

THE OLD BRADFORDIAN

The Old Bradfordians Association Magazine



The OB who lit up the Palace

Tom Bairstow

News
Features
Events
Obituaries

2022 Edition

WELCOME



... from the President

Dear Friends,

Where has 2022 gone? When I wrote a similar document prior to the publication of last year's magazine I finished up wishing you 'all the best for the future and for a better 2022!!'.

Expectations were high that we would return to a pre-COVID state of affairs with its associated freedoms. Little did we anticipate the effects of a war in Europe and associated effects on the economy, in particular energy supply and transportation costs. In addition, some of the consequences of Brexit emerged especially related to staffing in the NHS and hospitality sector and of course COVID had not disappeared with its partners in crime, flu and the common cold, which were having a field day following the lifting of restrictions of lockdown. However, the saddest event was the death of Queen Elizabeth II who we had all come to expect would live forever.

Despite adverse conditions, School and the OBA ploughed on. We were able to attend Founders' Day and Speech Day, which were enjoyable events. Mr James Mason delivered an interesting speech. Concerts and events were up to the usual high standards we have come to expect, and academic life was back on the pre-COVID course. Two memorial events were held during the year, one at the Cathedral in memory of Courtenay Lloyd and a second took the form of a Cross-Country run, in memory of Selby Brock. At the latter event, the Brownlee brothers and Adrian Moorhouse participated and it proved to be a great success.

Do not worry. I do not intend to go through all events, but just wish to mention three which demonstrate the support of pupils, parents and OBs and that the OBA is happy to look at different ways of delivering its message. Firstly, in May there was a Giving Day which raised more than £75,000 from 146 donors supporting the 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places. Secondly in April, we were able to hold our 40s and 50s Reunion in the DH Room which was greatly appreciated by all those who attended. It was good to see some new faces on this occasion and they appreciated a degree of informality allowing them time to chat and exchange experiences. Thirdly, and the biggest change in our calendar, there was the first Annual Lunch replacing Dinner and held in October.

The committee had had long discussions as to the viability of the Dinner given spiralling costs and travelling difficulties. An analysis of attendances at previous Dinners found only a relatively small number of OBs actually attended! We therefore surveyed the membership and there was reasonable support for the move to a Lunch.



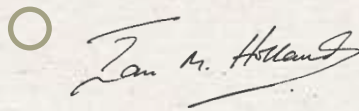
**Dr Ian Holland
(1966)**

OBA Committee
President

I am delighted to report that more members attended the Lunch than at previous Dinners. We had an excellent speaker, Jonathan Hinkles (1993), CEO of Loganair and we were joined by Councillor Martin Love, (1979) Lord Mayor of Bradford.

Finally, I should like to thank Simon for his support throughout the year and for the help of his staff and the use of the buildings. I should also like to thank Luke in the office for keeping me on the straight and narrow and for help with my IT inadequacies during recent changes! We were very sorry to lose Lindsey, and more recently Donna, who I must thank for her organisation of the Annual Lunch. We wish them all the very best with their careers and thank them for their work with the OBA. On the other hand, we welcome Robin Sharp as the new Director of Development and look forward to working with her in the future.

It just leaves me to thank the committee for their support and to wish everyone all the best for the future. Let us hope this year will bring peace and common sense.





Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster

... from the Headmaster

It's a pleasure to share this latest iteration of our Old Bradfordian magazine with you.

After seven years of headship at Bradford Grammar School, I find myself in a somewhat reflective mood. The privilege of leading BGS is a rare one and something to be cherished. I remain grateful for the camaraderie and support of Old Bradfordians who add great colour and warmth to our whole school family. The following pages testify to this. But nothing is taken for granted and I'll try to develop this point below, if I can.





Seeking inspiration for these opening words, I rambled idly through two recent Headmaster’s blogs on our BGS website. I expect I was the first to read them! And I always cringe when trudging through my Saxon prose. That aside, I was struck by the contrast between the two blogs, a quality which speaks of a tension in the UK independent school scene, something felt at BGS as elsewhere.

The first blog begins with characteristic confidence, a hint of brio perhaps?

‘The Sunday Times Parent Power survey has again rated Bradford Grammar as one of the top three independent schools in the North of England and 80th nationally ... we are delighted that Bradford Grammar School, and the young people of our home city and region, have been recognised in this way. Our pupils achieve highly year on year, and this is a wonderful reflection on their ambition, spirit and honest graft, including during the lockdowns of recent times.

‘Academic league tables, however, must be regarded cautiously, the devil can sometimes be in the detail, and they never tell the whole story. At Bradford Grammar we place a premium on our pastoral care, partnership, volunteering and wider public benefit work, the arts, sport, clubs and societies, the list goes on. In so doing, we ably equip our pupils to make the most of life, wherever their paths might lead. They also enjoy school, and that means a great deal to us’.

And for good measure, just in case any reader doesn’t quite grasp the message:

‘Bradford Grammar was rated ‘excellent’ in all areas by inspectors in 2021 and has been recognised previously as:

- Sunday Times: Independent Secondary School of the Year, North in 2018 and top 3 in the North 2019, 2021, 2022
- The Daily Telegraph: Best Value Independent Schools in the UK 2020, 2021, 2022
- Independent Schools Council/Schools Together: ‘Celebrating Partnerships’ 2021 and 2022
- Independent Parent Magazine: Independent School of the Year 2021 for Social Mobility
- Times Educational Supplement: Independent School of the Year 2020 for Wellbeing Initiative of the Year

But we never get complacent, and keep looking to improve, for example with respect to our Junior School campus development and expanded age range to include Reception and Year 1 opening September 2024.’

This is the stuff of BGS life these days. It is not boastful to say that we are doing well. Our young people, their supportive families and my colleagues deserve the plaudits as we walk the talk of our whole school values of excellence, opportunity, determination, compassion and service. As they say, if a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing properly.

My introduction could end here. But what of the tension mentioned above? There is a counterpoint, because as we strive to achieve increments of improvement, to become even more caring, kinder still, and also attend to the level and manner of our achievements, and public benefit activities too, the climate in which we exist imposes a deepening challenge. Enter blog number two:

‘The quiet (hopefully) intelligent voice inside reminds me that whilst arguments rumble on, schools of all kinds continue to do great work in good faith on behalf of their young people and are far more diverse in character than any binary state vs independent partition.

‘At Bradford Grammar, we think of ourselves as an independent school because independence lives at the heart of our modern-day identity. The European Convention on Human Rights was established in the aftermath of the Second World War, the first protocol of which protects a parent’s free choice in the education of their children reflective of religious and philosophical convictions. The convention explicitly protects plurality in education in the UK and across Europe, initially conceived to provide a check on the power of the state and the preaching that might emanate from classroom pulpits. It’s worth reflecting on the significance of this intention at the present time when clamouring ideologues and proliferating think tanks are dragging much of our political discourse away from the liberal centre ground and off into the wings. Independent schools are not all the same, the clue is in our name. Plurality encourages freedom and helps to limit the reach of the state by encouraging diversity of thought and action.’

More historic context follows for those who are interested in the BGS story, and a slug of reality:

'We reflect on all of this in the present when schools like BGS face growing and potentially new cost pressures. The potential imposition of VAT on fees and/or removal of charitable status, coupled with other unprecedented cost hikes represents a challenge. Shrinkage of the sector will have marked impacts, not just on plurality in the educational scene. The Independent Schools Council (ISC, the umbrella association to which BGS belongs) reports on the value of ISC schools and the sector more widely to UK plc. Their most recent analysis, commissioned from Oxford Economics, indicated that the 1,317 ISC schools 'contributed £11.63 billion to the UK economy ... supporting some 257,000 jobs and £3.5 billion of annual tax revenues in the process'. It was also suggested that, scaling up findings to all independent schools in the UK, the estimated worth of the sector was '£13.71 billion in terms of GDP, supporting 303,000 jobs and £4.12 billion in tax revenue.

Shifting the focus closer to home, using Oxford Economics methods and data for the academic year 2021/22, we have done some sums for Bradford Grammar School. It transpires that BGS added £22.6 million to UK GDP of which £10.67 million is the School's direct contribution to GDP in Bradford. £2.78 million was paid in taxes by the School and its staff. The saving to the state was £7 million through our pupils not taking up a place in a maintained school. Alongside this, BGS is a significant business in our city employing 250 people directly and supporting a further 224 jobs nationally. The potential loss of BGS and institutions like it would represent a significant hit for local and regional communities and ultimately the nation.

And so far, we've dealt only in cold metrics. There is much to be said about independent schools acting as *de facto* conservation reserves for niche and arts subjects and also a broad range of co-curricular pursuits that are sadly being squeezed from other settings. Additionally, there is the extensive partnership and public benefit activity into which the sector commits itself with local schools and community groups.

The histories of Bradford and Bradford Grammar School are intertwined. BGS aspires to be of value to our city and region, fostering aspiration and good learning, and ultimately providing opportunities to improve as many young lives as possible. Moreover, our alumni champion civic causes, such as the Odeon regeneration project and Bradford City of Culture 2025 bid.

Others, including the late Sir Ken Morrison, David Hockney and the Brownlee brothers have, and continue to, enhance Bradford's reputation nationally and internationally.

Significant fee assistance is also provided at BGS to enable children from all sections of our community to attend the school, a pillar of our mission. Improving social mobility and cohesion in Bradford is at the heart of our historic purpose and we are grateful to our benefactors whose vision and support continues to make this possible.

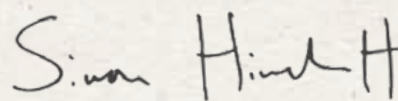
So, our School, our BGS, is in good shape. And it needs to be. Ideological and economic winds impact upon us in many tangible ways. The capacity and propensity of future generations of parents to choose independent education for their children is something to ponder.

Again, it's a good job that BGS is in a strong position. But, as alluded to previously, we cannot afford to take our foot off the gas. We will not be complacent. Our school has changed and adapted over the years to maintain a robust position. We are doing so again in increments.

I am proud of our young people, proud of our School, proud of our home city and region. I am proud of our resilience and adaptability to meet challenges, and to make the most of our opportunities. Our steady commitment to high pastoral and academic standards, to opportunity and a rich variety of experiences and achievements is a recipe for success and happiness. Moreover, we are generous and seek to share our time and talents as a good neighbour in our community. This is the modern BGS, improving all the time despite the headwinds.

I hope the pages that follow, perhaps read in tandem with the annual Bradfordian publication, might evoke in you the same fellow feeling and respect for our school that beats in my chest.

Yours ever,



Dr Simon Hinchliffe





A year in Development

It's been an exciting and successful year for the Old Bradfordians and Development Office.

We're grateful to everyone who made BGS a philanthropic priority and supported the 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places. I'm pleased to report that the campaign continues to gain momentum. Our year-end total to date was £1.6 million! These funds have allowed the school to expand our assisted places offering significantly.

“

**... AS WE LOOK BACK ON THE YEAR, WE'RE USING OUR
SUCCESSSES TO SET OUR ASPIRATIONS EVEN HIGHER.
I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON OUR 1662 CAMPAIGN
FOR ASSISTED PLACES AS WE SEEK FURTHER
PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT**

”

In May 2022, we launched our inaugural Giving Day in support of the campaign and raised more than £75,000 from parents, Old Bradfordians, former and present staff and friends. The North American Friends of BGS raised enough money to fully fund an assisted place.

Not only did we have many successes to celebrate, we saw many changes in the Development Office too. Lindsey Davis departed BGS at the end of May and I joined the office as the Director of Development in June. At the same time, Karen Hewitt became Head of, not only Admissions, but of Marketing too. Donna Reynolds departed the office in the autumn to join a local primary school. We continue to professionalise our efforts and grow, not only our fundraising activities, but our engagement with Old Bradfordians, BGS parents and friends.

Last year was a busy one for Old Bradfordian activities at BGS. More than 40 Old Bradfordians from the 1940s and 1950s gathered in the DH room for a luncheon event in April. After three years, the OBA vs BGS students Swimming and Water Polo event returned to the Adrian Moorhouse pool in March. Seventeen Old Bradfordians bravely took on the BGS student team for an afternoon of exhilaration and fun-hearted rivalry with the OBs coming out on top in the swimming competition.

In March, a memorial to Selby Brock in the Learning Link brought many Old Bradfordians and former staff back to campus to celebrate Selby's significant contribution to Cross Country at BGS. In partnership with fellow BGS teaching veteran, Tony Kingham, Selby laid inspirational foundations for today's student athletes, whose successes we also marked as part of the memorial. There was a run in Heaton Woods, followed by the afternoon reception where everyone attending raised a glass to Selby.

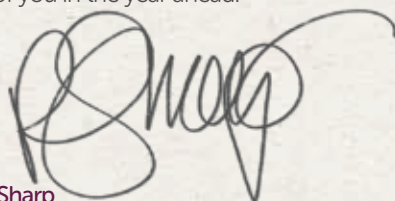
Many OBs attended Speech Day with James Mason, Chief Executive of the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce. James spoke about how the concept of work had changed over the years and encouraged BGS students to think big about their career journey. We were delighted to see Old Bradfordians in the audience for the prize giving ceremony.

BGS celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with various activities including the creation of a stunning hand-stitched quilt to commemorate the Queen's longevity and commitment to the realm. Two Old Bradfordians, who had important roles in the Jubilee celebrations, are featured in this issue.

As we look back on the year, we're using our successes to set our aspirations even higher. We will host our first Keeling Society event with an afternoon tea in June and I will continue to work with the Old Bradfordian and parent communities to reach new heights with our 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places as we seek further philanthropic investment.

As time passes and we lose cherished members of the Old Bradfordian community, as we have done this year, I'm reminded how important it is to continue to share news from the school and its alumni and reinvigorate our engagement with the Old Bradfordian community and, of course, give thanks to everyone who has supported us with their generosity, their time, and their attention.

I look forward to being in touch with and meeting more of you in the year ahead.



Robin Sharp
Director of Development



Brian Parker

Editor and former
Chemistry teacher
(1976-2005)



Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the 2022 edition of
'The Old Bradfordian'.

Many thanks to the Marketing, Old Bradfordians and Development teams for all the behind the scenes work to get the magazine published. This year we are publishing the magazine online only. Thank you to John Bennett (1973) for collating the obituaries.

Once again the magazine has initiated memories from the past and I've been contacted by four past pupils. Dr John Nolan (1979), who was in my Sixth Form in 1978-79 qualified as a doctor and eventually became an orthopaedic surgeon and consultant at Norwich General. He specialised in hip replacement. In 2015 he was elected President of The British Hip Society. We met at his home in August and spent several hours over a sumptuous lunch discussing old times.

From the same form, Ian Wilkinson (1978) contacted me. Ex BGS and Cambridge he spent his working life as a chemical engineer and recently walked the full length of the Pennine Way.

Nigel Heaton (1978), who was a member of my Sixth Form in 1976-77, emailed me with some memories of that form. He has spent his working life in ergonomics after qualifying from Loughborough University.

Matthew Bottomley (2001) qualified as a doctor specialising in nephrology. Now he also has a PhD and is researching at Oxford into the ageing of the immune system. We had a long chat over a couple of pints on my visit to Oxford in April.

So, enjoy this digital edition and if you have the inclination, please contact me at parkerbbandm@gmail.com

Keep safe, keep well.



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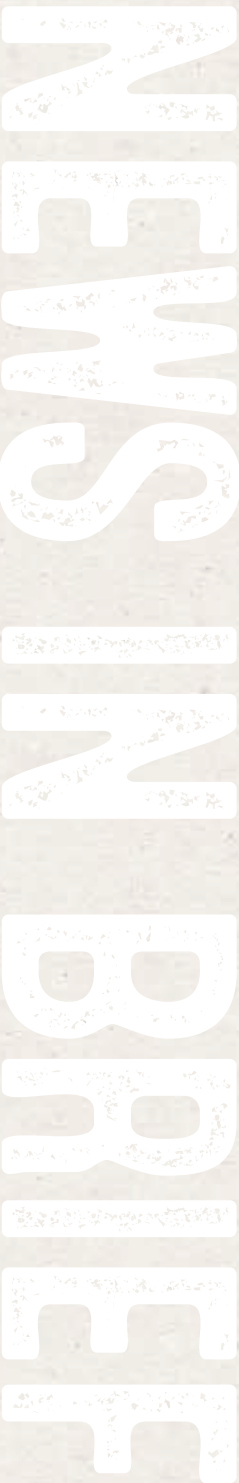
Forthcoming Events

Summer Concert
20 June 2023

Speech Day **Founders' Day**
30 June 2023 17 October 2023

Clock House Prize Giving **Open Day**
6 July 2023 7 October 2023





Old Bradfordian to sled 240km across Arctic for charity

November 2022

A sporty Old Bradfordian who had to undergo reconstructive surgery following a serious injury has been inspired to raise thousands for charity by dog sledding 240km across the Arctic.

Alicia Cumberland (2020), 20, from Ilkley, will spend five days sledding in near freezing temperatures across Norway, Sweden and Finland, on an expedition organised through the Students' Union 'raise and give' (RAG) team at Loughborough University, where she is a third year Geography student.

Alicia, who was heavily involved in sport at BGS, decided to take part in the fundraiser after a knee injury left her needing major surgery and 12 months of rehabilitation. She hopes to raise over £3,000 for Alzheimer's Research UK.

She explained: 'I've always played a lot of sport; while at BGS I played hockey every day either at school or at my local club, in Ben Rhydding. At university, I was really active until I ruptured my anterior cruciate ligament and all sports and activities had to stop.

'It was life changing for me. I underwent reconstructive surgery and spent a lot of time in hospital. The recovery process isn't fast and rehabilitation on the knee will take 12 months. I'm very grateful to the NHS and that's made me want to give back in some way.'

The 'Dog Arctic Rag Expedition' will see Alicia and a team of fundraisers cross 240km of snow-covered terrain in a sled drawn by a pack of huskies, and camp overnight in tents for five days, in April 2023.

She said: 'I'm training hard to regain the two kg of muscle loss on my right leg and get back a full range of movement on my knee. It'll be a challenge to be prepared and healthy in time for the expedition.

'However, it is giving me something to work towards and helping to keep me focused on my recovery. I am determined to complete the challenge and want to raise as much as possible for charity.'

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, affecting around six in every ten people with dementia in the UK, and, as yet, there



is no cure. Alicia added: 'I have friends who have lost family members to Alzheimer's disease, and I know how devastating it is to lose a grandparent, so this is my way of giving back to a very worthwhile cause.'

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster of BGS which Alicia attended from 2013 – 2020, said: 'Charitable giving and community involvement is an integral part of school life at BGS – we encourage pupils to enrich their own lives by giving to others – so it's always rewarding to hear from Old Bradfordians who are carrying that ethos through life and doing something worthwhile. We wish Alicia the very best with both her recovery and superb fundraising efforts.'

For more information about Alicia's expedition or to donate please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/aliciacumberland>



Challenge accepted!

April 2022

Twelve Old Bradfordians tackled one of Yorkshire's toughest challenges – the Three Peaks – in memory of their good friend Ed Cooper.

Danny Leach (2015), Sam Ogden (2015), Sam Baxter (2015), Joe Buckley (2015), James Johnson (2015), Joe Rowbottom (2015), Jon Wood (2015), Alex Robinson (2015), Dom Bailey (2015), George Worthington (2015), Owain Downes (2015) and James Celaire (2015) – took on the challenge on Saturday 9 April.

The friends climbed Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent and completed the challenge in 11 hours and seven minutes and raised £7,593 for the fund, which was established in memory of Ed, who passed away in 2016 aged 19.

The Ed Cooper Memorial Fund was inspired by Ed's visit to South Africa on a BGS rugby tour in 2014 against the township of Lagunya. There, the talented sportsman formed a friendship with his opposite number 10 and saved some money to buy him and his little brother South African rugby tops. Ed's parents later set up the fund so they could commemorate their son's generosity of spirit and help disadvantaged people through sport.



Said Ed's friend Danny: 'Saving up his money to buy two South African shirts was the kind of guy Ed was – he would see something and want to help out. As a group, we were only friends for about three years, but Ed impacted on all our lives in a big way. He was caring but he was also the life and soul of the party and would often have everyone in stitches. We all still have such a large amount of love for Ed and his family.'

The circular route of the Three Peaks is 24 miles long and includes 5,200 feet of ascent.

Added Danny: 'We'd been wanting to do something in memory of him for a while and to support the charity so climbing the Three Peaks seemed like the perfect challenge.'



Left: The friends who climbed the peaks

Above: Ed Cooper

Art of it

An article on Richard O'Neill (1989) by BGS's former English teacher, Dr Andrew Liddle (1979-1985), appeared in the December 2022 edition of *The Dalesman*.



Born in Bradford and now based near Richmond, in North Yorkshire, Richard is a digital artist specialising in hand-drawn, contemporary landscapes. His multi-award-winning designs have featured on book and magazine covers, in city centre art installations, promotional videos and advertising campaigns.

For more than a decade he has been one of the pioneers of modern travel art, and in 2022 was awarded Travel Artist of the Year by the Corporate LiveWire Global Awards.

His work can be seen at richardoneillart.co.uk

Since retiring from teaching in 2007, Dr Liddle has written widely. His articles appear regularly in print and several of his books, including *Brag Of My Heart*, an account of the last hours of Sylvia Plath, are available on Amazon. He remembers teaching Richard and has long admired his work.

NEWS IN BRIEF ...

Rocket Lockett

Congratulations to OB Eva Lockett (2021) who was selected as U21 captain of Leeds Rhinos Netball Club.

Award win

Well done to OB Dr Amir Khan (1999) GP who won a Yorkshire Award for Community Hero.

Run fun

Proving running is in the family, Head of Year 12, Sarah Flaherty, earned a Championship entry into the London Marathon, meaning she was fast enough to start near the front!

Rugby star

OB and Yorkshire Academy graduate, Obi Ene (2021), had a fantastic year being welcomed into the England U20s camp and playing for Newcastle Uni RFC.

Outstanding year

OB Emile Cairess (2016) continued BGS's tradition of producing outstanding athletes with fantastic successes in 2022. Among his highs were achieving silver for Team GB in the European Cross Country Championships in Turin and running 60:32 in the Valencia Half Marathon in October to leap from No 11 to No 4 in the UK all-time rankings.



Getting hitched

Congratulations to OB's Katherine Dixon (2012) and Jamie Davidson (2012) who got engaged in June. The pair were deputy heads together. Jamie is the son of Stephen Davidson, former headmaster at BGS, and the couple have both recently finished their PhDs at Cambridge. They will be married in the summer of 2023.

Book Smart

Former Today editor and Head of BBC television news, Roger Mosey (1976), published his book 20 Things That Would Make the News Better.

Lord Mayor

Congratulations to OB Martin Love (1979) following his appointment to Lord Mayor of Bradford.



Super student

Well done to Isobel Wellings (2017) who wrote to say that following her undergraduate and postgraduate degree, she has completed the first year of her PhD.

Retirement bound

Paul Slater (1976) has retired as Bishop of Kirkstall. Paul and his wife, Beverley, continue to live in Menston.

Happy days

John Innes (1954) has also happily retired after 50 years playing keyboards for Billy Graham.

John and his wife have four children and six grandchildren, and live in Wheaton, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. All their children were born in the US, but one returned to the UK for graduate study in Edinburgh and London, and now has a home in Glasgow. John says the couple still feel nostalgic for Yorkshire.

Elite role

Congratulations to Dr Amit Mistry (2004) who was appointed Consultant Sports Psychiatrist to the England Women's National Cricket Team (ECB) and to ASICS Europe.

Amit will support elite athlete mental health and wellbeing as part of the role.

Golf success

Jonathon Reynolds (2007) and his team from his local golf club won the Bradford Union Golf Team Championships for the first time in August.

Jonathan is pictured on the second from the right in the blue polo shirt.



Celtic archaeology

Chris Baldwin (1972) took up Celtic archaeology, investigating the Iron Age people who lived nearby in the North Wales hills, after retiring as a consultant psychiatrist 10 years ago.

Chris gained an MA with Distinction (Bangor, 2018) and pursued archaeological theory, leading to a Master's degree by Research in Philosophy at Lampeter. Chris was pleased to secure a spin-off publication entitled

Wonder, Delusions and Meaning in the *Psychiatric Bulletin* (August 2022), which is also available at Cambridge on-line (August 2021), and membership of the British Wittgenstein Society.

Steady recovery

Kevin Whitworth (1993) wrote to update on his recovery since a kayaking accident in 2010.

Kevin studied for a Masters degree at the University of York, before going on to work as a VIPER Officer for West Yorkshire Police and then work with the mobile phone company Orange before moving to the Western Isles, where he went freelance.

He continued: 'Unfortunately, in 2010, I was kayaking and on a lunch break, I was climbing, when the rock fell apart, and I fell off the cliff, landing in shallow water. My friends dragged me out and called the coastguard. I was flown to Stornoway, then to Glasgow and finally spent 18 months in Murodostean Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre. I was released in 2012 and came back to Stornoway.'

“

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”

Ramsey brothers

Josh Ramsey (2009) and his brother Jake (2011) have joined the family business, Ramsey Timber Group, based in Bradford.

The business has also celebrated its 50th year of trading with a record turnover.



Left: Josh Ramsey and his brother Jake have joined the family business.

Bandmates for life

David Whitlam (1978) recalled his days singing in the choir under Les Walsh and Barry Lancaster and playing in his rock band, Entropy. Jon Dickinson (1979) and Mark Burnell (1977) had their band, Desperate Dan, while Mark Slater (1976) who was a year ahead, played in a third band.

‘Rival bands,’ wrote David. ‘Many, many years later we now all play in the same band. Jon, the drummer, and I live in South London, while Burnell and Slater live in Henham, Essex, and Wadesmill, Herts, respectively. As a four-man band we play rock classics and a few years ago we teamed up with Pure Liberty, a trio of sisters who reached the semi-final of the X Factor. We play a fabulous dance set, including We are Family, Le Freak, Disco Inferno and many others. Some of us are retired, some of us pretend to work and some work. But the greatest joy is playing live music, whether it be in our pub in Clapham, a huge wedding or a fabulous private party. We’ve all come a long way from playing at Heaton Tennis Club and in the Price Hall but that’s where it all kicked off!’



Below: The Revd Canon Barrie Scott



Great Scott

After eight years as the vicar of St John’s Perry Barr, Birmingham, including a stint as Bishop’s Adviser for the Commonwealth Games, The Revd Canon Barrie Scott (1980) has been appointed Deputy Director of Education for the Diocese of Birmingham.

“

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”

Left: Friends for life: David, Jon and the two Marks

Pennine Way adventure

Anthony Kelley (1979) wrote to say that, more than 40 years since last running out together for BGS 1st XV, he and his BGS friends came together again to complete the Pennine Way. Lenny (Kelley AL 1979), Hoover (Higgins PJ 1981) and Snej (Wilkinson IF 1978) completed the last leg of the 268-mile epic from Edale to Kirk Yetholm.

‘It was a marvellous adventure in every conceivable way,’ wrote Anthony. ‘Great friends and sometime flatmates, the relationships developed in the 70s in the classroom, and specifically the rugby pitch, continue to flourish. New knees, hips and all manner of other ailments were all forgotten, especially when reminiscing about the 44-9 victory over Sedbergh in November 1979. The plan for 2023 is the Hebridean Way on bikes.’



Above: Great friends: Anthony, Lenny, Hoover and Snej.

Legal leader

OB Paul Greaney (1988) has been involved in a number of high-profile inquests, public inquiries and trials and is Counsel to the Manchester Arena Inquiry, which has published two volumes of its report.

He has also been instructed as leading counsel on behalf of core participants in the COVID and Afghanistan inquiries, which he will be focusing on in 2023.

Mission possible

Congratulations to William Barber (1973), who in April, after COVID delays, graduated from Chester University with an FdA in Theology, Mission and Evangelism. William carries out regular talks as a volunteer in HMP Berwyn on alcoholism and recovery to the inmates.

Judge appointment

Congratulations to Shazad Malik (1996) who has been appointed as a Judge in the First-tier Tribunal, Health, Education and Social Care Chamber (HESC)

SPORTS

Top brass!

October 2022

BGS's music and brass teacher, David Roberts, conducted his brass band, Rothwell Temperance, in the Brass Band National Championships of Great Britain.

After finishing in the top two qualifying places, Rothwell represented Yorkshire and competed against the best brass bands from each region of the country at the prestigious event.

The contest was the culmination of weeks of fierce competition between brass bands from England, Scotland and Wales.

Mr Roberts had won the National Brass Band Championships twice as a cornet player with the Black Dyke Mills Band.

The finals were held in the Royal Albert Hall in London and Rothwell achieved 7th place.



Above: Mr Roberts pictured after finishing in the top two qualifying places for the Brass Band National Championships of Great Britain

Above: BGS Specialist Hockey Coach,
David Birch



BGS hockey coach graduates from GB programme

June 2022

BGS' David Birch was celebrating after graduating from the Great Britain Hockey Advanced Coaching Programme.

The prestigious programme only accepts 30 applicants per cohort, including 20 from England, five from Wales and five from Scotland.

Mr Birch, a Specialist Hockey Coach at BGS, had spent three years furthering his learning, including at camps featuring Team GB athletes.

He said: 'I've learnt so much from it and it was amazing how much detail the coaches would give. I really welcomed the opportunity to observe them

close up. The programme was really excellent for developing my skills – a whole world opened up to me.

'The kids at school are just getting better and better and there are a couple of really promising young players with England trials pending. I've really enjoyed putting all I've learned into practice.'

Mr Birch graduated at a ceremony in June at the Hockey and Tennis Centre at Olympic Park.

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**THE KIDS AT
SCHOOL ARE JUST
GETTING BETTER
AND BETTER
AND THERE
ARE A COUPLE
OF PROMISING
YOUNG PLAYERS**

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Above: Mr Scarborough
with the Yorkshire
County Men's XV

Head Coach role for Dan

June 2022

BGS's Specialist Sports Coach – Rugby, Dan Scarbrough (1996), was Head Coach of Yorkshire County Men's XV last season in the England Rugby Bill Beaumont County Championship 2022.

The championship consisted of two games with Yorkshire travelling up to Whitley Bay Rockcliff RFC on Saturday 7 May to face Northumberland, followed by the War of the Roses match against Lancashire on Saturday 14 May at West Park Leeds as part of the Yorkshire RFU 'Grand Day Out,' played as a double header fixtures with the Yorkshire Women's team.

The team won both games scoring more than four tries in each to take maximum points in the league, with Harry Boyd (2017) an Old Bradfordian taking part on the wing and scoring against Northumberland with his first touch of the ball.

This season will see an extra match with the finalists playing at the home of rugby at Twickenham stadium.

The match supported the #ThisIsLuke fundraising efforts for an eight-year-old ex-Skipton Rugby player who lost his limbs to meningitis.

“
**THE TEAM WON
BOTH GAMES
SCORING MORE
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IN EACH TO TAKE
MAXIMUM POINTS
IN THE LEAGUE**
”

From Classics to the Commonwealth Games!

July 2022

Classics teacher Jack Oliver did BGS proud when he fought back from injury to compete for England at weightlifting in the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Oliver, who teaches Latin, missed out on a medal and achieved sixth place in the 73kg category at the games in Birmingham in July.

Mr Oliver, who'd been using the school's gym during the evening so he could fit his training around his busy teaching schedule and commute, said:

'The training I'd done was good enough for a medal but sometimes things don't go your way. I never thought I'd ever get to a fourth Commonwealth Games and I'd forgotten how special it was competing at a home games. It's so much better – you could really hear the difference in the crowd.'

Originally from London, Mr Oliver began weightlifting when he was 14 when his gymnastics club converted a former broom cupboard into a weightlifting gym.

He went on to compete professionally for 17 years and has a silver medal from the 2018 Commonwealth Games and came tenth in the weightlifting 77kg category during the London Olympics in 2012.

Mr Oliver, who joined BGS in 2018, had almost retired from the sport due to injury when in early 2021, during the pandemic, he went to the gym with a friend and started lifting again.

Below: Jack Oliver, a Latin teacher at Bradford Grammar School who took part in the Commonwealth Games



Welcome to our new-look Sixth Form Centre

September 2022

Older students at BGS returned from their summer break to find their Sixth Form Centre had been totally transformed.

The remodelled centre now features distinct zones designed for private study, modern IT capability and comfort – providing the perfect place for Sixth Formers to learn, study and unwind with their friends.

The work has included building a new café which offers a wide, seasonal menu with service beginning early in the morning and continuing throughout the day. A large computer suite with fast wireless connectivity is integral to the space

and amply meets the requirements of our hardworking A Level students.

Ross McOwen, Head of Year 12 at BGS, said: 'The bespoke accommodation provides our Sixth Formers with the finest, state-of-the-art facilities.

'Having opened our original Sixth Form Centre in 2001, we felt the time was right to create the ideal, professional, environment in which our evolving vision for our students could be realised, enabling individuals to flourish, whatever their chosen career pathway.'



Above: Ross McOwen, Head of Year 12 at BGS, with the plans for the new Sixth Form Centre

Right: The centre was opened by the Lord Mayor of Bradford and Old Bradfordian, Councillor Martin Love



Above and left: The Estates team worked around the clock to finish the centre in time for the students' return

The Estates team worked with Mr McOwen from the inception of the project, suggesting environmental, design and layout improvements. The team worked around the clock for the centre to be finished for its September opening.

Work included:

- Refitting electrical and IT systems
- Installing a three-floor platform lift to improve accessibility
- Automated roof window systems to help regulate the temperature in the summer months
- Installing an underfloor heating system with carpeting and vinyl tiles
- Full redecoration
- Creation of a café and student IT section
- Development of bookable, multi-use flexible conference suites
- Installation of the latest energy efficient Bluetooth controlled lighting system
- Refitted soft seating and innovative working areas
- Acoustic trees

Ian Clint, Estates Manager at BGS, said: The Estates Team and our approved contractors worked around the clock to ensure we delivered on time, to a high quality, and to the challenging budget.

'The refurbished Sixth Form Centre shows the ongoing commitment that the Governors and Senior Leadership Team have for improving the estate and the facilities that Bradford Grammar School provide.

'A special mention must go to Phil Craven, our Site Services Supervisor, and Hugh Hitchen, our Electrical Engineer, as without their specialist knowledge, input and commitment to the project, this refurbishment would not have been possible.'



Left: Architect's design of the new building next to Clock House

Below: Clock House Headmaster Richard Ribeiro

£2m expansion plans for Bradford Grammar Junior School

July 2022

The BGS family is growing with new plans to accept children from the age of four.

Bradford Grammar Junior School, affectionately known as Clock House, is looking to build new accommodation next to the existing building to allow for pupils to start in Reception and Year 1 as of September 2024.

As part of the plans, there will be a significant investment in its grounds to create further natural spaces for all Clock House children to enjoy as part of the school's flourishing outdoor curriculum. It will include a mud kitchen, a construction area, a woodland exploration area, discovery trails and an outdoor performance space.



Richard Ribeiro, Headmaster at Clock House, said: 'The eco-friendly designs are spacious, light and well-resourced and will allow our young learners to experience an outstanding BGS education in a secure and nurturing environment.

'The grounds development will be a creative space for all our children to develop and use their imaginations and be connected with nature.

'This is an exciting time in the history of Bradford Grammar Junior School as we seek to enhance the academic and co-curricular journey of every pupil and we look forward to welcoming new learners and new staff to the BGS family in 2024.'

Building work will take place in summer 2023 in time for its new starters in September 2024.

To register initial interest in a child starting at the Junior School in Reception or Year 1, please contact the admissions team at admissions.jnr@bradfordgrammar.com or call **01274 553713/553702**.



Welsh wonder

October 2022

Geography teacher David Alcock was selected to compete for Wales in the Veterans Home Internationals Individual Relay Competition. He writes about his experience.

How often do you hear someone say they were never any good at sport at school? I wasn't – I joined the cross-country running group to get fit. I did like reading maps though, as well as walking and travelling at home and abroad. But it wasn't until my PGCE (teaching course), which I undertook at Leeds University in 2001-02, that I tried orienteering. It was as part of my outdoor education subsidiary course that I became an orienteering coach, while enjoying the activity itself.

Sometimes nicknamed 'cunning running', to thrive at orienteering requires the ability to run, usually over rough terrain, and the mentally challenging act of map reading while doing so. Both of these need a lot of practice, especially running in my case!

I gradually improved over my 20s and 30s, achieving a couple of top three national placings in sprint and night orienteering. I finally became M45 British Champion at sprint orienteering in 2021.

In recent years, I've also represented Wales, the country of my birth, once for the senior team, and now for the veteran team, against the other home nations. October 2022 was the most recent call-up.

One poor downhill route choice on the individual day in October cost me a top three place (out of eight in my class) and I finished fifth. But on the relay day, I brought my team in to help push Ireland down the table, so Wales came in third, behind the dominant nations of England and Scotland.

I'm glad that I'm able to use my interest to enthuse others into getting out and about and exploring the wider world with a map in their hand.

BGS is now one of the top handful of orienteering schools in the UK, and we were second in 2021! We have several county-level athletes, and two national medallists: Emily G in night orienteering (British W18 Champion in 2022), and Henry S in the middle distance discipline (third M14 in 2022). Club captain Emily has had her first international call up for the England team, and we will follow her fortunes as she leaves the school in the summer of 2023.



FEATURES

IN MEMORY OF ELLA

April 2022

A former BGS student who had a passion for health and wellbeing and embodied spirituality inspired a new charitable foundation launched by her family in her memory.

The Ella Dawson Foundation was set up in February 2022 to help young adults aged 18 to 30 live well with cancer, by accessing a range of tailored support for their psychological, nutritional, and physical health needs.

Talented artist Ella (2013) was just 24 when she died following a gruelling two years undergoing treatment for blood cancer. Her family – mum Jane, dad Kevin, sister Natasha and Ella's partner Connor Gamble – launched the foundation knowing there was a need for young people with cancer to access health and wellbeing support.

Said Jane: 'Ella was so passionate about the spiritual and holistic way she lived, whether she was doing her yoga, being outdoors, being creative, eating good food, having fun or simply being present and living in the moment. From the time of her diagnosis, Ella felt that there was a real lack of wellbeing support for young adults with cancer and she was determined to live well despite what was going on and to share her wellbeing philosophy with other young adults with cancer. It couldn't cure this aggressive form of leukaemia, but without it I don't think Ella would have been able to live as well and purposefully as she did or withstand such invasive treatment for two years.'



ELLA WAS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL AND HOLISTIC WAY SHE LIVED, WHETHER SHE WAS DOING HER YOGA, HAVING FUN OR SIMPLY BEING PRESENT AND LIVING IN THE MOMENT

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Below: Jane Dawson with
Ella's beautiful artwork in
the background





During the two years of treatment, Ella created a successful wellbeing blog to help others, worked with blood cancer charities and was able to continue her passion for art, establishing her own art business and moving into her own studio in Huddersfield.

‘When we lost Ella, it felt entirely fitting to continue her work and launch the foundation to help others who would be in a similar situation to her and could benefit from the same philosophy,’ said Jane.

Ella had not long graduated in fine art from Newcastle University and was travelling in Columbia in August 2019, when she was diagnosed with PH+ ALL, a rare and aggressive form of leukaemia.

After spending a week in ICU in Columbia, Ella returned home and started chemotherapy at St James’s Hospital in Leeds. She spent two years undergoing exhausting and sometimes debilitatingly painful treatments. They included a bone marrow transplant after Natasha was found to be a match and CAR-T cell therapy, a type of immunotherapy, at The Christie Hospital, in Manchester. Her treatments continued throughout lockdown and led to Ella facing weeks in hospital alone due to visiting restrictions during the COVID pandemic. They often gave her only temporary, partial remission before she would learn her aggressive disease had returned.

‘Ella never said ‘why me?’ continued Jane. ‘She just took everything in her stride and said ‘what can I do to enhance my wellbeing and support my treatment?’. For her, it was about healthy eating and having psychological support, living in the moment each day and moving. She moved every day no matter how much she was hurting. Even the doctors were amazed when they would walk in and find her doing the yoga pose downward dog! She went through it all with such positivity and an incredible love of life.’

Above: Ella pictured, loved the outdoors and nature
Right: Jane Dawson with her daughter and OB, Natasha

Ella’s last hope was a clinical trial for her disease in California. The family were delighted to be accepted onto the programme and after securing a visa, Ella and her mum were packed and ready to leave when, on the morning they were due to fly, they were devastated to learn doctors had decided her cancer was too advanced to include her in the programme. Ella died just seven weeks later, on 11 July 2021.

‘Although Ella was given a terminal prognosis in January 2021, she never talked about dying, only living and she focused on living well with purpose and gratitude each day,’ said Jane. ‘I used to read about the disease, and I had a lot of anticipated grief in the last six months, but I would look at Ella and what she went through and how positive she was and be inspired to keep going.’

The Ella Dawson Foundation is proud to be supported by a number of outstanding clinical professionals who sit on its expert panel, including Dr Nicky Bould, Senior Clinical Psychologist, St James’s Hospital, Leeds, Hanna Simpson, TYA

“
**WE WANT TO GROW THE
CHARITY SO ITS SUSTAINABLE
AND MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
HEALTH AND WELLBEING IS
SO IMPORTANT**
”



Lead North West, Dr Shauna Burke, Assistant Professor, Leeds University, Kirsty Rowlinson Groves, Can Rehab Specialist, Jo Gamble, Functional Nutritionist and Tom Little, Performance Nutritionist.

Alongside a team of young ambassadors, the expert panel provide experience, expertise and evidence backed research to support the work and development of the foundation.

The charity was launched on 11 February, which would have been Ella's 25th birthday, and it coincided with an exhibition of her colourful and energetic artwork at Newcastle University. The foundation has produced several products for people to buy, such as prints of Ella's work, notebooks, candles and cards to help fund the charity.

The charity also has several fundraisers coming up. Monies raised will go towards the charity offering a wide range of much needed psychological, physical, nutritional, wellbeing and social support. It has created a range of events for young people too, such as yoga classes, social meet up days, usually in beautiful nature such as the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and has regular tea for two in the treehouse at the Coach House Wellbeing Centre in Marsden where young people and their families can relax, chill out, enjoy beautiful food away from medical routines. The charity offers support for up to two years after treatment, recognising the long-term physical and psychological after effects of cancer.

Events for Ella

The Ella Dawson Foundation had a fantastic first year and is appealing to any Old Bradfordians who may wish to join the board of trustees to get in touch.

There are also a number of events planned ...

The Snowden Sunrise trek Fundraiser on 10 and 11 June 2023 will see a group taken on the wonderful trek up Mount Snowden at night to see the sunrise!

One of the major fundraisers of the year will be the **CoachELLA Slawit 2023 on 12 August 2023** – the foundation's music, arts and wellbeing festival.

The festival is a celebration of the best music, arts and wellbeing in the community and hosts two stages, a large three post tipi, over 15 bands, artists, poets, and spoken word creators, fab street food, arts, craft and pottery activities, wellbeing and yoga sessions.

There are also a number of places for the Great North Run on 10 September 2023.

For more information log onto
www.elladawsonfoundation.org.uk



The family and Ella's partner Connor are all trustees. Natasha (2013), who also attended BGS, undertook a Sport Exercise Science degree at Leeds University and was training to become a CanRehab Level 4 Accredited Cancer and Exercise Practitioner.

Added Jane: 'We want to grow the charity so its sustainable and makes a difference. Health and wellbeing is so important alongside excellent clinical care and we are passionate about playing our part to help others in Ella's name.'

For more information visit:
www.elladawsonfoundation.org.uk



Right: Ella loved using colour in her art





Steve Nicholls
(1969)

‘WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY NORTH AMERICAN FRIENDS...’

Old Bradfordians in North America showed true Hoc Age spirit when they came together to raise funds for a full assisted place at their former school, Bradford Grammar. California-based Steve Nicholls (1969) talks about the power of fellowship among BGS alumni.

It was a beautiful evening on 19 October, 2018, when the group of British ex-pats, all with one thing in common, joined together at The Embassy Suites, a hotel in downtown Orlando. It was a side of the city not normally experienced by the tourists who were more used to the popular theme parks.

David Huggins (1956) and Eleanor Huggins had driven from Annapolis. Len Audaer (2004) and Rachel Lamorte had flown in from New York, while Philip Brown (1966) and Jackie Brown arrived fresh from Dallas. Brian Cousins (1969) represented Toronto and the group was delighted to have Barry Bower (1957) from Delray Beach, Florida, who joined the group for the first time. Finally, the friends welcomed BGS Headmaster, Dr Simon Hinchliffe and his family.

The three days spent together in Orlando cemented a strong connection between each other based on the bonds of their school days, and the fellowship between North American friends of BGS has remained strong.

Conversations that began in Orlando led to the various BGS friends in North America coming together again, this time to raise a fully funded place for a new pupil entering Year 7. It began, when BGS alumni Steve Nicholls (1969) and Sam Craig (1994) were discussing OB fundraising. They came up with the idea of a match-funded challenge and Steve pledged £50,000 to the appeal to get started.

Steve recalls: ‘I’d turned my business into an employee-owned firm over the past several years, was pulling back from the day-to-day activities and I thought let’s do something for BGS. We set the potential gift up as a match-funded, fairly anonymous thing and it went from there. I wanted to talk less about things, and just raise some money. There’s a great Yorkshire expression – ‘When all is said and done, there’s a lot more said than done’ and I think that’s a very BGS thing too.’

The Americans have a long history of strong alumni networks, something Steve says the British are catching up on. The American reunion in 2018, however, showed there was more than an appetite for old friends to keep in touch.



Says Steve: 'I think the COVID pandemic showed that, even if you're spread out across the world, there are ways of keeping in touch. We're all interested in what we've been up to since school, what careers we've had etc.'

Steve attended BGS in the late sixties, when his father Gerald 'Nicky' Nicholls (nicknamed 'Noddy' by the children) was the Senior Foreign Languages Master. Steve endured his fair share of ribaldry, being the son of a master at school, and, perhaps unsurprisingly, 'wasn't very well behaved.'

'They used to call me Nodlet,' he laughs. 'I loved sports but not so much the academic side of things. I enjoyed being outside, anything to get out of studying. Then, when I was about 14, I realised I could avoid the world of work for longer if I went to college.'

'When you're at the school, you don't realise what you're getting until much later. There's a grounding which comes from going to BGS. The other thing I liked about BGS was that, even though I was crazy about sport, they didn't mind anyone having a heavy sport workload. They never said it was too much, they encouraged it, so another of the things Bradford taught me was teamwork.'

Steve went on to study Russian and French at Durham University followed by a Post Graduate Certificate of Education. But he didn't stay in teaching. Instead, after a stint travelling the world and serving as an African tour guide ('my hippy years') he went to visit a friend in America and there he stayed. He set up in business as a carpenter, eventually launching Mueller Nicholls, a construction company which, in an 'ethical, morally good move,' he sold last year to his 100 employees.

'Selling the company to the employees was a 'BGSy' thing to do in a way,' he says. 'It's difficult to define what BGS stands for but the whole concept of fair play was pretty big when I was there. You've got to treat people properly. It's not an elitist thing, it's about honouring hard work and labour, and that's a Yorkshire thing as well.'

His philanthropic side has been evidenced for many years with his civic and charitable work. When it came to giving back to BGS, he says it was part of an ongoing debt.

'With my father teaching at BGS, I did get discounted school fees. I was helped and I wouldn't be where I am if I'd never gone to BGS. It's a pretty nice feeling to be able to give back and to know that you've helped a bright kid attend BGS who otherwise may not be able to afford to go.'

Steve is now looking forward to the next reunion of the North American Friends of Bradford Grammar School. Having come together to raise enough money for a child to start a fully funded place at BGS from September 2022, there will be plenty to talk about among the friends. Including, perhaps, reminiscing over old nicknames.

'There was never any chance of getting above yourself at BGS,' laughs Steve. 'In fact, my Bradford friends still call me Nodlet.'



TALKING HEADS

BGS Headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe, enjoyed a trip to Barnard Castle School where he caught up with Old Bradfordian and fellow Headmaster Tony Jackson (1997), to discuss careers, sector challenges and memories of Bradford

SH: What key memories do you have of BGS?

TJ: My gut reaction is one of genuine fondness and warmth and I feel very fortunate to be able to say that about my school experience. Afterwards, I felt gratitude and appreciation. I remember my first entrance day and catching my breath at the façade of the main school building. It is breath-taking and I had that same reaction when I was back visiting you not that long ago...

SH: ... I'm delighted to hear I took your breath away on your recent visit to BGS, even my wife has never been so forthcoming ...

TJ: ... It was the buildings. But what hits you is that grandeur, the majestic architecture, even as an 11-year-old who didn't know much there was that feeling that it wasn't the usual school, it was out of the ordinary. What I'm most grateful for, and what Bradford gave me, is that it opened my eyes to more than my local town. The expectations and aspirations were higher than had I remained in the Halifax bubble which I'd been raised in.

SH: Moving on from the buildings to the ethos of the school, what do you think BGS imparted to you?

TJ: It fostered an independence. You had to work out where you were in the hierarchy, how to get along, how to negotiate, how to react to adversity and challenges. It was high performing and you had to perform highly. You didn't have tutorials or extra worksheets. If you didn't do the work, you were at the bottom of the class, and everyone knew you were at the bottom. That need to front up and deliver was a really important understanding which was delivered under the Bradford ethos. We look good, but we are good, and that was a huge part in what it delivered to me.

In terms of ethos, I think there was a real camaraderie, not just from the shared pain of wearing the horrific brown uniform. There was a tight bond predominately fostered by the sport, and that was a big part of my life. A lot of what I learnt was on that field, not just in the classroom.

SH: Building on that, all our schools have changed, in particular with regards to welfare. But, playing devil's advocate for a moment, are we now going too far – not just at BGS or Barney but more widely? Have we overcooked the pastoral piece?

TJ: That's a really interesting question. As much as I have tremendously fond memories, there's no doubt that some of the behaviours that occurred at BGS in the past would be unacceptable in any school today. But has the pendulum swung to the point where we are at risk of mollycoddling everyone? There is a trend at the moment where many young people feel like victims. It's a delicate balance. And yet if we're creating an environment where no one has fallen through the gap, then that is a good environment.



Left: Tony Jackson
Right: Talking Heads:
Tony Jackson and Simon
Hincliffe

The job, then, is to ensure that you have the professional judgement and emotional intelligence to recognise the difference between the support and care that is required and not overstepping and being overly protective. It's those delicate conversations you have with those children and their parents. A lot of it is down to how children are parented. That pendulum shift mentioned earlier has resulted in schools being viewed, and seen and expected by the paying customer, to be an all-encompassing fixer of all their child's problems. The fact is, the children who usually arrive on our doorstep are largely already formed in terms of their behaviours, morals and attitudes and we often find ourselves trying to chisel round the edges.

SH: I would say that we molycoddle children less than the media and the national narrative might suggest with all those opportunities for children to succeed or fail, whether it's in the exam hall, theatre or stage, on the sports pitch or pool, or in a tent on a damp DofE weekend. We do allow kids to make mistakes, to feel uncomfortable, to experience the rough and the smooth of life, failure and success. I think perhaps we are simply balancing life lessons, and deliberately engineering them, to a better degree than previously.



WHAT I'M MOST GRATEFUL FOR, AND WHAT BGS GAVE ME, IS THAT IT OPENED MY EYES TO MORE THAN MY LOCAL TOWN

TJ: I think schools are. When I said molycoddling, I meant as a society. And that's where we remain beacons. We still expect them to fail and put their head above the parapet and get it wrong. It's what they learn from that.

SH: So, going back down memory lane, is there anyone in particular at BGS who fettled young Tony into shape more than others?

TJ: Yes, definitely, and looking back it was the teachers you felt really cared. Mr Page – who was my first Year 7 tutor. I saw him six or seven years ago and called him Sir. He said 'Tony, you are about to become a HMC Headmaster, you can call me by my first name' and I said: 'No thanks Sir'. David Stokes – he was my Under 12 English tutor and Rugby coach and he became my form teacher in Year 10. He was a very, very good chap. I remember him fondly. Then Eric Barnes – my History teacher who was probably the reason I went on to study history at university. A good Monday morning from him would depend on whether Barnsley had won or lost on the Saturday. Other huge influences were Richard Head, Charlie Lines, Geoff Whappett and Andy Smith from a cricket perspective. Expectations were high but there was no hint of arrogance. We spent many hours on the sports field, and they were great teachers.

SH: So, talk about where you're at now. You're a HMC Headmaster, how do you find headship?

TJ: How do I find headship? It is everything that you think it will be and about 100 times more. It's exhilarating and exhausting in equal measures. I don't think there's anything like it where you can have two massive highs in a day followed closely by two devastating blows. Last week, in one day, I went from a finance and estates governing board meeting crunching numbers to, 20 minutes later, reading *Oi Frog* to reception for national story telling week. I remember thinking in what other organisation does the CEO go from a big finance meeting to reading something like *The Gruffalo*.

SH: With that said, do you think you can have a career path in education that prepares you for headship, notwithstanding the well-publicised inadequacies of your HMC mentor (whoever he might be!) – for which I will keep apologising – or do you think you just have to roll with it?

TJ: I was very lucky that Bradford opened my eyes to a world beyond West Yorkshire. I went to Kenya, South Africa, Italy and Germany. I had these amazing opportunities to see beyond the M62 which were life changing, and I ended up living abroad for three years. I did two years in Sydney and one in Spain. I was a banker for six years. Those experiences absolutely prepared me to, first of all, be a good teacher because I was able to call on the experiences I had previously. I knew what pressure was like working on deals all night. I knew the grass wasn't always greener on the other side. When I went into education, I had no intention of being a headteacher. I was a teacher of history, then a housemaster looking after 70 boys for five years, then I became a deputy head at Barney and took over as head a year later. Within a decade, I had gone from teacher to headship. I didn't teach for long but my life experience, banking experience and crisis management experience, I think all play a part.

SH: I think I might have beaten you there; full time classroom teacher to successful interview for headship in under five years, not that we are counting of course! But there's something vital in your reflection and the implications about life experience being as important as subject knowledge, pedagogical acumen or deliberate preparation for leadership. Sound judgement in teaching and educational leadership requires breadth of experience, vision and understanding.

TJ: I say to 18-year-olds who want to come into teaching ... It's the best job in the world, but go and do something else for 10 years first.

SH: Let's shift focus a little: you have a really important role in HMC in terms of sport. Tell us a bit about that.

TJ: So, I represent HMC NE Region on the National HMC Sports Committee and as part of them I'm responsible for the relationship between the 300 HMC schools and the RFU. I fell into it if I'm honest because I missed coaching and playing. It's been great to be involved with rugby, albeit it on an admin or political level as opposed to getting your hands dirty on the pitch. I've been fronting that relationship for three years, very much as a conduit between those schools and the RFU, presenting views and concerns with regards to the issues that the game faces that are well publicised. I think we've done our little bit in raising the profile of those concerns at our level and the pitfalls and dangers the game faced if the RFU didn't address them and address them both radically and quickly.

SH: You're talking about physical contact, about concussive injuries perhaps, about practices that might heighten rather than mitigate risk, about some of the progress we've made latterly?

TJ: I think the science argument, along with the legal cases, brought an acceptance that we can't pretend that a knock on the head is fine. We didn't know that 10 years ago. Now we do, and we've had to act to change behaviours. We can't ever remove risk totally from the game. It's a physical game and that's the attraction of it. I think recent changes will fundamentally improve the game and give it a chance to survive in our sector.



I SAY TO 18-YEAR-OLDS WHO WANT TO COME INTO TEACHING ... IT'S THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD, BUT GO AND DO SOMETHING ELSE FOR 10 YEARS FIRST





Left: Recalling happy days at BGS

SH: Let's broaden that observation. Our independent school sector is under close scrutiny at the moment, do you feel optimistic with respect to the future and longevity of our schools, particularly in the UK?

TJ: Where do I see the sector? I see the sector facing the biggest threat we have ever faced. I'm not a catastrophist, but you cannot ignore that a one off 20 per cent increase in our fees is going to be immensely damaging. The terribly sad thing is the impact it will have on schools like ours in the north. We are not in massively affluent areas. Our parents already sacrifice holidays, nice cars and such like to put everything into education because the alternatives don't work for them at the moment.

SH: And we're both privileged to lead and work in schools that value their inclusivity, community connections and try to open their doors to the largest sections of their catchments. Surely, the challenges we face will make schools like ours more exclusive, as fees potentially rise higher than we would wish. It's an expected trend that will run counter to our aspirations to widen access, increase wider public benefits and we might not be able to do as much good for society as we otherwise could if the changes come to pass. Our schools will change in complexion, most likely. Others, many with long histories, just like ours, will shut.

TJ: Yes. And this is someone from Halifax and Rotherham talking. We don't lead elitist schools; and that's what I fear is being lost in this ideological battleground.

SH: So, bringing it back onto more positive turf, if you could give young Tony one piece of advice, what would it be?

TJ: I think I would look back and tell that 11/12 year old boy who joined BGS just how incredibly fortunate you are to be here and don't close any doors through procrastination or apathy. It was financially challenging for my parents to send me to BGS, they were hugely conscious not to let me know that because it was their choice to send me there, but in not making it crystal clear, I didn't make the most of it at times. I was never fully aware of their sacrifice.

SH: Thank you for that. It's humbling to hear those words and to know that on your recent visit to BGS it kindled in you the thought to call your parents and thank them for sending you to BGS.

TJ: We are both temporary custodians of our schools, We have a responsibility to try and take something special and make it more special, to leave it in a better place for our successors. I'm also privileged to have developed a friendship with the head of my old school and I can see that you've retained what is special about Bradford. It is imposing, with a high level of expectation, but there is a warmth and humour, a nurturing feel about it now which means it continues to be a very special place for a new generation.

SH: Thank you, Tony; it has been a great pleasure to see you again, this time not at Fanny's Ale House in Shipley but at your kind invitation to magnificent Barney; and I hope we might have the pleasure of your company at the next BGS rugby dinner?

TJ: You certainly will; thank you, Simon.



REFLECTIONS ON LOCKDOWN: A PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

No one working in education is likely to forget the impact of the Government's announcement on 18 March 2020, that all schools would close, and the nation's children should stay at home to prevent the transmission of the COVID 19 virus.



Above: Jane Chapman,
Assistant Head

Schools were tasked with offering on-site supervision for the children of key workers and those identified as vulnerable, but the vast majority of students faced separation from their friends, teachers and school life. When BGS closed its doors two days after the announcement, we would not fully open again until September.

It was a time of frightening uncertainty and confusion for our children. The threat of a potentially deadly virus meant any initial excitement about the cancellation of school was quickly outweighed by anxiety about what would happen next. They were frightened by stories of an escalating death toll, insufficient PPE and people needing ventilators in a struggling NHS. They were fearful for the vulnerable within their own families and distressed by being kept away from loved ones outside their immediate household. Our students inevitably found the absence of daily school life disorienting. It was not the treat it would have seemed on a 'snow day'. Many also worried about their families' growing financial anxieties due to the pandemic's impact on their livelihoods and income.

As our teaching staff set up remote schooling, the BGS pastoral team swung into action, organising support for children at home who had been identified as vulnerable or in need of particular forms of support. Heads of year, nurses, our counsellor and the learning support team drew up lists of students we needed to reach out to regularly. Weekly calls and check-ins were set up for individuals, as well as provision for form groups and year groups.

The last fortnight of the spring term was a challenge as we navigated online teaching and remote provision. The glorious weather over the Easter holidays enabled everyone to rally and enjoy time outdoors, but it soon became clear that we were in it for the longer haul and we began to realise the impact this was having on many of our children. They were isolated from their friends and school life and limited in what they could do from home. The exam year groups in particular were indignant and incredulous as the shape of their worlds was thrown completely. They had taken mocks in February for exams that would now be determined by their teachers' suggested grades and the algorithms which would aim to standardise 'CAGs' (centre assessed grades). There would be no further chance to prove themselves in exam conditions, and their plans for the future looked uncertain. They needed reassurance and their heads of year worked hard to provide it and encourage them to keep working and do themselves justice.

The BGS teaching staff did a superb job of sustaining remote education. The senior leadership and pastoral teams, and a wider body of colleagues, found ways of sustaining morale generally with activities, including cooking demonstrations of BGS lunchtime favourites, and recorded assemblies, while also giving personalised provision for those who needed it. CAMHS and Children's Social Care were struggling to support children remotely and our initial list of vulnerable children steadily grew.



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IN PASTORAL TERMS, PERHAPS THE MOST VALUABLE LEGACY FROM THE TRAUMATIC DISRUPTION, HAS BEEN A CONFIRMED AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO EQUIP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO LOOK AFTER THEIR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



The summer holidays arrived as a blessed relief and September brought a return to school with restrictions and measures in place to keep everyone as safe as we could (year group bubbles, flow systems round school, enhanced hygiene measures at every turn, masks and social distancing). Logistics aside, it truly felt like a celebration. We expected some children would find coming back challenging, given most had not shared an indoor space with anyone outside their immediate family members for over five months. But as they made their way from cordoned arrival bays in the Sports Barn to the designated year group entry points, their beaming smiles and cheerful greetings said it all.

We all had to adjust to the rules of the 'new normal' in school but every one of us valued live contact as never before. Lessons were made to work, as were dinner arrangements, and staff collaborated with students in creative and resourceful ways so that co-curricular life could creep back into existence within the 'new normal' rules. PD lessons worked with the themes promoted by the mental health charity Place2Be, emphasising the importance of 'self-efficacy, hope, gratitude and connectedness' to promote a positive outlook on the pandemic world and support those students who had returned to school bruised and disorientated by the previous months. The long autumn term can be testing, and the COVID complications meant we arrived at Christmas exhausted but pleased we had made it to the end of term and hopeful, as the first vaccinations were rolled out, that we would never have to go through a lockdown again.

Despite speculation over Christmas about rising numbers of infections, the Prime Minister's announcement on 4 January, that the nation would return to full lockdown landed like a bombshell. Staff collected laptops, books and resources out of school so they could resume teaching from home, and with heavy, but determined, hearts we embarked on another three months of remote schooling.

Yet this time, it was a very different experience – we had learned from the first time around. Families and school now had the technical resources and IT competence to enable the school day timetables to be delivered live via MS Teams. Conversations on Teams chat flowed more freely allowing greater personalisation of provision both academically and pastorally. We had a clearer idea of who we needed to bring on site, so we could support children who we knew had struggled most during the first lockdown. Students registered each day at 8.45am and finished their remote lessons at 4pm, with lunchtime activities offered as well as live lessons – remote choir rehearsals, sports challenges and workouts, and online club meetings.

Back in school in April, with a robust vaccination programme rolling out reassuringly swiftly, we felt our students had been cheated of their 2020 summer term and did all we could to make the summer term of 2021 one to remember with a programme of events to celebrate our being together – Hopeful Education days, a super music festival, outdoor learning and orienteering events in Lister Park and Heaton Woods and our first whole school sports day in decades. Whole school messages focused on the importance of being positive and making the most of school life, using the focuses of International Day of Happiness in March to encourage our students to 'keep calm, stay wise and be kind' as everyone reintegrated and got used to being together again.

Eighteen months on from the pandemic disruption, it is worth reflecting on lessons learned, skills and resourcefulness developed, and resilience built.

The need for young people to interact with one another face-to-face is appreciated now as never before, with an increased awareness of the potential harms that reliance exclusively on social media interactions can bring. This has made both school and parents prioritise the importance of teaching our young people about how to behave online and protect themselves from over reliance on virtual interactions rather than real ones.



Above: Kai D and Laiba H are two of 20 pastoral prefects who support younger peers as they navigate school life and the post pandemic fallout

For both staff and students, IT skills to support teaching and learning have developed beyond recognition as a result of the urgent need to learn quickly; MS Teams is now an integral and everyday part of BGS academic and pastoral provision and has transformed our ability to connect with one another within and around the school day.

The disruption to the lives of some of our young people did damage: unquestionably social interactions deteriorated during lockdown, as online manners spilt over into offline interactions so there was an increase in inappropriate language, hurtful behaviour and fallouts. Some of our young people continue to make the same mistakes. We are still feeling the impact on our children's mental health, higher levels of anxiety, school avoidance and eating disorders as well as homes disrupted by strained relationships and domestic violence. BGS is no different to other independent and maintained schools in these regards and we do our utmost as ever to support our young people. Yet we have also been overwhelmingly impressed by the resilience of our students, who weathered the disruptions with increasing resourcefulness, well served by the remote provision BGS gave them during lockdowns and appreciative of what school life offers them now they are back in school.

School life this year is very much back to normal. In pastoral terms, perhaps the most valuable legacy from the traumatic disruption, has been a confirmed awareness of the need to equip our young people with an understanding of how to look after their mental health and wellbeing. The national picture of a post-pandemic rise in adolescent anxiety, depression and associated disorders is frightening but strengthens our resolve to be proactive in enabling our young people to look after their own mental health and that of others.

The BGS Wellbeing Programme launched in school this year has had fantastic buy-in from all stakeholders in the school community as we give time and attention to promoting every child's right to be happy, confident and safe. Our priority as a compassionate school will always be the wellbeing of our children and staff, the defining ethos of the modern BGS – excellence, opportunity and happiness – depends upon it.

Jane Chapman

Assistant Head (Pastoral)



A BALCONY FIT FOR A QUEEN...

Old Bradfordian
Charlotte Restorick (2005)
is the Operations and
Engagement Manager for
the Buckingham Palace
Reservicing Programme.
She describes what it was
like working for the Royal
Household during the
lead up to the late Queen's
Platinum Jubilee.



Working behind the scenes at Buckingham Palace in the lead up to the Platinum Jubilee weekend was an incredibly exciting time to be a part of the Royal Household.

I've worked at Buckingham Palace for eight years in various roles, and most recently for the Buckingham Palace Reservicing Programme. The palace's infrastructure, its pipes and wires, is in urgent need of replacement to prevent long-term damage to the building and its contents, and we are half-way through a ten year programme of construction works. As Operations and Engagement Manager on the programme, it's my job to make sure the household's operations can keep going at the same time as the construction works. This was a huge challenge as we approached the historic Platinum Jubilee weekend, and as plans developed, I worked closely with our contractors to help them plan ahead and understand the impact of the celebrations.

The first recorded Royal balcony appearance at Buckingham Palace took place in 1851, when Queen Victoria stepped onto it during celebrations for the opening of the Great Exhibition. We were told in early 2022 that arrangements should be made so that an appearance could happen over the Platinum Jubilee weekend. The front of the palace was a construction site, emptied of contents and with many of the floors lifted for works, which meant access to the famous balcony was restricted significantly. Working with colleagues across the household and in our construction teams, I managed the plans for the Queen and members of the Royal Family to access the balcony over the weekend. Making the route safe and providing power took planning, and after the weekend was over, I needed to make sure our construction teams could get back to work as quickly as possible.

When the Queen took the first steps onto the balcony on Thursday 2 June 2022 to the roar of the crowds gathered outside, I felt really proud to have played a small part in making it happen. To see a second appearance on Sunday following the Platinum Pageant was incredible, and now we know that sadly this was to be Her Majesty's last appearance on the balcony. I've been part of some amazing historic occasions while working for The Queen, and now for the King, but I will always remember that wonderful weekend of celebration as a particular highlight.



**WHEN THE QUEEN TOOK
THE FIRST STEPS ONTO THE
BALCONY ON THURSDAY 2
JUNE 2022 TO THE ROAR
OF THE CROWDS GATHERED
OUTSIDE, I FELT REALLY PROUD
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IN MAKING IT HAPPEN**



THE OB WHO LIT UP THE PALACE



Saturday 4 June, 2022, is a day Tom Bairstow (2004) will never forget. He recalls watching in anticipation as the visual spectacular his company had been working on was finally coming to fruition, beamed onto Buckingham Palace as part of celebrations for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Tom's company, NorthHouse, had spent months planning, designing, creating and testing for the Party at the Palace and Tom, and 34 million others watching, was not disappointed. Even the future King Charles described the event as simply 'marvellous.'

'It was pretty bonkers,' admits Old Bradfordian Tom, who grew up in Wilsden. 'The buzz before and during the show was incredible but nothing could prepare me for the overwhelming response after it. Once people started to find out we'd created the show, it just snowballed and we're still getting so many requests for new projects based on what we created at Buckingham Palace... the intros often start with 'you're the guys who did the Jubilee ...'

Tom always loved music and being creative, passions which were fostered at Bradford Grammar, which he joined in 1997 on an assisted place.

'I was drawn to BGS by the facilities,' he says. 'Music was always at the core of everything for me and I loved music technology. I really spent a lot of time in the art rooms and I also really enjoyed English and maths. I loved the creativity with it and with maths I enjoyed finding solutions to things. Back then, the career opportunities for me were engineering or become an architect. I spoke to Mr Davidson (former head Stephen Davidson) and he was amazing and really helped me realise that it was not the right thing for me to go into engineering.'

Instead, Tom chose to do A Levels in music technology, art and English and went on to study for a foundation degree at Bradford Art College. He fell in love with photography while at college which led to him making videos. After Bradford, he headed to Leeds Metropolitan University to study Graphic Art and Design.

Alongside studying, Tom was in a band called 'New York Alcoholic Anxiety Attack,' which toured the country and played Glastonbury.

Before long, Tom started creating music videos for the band which kick-started a new love making music videos and visuals. Back in 2007, this whole new world was emerging on the back of shows like the X Factor, where LED video screens were becoming more of a part of the whole show experience to complement the lighting.

'A friend's dad was a lighting designer and was looking to bring video into his shows. He wanted someone fresh out of university who was keen to explore the idea and after seeing a few of my videos and a tester video I'd made to present, he gave me a try and I've never looked back. I'd found the perfect way to bring together my love for live music, design and video.'



The first major work Tom secured as a freelance video designer was on the singer Lemar's: The Reason tour.

'I can remember driving down to rehearsals in Wales, thinking 'this is exactly what I want to be doing, travelling to new places/meeting new people and combining it all with a love of music, design and video,' he recalls.

Although he's a proud Northerner, Tom decided to move to London to further his creative career in 2010 and soon more work came in. He started out as Tom Bairstow Visuals Ltd and in 2012 changed the company name to NorthHouse Creative. By then, NorthHouse was in demand across the globe – in New York to set up One Direction's sell out show in Madison Square Gardens, at the opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup at Twickenham and creating the visuals for the Coldplay tour. Then in late 2015, came a phone call about a project in February 2016, The SuperBowl Half-time show with Coldplay, Beyonce, Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson.

Says Tom: 'I was sitting in my studio in south London in the November and Phil Harvey, the creative director for Coldplay, called and said 'what are you doing in February? We've got the Superbowl!' All I could think was wow! When I flew into LA and I knew Beyonce was on her way...well let's just say there's been a few pivotal moments for the company and that was definitely one of them!'

Lockdown due to the pandemic proved to be a challenge for a company specialising in visuals for live shows. Then a team of six (NorthHouse now employs 15), Tom says they adapted to do more in the virtual space and created an augmented reality awards show in late 2020.



'Then, from March 2021, we were suddenly inundated with projects as the world came back to life,' he says. 'Mainly with Coldplay, who we'd been speaking to through late 2020 about their then-upcoming album entitled Music of the Spheres. We spent a huge portion of 2021 creating a range of promo shows to promote their new album, from projection-mapping the roundhouse in Camden to Whitby Abbey.'

In late 2021, while in the midst of setting up a big promo show for Coldplay in Dubai, NorthHouse was asked to pitch to the BBC for the Queen's Jubilee. They received the good news they'd been successful in January 2022.

'We were so thrilled!' says Tom. 'We worked closely with the BBC and all the artists who we'd had multiple calls and presentations with through the weeks leading up to the show. Over the past decade, we've done a lot of high-profile shows, but this one felt different, bigger and had so much impact on so many people around the world.'

'It's so nice we created something which meant a lot for many people. As a company, it has taken us to an area which is outside of music, which is what we wanted.'

Tom regularly visits the North, with his parents living in Eldwick, near Bingley, and he was delighted to inspire future visual creators as the Speech Day speaker at Bradford Grammar Junior School last year.

Asked about future plans for the business, he says:

'I'm a great believer in taking things step by step and not getting caught up in focusing too far on the future.'

'I think it's important to have big goals and ambitions but so much more important to really focus on what you love doing and just letting the journey flow. You never know what's around the corner or what opportunities could arise at any moment, as long as you're putting yourself out there and putting the work in.'



THE DAY THE KING FLEW IN

The sound of sporting endeavours usually heard from BGS's playing fields were replaced by the whirr of helicopter blades when a special Royal visitor landed in the autumn.

King Charles III disembarked onto the school sports fields before heading off on his Royal visit to Bradford and Leeds.

Excited pupils and staff had gathered in anticipation of catching a glimpse of His Majesty and were delighted when he made his way over to them to shake their hands.

Dr Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster, said: 'We were delighted His Majesty The King chose to land the Royal helicopter on our school field ahead of his visit to Bradford, as other members of his family have done before him. He very generously spent time meeting and greeting our excited young students. Today will be a day they will never forget.'



Below: The Jubilee hanging proudly on display in the Headmaster's corridor.



HANDMADE JUBILEE TRIBUTE

Members of 'Handmade' (and a couple of special guests) worked on a group project to commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

They designed their own blocks, all linked to London/ Britishness/The Queen, and hand stitched them. The blocks were pieced together into a beautiful hanging which has now been proudly hung in the Headmaster's Corridor.

MEMORIES

1940S AND 1950S REUNION

Our annual 1940s and 1950s reunion took place on Friday 8 April 2022 and was a huge success. More than 40 Old Bradfordians came together to enjoy food and drinks and to share many wonderful memories of their time at BGS. A great time was had by all.

To see more pictures go to <https://tinyurl.com/mrxn2jrz>



Above: Dr Simon Hinchliffe, headmaster at BGS, with Ian Holland, OBA President, welcome guests to the 1940s and 1950s reunion





Above and left: OBs enjoyed reminiscing about their time at BGS and looking over the old photographs and memorabilia on display



BGS GIVING DAY

BGS's first ever Giving Day Campaign was held on Thursday 12 May and Friday 13 May 2022. Thanks to a collective effort – and in true Hoc Age style – we not just met our match challenge target, but also exceeded it!

£75,266 was raised from 146 donors across the Old Bradfordian, staff and parental communities.

The entire School played its part in fundraising – including the headmaster, Dr Simon Hinchliffe, who was happily gunged once we'd reached one of our targets!

The 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places is stronger because of the generosity of the BGS community. A big thank you goes to all donors for enabling us to offer a bright child an outstanding, life changing education at Bradford Grammar School.

Assisted Places encapsulate a strong historical thread running through BGS and as we celebrate 360 years of our Royal Charter, it's been demonstrated yet again that these ideals are as important to us all today, as they have always been.



FIGEN MURRAY VISIT

As part of the Sixth Form Enrichment programme, Figen Murray OBE visited BGS to talk with students. Having lost her son, Martyn Hett, in the Manchester Arena Bombing, Figen has campaigned tirelessly for changes to the law, with her goal being to place legal obligations on venues to reduce the risk to the public from acts of terrorism.

Figen also works with schools to promote messages of peace, tolerance and understanding as the antidote to hate. BGS students were inspired by her determined campaigning and had their eyes opened to the philosophy of 'Ubuntu'. We were delighted to welcome Figen and thank her for her honest and thought-provoking talk.

OB CAREER DAYS

Old Bradfordians, John Bigham (1988) and Mark Richer (1981), visited BGS in the autumn to tour their school and have lunch with a group of Sixth Form students as part of the careers programme led by Mr McOwen, Head of Year 13 and Ms Denby, Head of Higher Education and Careers.

The informal and informative luncheons were heavily subscribed. Students attending not only made the Old Bradfordians welcome, they also represented the school with panache and style – especially given Mark Richer visited on ‘@#\$\$%&! Shirt Friday!

John, who works in investment banking, helped to demystify his chosen career. He shared some excellent stories, insight, and advice to those students who were interested in pursuing a career in finance and economics. John was also graciously interviewed on camera by Head Boy, George H and Head Girl, Caitlin R about his work in the banking and finance industries. The recording of that interview can be found here: <https://youtu.be/mgWWsahPydl>

Mark Richer, who has built a career as a highly successful tech entrepreneur, was a hit at Friday lunch. He shared wisdom about entrepreneurship and some very entertaining stories about his time at BGS. Thanks to Tracy Lord, Deputy Library Manager and Archive Assistant, we were able to share bits and pieces of news that BGS had collected about Mark’s successes over the years – much to Mark’s surprise.

Both Mark and John are major benefactors to BGS’s 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places. We were so pleased they were able to visit their school and see for themselves how their generosity helps to support a community that supports inclusivity, excellence, curiosity and, in John’s case, a rather interesting sense of fashion.



Above: John Bigham with
Head Boy George H and
Head Girl Caitlin R

OB ANNUAL LUNCH 15 OCTOBER

Conversation and reminiscences flowed freely, the food and service were exceptional, and BGS staff were commended for their warm hospitality and professionalism. The occasion provided an additional opportunity to spectate some BGS sport against local rivals such as Giggleswick School. All in all, the lunch time reunion format was deemed to be a huge success.

The Headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe, kindly provided an honest and upbeat state of the nation address. But with characteristic candour, Simon also described the pressures BGS and the independent school sector are facing. These are changing and difficult times, and schools must respond. Old Bradfordians were, however, left in no doubt of the school's capacity and appetite to navigate seemingly choppy seas.

This year's guest speaker was Jonathan Hinkles (1993), Chief Executive at Loganair Limited. Jonathan delivered an entertaining and insightful address. He spoke with panache about his BGS days, boyhood enthusiasm for aviation and his highly successful professional life built upon such foundations. Humour and modesty – well this is Bradford! – were additional hallmarks of a first class speech. Of the event Jonathan said:

'It was an absolute privilege to return to BGS in October 2022 – 29 years after leaving! A particular novelty was the function being held in the Learning Link between the buildings; October days of old regularly involved a soaking from autumnal downpours, yet the OB gathering revelled in the sunny shelter of this marvellous space.

COVID lockdowns and restrictions brought about a hiatus in the calendar of Old Bradfordian events. It was a great pleasure, therefore to reinstate the autumn reunion, this time held on a Saturday lunchtime rather than evening. The Old Bradfordians Association Committee had wisely made this change reflecting feedback from OBs, and the October 2022 gathering proved to be a tremendous success.

'It was a delight to see BGS thriving – yet also really heartening to see the school's emphasis today on mental health. Staff and customer welfare is integral to safety in the airline industry, and an area in which my own approach has been shaped – not always for the better, I might say – by a full ten-year innings at BGS. Seeing the transformation towards high levels of pastoral care at BGS is genuinely encouraging, and I'm sure it will equip today's BGS pupils with awareness and understanding which is critically important.'

Ian Holland (1966), President of the Old Bradfordians Association rounded off the compliment of speeches, thanking Jonathan and also the BGS estates and catering teams for making the lunchtime reunion such a special occasion. Ian also nodded his cap to the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Martin Love (1979), who was in attendance.

OBs of various vintage mingled with BGS staff, including Deputy Head Jed Boardman and Director of Development Robin Sharp to round off a convivial occasion, one of many more to come.

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IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE TO
RETURN TO BGS IN OCTOBER 2022 -
29 YEARS AFTER LEAVING!

”



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

Gordon Trevor
Andrews ('Trevor')
(1954)

1937-2022

Trevor enjoyed the more practical subjects, particularly woodwork. This was taught by Mr Ashton who, recognising his skills, worked with him to build a cabinet to house the school charter. This remains in the Douglas Hamilton Room, with Trevor's name engraved inside. Trevor was encouraged into business by an older brother, breaking for National Service where he served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Cyprus, Malta and Northern Ireland. He returned to industry, working his way into management but maintaining his love for anything to do with wood and DIY. He turned his hand to most things including fitting central heating, bathrooms, kitchens, building on the skills which were first recognised and encouraged by Mr Ashton. He leaves a widow Anne, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Peter Benjamin
Barker
(1955)

16 August 1938 –
3 May 2021

Peter began at Thornville, was a member of the rugby team and also played cricket, being captain of Lister. Following School, he studied at University of Leeds while working part time for his uncle at the Bradford solicitors, Marsden and Cockshott, taking his finals at law school in Guildford. He worked all his life at the firm, becoming President of the Bradford Law Society and retiring in the late 1990s. He was also a member of the Idle and Greengates Rotary club (also becoming President), a member of Shipley Round Table and treasurer of Friends of Undercliffe Cemetery. He had a lifelong interest in cricket, playing for Hawksworth Cricket Club and later becoming an umpire. He leaves a wife Jennifer, three children and six grandchildren.

Gerald Bevan
(1969)

In 1967 I went into 5L and, from memory, this coincided with the arrival of Gerald Bevan who very soon picked up the soubriquet of 'Joe'. He was my Form Master and taught me French. He often used Christian names, treated us as adults, was always immaculately dressed, had a gentle (but not to be messed with) air about him and used the most superb italic handwriting. He was married with, from memory, four children, lived in Nab Wood and ran a long wheelbase Land Rover station wagon in dark green. In October 2004, I organised a small reunion, for about ten or a dozen, in a pub just outside Rugby. Joe, then probably in his early 70s, drove up from St Albans, had dinner with us and drove home. He was, in summary, one of those truly inspirational teachers for whom I shall always hold the utmost respect and affection.

John Geoffrey Collins (1946)

20 September 1931 –
22 December 2021

John was born in Yorkshire, where he lived his whole life. He remained a lifelong Old Bradfordian, particularly appreciating continued contact via Christmas cards, together with messages during lockdown. From School, he obtained a Bachelor of Commerce (with Accountancy) Degree at Leeds University and then completed his professional qualifications to become a Chartered Accountant. This led him into a career in the local textile industry, working for Illingworth Morris for many years, latterly as Estates Manager. One career highlight was selling Sir Titus Salt's New Mill in 1987 to the late Jonathan Silver, who developed the building into the renowned 1853 Gallery, where many of David Hockney's works are displayed, another BGS pupil. Following retirement, he continued to have a full and active life, engaging in his varied hobbies of walking, travel, family history and sport. Frequently described as a 'true gentleman', on his 90th birthday he described the secret of a long life as 'good clean living and fresh air'.

Ian James Cooper (1986)

5 February 1968 –
June 2022

Ian grew up in Bingley and joined Clock House at the age of eight. He was an enthusiastic member of the BGS Scouts and Venture Scouts and a very bright but less enthusiastic participant in schoolwork. Following graduation from the University of Essex, he joined Royal Insurance in Birmingham where he soon realised a career behind a desk was not for him. He then enjoyed a distinguished career in the police, which ultimately brought him back to Yorkshire. Latterly, he settled with his wife, Josephine, in the Dales, where he indulged his passions for mountain-biking, golf and Bradford City. Ian died after a nine-month battle with cancer, being survived by his wife, Josephine and three children from his first marriage to Diane – Agatha, Emi and Edward.



Paul Denbigh (1967)

11 February 1949 –
29 January 2022

Born in Pudsey, Paul started at Thornville, progressing to 'Big School' in 1960, going into Form 3C. He then joined the Classical stream (4C), but after a year moved into the Science stream (TSB). He left school in 1967 to study Chemistry and Physics at Lanchester (now part of Coventry University) then worked at Thorn Lighting in Leicester. He married Judi in 1971 and they had two sons Mark and Luke. In 1987, Paul left Thorn and bought a newsagents shop in Ingleton in the Yorkshire Dales. He and Judi retired from the business in 2005. They travelled around the world, then continued to travel for some years before buying a property in 2014 in Sheringham, Norfolk, near to Mark and his family.

David Richard Firth (1951)

14 December 1932 –
8 March 2021

David was born in Bradford to a GPO telephone engineer and a telephonist. He first attended Grange primary school then won a scholarship (as did his two brothers) to BGS. At school he became involved in jazz music (which was not approved), Drebley Camp and harvesting in East Yorkshire under RB Graham's encouragement of the wartime scheme. He became Second Prefect to his great friend John Hicks and in 1949 was selected to visit Canada under the Rhodes (Bradford) Scholarships – the scheme of a local industrialist. He won a foundation scholarship in Natural Sciences to Kings College Cambridge where he re-established the University Cycling Club, persuading a venerable don who had been a member in its 1890s heyday to be President. He began a series of research projects in particle physics at a variety of universities in Canada and the United States. Although devoted to physics, he later set himself up in sheep farming in Nova Scotia, including in his flock a rare breed of Blue-Faced Leicesters. He became a Canadian citizen and in 1981 married Rosemary Campbell, an American speech therapist and they adopted two brothers John and Jay.



**Anthony (Tony)
Franklyn Fell
(1960)**

**30 August 1941 – 13
January 2022**

Born the eldest of three in Shipley, the family soon moved to Great Horton in Bradford. His father was a master tailor and also a talented dancer and pianist; his mother wrote her diaries in French. They could not afford a piano, but Tony taught himself (using a paper keyboard) while in bed with arthritis. He also constructed a radio from spare parts and raised money for a piano by repairing radios. He was a BGS scholarship boy and a protégé of Freddie Summers, the Jewish-German refugee Head of Languages, who he held dear until Freddie passed away in the early 2000s. He taught himself Russian, becoming a school first to take it at A Level (later going on to become a qualified simultaneous interpreter!). However, much to Freddie's dismay, he decided to follow Chemistry because he could see more career potential. Following a First in Pharmacy at University College, London, he took up a lectureship at the age of 26 at Edinburgh's Herriot Watt. He became a hall of residence warden, making sure parties didn't get too out of hand. Here he met Misha, who was to become his wife. She was a Czech undergraduate – he suavely introduced himself in fluent German/

Russian. He returned to Yorkshire in 1985 to become Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Bradford University, where he founded and headed the Graduate School.

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**Martin Gray
(1960)**

**16 August 1943 –
16 September 2022**

Born in the bedroom of his maternal grandparents' house in Oakworth, his father was a railway manager and mother a teacher. He grew up in the family home in Ben Rydding until they moved to Ilkley. This remained his home for many years. He became an accomplished player of the piano, recorder and violin, leading to a lifelong love of classical music. Martin entered BGS at the age of eight but was brought up in a very strict, some would say harsh, environment dominated by his father. This was exemplified by the comment when he achieved 99% in French. 'Shame about the 1%', haunted him throughout his life. He was told it was time for him to earn a living and so at the age of 16 he entered (appropriately!) Martin's Bank, then British Rail as a white-collar worker. Thanks to study at James Graham College as a mature student he obtained a degree in teaching and in the 1970s taught English at John Blenkinsop Middle School. He became a Youth Leader with Lancashire County Council in Accrington and following this, an agent selling Scarabs – hi-tech small road

sweepers. This led to him setting up his own business, Gray Cleansing Systems, leasing Scarabs to Local Authorities together with selling various other items of industrial cleaning equipment. On his arrival at some sites his customers commented: 'The Gentleman's here!' Cash-flow problems caused him to cease trading and for a short time he ran a small printing business. He returned to teaching in the Leeds area, first as a supply teacher and then in a permanent post but had to resign through ill health. For some years he took up computer software training, travelling widely before retiring. He was initiated into Freemasonry in 1986 and was a founder of Bradfordian's Lodge. Despite later ill health, he managed regular attendance at this lodge for School's Old Boys.

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**Roger Hill
(1967)**

**17 April 1949 –
May 2022**

Roger was the second child (and only son) of John and Laura Hill and was much younger than his sister, Gwyneth, with whom, nevertheless, he was on good terms. He was known for a rebellious quick wit. He excelled academically, being particularly interested in mathematics and science and was an avid reader of Scientific American. He also displayed a few eccentricities such as wearing black suede shoes or Chelsea boots with peg-bottomed black

trousers and unusually long fingernails. Not really being built for major sports (not least because of his thick glasses), he was a capable squash player and a keen walker in the Dales. Following school, he read Biochemistry at Christchurch, Oxford but the temptations of non-scholastic life proved too strong and he went down the following summer. Various jobs in Hitchin, Portsmouth and Gargrave followed, during which he gained the qualification of Graduate of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and married his teenage sweetheart, Frederica (Fred) Mallinson. After a few years at Johnson & Johnson in Gargrave and, at a time when IT hardly existed, he set up a one-man IT business, Edenridge. With financial security, a decision to move to Spain followed and, in 2004, he bought a small estate south of Granada. Roger and Fred were generous and hospitable hosts to visiting friends. Retirement allowed him to develop his long-standing interest in music, working on improving guitar skills with the aim of transposing works by JS Bach for the bass guitar. Despite a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, which eventually led to the need for a double knee replacement, Roger remained active in looking after their land. Roger is survived by Fred and daughter Mari.

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Andrew Jackson (1966)

2 June 1948 -
23 July 2022

Born in Horsforth, Andrew was the only child of William 'Bill' Jackson and Margret Carlisle. He excelled and competed at top levels of sport shooting, including earning medals at the Commonwealth Games. He emigrated to Edmonton, Canada with his wife Charlene in 1980 and they had their son William shortly after. He developed a passion for flying, spending many days flying as an Aerobatic Instructor, breaking records and pushing the limits. When not in the air, he was a leader in the business world, working for top international organisations. Following retirement in the Edmonton area, he pursued leisure activities such as golf, skeet shooting and painting.



Andrew Niall McDoug (1970)

30 April 1952 -
24 January 2021

Andy was awarded an Open Exhibition in engineering to study at King's College, Cambridge. He spent his entire working life rising through the ranks on the railway, starting in the engineering department at British Rail and moving into IT after gaining a second degree at Birkbeck College London. He was co-owner of a

Bradford trolleybus purchased in 1972 and currently housed at the Trolleybus Museum Sandtoft. He took early retirement in 2009 and spent his time after that travelling extensively and converting an old pub to live in with his partner Jill. He is survived by his first wife Norah, son Tom, daughter Frances and four grandchildren.

Edward Myers (1947)

25 April 1932 -
26 March 2021

Edward attended his local infant and primary school before BGS. His father had an engineering business and it was here he learnt machining and welding skills, something which was to stand him in good stead after his seafaring days. He joined his first ship on leaving school aged 18 and between 1951 and 1962 sailed mainly in 'tramping trades' for a variety of companies. Following the death of his father he took up a position as a skilled fitter/tester with Rolls Royce, but after a short time returned to sea, sailing between Liverpool/New York and Manaus up the Amazon. He finally retired in 1997 to renovate his cottage with his wife Joyce, fix cars and boilers and build model steam locomotives. He took an active part in his local Masonic lodge and was a founder member of the school one. He was also a recipient of the Royal Humane Society Charter for saving the life of a man who had fallen into the docks.



Anthony Stuart Priestley (1950)

1 July 1933 -
3 February 2022

Tony's BGS life began in the prep school (then at St Peter's Church, Moorhead Lane, Saltaire) before moving to the current Manor Row building, which had been renovated following wartime military use. He joined Barclays Bank, ending as manager of the John Street branch in Bradford. Before moving to the Lake District to run a guest house with his wife, Lindy, he was partner in a Bradford estate agency for several years. Lately he lived at Ings near Staveley. Tony was a committee member of the OBA and attended the Annual Reunion dinner for 60 or more consecutive years with his brother Edward. He was treasurer and a significant fundraiser for the local branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind and helped with many village organisations including being a parish councillor and local correspondent for the Westmoreland Gazette. From Ings he was active with Barclays Bank Pensioners' Organisation, participating and leading walks in his beloved Lake District and Yorkshire Dales. He died in Lancaster Royal Infirmary suffering from Parkinson's disease and related complications.



B L. ('Boz') Robinson (1954)

2 July 1936 -
10 December 2022

Boz was one of the oldest members of the Old Bradfordians London Club but his main life work was dedicated to the Royal Air Force, from a pilot in 74 Squadron flying Hunters (1956) until his retirement as Air Vice Marshal in 1991. During his service he found time to be the RAF Rally Champion (1962) and RAF Bobsleigh Champion (1968, 1971, 1972). Following retirement, he became a senior partner in Belmont Consultants, advising on aviation matters, particularly in Eastern Europe.

John Leslie Walmesley (1950)

4 May 1931 -
20 October 2022

John grew up in the Bradford suburb of Lidget Green, winning a scholarship to BGS, for which he was grateful his whole life, being aware of the advantage it gave him. Following School, he attended Leeds School of Architecture then performed his deferred National Service, serving in Cyprus during the late 1950s during the Cyprus Emergency. Returning to architecture, he worked in several practices in Bradford and Leeds, finishing his career at Bradford City Architects Department.

A keen walker, John was until recent years, a member of a local walking group together with his wife Valerie and enjoyed walks around Addingham where he lived latterly, in the Dales and Lake District in particular. He retained a life-long love of sketching and drawing.



**Malcolm
Greenwood
(1993)**

Born in Bradford, Malcolm's mother was a typist and father a dispensing chemist. Following Thornton Grammar School, he went to the London School of Economics, then obtained a teaching qualification from Hull University. From 1958 he taught history at Carlton Boys Grammar School, joining BGS five years later. There he started and developed the economics department, later introducing business studies and philosophy. Following retirement in 1993, he taught for three years at the Bradford University Management Centre, contributing modules to the MA Business Studies course. He also published on management in education and competition in business and chaired Bradford's Industry and Commerce committee. He was an early promoter of heritage tourism. In 2013, he published A Life Well Lived, based on the wartime recollections of his neighbour Fan Craig in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.

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

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| Dennis D
Armstrong
(1947) | Roy Margerison
(1950) |
| Nick Berry
(1985) | Tony A Naylor
(1954) |
| Tony Binns
(1988) | Roger S Pawson
(1961) |
| Michael Chuck
(1952) | John B Smith
(1947) |
| John Crips
(1954) | Sir Peter
Thompson
(1946) |
| John A Grange
(1950) | Graham R Walker
(1952) |
| Terry Greaves
(1965) | Michael M
Whitaker
(1952) |
| Bernard Hill
(1942) | Ben R Wolfenden
(2001) |
| Michael J Hodgson
(1958) | |
| Gerry O Ireson
(1953) | |
| John A Jagger
(1964) | |
| Peter J Luxton
(1969) | |





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