-age pint. This early taste for beer continued into later life, with his appreciation of the finest liquid products of Timothy Taylor, the Keighley-based brewer.

In 1952, aged 16, Bill left the School to study textiles at Bradford Technical College. He was called up for National Service in the Army (RAOC) from 1954 to 1955, which he completed at Bielefeld, in West Germany. Following discharge from the Army, Bill had a varied business career, travelling the UK working in the textile trade, and then selling for Carreras Tobacco. He moved to London in the mid-1960s, where he was a salesman, and later a wholesaler, of decorative lighting. He met Jackie, his wife, in 1967; they married in 1974, and were together as a devoted married couple for 46 years. He finally retired at the age of 75. Bill was President of the Old Bradfordians Club (London) from 1988 to 1990, and a very faithful and unfailing attendee at the Club's monthly dinners. He was there at the drinks event in January 2020, chatting to much more recent school leavers, and at our last, pre-COVID lockdown, dinner in February 2020. He also travelled back to Yorkshire for OB dinners and decade reunions at the School. Elsewhere in London he was an

enthusiastic member of Richmond Rugby Club (where another OB, the late Tony Gadsby Peet, was President), the RAC Club in central London, the MCC at Lord's, and the Yorkshire County Cricket Club Supporters (Southern Branch). On 12 January 2021, at the age of 85, Bill finally succumbed to the effects of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which had increasingly troubled him over several months. He passed away in the Wellington Hospital, St. John's Wood, NW London, which ironically is about as close to Lord's Cricket Ground as one can get without paying to go through the turnstiles. Sadly, for Bill it was the off-season. Bill was a most charming, generous, loyal and proud Yorkshireman, who will be greatly missed by his family and friends, and by all OBs who had the privilege of knowing him. To his dying day, he adored his county, its cricket team, and everything connected with Bradford Grammar School. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jackie, and his younger brother, John - also an OB, to whom we offer our sincerest condolences.

**Submitted by Mark
Lawrence, President,
Old Bradfordians Club
(London).**

**Phyllis Sanderson
1932-2020**

Younger OBs will remember Phyllis presenting the cricket trophy and attending concerts in recent years. She was the wife of former BGS teacher, Jack Sanderson. Older OBs might have met the seven grandchildren who attended the school (Sophie was the first Head Girl) and remember Jack from Clock House. Phyllis not only helped Jack in his directing swimming but also accompanied the tours to Weston Super Mare. What might be less apparent is the connection with Victoria Park School (which fed into Clock House) and the hosting of bridge evenings (helped by three daughters) where guests included Thornville masters such as Messrs Roscoe-Jones, Heaton and Haigh. The music master Leslie Walsh also came, but probably had little influence on daughter Linda finally ending up in charge of the Leeds Piano Competition - bridge was played in the room where the piano was, so practising had to stop.

**John Robert
Shelton Smith
(1967)**

9 September 1948 -
18 October 2019

After Baildon Church of England School, John started Thornville under the watchful eye of

Miss Fisher, advancing through the school in the Classics set. In the Sixth Form he switched to History under Reg Petty. His height, solid frame and quiet determination made him ideally suited for rugby, enabling him to represent the School at each age group including the First XV. He read law at Jesus College, Cambridge, playing in the College First XV. Following Solicitors' Finals, he returned to Bradford to become an articled clerk with Ralph C. Yablon, Temple-Milnes and Carr, which incorporated his father's firm, Browning, Oliver and Smith. He became a partner and spent the whole of his professional life working in Bradford, retiring in 2011 to indulge his love of archaeology and geology. He was very much a family man, enjoying holidaying with his wife Beverley and extremely proud of his children, Daniel and Victoria, and his stepchildren, Amy, Laura and Jonathan.

We also remember the following Old Bradfordians
who have sadly passed away this year:

John Armitage
(1950)

Bruce (Ian) Bentley
(1955 and
former master)

Jonathan
Brayshaw
(1959)

John Buchanan
(1961)

David Cainer
(1951)

Geoffrey Cawthra
(1956)

Paul Dickinson
(1949)

Geoff Drake
(1948)

R K Fearnley
(1945)

Richard Gillgrass
(1953)

Eric Gornall
(1951)

James Griffett
(2012)

David Hinchcliffe
(1939)

Michael Hitchen
(1954)

John Holdsworth
(1956)

Alan Holmes
(1940-1948)

Derek Lawrence
(1943-1948)

Dr Andrew
Leeming
(1949)

Peter Lilley
(1965)

Roger Marchbank
(1947)

Kenneth Myers
(1962)

Rex Power
(1965)

Godfrey Priestley
(1937)

J Robinson
(1944)

John Runham
(1964)

Col Henry Saville
(1933)

John Siddle
(1948)

Peter Smith
(1958)

Barry Taylor
(1949)

Geoffrey Taylor
(1952)

Peter James
Watson
(1957)

David Wilman
(1951)





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