

THE OLD BRADFORDIAN

The Old Bradfordians Association Magazine



The Running Man The OB who overtook Sir Mo Farah

Emile Cairess

News
Features
Events
Obituaries

2023 Edition



**Gordon Green
(1961)**

Past President
(2011-2013)

WELCOME



... from the Acting President

Normally this message would be from the President of the Association. Unfortunately, Dr Ian Holland has needed to resign as President because of family issues, resulting in a move to Bristol. We would like to place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation to Ian for his efforts over the past six years (the longest serving President ever!) and convey to him and Angela our very best wishes for the future.

For some time, the committee members have been giving thought as to the future of the OBA. It has become clear over recent years that the current structure of the Association is not fit for purpose. There have been difficulties in recruiting younger members to the committee and it is clear we need to widen our appeal both geographically and demographically. With this in mind, we reached the conclusion that the future of the OBA would be better served were it to become more integrated within the school's structure.

We had discussions with the Headmaster and with our input he tabled a plan which gave effect to that outcome. Essentially, the 'old' OBA will be wound up and a 'new' OBA will be created which will fit within the structure of the school's Development office. There will be a new committee comprising OBs, (one of whom will be President) the serving Head Prefects and school representatives.

Safeguards will be put in place to ensure that the funds held by the 'old' OBA will be protected and used only for the same purposes as they are currently, and such use will be under the control of the OB members of the new committee.

The main purpose of these changes is to protect the future of the OBA (founded in the 19th century) and render it suitable for the modern age. With the active participation of the school, it is hoped the organisation will flourish and provide former pupils with a continuing link to BGS and, at the same time, provide the opportunity to widen the geographic spread of events (reunions, etc.).

As would be expected, there will be various detailed issues to address to bring this to fruition, but these will be actively addressed in the very near future.

Should there be any OBs who may wish to be part of this exciting change, please do not hesitate to contact me at green.oldfield@outlook.com

With best wishes to you and your families,

Hoc Age!



Gordon Green



Dr Simon Hinchliffe
BA, MEd, PhD, FRSA
Headmaster

... from the Headmaster

It is a pleasure to share this latest edition of our Old Bradfordian magazine with you and provide a flavour of OB and BGS life.

Grateful thanks go to Dr Ian Holland for leading the OBA with great skill and charisma these past six years. On behalf of everyone at Bradford Grammar School, I wish both Ian and his wife, Angela, every happiness in their new life, closer to family, in the West Country. My sincere thanks are also extended to Gordon Green, who has taken up the office of Acting President of the Old Bradfordians' Association as we seek to find a new way forward to safeguard the wider OB family whilst also ensuring its inclusivity and relevance in the modern age.





For my part, I continue to relish the camaraderie of Old Bradfordians. I say this whilst contemplating a trip to London tomorrow to support our First XV rugby team in a match against Colfe's. The Old Bradfordians' Club London has kindly sponsored the fixture and I look forward to the company of OBs on what promises to be a somewhat damp December touchline, and later perhaps with a pint of Pride in hand. It wasn't that long ago that we all enjoyed the annual club dinner in the West End. It's always a convivial night, a wonderful occasion to catch up with friends and make new ones, and a welcome opportunity to thank the club for their generous funding of the replica Royal Charter now proudly displayed in the Master's Corridor.

This year's speaker was OB and school Governor, Dr Asif Qasim. Apparently, he's done a bit of BGS rowing in his time – I think he mentioned that at least once or twice. Asif held our rapt attention with an honest and brave reflection on his school days and matters of inclusivity and diversity, including in the medical profession and society at large. Many commented that it was one of the best speeches they had heard at such an occasion.

As ever there were a few reprobates in the audience. On this evening, teammates from an unbeaten First XV of the early 1970s. Earlier in the year they had reunited in number back at BGS in the Douglas Hamilton Room for a black-tie bash, and earlier for a restorative libation in the Mucky Duck. OB Dan Scarbrough, former England Rugby Union winger and our current Specialist Rugby Coach, and I, had the pleasure of their company. In plain terms, we enjoyed a great night and were reminded of the bonds of fellowship forged at BGS that stand the test of time.

There are many informal and formal gatherings of OBs in any given year, and the school will be seeking to coordinate more in the coming months and years. A tournament for current and former (OB) table tennis players, organised by the irrepressible (and long serving maths teacher) Andy Crabtree, was one such informal occasion. Thirty pupils from Clock House and Senior School were involved and mixed with OBs, old(ish) and young. A superb buffet tea and opportunity to reminisce over clippings from BGS magazines and local press (thank you Tracey Lord from the Clarkson Library for curating these) brought a fabulous event to a successful conclusion.

By way of a final reflection on our OB social calendar, it is often the unexpected conversations that resonate most deeply. I always look forward to the 1940s/50s reunion on the final day of spring term. We enjoy a sumptuous lunch, trip down memory lane, opportunity to sit in on final assembly in the Price Hall and to immerse ourselves in conversation. I was fortunate to have a wonderful chat with David Seeger (1955), artist and educator, who kindly donated a copy of his book - 80 Still Moving, An Alchemy of Clay, Colour and the Mind's Eye – to our Art department and archive. David also took me outside to appreciate another of his contributions to BGS, the award-winning roof top weathervane that sits proudly above the Delius Room, installed when our school was but young. It is always a privilege to spend time in, and learn from, our OBs.

These conversations fix my mind on the longer sweep of BGS history, our core purpose and what we seek to achieve. Over many years, Bradford Grammar School has sought to enact an impactful public benefit on behalf of the young people at our great school and the families on our doorstep. This cross-generational behaviour speaks to the very essence of education as a charitable purpose, rooted in English statute since 1601. Elizabethan lawmakers identified various charitable works of the age, including:

"... the relief of aged, impotent, and poor people; the maintenance of sick and maimed soldiers and mariners; schools of learning; free schools and scholars in universities; the repair of bridges, ports, havens, causeways, churches, sea banks, and highways; the education and preferment of orphans; the relief, stock, or maintenance of houses of correction; marriages of poor maids; support, aid, and help of young tradesmen, handicraftsmen and persons decayed..."

The 1601 Act was repealed by Lord Macnaghten in 1888, although the notion of the advancement of education as a charitable endeavour was preserved and is still alive today. 'Ports' and 'sea banks' might be in short supply in Bradford, the aged torso of the BGS Headmaster could lead one to imagine there is at least one 'person decayed' hereabouts. But specifics aside, our school continues to seek to act charitably and that won't change any time soon.

BGS has, over the course of our long history, aspired to play a role on the civic scene, to be a good neighbour in Bradford. Young lives have been transformed by, for example, the Direct Grant and Assisted Places schemes of former governments, continued now by the school's own means tested, fee assistance programme maintained under the auspices of our new 1662 Fund and through the generosity of our benefactors.

On that note, I would like to record my gratitude to Robin Sharp, our outgoing Director of Development, who has done much to build on the progress of her predecessors and give shape and impetus to fundraising activity. Robin has helped our school to offer places to bright and deserving young people who would not otherwise have been able to attend BGS and thus benefit from a life-changing education.

Benefaction is recognised as a historic behaviour of our school, enshrined in the annual Founder's Day Service at Bradford Cathedral for example. School values, of which 'service' is one, recognise 'that we have a responsibility to share our time and talents and make a difference to the lives of others. We strive to play our role locally and nationally. We understand that by giving to others we enrich our own lives.' Accordingly, we are very much interconnected with our home city and collaboration is a natural behaviour.

Before Christmas we participated in Partnerships Week, timed to coincide with the launch of the latest Independent Schools Council, Celebrating Partnerships booklet. Some BGS public benefit partnerships have been featured in recent times. Tim Rogers of Future Transformation, and a driving force behind Bradford Tech Week, amongst other educational programmes, welcomed local primary and secondary pupils to BGS and provided a fascinating insight into hi-tech space industries in Yorkshire (who would have known?), while also launching rockets from the neatly clipped Governors' Lawn! Our work with Tim was featured in 2021.

We also collaborate with Skipton Tennis Centre (STC) to deliver youth tennis and physical activity programmes for hundreds of school children from a wide variety of primary and secondary schools in West and North Yorkshire. Breaking down stereotypes, encouraging participation and mixing, and widening access are key aspects of what STC and BGS are seeking to achieve. This partnership was featured in 2022.

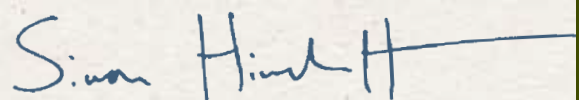
More recently, BGS has begun a seven-year partnership with the internationally acclaimed NHS health project Born in Bradford (BiB). In their own words, BiB aspires to "show how communities across our great city can join hands to become a living network of citizen scientists, helping to create a healthier and happier future for our children". In support of their 'Age of Wonder' study of Bradford teenagers, BGS has run surveys and health assessments to collect data and has developed a programme of interactive research activities suited to Year 9 students to showcase research within the NHS, which BiB will roll out to state schools in the area. This will enable BiB to take steps towards understanding and improving the lives of young people nationally.

These are aspects of BGS that make me proud. As I've articulated before, the academically high flying BGS undoubtedly has a head, but we have a heart too, a character trait reflected in the vital contribution that OBs make to wider society. BGS is a fine institution, with good people, who do laudable stuff. Continuing the theme, and making the argument with gusto, those aforementioned rugby players from the early 1970s exclaimed the following in a speech; exalting BGS they said that our school had inspired, and I quote:

"Pride in ourselves and in our shared spirit of community... [inspired] learning and leadership... [inspired] our shared vision of a desired future... [inspired] determination to grow and achieve, no matter at what age. The community in this room, [they said] the memories herein, the sadness and triumphs, the togetherness, it's all built on that magical foundation stone inside every boy and girl at Bradford Grammar School ... this is not a school, gentlemen, this is a force of nature."

A sense of this is contained in the pages that follow. Read on and enjoy!

Yours ever,



Dr Simon Hinchliffe





... from the Head of Development

2024 continues to be an exciting year for Old Bradfordians as our Development Office takes on a fresh look..

Joining Bradford Grammar School in October has been nothing short of a whirlwind. Getting to know our bright, inspiring students, meeting members of our Old Bradfordian community and working alongside fantastic staff and Governors has been a rare pleasure. I am a proud daughter of Yorkshire, the Calder Valley to be precise, and previously worked in the Development Office at Crossley Heath School in Halifax.

“

**OUR NEW TEAM HAS BENEFITTED FROM AN
OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF KINDNESS AND
GENEROSITY FROM THE OB FAMILY**

”

Jumping from the state to the independent sector has represented an exhilarating challenge, but at the heart of all development activity resides a desire to bring people together to establish and strengthen bonds of friendship and mutuality, and also, through fundraising specifically, to protect and provide an outstanding education and environment for students from all kinds of backgrounds, irrespective of their individual circumstances.

A priority for me has been the building of a strong team who aim to enhance connections with our OBs and further an already successful 1662 Campaign. Ali Brook joins us having vast media and communications experience to engage with our alumni all over the world. Ali's role will see her organising the OB events calendar, as well as generating a constant feed of OB news across our social and digital media platforms. Lorna Wolski is working wonders on our database to enhance, update and maintain all records, providing us with the best possible platform to enable us to maintain contact with our community. Finally, Joe Scargill is the newest member of our team, who will be focussing on our 1662 Campaign and creating programmes for all our BGS family to get involved in.

As we look ahead to the remainder of 2024 and beyond, we have a plethora of events starting with our Leeds and London Socials, sporting events including cricket, rugby and golf, and our annual Speech Day and Summer Concert. Whether you are a seasonal attendee or eager to attend your first event, the Development Department look forward to meeting you.

We are also working closely with our current Year 13s (the Upper Sixth in old money) before they depart for study leave and then A Level exams, holding LinkedIn drop-in sessions to assist in creating their identity in the professional world, as well as highlighting their next step from BGS student to alumnus, our future, not so old, OBs!

Our new team has benefitted from an overwhelming amount of kindness and generosity from the OB family. The 1662 Campaign for Assisted Places continues to go from strength to strength; we finished the year with a £2.1 million campaign total. The generosity and commitment of Old Bradfordians to our school is genuinely inspiring. These donations create opportunities for bright children from disadvantaged backgrounds to benefit from a truly life changing education and are vital to the school's future. When all of us in the BGS community work together, we can achieve astonishing results.

Robin Sharp departed BGS in January with some kind words: 'I will miss the OBs, and, of course, living in this glorious part of the UK. It has been a privilege to be a member of the BGS community. Our team looks forward to welcoming Anya Friis as our new Head of Development to lead the charge. Finally, I want to say thank you to all the Old Bradfordians who have made me feel so welcome at BGS. I know you will do the same for Anya.'

On behalf of everyone at BGS, I thank Robin for her dedication to the 1662 Campaign. I look forward to building on her success with a fantastic team and, undoubtedly, there are exciting times ahead. Hoc Age!



Anya Friis
Head of Development



CONTENTS

- 02 Welcome ... from the Acting President
- 03 Welcome ... from the Headmaster
- 06 Welcome ... from the Director of Development

NEWS IN BRIEF

- 10 Whiteknights Heroes
- 10 Congratulations Louis
- 11 BAFTA Nomination
- 11 Hockey News
- 12 Therapist funded in memory of OB Ella
- 13 Over 180 miles across Kenya
- 13 Pro cycling place
- 14 A lifetime of pottery
- 14 A ballet good book
- 15 Reaching for the stars
- 16 Royal charter restoration
- 17 Obi signs Sale Sharks contract
- 18 German honour for Adrian and wife

SCHOOL LIFE

- 20 My career's only just getting started
- 23 From the London Marathon to representing England
- 24 The Railway Man
- 25 Work continues on Junior School development

FEATURES

- 26 Ruby Hendry
- 32 BGS Set me Free
- 36 A Beacon of Hope and Light
in Bradford
- 38 The Society Named for the
Scholarship Boy's Friend
- 42 Memories of a Very
Different BGS

EVENTS

- 46 Sovereign Health Care
150th Anniversary
- 48 1940s and 1950s
Reunion Lunch
- 49 Old Bradfordians' Club
London Annual Dinner
- 50 Rugby Against
Colfe's School

REMEMBERING ...

- 52 Obituaries



NEWS
IN
BRIEF

Whiteknights Heroes

January 2023

The school welcomed OB Chris Parker (1979) back to school to talk about his charitable work biking blood and other vital medical supplies across Yorkshire to hospitals, hospices and patients' homes through the night.

Chris volunteers for a charity called the Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes following a long career in banking. A passionate biker, Whiteknights was a project he'd wanted to help for many years having seen first-hand the impact of moving urgent medical items outside of NHS transport staff's normal working hours.

"My daughter developed meningitis at the age of three months, and we nearly lost her," said Chris. "She became critical in the afternoon, and thankfully NHS staff and equipment were on hand immediately. If this had been during the night, however, the sample of spinal fluid may have needed to be transported to another hospital for analysis, which all takes time. Time that a child may not have in a critical situation."



Above: OB Chris Parker visits School

The Whiteknights was founded in 2008 and a biker is on call throughout every night, weekend and bank holiday. It means a personal commitment of between 48 and 60 hours across four days for a rider. The riders cover 70,000 miles a year delivering everything from breast milk for premature babies to plasma, drugs and tissue samples. All of which is transferred safely, securely and speedily to help save another life.

www.whiteknights.org.uk



Above: Louis d'Arcy

Congratulations Louis

February 2023

We congratulate Louis d'Arcy, OB and former Deputy Head at BGS who welcomed his third child, Louis Gerard Michel d'Arcy, on the 17 February in Huntingdon.

Louis is now Senior Deputy Head at Kimbolton School.

BAFTA Nomination

February 2023

A huge congratulations to OB Tom Bairstow (2004), founder of NorthHouse, whose team was nominated for the Television Craft/Entertainment Craft Team category.

The BAFTA nomination was for their work lighting up the palace as part of celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Above: Recognition for OB Tom Bairstow



Left: Freya Bellamy
in action

Hockey News

March 2023

Freya Bellamy, OB and former girls 1XI captain.

Freya represented Exeter University in the BUCS semi-final and beat Loughborough 1s 4-0. A superb achievement.



Therapist funded in memory of OB Ella

July 2023

A charity which was set up in memory of an Old Bradfordian has donated funds for a new complementary therapist role at one of the country's leading units for young people with cancer.

The Ella Dawson Foundation's donation will fully fund a Band 6 nurse trained in complementary therapy in a 12-month pilot scheme at The Christie hospital, in Manchester, a Principal Treatment Centre (PTC) for teenagers and young adults with cancer.

It is hoped the new role will help ease the often gruelling and highly medicalised journeys of the 270 young people who are treated at The Christie's bespoke teenage and young adult unit every year.

The foundation, based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was established in memory of Old Bradfordian Ella (2013), a young artist who was just 24 when she died in July 2021 following two years of treatment for an aggressive form of 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 during their treatment and for up to two years afterwards so they could live well and feel empowered.

Jane, of Huddersfield, said: "When you have cancer, your life is taken over by relentless, often invasive medical treatments. There's no question Ella's holistic way of living helped her greatly through two years of her cancer journey.

"She was passionate that holistic support should become part of the standard care pathway. Our hope is that, if this pilot is successful, we will look to permanently fund it and expand it to other hospitals."

Hanna Simpson, Teenage Cancer Trust lead nurse at The Christie, who helped care for Ella, said: "This role will become one of the most impactful services we have. The experience for our young people and their families will be incredible."

Above left: Hanna Simpson, Teenage Cancer Trust lead nurse at The Christie, with Ella's sister Natasha and her mum Jane, both trustees of the Ella Dawson Foundation, underneath Ella's work.

Above right: Ella, pictured, loved the outdoors, animals and nature.

Over 180 miles across Kenya

August 2023

The challenge was set by OB Greg Cox (2015) to complete seven marathons in seven days across Kenya to raise funds for the Mukuru Art Collective in Nairobi.

The collective is a charity which supports a group of artists from Mukuru and its surrounding area's ghettos.

The journey, which was almost 300 kilometres, took Greg from Eldoret in the Great Rift Valley to Nairobi in Kenya. Raising over £2,600 for the art collective, Greg has been running and fundraising to ensure its 30 artists are able to continue creating by paying their rent for the year.



Above:
Distance Runner, Greg Cox (white t-shirt)



Pro cycling place

Our congratulations go to Oliver Peace from Ilkley who, at the age of 18, has secured a place in a Dutch professional cycling team at UCI world team level.

From the age of 12 and training with the Bronte Tykes in Keighley, Oliver has developed into a top cyclist with sights firmly set on the UCI WorldTour.

On behalf of BGS, we wish Oliver all the best and look forward to following his success.

Above: Oliver Peace
(pictured in green).

A lifetime of pottery

August 2023

OB Jonathan Mallinson (1973) has written a book about the Staffordshire potter William Moorcroft.

Published by Open Book Publishers, *William Moorcroft, Potter: Individuality by Design*, examines Moorcroft's life and his artistic response to the political and economic turbulence of the early 20th century.

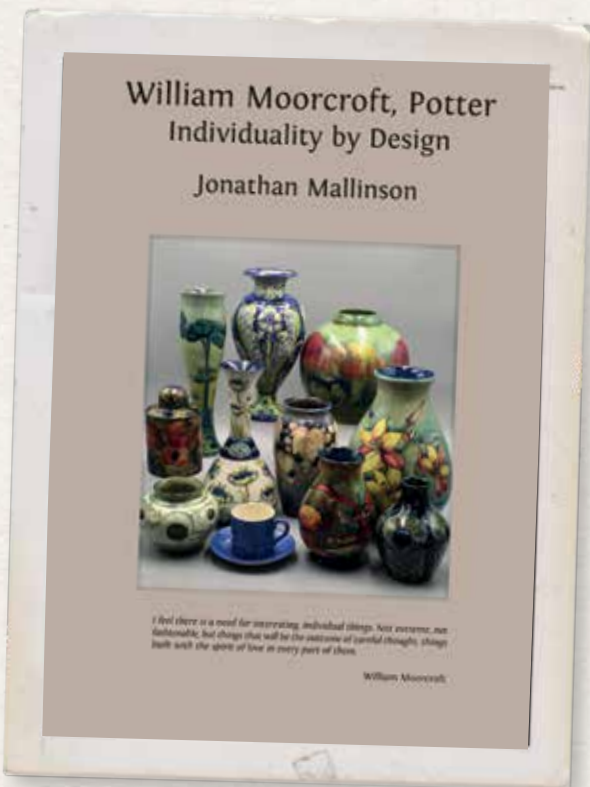
Jonathan first came upon William Moorcroft's pottery in an antique shop when he found a signed vase from 1916.

"I was immediately struck by its expressive character," said Jonathan. "The more I looked into his pottery and its reception, the more I could see why it was appreciated the world over. In its distinctive harmonies of form, ornament and colour, it conveyed what

contemporaries called a 'soulfulness', absent from the impersonal, mass-produced pottery of the time. This quality was evident in all he made, from museum pieces to the humblest functional objects."

Based on extensive research in the V&A and in a hitherto unexplored archive of William Moorcroft's personal papers, this book is the first comprehensive study of one of the most celebrated potters of his age. It is available to download for free at:

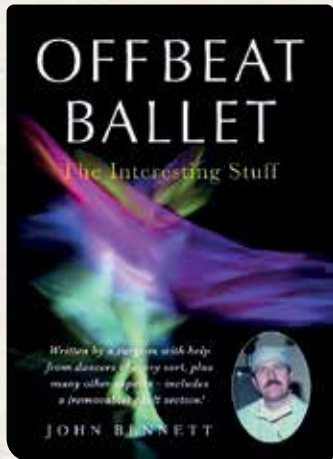
www.openbookpublishers.com/books/10.11647/obp.0349



Above: Individuality
By Design

A ballet good book

It's not every day you find out one of your Old Bradfordian journalists has a past that stops you in your tracks, however, John Bennett, who you may recognise as our Old Bradfordian Obituaries Editor, has also written a book.



His book, *Offbeat Ballet*, delves into classical and modern ballet plus other forms of dance, and the business and politics behind them. It looks at varied topics such as refreshments, clothing, fashion and even digs into ballet scandals and disasters. The book's strapline is 'The Interesting Stuff', which it certainly lives up to.

What's more, whilst writing his book, John was a qualified and practising surgeon. It really is a case of who knows where your career post BGS will take you?!

Offbeat Ballet is available to purchase on Amazon.

Above: Offbeat Ballet

Below: Clementine Hall
at the Cow and Calf
Rocks, Ilkley.



Reaching for the stars

August 2023

Clementine Hall (2017) met her childhood idols and pop group S Club 7 recently whilst writing in her role as a journalist for digital publication, The Manc.

The meeting was one of many career highlights in a year packed full of adventures that have taken her across the North to report on all things from lifestyle and fashion to the arts, food and drink.

"It's been a wonderful year where I've been able to write and present on such a variety of subjects. Meeting S Club 7 was a definite 'pinch me' moment," said Clementine.

Her journalism journey started post-graduation from the University of Bristol, where Clementine studied English Literature and Theatre. Moving back to the North, she secured a role at The Hoot, a digital news service promoting Leeds and all that happens within it.

Having a strong affiliation with the performing arts, Clementine regularly reviews theatre productions as well as restaurants in Yorkshire and loves to promote up-and-coming talent from the area. She believes her time at BGS shaped her career pathway as well as bringing out some critical skills.

"At Bradford Grammar I spent most of my time in the drama department and this gave me the confidence to be where I am today," she said.

Clementine recently moved to Manchester and is looking forward to working for The Manc, but will ensure she keeps her ties to her home city!

You can keep up to date with Clementine's work by following The Hoot and The Manc on Instagram and Facebook.

IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL YEAR
WHERE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO
WRITE AND PRESENT ON SUCH
A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS

Royal charter restoration

November 2023

In January 2020, The Old Bradfordians' Club (London) was delighted to be asked by the then Development Director, Lindsey Davis, to fund and arrange the restoration of the original school charter, granted by King Charles II in October 1662, and to fund a reproduction of it and of the seal for more public display.

Following a delay to the start of the project caused by Covid lockdown restrictions, an initial on-site examination in July 2021 by a professional conservator established that the charter, displayed in the DH Room in a mid-1950s purpose-built oak case, had been inscribed on vellum (i.e. animal skin), and confirmed its antiquity and provenance. Amazingly, the conservator also discovered a second page, hidden behind the main one, which would have originally been attached, rolled up, to the bottom edge of the main one, and held in place by silk ribbons, from which the seal would have been suspended. The little of the original seal that remained had been held together by beeswax, possibly since the early 19th century.

During restoration work at the conservator's North Yorkshire workshop, decades, if not, centuries of accumulated dust and dirt were removed from the vellum.

Sadly, nothing could be done safely to remove staining caused by water damage, or natural distortions to the vellum caused by changes in humidity. A digitised photographic copy was made at the North Yorkshire Archive Service in Northallerton, which was then used to etch a reproduction on specialist paper. Also, a reproduction of the original wax seal was made using a copy of the original 17th century die.

The original charter and seal have been remounted in the oak case, with the addition of special internal features to provide a stable atmosphere. The reproduction charter and seal are displayed in an original mid-17th century configuration and mounted in a modern case, located under the Head Prefects' Name Board outside The Price Hall. This accessible and visible location allows pupils, staff, parents and visitors to appreciate daily the iconic symbol of the school's long history.



Above: The reproduction Charter
in the Price Hall

Above left: The original Charter

Right: Sale Sharks
rugby player OB Obi Ene

Obi signs Sale Sharks contract

December 2023

Yorkshire Rugby Academy graduate and OB (2021), Obi Ene, has had a fantastic year after signing a contract with the Sale Sharks Rugby Union team. Obi joined the team at the beginning of July and made his professional debut at the start of September.



**I'M DELIGHTED FOR OBI
AND THE PROFESSIONAL
OPPORTUNITY SALE SHARKS
HAS PROVIDED.
HE IS A GIFTED ATHLETE
AND HAS WORKED VERY
HARD ON HIS GAME**



"My Sale Sharks experience has been transformative to say the least," said Obi. "The journey has been unforgettable and I'm glad I've been able to earn a contract from it."

Obi said that training with international players and receiving high quality coaching had led to vast improvements in his ability. The culture and environment were 'unparalleled'.

"The support I received from fans was inspiring and it felt surreal to see so many kids excited for me to sign their shirts and autograph books," he added. "I look forward to the next couple of years at the club where I can look forward to becoming an established Premiership player."

Dan Scarbrough, Specialist Sports Coach, Rugby, said: "I'm delighted for Obi and the professional opportunity Sale Sharks has provided. Obi is a very gifted athlete and has worked very hard on his game since leaving Bradford Grammar.

"The three-year contract is a superb testament to his ability and efforts and it's great that Sale are very understanding in allowing him to balance his degree alongside the beginning of a potential rugby career. We look forward to watching him from the terraces in future matches at the AJ Bell stadium!"



Above:
The newspaper article
featuring Adrian and Ilka.

German honour for Adrian and wife

December 2023

An Old Bradfordian and his wife have been honoured by the German government for their services to local history and villages in the country.

Adrian Greenwood (1966) and his wife, Ilka, were both awarded a Bundesverdienstkreuz, the German equivalent of the OBE/MBE, for their work on the preservation of 93 small villages, in a special ceremony on 15 December.

Adrian wrote:

“As one of Dr Krips’s less able students, he would have been proud of what I have managed to do with my life. He instilled in me and hundreds of others a pan-European view of the world, which led me to doing a year’s voluntary service in 1966 in a disabled children’s home in Southern Germany, where I learnt fluency. That led, via more voluntary service in Ethiopia, to a career in social services in the UK, mainly in the South East, and culminated in the decision to take up a job running an international conference centre in the Harz mountains, upon early retirement at age 50.

Years later, I’m still living happily in Germany, with a second German wife, now in full retirement. Brexit forced me to take German nationality, so as not to lose my European citizenship.

My wife, Ilka, and I run a voluntary organisation called the Rundlingsverein, which is dedicated to preserving a medieval form of settlement, tiny circular villages called Rundlinge, the last 93 of which are only to be found in a pocket of rural Northern Germany called the Wendland. We live in one such village, called Jameln, which consists of 13 houses in a circle around a village green.

The Rundlingsverein has had several notable awards during our time in charge. In 2015, we won the Grand Prix of Europa Nostra and this year we were awarded the highest decoration for preservation of heritage in Germany, an award given under Covid restrictions in Berlin. We were one of five organisations thus honoured.

The ceremony for the Bundesverdienstkreuz went very well. We had more than 40 invited guests, all local people to whom we wanted to convey our thanks over the last 12 years. The event was duly written up in the local newspaper, very competently under the title "warmherzig und engagiert" (warm hearted and engaged).

We were inundated with good wishes and felt really good about the recognition we, and our campaign for the preservation of these villages, received.

But there is still a great deal to do. The Rundlinge are surprisingly unknown to most Germans and the villages are disappearing at a rate of one per five years. Wendland 200 years ago had 206 such villages! Most of our work is awareness raising, which you can see by our website www.rundling.de."



Below: Adrian and his wife with their awards



“

AS ONE OF DR KRIPS'S LESS ABLE STUDENTS, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD OF WHAT I HAVE MANAGED TO DO WITH MY LIFE ... WE WERE INUNDATED WITH GOOD WISHES AND FELT REALLY GOOD ABOUT THE RECOGNITION WE, AND OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THESE VILLAGES

”

SCHOOL LIFE

My career's only just getting started

July 2023

Team GB athlete, Emile Cairess, returned to BGS as a speaker at the Junior School Prize Giving ceremony. From training sessions around the Governor's lawn as a boy, to beating Sir Mo Farah in the London Marathon, he explains why not overthinking things has been central to his success.

An excited crowd of Year 2 pupils and staff have gathered outside of the Junior School waiting for their special guest. Suddenly, after a "Look children!" from headmaster Richard Ribeiro, they spot him. Running alongside the Governor's lawn towards them in his red Team GB tracksuit is Emile Cairess (2016), currently the fastest man in Britain over 10 miles and, importantly, the key speaker at their prize giving. "E-meeeeel, E-meeeeel," the Year 2s chant.

Their cheers can almost be heard from Canal Road.

As he approaches, apologising for a being a few minutes late, a young pretender steps forward. "Excuse me," he asks. "Can we have a race?" "Why not," their guest of honour replies, smiling warmly. While he's comfortable with this young audience, public speaking does not come easily to Emile, who is now a professional athlete.



Right: Emile put BGS pupils through their paces

"It's quite nerve wracking and speaking in public is not something I'm used to," he admits ahead of his speech. "I'm very honoured to be asked to do it. It wasn't so long ago I was sitting in the Junior School Prize Giving ceremony myself, so it's lovely to be back."

Emile, 25, was in the very first cohort for Year 2 when he joined the Junior School. He later tells pupils he took advantage of every opportunity given to him and he followed his passions – as should they. "BGS has been fundamental to my growth," he says. "It gave me a fantastic opportunity to explore different sports. At a young age it's important to explore different avenues, to let things develop naturally and see where they take you."

Emile started running at the age of four with his mum, Alison, around the streets of his native Saltaire. "It's always just been me and mum," he recalls. "We're really close which is nice, and she still runs around the streets of Saltaire now!"

Emile competed in his first cross country race for school at Ilkley and went on to compete regularly for the school and for his club, the Bingley Harriers, from Year 8. While in the Junior School, he recalls Mr Reddish running twice weekly training sessions around the Governor's lawn – his first taste of formal training and interval sessions. In later years, he would run out with Mr McCartney and others.

His competitive running improved gradually, from a silver medal at the English Schools Athletics Championships at 3,000 metres on the track, to his first Team GB vest aged 20 in the U23 European Cross Country Championships, where he came eighth.

After leaving BGS in 2016, Emile took up a place at St Mary's College, London, to study Sports Science and continued to juggle his studies and training until January 2020, six months after he graduated, when he became a full-time athlete. After gaining a bronze medal in the 10,000 metres in the European U23 Championships, he signed a sponsorship contract with sports brand Adidas. But while his career seemed to be heading for the stars, 2020 didn't pan out quite as he'd hoped.

"One of the biggest challenges to overcome is when you don't succeed in a race or you perform poorly," he says. "I didn't have the best year in 2020. I was adjusting to being a professional athlete and I overdid it with my training in the beginning of the year. I got persistent fatigue, and it took me a while to recover. I've always had periods of time when my performance hasn't been as I'd hoped, but it's about not giving up and being persistent."

It's a sentiment he delivers in his speech at the Prize Giving to his young audience – follow your passions and don't give up. Good advice. His quiet dedication to the sport is paying dividends.

"It's all just snowballed really," he says with characteristic humbleness. "I've always been ambitious, but I've never wanted to look too far ahead. I've always tried to achieve the next thing and focus on that rather than dreaming about something ten steps ahead. It's a Yorkshire attitude I guess."

This attitude means he holds the British records for 10 miles and 10k and has recorded the third fastest marathon time ever for a British male. Another highlight was in April this year, overtaking Sir Mo Farah on his way to achieving the first British man home accolade in the London Marathon.

Emile finished sixth overall in a time of 2:08:07. "I thought the pace he set off was quite ambitious," he says. "I just treated him like the other competitors, and I wanted to beat him like I did everyone else. Because he's a big celebrity it seemed more significant to the general public than it did to me at the time."

Emile's current marathon best means he's qualified for the race in the Paris Olympics and is, so far, the only British athlete to run under the qualifying time. His progression to marathons in his long-distance journey is natural, he says. "I've always been good at long distances. Running is a sport where you come into your prime in your early 30s – especially at marathon distance. It takes a long time to build up the endurance so it's a good time for me to start learning the event. I feel very much like I'm at the beginning of my career."

Today, Emile trains on average twice per day, running approximately 120 miles per week with two strength sessions in the gym. Breakfast is Greek yoghurt, granola and grapes with green tea and, as 2020 showed him, he knows it's important to rest in between training sessions. "I think the main thing is that I love running which you need to have because the training is so difficult," he says. "It's impossible to train such a lot without loving it. There are days when you just need discipline because you're not always motivated."

Returning to BGS as a speaker at the Junior School Prize Giving is an honour, he says. Securing an assisted place meant Emile could stay at BGS and he's still grateful for the opportunities the school has given him. "I was privileged to be able to come to BGS – it's a supportive environment and they encourage your passions."

Below: Emile pictured at the Junior School prize-giving in July



They helped in any way they could. I have great memories from my time at BGS and I couldn't have asked for a better experience. I'm still really close to my friends from school."

The public speaking, however, is something he's still getting used to. His speech went down incredibly well among his young audience, and they were clearly delighted to have met such a prestigious athlete. "I had to do a press conference with Sir Mo Farah to promote the London Marathon. It was quite nerve wracking – there were around 100 journalists there," he says. "Most of the questions were directed at Mo and I just sat back and soaked it in. It's definitely a learning curve, but it's something I'll have to embrace as time goes on."

He certainly will, particularly as he gears up for the Olympics.

"It's like with running," he says. "You just have to try not to overthink it – just do it and be in the moment. You can talk yourself out of things if you think about it too much."

“

**I'M VERY
HONOURD TO
BE ASKED ...
IT WASN'T SO
LONG AGO I WAS
SITTING IN THE
JUNIOR SCHOOL
PRIZE GIVING
CEREMONY
MYSELF, SO IT'S
LOVELY TO BE
BACK**

”



Left: Sarah at Chester proudly wearing her England vest

From the London Marathon to representing England

November 2023

By Sarah Flaherty, Head of Year 12

I run regularly and enjoy taking part in local races, both on the road and also fell and trail races in the beautiful hills that surround us.

In 2022, my Ilkley Half Marathon time was fast enough to give me the opportunity to run the London Marathon with championship entry. This means you do not have to enter the ballot but get an automatic place starting at the front, just behind the elite runners. It seemed like an opportunity that I could not miss.

The autumn timing meant I had the summer to do my long runs and I enjoyed the training. I bought some new shoes, invested in gels and electrolytes and listened to every marathon podcast going. 1 October was BGS Open Day and so I had the bonus of carb-loading on PA cake; it was also a train strike day, so I got to enjoy a National Express coach journey down to London!

The experience of the race itself was absolutely amazing, the support and noise is unbelievable. I had been a spectator before but until you run it you can't explain the atmosphere and the emotional journey. I managed to finish it in two hours and 57 minutes.

Finishing in under three hours felt like a huge achievement and qualified me to run it again in April 2023. Always up for a challenge, and wondering if my time was a one off or if I could actually repeat it, I raced again. I was nervous about not being able to run under three hours again and started way too fast; the last few km I was just hanging on in there, a true test of my Yorkshire grit and the resilience that I am always preaching to Year 12! However, it was worth it as I improved my time to two hours and 52 minutes.

One of the proudest moments of my life was when, off the back of this result, I then got an invitation to run for England in the Female Vet 45 category at Chester Marathon in October 2023. I finished 10th woman and first FV45 and now have my very own England vest.

Having promised my family that the London Marathon was a one off in 2022, I have just entered both London and Berlin for next year. Hoc Age!

The Railway Man

When not supporting BGS staff as an IT Network Technician, Ryan Hills can be found firing up the steam engines at one of Yorkshire's most famous railways – including that of the Flying Scotsman.

"I started at the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway in 2016 for the volunteering part of my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Some of my friends from Scouts were there and said it's a great place to be. I used to go to the railway as a child with mum – who also works at BGS - and dad for day trips out as I could see the line from my bedroom window. I think it played a big part of growing up and I had Thomas the Tank Engine and Hornby train sets!

I started my volunteering at weekends in stations working with the foreman (person in charge of the station for the day) as a Platform Assistant. It involved helping to get trains away on time, selling tickets to customers and keeping the station tidy. I also helped in catering, making food for train parties such as cream teas, Haworth Haddocks, birthday parties and weddings.

When I completed my D of E award, I continued volunteering at the railway. From the age of 16 I trained for various roles, including a guard, which involved preparing coaches, shunting with wagons and various rolling stock, performing checks before signalling that the train was ready to depart to the driver and looking after passengers' safety. Subsequently I also got my qualification as a Station Foreman.

At the age of 18, I joined the Locomotive Department to become a cleaner within Haworth Yard. That role included cleaning different locomotives, learning about the different styles of boilers, different valve gear and identifying problems and faults.

Next, I wanted to be a Fireman and learnt to fire all the different locomotives, how to manage the water level in the boiler, and how to be economical and not waste steam. Keeping the locomotive clean and tidy throughout the day is also important - it's your office and you can't work in a mess!

I love the engineering aspect of how steam can push all the innerworkings of the valve gear to rotate the wheels and how they connect so it can all operate smoothly. The speed the rods are moving between the frames could be lethal if it came apart. I think adrenaline and the risks play a part in why I love it. You're on what is known as a "bomb on wheels" – any wrong moves and it can all go downhill very quickly. There's the fact you stand on the footplate staring at the back head of the boiler with no protection. There's a lot of responsibility as a Fireman.

I finally qualified as a Fireman in January 2023 which allowed me to go out firing without a trainer. I've been out on many different locomotives, both steam and diesel, and I've also had the chance to drive as part of qualifying. To drive is a lot of responsibility when you are in control of a train full of passengers and having to concentrate on what your fireman is doing, making sure they have enough steam pressure and water in the boiler, whether signals are green or red and managing the stopping distance for platforms (without overshooting or undershooting). You must not be too harsh with accelerating and braking or it can be uncomfortable for passengers and risk spilling their drinks! On my first go I was nervous, but you soon get the hang of it as you go up the line.

One of the highlights was when the Flying Scotsman visited the railway earlier this year. I got to fire it from Haworth to Ingrow West and back to Haworth for an event. I already knew some of the team that came with the Flying Scotsman. I formed a good relationship with them after I gave a talk to 300 local Scouts, about the working of it and its history.

The driver takes full responsibility over the whole engine. The teamwork is amazing to get engines prepared and ready for the day. It involves cleaning, equipping, fault-finding and testing all mechanical workings, ensuring the locomotive is safe.



Right: Ryan Hills volunteers with the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway



Left: Children at Clock House have been very excited to watch the building progress throughout the year

Below: Work is continuing on the Early Years building ready for its new pupils in September 2024

Work continues on Junior School development

December 2023

The BGS campus continues to evolve, and pupils, staff and parents have enjoyed observing the new purpose-built Reception and Year 1 facility taking shape since the ground was broken during the summer holidays.

As a team, we also overhaul locomotives every 10 years, taking apart, inspecting, and replacing old worn-out parts with new. Re-building the locomotive can be challenging but good fun, everyone pulls together to keep the railway and its engines running. It amazes me that so many do this all for free with a range of ages from 13-80. There are roughly 650 people working and volunteering at the railway, so it's a big organisation!

I don't think I would have made it as far as I have if it wasn't for the support of friends and family encouraging me to continue. My neighbour Ian, whose nickname is 'Budgie' on the railway, helped me get started as he was a steam driver and civil engineer. He sadly passed away in 2021 and it made me even more determined to follow in his footsteps and achieve my firing ticket. When I started, I only thought I would be there for the duration of the volunteering for D of E, but 8 years later, the family-like friends and atmosphere keep me there."

Bradford-based Bermar Building are delivering the project, and we're delighted that the stone, which will secure the building for years to come, has been sourced locally from a quarry in Guiseley.

The fantastic new Early Years building will be ready for September 2024 and will be complemented by the development of the surrounding grounds and woodland to provide additional opportunities for outdoor learning and creative and imaginative play.

Read more and take a virtual reality tour:

www.bradfordgrammar.com/junior-school-development/



FEATURES

July 2023

Ruby Hendry (2017) has had a lifelong love of music and performance, which was fostered during her time at BGS. Upon leaving School, she took up a place at the Royal Northern College of Music and following graduation, Ruby returned to BGS for two years as a Graduate Music Assistant. She reflects on this time and talks to Headmaster Simon Hinchliffe about supporting the next generation of musicians and her own plans for a musical future.

Simon Hinchliffe: So, Ruby, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for our Old Bradfordian magazine. You're a special person at BGS, one of our former students who's also taught at the school, and we're looking forward to hearing what you might say.

Ruby Hendry: Thank you.

SH: Please tell us a little bit about your first few steps into the BGS metaverse?

RH: So, my parents never intended to send me to private school. I was going to go to a state secondary school where nearly all of my family went. However, my singing teacher at the time, when I was about 10, worked at BGS. James Griffett worked in the music department for years and years, and he said to my parents, 'Oh you should look at sending Ruby to BGS'. And my dad, being a kind of working-class lad, you know him, Simon, a natural born Yorkshireman, said 'Nah, we're not gonna send her to private school, we're gonna send her to X instead'. But my mum said, 'Oh, well, let's just have a look. Let's just see'. Ever the diplomat my mum. We came to an open day and were shown around by a girl called Annabel, who actually ended up being one of my friends. Immediately, the overall impression we got was of a kind and caring school. I remember Annabel asking, 'Do you want to sign up for the entrance exam?' and immediately we were like, yes, let's do it! And the rest is history. I passed and came to BGS with the help of an Assisted Place for which I'm very grateful. BGS changed my life.

“

I've loved reconnecting
with BGS and giving back

”



SH: I remember chatting to your dad about fishing competitions on the banks of the canal at Thorne near Doncaster. I always enjoyed 'South Yorkshire chats' with your dad and I'm grateful he came onside.

RH: He still goes to Doncaster. Every weekend.

SH: Good lad, I think! So, what was it like becoming part of Bradford Grammar - private - School, because you and I have similar family backgrounds and it can be an ideological leap for some. How did that go for you?

RH: BGS never felt like what you might expect from a 'private school'. I just arrived, settled in. I made friends, had a really lovely form tutor in Year 7 in the shape of Mr Lines - we got on very well. Obviously, the building is very grand, but I just felt that I was at a great school, and I became part of it very naturally.

SH: And during your journey through BGS, you gave much back, and still do, so kindly talk us through one or two highlights for you.

RH: Oh, that's a good question.

There's a lot to go at. Concerts, performances with choir or solos, anything within music really. When I played Sandy in Grease in Year 12 - that was big for me. Getting an A* in my Physics GCSE was a huge highlight. I really struggled in all my sciences actually, and in Maths as well. But Mr Boardman helped me get that A* and he still talks about it now.

He actually showed some people around BGS the other day, and he said in my presence, 'Oh, Ruby's really good at Physics'. I wish that was true. I didn't always enjoy it but just knuckled down, cracked on and did really well. That's something I still think about now and I still say to the kids, 'oh, it's fine if you don't like something, just keep at it, you can do it'.

SH: If BGS helped to foster one quality in you above all else, what might that be?

RH: Determination. Determination to succeed, or if you don't succeed to be able to say you tried your best. I think BGS taught me how to apply myself - to stick with it.





SH: What did you do after BGS?

RH: I left in 2017 and went straight to the Royal Northern College of Music. I studied hard and achieved a Bachelor of Music Degree, First Class. My course had a significant element of performance, and my final recital was worth 60 per cent of my final grade. I had a great four years there and absolutely loved Manchester. It's an amazing city. It was important for me to stay northern, especially with classical music in the North needing to be sustained. This is a passion of mine. I graduated from there in 2021 in the middle of Covid, which wasn't ideal. But you know, bad things happen, you get on with it, and now I'm back here at BGS.

SH: And what's that been like? Because you've now seen BGS from different perspectives and those people who once taught you, you now teach with - they've gone from being teachers to being peers and friends. Talk us through all of that. Has it been a bit weird, or not?

RH: The first week was a little bit strange. Miss White became Liz, Mr McOwen became Ross. But I got stuck in, got involved. Perhaps what strikes me most, is the teachers I got on with the most when I was in Sixth Form, my A Level teachers, these are the ones who are friends now, which I think is really nice. But to be honest, at BGS, by the time

you get to the end of Year 13 and you are an adult, or you think you are, friendly relationships with teachers come naturally anyway, so it was kind of easy, automatic perhaps, in that sense. I feel very privileged to have seen the school, both from a pupil's and colleague's perspective.

SH: Any surprises?

RH: I don't think so. You get what you see at BGS, it's a very transparent sort of place, including the relationships between staff. Nothing is hidden, that's my view. So no, I think it feels very similar to how it always felt, and I enjoy the kind of relationships with the students that I had with my teachers. It's a little different possibly because I'm not that much older than them. Maybe I can relate more easily to what they're going through from my perspective, having done exactly what they did not that long ago. When they say to me, 'Miss, I'm really nervous' or 'I don't think I want to do it', I can tell them from my own recent experience, how it's going to be'. But also encourage the use of some techniques I've learned through my own training.

SH: Please tell us a little bit about that, because our students, who will be reading this article, irrespective of their interests and exams, could benefit from your advice.



RH: I've talked a lot about performance anxiety with the current students. Some performers in Year 12 and 13 confided in me they get really nervous before they sing. 'Do you have any advice?' they asked. I said, 'right, leave it with me, I'll meet up with you next week' and I got on the phone to all my uni friends. Obviously, they're all singers. Yeah, some of them are now undertaking further study, some of them are teaching. And I said 'right, guys, what do you do?'. Because I know what I do, but everyone's different and it's important to find what works for you. So, I got this big list together and said to our BGS students, 'look, you don't have to do all of these, because some of them might seem really weird, but this is kind of what I and others do'.

Much hinges on taking a really big, deep breath and getting present in the moment. Don't start anything until you're ready. Get yourself settled. I think that's one of the most important messages.

SH: While you're in the mode of providing wisdom, what advice would you give to any students who you know have a talent that they're seeking to develop, perhaps looking at music, a potential application to a conservatoire, a professional career in the performing arts ...

RH: Obviously, work hard! You can't achieve anything meaningful without working hard. I also think it's important never to lose sight of why you do something. If you can get into that kind of deep reasoning behind why you love something and give 100 per cent to the things you love, then you can discover your purpose and hard work never feels like a chore - well almost never.

SH: That's great advice for our young people, thank you. Find your love, your purpose and then give it 100 per cent. Changing tack, what guidance would you give to an alumnus who has not connected with the school for a while and is thinking about rekindling a connection with BGS?

RH: I always think about how much I loved being here and how much the school did for me and still does, but differently to when I was a student. I've loved reconnecting with BGS and it's been a pleasure, a privilege to be able to put something back into the school. It's important to never forget where you come from or the people who helped you on the way up.

SH: And if you could recommend one particular BGS concert or performance or service to attend what would it be?

RH: Probably the Nine Lessons and Carols Service at Bradford Cathedral which is particularly moving and poignant. That's my favourite. Music at Christmas is just so special.





SH: Everything you are saying, speaks of the good health of music at BGS. We are, of course, in a fortunate, privileged position, but also work very hard to keep our music in fine fettle. But we also know it's a steep challenge elsewhere. We do what we can at BGS to share our resources, our talents and our time with others for the wider public good. But, at the moment, it's never enough. What is your reflection on the state of music education, arts education in UK schools generally and what do you think needs to happen to address some of the issues we are all too aware of?

RH: To be honest, I don't know what the solution is. I know teachers value the arts and creativity in their schools. My passion is classical music, but it can be seen to be elitist, particularly opera, which is my realm. Classical music though thrives here, at BGS. Elsewhere in schools like Wells and Eton they've got amazing classical music. They've got amazing choirs and orchestras, as have many state schools throughout the UK. But it's easy to fuel the elitist narrative surrounding classical music. To rebalance the scales, I think we need to look at the pre-school stage of education, foster an early interest and then dedicate the funds to provide instruments and tuition to those who their interest further. That said, I recognise the obvious challenges particularly financial and also cultural in homes and schools where music isn't such an important factor.

It's also a government thing. The arts nationally are being destroyed by cuts. I don't want to make a political point, but current policy seems to be about bringing classical music to the North, and I love that, but not by virtue of taking it away from other areas of the UK. This method of re-cutting the same cake puts people's jobs, people's livelihoods at risk. And I don't like the seemingly implicit notion that all of the North is a desert in need of cultural startups. We've got Manchester Camerata, Opera North, The Hallé etc. These and other things, including at grassroots, are amazing organisations. We don't need to create brand new operations but rather foster the conditions to pool and share resources. BGS, working in tandem with Opera North, something I know we are exploring, could be a vehicle for bringing classical music to a wider cross section of young people. I'm excited about such things, but the Government needs to protect the existing fertile ground for partnerships to work, whilst not doing harm to our cultural capital which is London.

SH: One final question, what's next for Ruby Hendry?



Classical music though thrives here, at BGS



RH: I'm moving back to Manchester to do my master's degree in music back at the Royal Northern, but specialising in vocal studies and opera. Two years in Manchester. I'm really looking forward to it and then who knows. It's okay to not know what's next, as long as you're enjoying the journey.

SH: So, let's imagine that Ruby is now a long-lived OB sitting at home at Christmas, slippers on, sweet sherry nightcap after an evening at the BGS Nine Lessons and Carols service, a crinkly Dr Hinchliffe, still alive remarkably, pickled in Christmas whisky most likely, wheeled in and out by his nurse (!) and you look back at your life. What have you achieved?

RH: I'd like to be in a situation where I can make a difference.

I'd also like to make the majority of my living from performing, in whatever sense that might be. I would love to be on stage in some description singing. But ultimately, I understand success is multifaceted and what you want from life changes all the time, especially as you get older. As long as I can look back and feel fulfilled and happy with how most of life has worked out, that will be enough for me.

SH: Ruby it's been fantastic to speak with you. Thank you very much for your time, advice and candour.

RH: Thank you for listening.



September 2023

“
BGS SET
ME FREE
”



Former scholarship boy, Mark Learmonth, may have hated studying accountancy, but it was his BGS-instilled ‘get on and do’ spirit which got him through his exams. After a spell in banking, he went on to strike gold, literally, in Zimbabwe. Now a major donor, he tells headmaster Simon Hinchliffe why philanthropy is so important to him.



SH: It's a pleasure to meet you. Thank you for your time. I wonder if we might start with a pen profile of Mark Learmonth?

ML: I was a scholarship boy at BGS. I got in at 11 and was there in the late 70s early 80s. BGS was nothing like the school it is now. I mean, I've been to BGS recently and it's a sunny, happy, lovely place, although I can see people still work hard. In my day it could be a little bit grim and spartan – 1,100 boys rattling around. But you know, I got a huge amount out of it.

SH: What did you get?

ML: I got a fantastic academic education. BGS set me free. It's all about choices and opportunities which you can either take or not take. I also got a really good sense of how to organise myself. BGS set me in good stead for the rest of my working life - you know, compartmentalising some serious work interspersed with bouts of quite intense exercise - that was BGS. I don't think I'd have got that somewhere else.

SH: Who do you remember at BGS?

ML: I remember some teachers. You forget the headmasters because they're completely irrelevant... [laughter]...

SH: Well, we tend to be shy and retiring types, so yeah...

ML: I remember some very gifted teachers, Paul Shaw, who went off to become a Catholic priest, to the Vatican, I think.

He taught English and was inspirational. There were some incredible history teachers. And then some teachers who were just... clearly bonkers!

SH: You said 'BGS set you free'. What does that mean to you?

ML: I couldn't have achieved what I've achieved without a BGS education, not coming from my background. And that's why it's so important to try and provide opportunities like I had to other people.

SH: And you had that opportunity as a 'scholarship boy'.

ML: Yes, paid for by the local authority. My parents could never have afforded to send me. But I got in.

SH: Money well spent to my mind, Mark. So, you and I might share an understanding and vision about education and recognise its liberating and elevating effect?

ML: Yes and no. I mean, from my perspective I don't forget I work in Africa. I run a gold mining business in Zimbabwe. I see people who are mainly white who've benefited from a good education. I see how they thrive. I see others, who are typically, but not exclusively, black, who haven't had that education and they end up being restricted to such a narrow range of jobs with very little potential to better themselves. The difference comes down to education.

SH: Is it that stark understanding of inequality that motivates your philanthropy and which rekindled your relationship with BGS?

ML: Well, I briefly visited BGS, probably in the noughties. Nothing came of it. But, as you know, Simon, you more recently reached out to me directly. That's why I'm here. It strikes me that BGS has historically been backwards about coming forwards, at least that's my experience. I was delighted to be contacted. I remain delighted to offer what I can and to try and make a difference in a small way.

SH: We, BGS, are now making greater efforts to foster even better relationships with existing benefactors and to actively seek new ones to fund means tested Assisted Places. We're investing in development work, growing and professionalising the operation, but keeping it warm and honest. In recent times, I've been able to put more of my diary into this activity.

ML: I think Yorkshire people are quite transactional about this – it's cultural. But people are happy to be reached out to.

SH: Why do you give to Bradford Grammar School, and...?

ML: ... [Mark interrupts] ... well, I'm not gonna give my money to Leeds Grammar am I? ... [more laughter] ...





SH: Ok, fair point. However, it's all very well saying I went there so I'm going to give back; behind that, BGS has earned your trust, enough for our school to be a philanthropic priority for you.

ML: I do trust the school. I trust you, Simon. And philanthropy can make a big difference at BGS given where it is. I could look to support projects somewhere leafier. But money will make a bigger difference in a place like Bradford.

I went to Oxford after BGS and had a lovely time. BGS sets you up, but some people arrive there and struggle. So, I also support Lady Margaret Hall because they've pioneered a scheme to deliberately offer places to students who come from challenged backgrounds, who struggle to go straight into university, and they give them a year before they start their formal undergraduate course to prepare. It's been incredibly successful.

After Oxford I trained as an accountant and oh, I hated just about every single minute of it. And that's where the skills and outlook I picked up at BGS really paid dividends. I didn't enjoy all my subjects at school, I didn't like physics or French. But you have to knuckle down, organise yourself and do it. BGS taught me that. It got me through my accountancy exams, and if you fail those you lose your job. BGS gives you an ability to get on with it, get things done. It is a useful skill.

I left accountancy and went into banking. I thought I was going to retire in 2008 with some money. Then the crash came and I joined a small mining business.

We spent \$100 million drilling holes in Zambia looking for Cobalt. We didn't find any! So, we sold that business for one dollar... [laughter]. It wasn't a resounding success! But we'd also bought a tiny little gold mine in Zimbabwe for \$4 million. And, as everything else fell away, we noticed this little gold mine was an absolute, well ... gold mine! Since 2000, we've turned it around and made a huge success of it, employing 2,000 workers. It now makes, give or take, a million dollars a week and is one of the lowest cost producers anywhere. And we've got a trajectory to quadruple the size of the business, which will hopefully make money for me, which I'm happy to share with BGS.

It will also allow us to offer life changing opportunities to more Zimbabweans who deserve better in terms of jobs. And some of these jobs are manual jobs underground, and they're hard and they're difficult and dirty, but it's a job. In Zimbabwe, 95 per cent of people don't have a job, and when you do have a proper job, you know, you've got everything. We're also investing in the community.



Education is for me the best and
most efficient way to make long term
changes to improve people's lives



I also support some Malawian students who are studying in South Africa. I do that personally. Education is for me the best and most efficient way to make long term changes to improve people's lives.

SH: What you say is compelling. Has your social conscience always been this strong?

ML: It's grown as I've become more well off. I've now got greater capacity to do something. I've had more time to see the benefits of education and the disbenefits for people who just, through no fault of their own, have fallen through the cracks and are pretty much stuck in a cycle of limited or no opportunity.

SH: Your conviction is powerful.

ML: There's one other aspect which is quite dark. I'll try and keep it light. No, I don't think I can. I used to have three children. I've now only got two. They had every benefit I could possibly give them. One got into drugs. They ended up dying of an overdose. I'd like to try and give the advantages that my children certainly had to others. Clearly, I can't give everything to everybody. But that doesn't mean what you do, what any of us do to improve the lives of others, is insignificant.

SH: Thank you for sharing that with me. I am so sorry for your loss...
[Mark interrupts] ...

ML: ... I took the wind out of your sails, didn't I?

SH: Yes... you have [pause]. It's clear that your intention is to keep giving to make an even greater impact.

ML: My motives for doing so are strong. I distrust all governments, not just the British government and African governments. I think it's down to individuals to make choices about what to do with their money. And the individual can make a big difference. I trust BGS to direct my money to good causes. And I certainly don't interfere.

SH: Trust goes two ways. You do make a difference. A benefactor's relationship with a school like BGS, a connection with young people like our students, can have many direct and indirect benefits.

[pause]

ML: Understood. Time for a photo?

SH: I think so. And maybe that pint of Landlord our host, James kindly offered. Grateful thanks, Mark, for your time and candour today, and for your ongoing commitment to the young people at BGS.

ML: You're welcome, Simon.





October 2023

Old Bradfordian Kasim Tariq talks about empowering impoverished communities in Bradford through design and art.

Back in 2020, when the pandemic was in full swing, an idea was developing in the mind of Old Bradfordian Kasim Tariq (2010). It was a vision to bring together a studio and workshop that would harness the creative skills of designers and artists, locally and internationally, spanning the breadth of the profession.

And so it began and the social enterprise, Fayakunu, was born. Everyone from stone masons, potters, fine artists, 3D designers through to blacksmiths and manuscript painters were recruited to share their talents and tackle the skills gap that was growing in Bradford. Through inclusivity, every creator would join forces and use art to create groundbreaking projects – all whilst delivering social and economic wellbeing within the community.

“Bradford offers 20 per cent less in the way of training and employment opportunities than the rest of the country and 50 per cent of Bradford residents don’t achieve a Level 2 NVQ,” said Kasim. “But it doesn’t mean the talent is not here. Fayakunu was set up to take the talent and give people from all cultures and backgrounds the opportunity to collaborate and shine.”

This year, Kasim hit a milestone having created The Bekun, a model replica of Lister Mills standing 10 feet tall, which has been viewed by 70,000 people. The model, which shone in the centre of Bradford, was projected onto City Hall for four days as part of the BD:is Lit project. Built over nine months, The Bekun was built from hand casting processes using jesmonite frames created by a local blacksmith, a fibre glass structure and finished with stained glass and a coded light show.

A proud moment indeed for Kasim whose creation, which translates to mean ‘Beacon of light’ in the Quran, was erected over 13 hours and then switched on.

“It’s not a project I believe I can ever top. We wanted to create a marriage of cultures, merging the heritage of Bradford, science and art into one grand build. Replicating Lister Mills was the perfect fit as we created a piece that would transcend the generations and cultures and really highlight the roots of our forefathers,” he said.

A BEACON OF HOPE AND LIGHT IN BRADFORD

The Bekun lighting up Bradford

The Bekun was also homage to Kasim's grandfather, Muhammad Najeeb, who worked at one of Greengates and Richmond woollen mills on arrival to the UK as a migrant in the early 60s, and a nod to the opportunities Bradford offered to Muhammad and his wife during this time.

Kasim believes his passion for design and technology stems back to his time as a Year 7 pupil at BGS. Inspired by Mr Smith, he was encouraged to join lunchtime sessions and embrace computer numerical control and computer aided design techniques. From there, Mr Smith entered Kasim into the Corus Steel Group Regional Competition.

"I built an F1 racing car based upon a Japanese bullet train from balsa wood and raced it. It was a moment I will never forget," he recalled. "I'm not sure I was the best student, but BGS found the designer in me and opened up the design world to enable me to create and do what I do today."

Beyond The Bekun, the future looks bright for Kasim and Fayakunu. The year 2023 has seen a meeting and collaboration with King Charles to discuss a future collaboration with the Prince's School of Traditional Arts and to further the work of Fayakunu, cementing its role in social and economic growth in Bradford and beyond. The Bekun is also set to move to a new home in Lister Park and the hope is for the installation to eventually be taken to other cities to promote Bradford's City of Culture status in 2025.

The organisation's passion and commitment to developing skills and reducing unemployment is clear. The workshop remains focussed on offering marketing, financial and business expertise, so Fayakunu can empower Bradford's artists to step out in life equipped to succeed in their chosen profession. A strong advocate of underserved ethnic minorities in Bradford, Kasim looks forward to watching the hobbyists and amateurs of today turn into the social artists and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.



Right: Kasim creating in his workshop

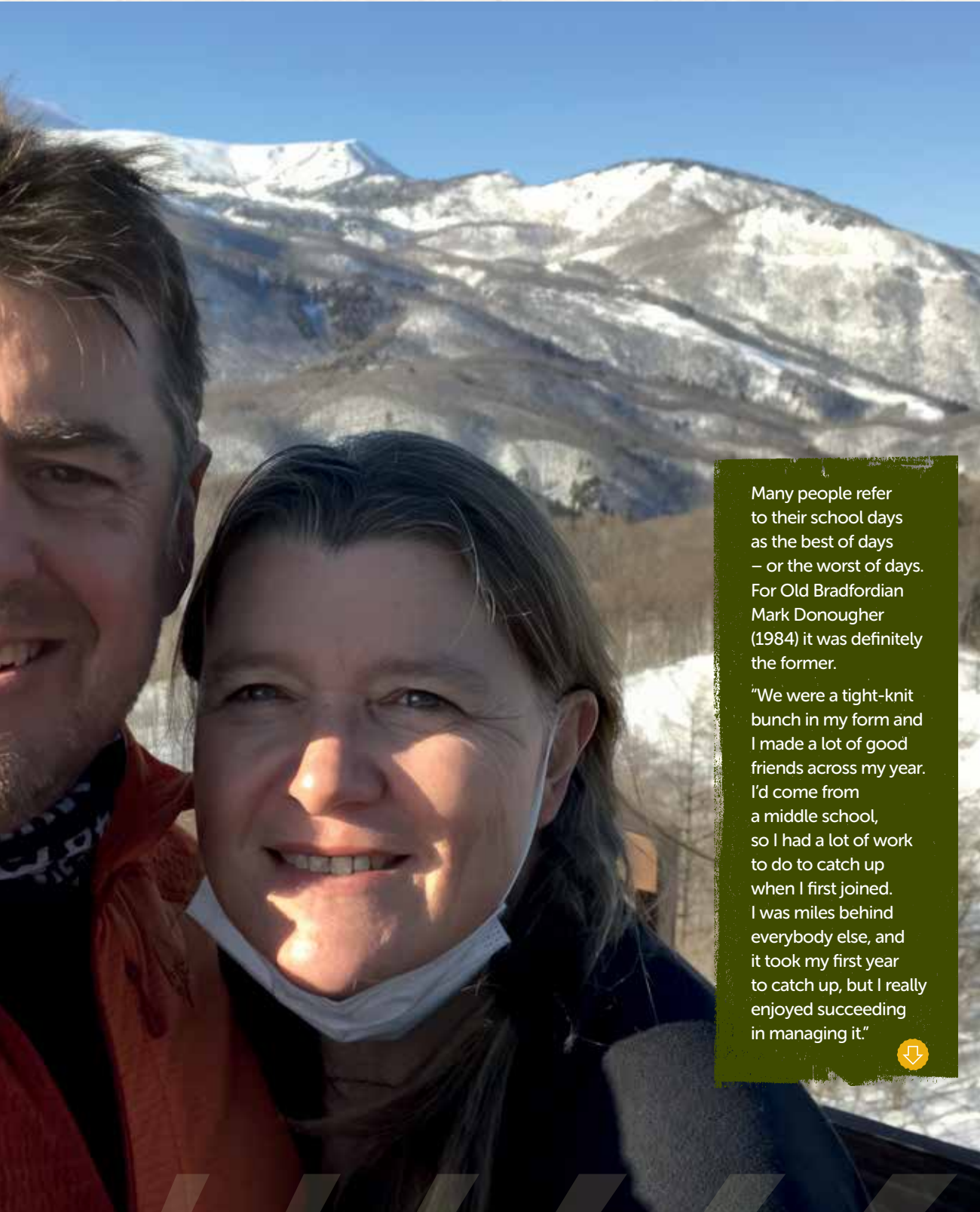
December 2023

THE SOCIETY NAMED FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP BOY'S FRIEND

The Keeling Society was established in memory of a philanthropic former BGS Headmaster (William Hulton Keeling) and honours those who make provision for the school in their wills. Keeling Society member, Mark Donougher, recalls his fond memories of school and why he feels it's important to give back.



Mark and his wife Heather pictured in Iwatake, a ski resort in the Japanese Alps.



Many people refer to their school days as the best of days – or the worst of days. For Old Bradfordian Mark Donougher (1984) it was definitely the former.

“We were a tight-knit bunch in my form and I made a lot of good friends across my year. I’d come from a middle school, so I had a lot of work to do to catch up when I first joined. I was miles behind everybody else, and it took my first year to catch up, but I really enjoyed succeeding in managing it.”





Like many of his peers, Mark, who grew up in Ilkley, had fond memories of his School Masters. One who stood out was Selby Brock, his maths and running master.

"He used the gym shoe in those days as a means of punishment, and I recall forgetting my homework on my second day at BGS, which usually attracted an automatic punishment. He let me off but that was the first and only time I forgot!" he laughs. "He was just brilliant. He was a fantastic maths master. He's why I've always enjoyed and valued maths and he also encouraged me in my cross country running. I wasn't very good at sport, but I'd been running with my father for years and so when we first had games, I found I was keeping up with what they used to call 'the professionals' – the guys in vest tops and shorts. When I came in from my first run, he asked me how long I'd been running. I replied: 'About five years'. 'Right,' he said. 'You're running for the school at the weekend.' I was so happy and amazed – running for the school!"

Above all, he says, BGS instilled in him a set of values which has never left him.

"It was the idea that if you work hard and diligently, it will pay off," he says. "That, and the ability to just have a go. It doesn't matter if you fail, as long as you have a go."

That ethos has certainly served Mark well since leaving BGS. Following a degree in physics at Manchester University, he headed to London with his best friend who had been studying accountancy and finance, a subject he found very interesting.

"He and I used to go into London and temp in the city at a stockbrokers and investment bankers," he recalls. "The experience was influential in helping me get a job in accountancy and it confirmed just what I wanted to do."

Mark joined what is now PricewaterhouseCoopers, in London, and was with them 19 years before moving to Oury Clark as a partner, working on corporate finance and inward investment. He also spent time on secondment to the UK Government where, for four years, he developed and led the UK Government's Global Entrepreneur Programme operating in the UK, the USA, India, Australia and Europe.

Keeling

Then, in 2008, he stepped back from the corporate world and embraced family life looking after his two children, then eight and nine, while his wife Heather, whom he'd met at PwC, continued her career as a senior partner.

"It was important to have some balance between work and home and we were lucky that we were able to do that," he says.

"At the time, I was the only male in the playground. I used to get some funny looks! I also enjoyed stepping back in and helping mentor entrepreneurs. I got involved in a couple of technology start-ups, one of which has done very well."

It was when Mark and Heather were writing their wills years later that they considered making legacies to education. Mark is Chair of Governors at the independent boarding and day school, Culford School in Bury St Edmunds, and has seen first-hand the work to raise funds, whether for infrastructure or supporting bursaries.

"I could see the impact of giving back and the good that schools can do by offering financial support to those who can't afford the fees," he says. "I wanted to make sure those schools could continue to offer support."

Inspired, Mark got in touch with BGS about leaving a legacy gift for Assisted Places. In doing so, he decided to become a member of the Keeling Society, named after William Hulton Keeling, who was BGS Headmaster from 1871 to 1916. Known as a 'friend of the scholarship boy', his reforming leadership and determination to widen access to BGS remains central to today's mission.

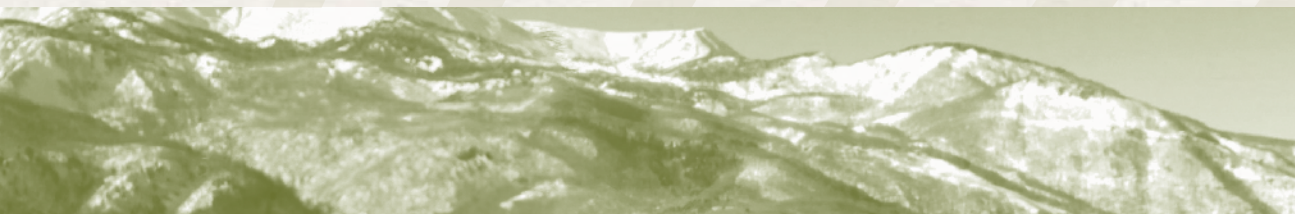
The Keeling Society was established to show appreciation to those who wish to be recognised by BGS during their lifetime for their generosity. Keeling Society members have the option of being listed in a roll of honour on the school's website and in the annual Impact Report in recognition of their charitable intentions. They also receive regular donor communications, invitations to special events and have their names recorded in a book of remembrance, which acknowledges those whose bequests have been realised.

Now retired and living in North Hertfordshire, Mark returned to BGS in the summer with Heather and enjoyed a tour and the Keeling Society afternoon tea.

"It was wonderful to see the school and how it recognises alumni as well as past teachers, such as Selby Brock," he says. "It evoked a lot of memories, and it was incredible to see what they've done with the place. While the new facilities are astonishing, the school has managed to retain its character and values. When I think back, one of the things BGS gave us was resilience. It instilled a strength of character. That inner strength comes through the whole school as you walk around, and it continues to be worn comfortably.

"I believe that it's going to be increasingly important that alumni support their schools," he adds. "I would say 'just do it' if you can. Hoc Age! It's a worthwhile thing to do, and the right thing to do, giving a chance to children who have talent and potential."

Find out more about the Keeling Society here:
<https://www.bradfordgrammar.com/old-bradfordians/keeling-society>



MEMORIES OF A VERY DIFFERENT BGS

Introduction and footnotes from
Dr Simon Hinchliffe and account
by OB Grahame Wear.

Old Bradfordian, Grahame Wear (1961) kindly volunteered the following article for publication. Much of it makes for uncomfortable reading. But Grahame's memories are shared by others of a particular vintage. Some contact me, as the Headmaster, to reflect, talk and be heard.

Like Grahame, I am proud of our school and hold it in high esteem. The fact we can have dialogue about difficult things is just one reason why. It is vital that longstanding institutions like BGS have the confidence and openness to listen, embrace all aspects of their character, past and present, and learn from the experiences of others.

This is Grahame's experience:

"My name is, Wear RG or 'You Boy!' Those above a certain age will relate to this. I started at Thornville in 1956 and left BGS in 1961. I have interesting and possibly some 'fond' memories of these most impressionable years of my life and often reflect on them.

As an ageing 'Old Boy' I now class myself as an 'elder' and, as Professor David Suzuki stated in one of his wonderful lectures: "It is important as an elder to sift through one's life experiences and thoughts to see if there is any legacy to pass on." Though my life appears to some as having been successful, like for so many it is peppered with failures and regrets. I use those terms advisedly.

I have always loved our school. I am proud of BGS and can understand what it and my father were trying to achieve for me, even as a child. I enjoyed the sports facilities and the technical, practical side of schooling. But sadly, these were often frowned upon as being 'unacademic'; and the school frightened me. I was not the only pupil who lived in fear of beatings. Even in the Scout Troop, for example, you might receive a belting if you couldn't tie a reef knot behind your back. I regret, when looking back, that only a handful of happy memories can be recalled.

A few years ago, I tried to contact one or two of my peers who I felt might remember me in order to rekindle nostalgic memories.



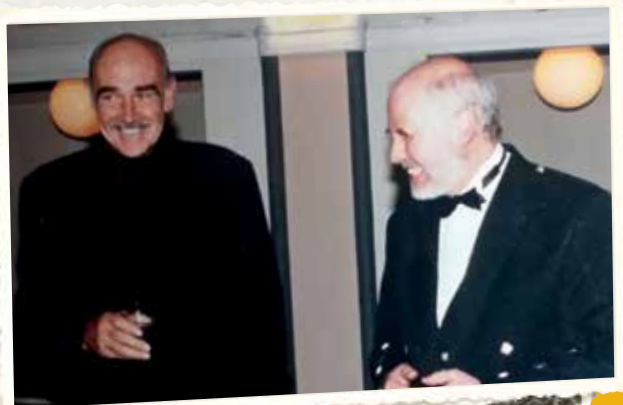
During this exercise I progressed to thinking about the purpose of schooling. "School is an institution for teaching" - from the Oxford dictionary. BGS certainly achieved this for me. Then I wondered what made BGS special. Was it 'Hoc Age' ... 'Do this'? That's a dictatorial motto, almost a commandment. I am amazed at how this has been complemented by the new inspiring philosophy of 'Excellence, Opportunity and Happiness' although debate about this could progress forever.

I remember most of the masters, but regrettably only

two or three with any affection. Were they too busy? Weren't they interested in the souls of their pupils? Didn't they want to relate to the hearts of their charges? This is, of course, one man's reflection, but I can recall only one that truly understood me, Mr Woodhouse, fondly known as Nelly. There were a couple who were 'nice', but there was no genuine rapport.

So, my school life, in the magnificent temple of BGS, was often sad and lonely and no one picked up on Opportunity or Excellence or taught the vital

Grahame met and became friends with many celebrities during his time with The Rank Organisation's Odeon Cinema division, including Sean Connery and the cast of Star Wars.





correlation between each of these core ingredients. Would I be where I am today without BGS? Would I have bettered myself somewhere else? I doubt it, but I sincerely believe my life may have been so different, far more rewarding, successful and happy had there been a different foundation and empathy.

I would ask all BGS staff to genuinely look between the lines when 'reading their pupils' and be aware. From what I see and read, this is now the policy

and is clearly apparent under the leadership from the Headmaster. Secondly, I would encourage the staff to adhere to their three motivating objectives, but place happiness first. Without happiness there is nothing of substance. Thirdly, to the pupils I'd say, 'don't put all your faith and ambition purely in academic achievements' but rather practise all that you learn at BGS, in the widest possible sense, and adapt to situations and others in a positive manner. Remember all life is entwined."

I am grateful to Grahame for sharing his memories of BGS. All schools have moved on since the 1950/60s as people and wider society have evolved. Our school is no exception. It's something of an irony that an abiding characteristic of BGS over the generations has been its propensity to model change. We have moved home from a cathedral location via Manor Row to Frizinghall, were one of the first schools in England to adopt the provisions of the Forster Reform Acts of the late 1800s and also the 1944 Butler Education Act heralding the formative Direct Grant era and the Assisted Places scheme that followed, became independent of the state education system in the 1970s and welcomed girls almost 40 years ago. Not an exhaustive list, but examples of change.

“

...practise all that you learn at BGS, in the widest possible sense...

”



We passed a watershed in the development of our pastoral provision when our work to foster happiness was recognised with a national award – The Times Educational Supplement, Independent School of the Year 2020 for a Wellbeing Initiative. Jane Chapman our Assistant Head (Pastoral) and Designated Safeguarding Lead has developed these aspects of BGS in leaps and bounds during her tenure. Jane will retire at the end of the current academic year, and I hope she will be able to reflect on the progress of recent times.

Jane leads a team comprising Heads of Year (each with their own sub teams of form tutors), two nurses, a full-time counsellor, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, a Head of Personal Development (our BGS brand of PSHE) and a wider network of Sixth Form Pastoral Prefects. She also delivers pastoral and safeguarding induction and training to all colleagues (support departments and teaching), coordinates a programme of talks and presentations to pupils, parents and Governors, acts as a focal point of liaison with outside child protection agencies and has been instrumental in setting up and

sustaining a regional network of pastoral and safeguarding colleagues across a variety of schools. Pastoral, safeguarding and Child Protection policy and practice come under Jane's remit and her legacy is a kinder, more understanding BGS that fosters qualities of self-care and resilience, and which responds in a sensitive and appropriate manner when problems arise.

Excellence – Opportunity – Happiness. No priority is intended. But we welcome debate about the order of these three words and what they mean to different people. Dialogue and reflection will continue as we educate and nurture young people to navigate an increasingly complex and uncertain future. Empathy, adaptability and a host of social and inter-personal skills will have equal or greater currency relative to stellar qualifications in the AI infused workplace and wider world of tomorrow. BGS, by choice and necessity, will keep moving with the times to foster both IQ and EQ.

I hope Grahame and his contemporaries might approve.



Grahame worked for
The Rank Organisation
for 34 years.

EVENTS

SOVEREIGN HEALTH CARE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

October 2023

At Bradford Grammar School we are deeply grateful for our relationship with corporate partner, Sovereign Healthcare. Imbued with vision and a far-reaching social conscience, they generously fund means tested Assisted Places in our Sixth Form for aspiring medics and health care professionals.



Their benefaction transforms the lives of recipients and enables Bradford Grammar School to remain accessible to the widest possible cross section of families in our locality. The partnership also supports the pipeline and training of the next generation of professionals including doctors, nurses, dentists and surgeons for the widest possible public benefit.

With all that said, BGS snapped up an invitation to provide the music at Sovereign Healthcare's recent 150th anniversary at the historic St George's Hall in Bradford. Our string triplet played deftly as guests arrived for photos, fizz and canapes, adding an air of sophistication to a thoroughly convivial reception.

“

**BGS SNAPPED UP AN INVITATION TO PROVIDE
THE MUSIC AT SOVEREIGN HEALTHCARE'S 150TH
ANNIVERSARY AT ST GEORGE'S HALL IN BRADFORD**

”



Left: Dr Amir Khan and the
School's Concert Band

Top: BGS String Triplet
Entertains at Sovereign
Healthcare's 150th anniversary

Above: Sovereign Healthcare
Celebrating 150 Years

Meanwhile the BGS Concert Band warmed up in the main auditorium, treading the boards where Led Zeppelin, The Beatles and Rolling Stones had gone before. The evening crescendoed with Mr Roberts at the Concert Band helm before the baton for the evening was then passed to our compare, medic, TV personality and Old Bradfordian, Dr Amir Khan. Dr Khan, himself, a former recipient of an Assisted Place at BGS. Live music, compelling accounts of the laudable work of Sovereign Healthcare and their sponsorship of many charitable causes, and a charismatic speech from retiring CEO Russ Piper, were knitted together expertly by Amir and made for a wonderful occasion.

1940S AND 1950S REUNION LUNCH

March 2023

The annual reunion of Old Bradfordians of 1940s/50s vintage took place in the Douglas Hamilton Room on the final day of spring term 2023. As ever, the occasion was graced with lively and interesting company giving rise to enthusiastic and fascinating conversation.

A delicious buffet lunch was provided by the BGS catering team, washed down by a few bottles of red and white wine. Memories were exchanged and bonds of friendship renewed. OBs also got the opportunity to attend the final assembly in the Price Hall and to pick up the BGS hymn book once more, remembering fondly their own time at BGS whilst singing along ... "And did those feet in ancient time".

David Seeger (1955), artist and educator, kindly donated a copy of his book titled: 80 Still Moving, An Alchemy of Clay, Colour and the Mind's Eye to our Art Department and school archive.

Afterwards guests proudly admired Mr Seeger's award-winning roof top weathervane that caps the BGS skyline above the Delius Room. It is always a great pleasure to welcomes OBs back to their alma mater. Long may it continue.

The school is already looking forward to the reunion in Spring 2024 and extending the invitation to our OBs from the 1960s to join the event.



Above: Sharing stories at the 40s and 50s Reunion

Right: Coming together over lunch

Far right: A dip into the archives



OLD BRADFORDIANS' CLUB LONDON ANNUAL DINNER

November 2023



On 17 November, a total of 67 diners – OBs, their guests and guests of the London Club – enjoyed an outstanding annual dinner, our 35th, at the Carlton Club in central London.

After a drinks reception and an excellent three course meal, the guests listened attentively to inspirational speeches: firstly, a highly entertaining joint presentation from the Headmaster, Dr Simon Hinchliffe, and Deputy Head, Mr Jed Boardman, on the school's academic, sporting and extra-curricular achievements; secondly, our chief guest, Dr Asif Qasim (1990), a leading London-based consultant interventional cardiologist, school governor, and fundraiser for the 1662 Fund, gave a heartfelt and inspirational tribute for the support and opportunities BGS had provided for him to succeed in his chosen profession.



RUGBY AGAINST COLFE'S SCHOOL

December 2023

On 8 December the BGS First XV rugby team travelled to London for the annual fixture against our friends at Colfe's School. The teams contested the Walton Cup to mark the end of the XV-a side fixture list and the start of the sevens season for our Bradford players.





Left: Club house post match drinks

Below left: The BGS First XV in battle

Mr Scarbrough (OB, former England RFU winger and now BGS Specialist Rugby Coach) and Mr Wilde, (Head of PE Outreach and evergreen BGS sporting legend), accompanied the team alongside a healthy travelling fan base of parents and Messrs Boardman and Hinchliffe, Deputy Head and Headmaster respectively.

The event was generously supported by the Old Bradfordians' Club London who added their voices to the away end support. The company and camaraderie were wonderful, and it was great to catch up with both Alan Bateson OB and Andrew Foster OB, Assistant Director of Sport and History teacher respectively at Colfe's.

Now on to the game. A fast start by BGS helped earn a 10-0 lead in the first half. Ill-discipline, which racked up an insurmountable penalty count against BGS, and inaccuracy provided the storyline of the second half which saw Colfe's converting their two scores to claim the trophy with a 14-10 win. The game was played in a competitive but fair and respectful spirit throughout. The defeat hurt, but Colfe's came away as worthy winners; and in any event it was about time they notched up a win against the north, their first in the Walton Cup.

Conversations and pints flowed freely in the clubhouse afterwards. The home and away ends rubbed shoulders and swapped anecdotes. Charlton Park Rugby Club, who hosted the fixture, did us proud and we are grateful for their warm welcome and hospitality. That said, Dr Hinchliffe (despite following an address provided by Mr Scarbrough), due to a train and tube strike, did end up walking most of the way to Sidcup from his hotel in Lewisham and managed to complete a three-hour Friday night trek across suburban South London before making a 'just in time' arrival at the correct patch of floodlit grass!

Mark Lawrence (1975), President of The Old Bradfordians' Club London – the alumni association for OBs living and working in the capital and south-east of England – commented: "On Friday 8 December 2023, it was a pleasure to witness the return to London of the annual rugby match between BGS and Colfe's School from Lewisham in south-east London, following interruptions due to the Coronavirus pandemic and problems with booking a floodlit pitch on a mutually convenient date.

After wins in the previous three matches since the inauguration of the fixture in 2017, this year's match saw BGS lose narrowly 10-14 in an entertaining and keenly fought game of rugby. The welcoming club house facilities at Charlton Park RFC provided very convivial post-match hospitality to compensate the BGS players, parents, staff, travelling supporters and OBs based in London for the disappointment on the pitch. We eagerly look forward to the fifth match being played for the first time in Bradford in December 2024, and to the return of the trophy."

In essence, the fixture marked a fitting end to the autumn term rugby calendar and a nice sign off for the BGS First XV. They did themselves proud. Moreover, the event represented a coming together of the rugby families at both schools, including a good number of OBs, bound together by shared values, friendship and love of the game. Friday night rugby lights in London, long may the Walton Cup continue.

**Report by Dr Simon Hinchliffe,
Headmaster**

REMEMBERING...

Robin James Dixon
(1944)

1962 - 2024

Robin was a pupil at BGS from 1971 to 1980. Robin and his older brother Richard were the third generation of the family to attend Bradford Grammar School. Their family business (Walter Dixon's) was a well-respected firm of wool merchants in Bradford.



Robin's time at school was characterised by his eclectic range of interests. An accomplished back-row forward for the first XV, and a

senior school athlete (Yorkshire Schools champion hurdler). He loved French, in which, he was inspired by Mr Twelves. He learned about Economics (and a good deal of politics) under the tutelage of Messrs Greenwood and Kewley, and an interest in architecture was nurtured by Mr Butler. He had benefited early on in his time at BGS from the unflinching thoughtful pastoral support of Mr Shaw and others, following the premature death of his mother.

Always one to enjoy life, he would regularly insist on continuing Saturday evenings started in the Black Swan in Frizinghall at his home in Tranmere Park, overseen by Michael and Corinne with boundless hospitality. His keen intellect, and ability to get to the core of any issue from first principles were often at the heart of wide-ranging discussions which went on long into the night.

On leaving BGS, Robin made good use of his time in Venice as a tour guide, which allowed him to showcase his ability in French and German, and to learn Italian. For his friends, and correspondents, this also prompted exchanges of letters which were always a joy to receive, with his ready wit and skills as a raconteur already very much in evidence.

Robin went up in 1981 to the Queen's College, Oxford as an Exhibitioner to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics, the latter subject being his great passion and a firm founding for his later career in finance.

He played for the college 1st XV for 3 years and rowed in the summer. He was a member of Vincent's club and was greatly involved in college activities and social events, meeting many life-long friends.

Robin joined Enskilda Securities in 1989, a boutique Scandinavian and Continental European equities broker, from SBC where he had focused on UK equities. Immediately, his dry wit, sharp intellect and self-deprecating humour ensured his arrival at the nucleus of the organisation. Speaking French and some German, he travelled often, visiting companies across Europe and Scandinavia, and spent several stints working from the Paris office. Robin garnered many followers among influential clients who appreciated his honesty and forthright views. His individuality was admired by all, but he was nevertheless a dedicated team player.

After consolidating his knowledge of European equity markets, Robin joined S. G. Warburg, one of the world's leading investment banks. It was listed on the London Stock Exchange and was a constituent of the FTSE 100 Index. The firm was acquired by the Swiss Bank Corporation in 1995 and ultimately became a part of UBS, the largest bank in Europe and the second largest bank in the world. Robin left UBS to become a partner in Redburn, a specialist equities firm, now part of Rothschild & Co. Robin later joined a small real estate research boutique, Green Street Advisors (GSA). At GSA Robin was able to combine his consummate skills as a salesperson with his extensive knowledge of the real estate market, again he travelled extensively, but particularly in the United States.

He retired in 2017.

Robin leaves behind Steven Blundell, his partner of 30 years. They celebrated their civil partnership in 2008. Robin and Steven loved to cook, and their Christmas parties were legendary. Steven ran his own design and marketing company and together they refurbished a number of residential properties in London. Both Francophiles, in 2011, after a long search, they bought and renovated a 17th century château in South West France, their French home became the venue of many fun-filled holidays with family and friends.

Above all, Robin valued the opportunities presented by BGS, grabbing life in its entirety with both hands. As a believer in philanthropy and an advocate for every child having access to the opportunities he had, Robin has donated through life, and within a legacy, to the 1662 Campaign which funds Assisted Places at Bradford Grammar.



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

Obituaries

With thanks to John Bennett (1973),
Obituaries Editor

Gordon 'Trevor' Andrews

(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.

Brian Lewis 'Boz' Robinson

(1954)

1936 - 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.

Herbert Edward Robin Preston

(1957)

1938 - 2023

Before joining BGS, Robin attended prep school in Oxford. Originally based in Huddersfield, his parents had moved by the time Robin started at BGS, and Robin took lodgings variously with uncles and aunts, and sometimes with teachers from the school. Whilst at BGS, Robin joined the Cadets, and between school and university did National Service.

Posted as an officer to Christmas Island, he witnessed four atomic bomb tests. He won a scholarship to Oxford to read Physics, which he then continued in London and, following graduation, completed a PhD at Cambridge. He took up a lectureship in Physics at the University of Strathclyde, moving to Glasgow with his wife Diana and young family. Upon retirement, they moved to Orkney, where they spent the rest of their days. Robin had a lifelong love for the theatre and acting, and in his youth had roles in many productions at Bingley Little Theatre.

David Goodland

Master (1954 - 1964)

1918 - 2023

David, who died in January at the age of 95, was a History and Form Master at BGS from 1954 to 1964. Prior to BGS he had taught at Tonbridge School, where he had also been a pupil, before going up to Magdalene College, Cambridge, and completing his National Service. As Form Master he led annual trips to the Yorkshire Dales, and is remembered as a kind and encouraging teacher.

After BGS he was Head of History and later Senior Master at Clifton College. In retirement in West Somerset, David pursued his interests in music and gave generously to innumerable charities. Amongst other things, he was both a guide for the National Trust at Dunster Castle and the voice of the West Somerset Talking Newspaper. His quiet and unswerving Christian faith was the rock on which his kindness and concern for others were built.

One of his greatest roles was saved for the final years of his life, as a carer to his beloved Gill. He is greatly missed by friends, former colleagues and pupils, and his family, not least his three children and eight grandchildren.

Mark Howard Wakley Roberts

(1969)

1950 - 2023

Mark was in the science stream at BGS and went on to read Zoology at Brasenose College, Oxford. After one year he switched to a new degree course: Human Sciences, graduating in 1973. He qualified in Medicine at Leeds in 1980, eventually becoming a Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine in Carlisle. Here he cared for people with complex neurological conditions and was responsible for the artificial limb and wheelchair services. A tireless and dedicated doctor, he was much loved by patients and colleagues alike. Never in the best of health, he made the most of life and in retirement took up stained glass work and vegetable gardening.

He bought a VW camper van and travelled widely in Europe with his wife of 50 years, Daphne, whom he married in 1972. He leaves her, his two children Felicity and Luke and his grandchild Martha plus his older brother Guy, and younger sister Carys.

William Rostron Jones
(1949)

1933 - 2023

Born in Basildon, William left school to do National Service, serving in the Royal Signals where he was stationed in Austria and Split, keeping in touch with army friends for the rest of his life. He then joined his father's firm Redfern Sea and Air transport, a few years later starting the travel side Redfern Travel. For those that have worked in Government service, you will be familiar with this travel agent with a Bradford prefix as they were often used for official business.

William worked hard spending mornings at Redfern Transport, lunch at the Bradford Club and afternoons at Piece Hall Yard - Redfern Travel. He was a passionate Leeds United supporter but always kept an eye on Bradford City and Bradford Northern, being a Bradfordian at heart. He married fellow Baildon lass, Margaret, in 1957 and they had three children: Penny, Angela and Nick, and eventually seven grandchildren. He travelled throughout his life (there were not many countries he had not visited) and was an active member of Junior Chamber of Commerce. Weekends were spent at his caravan in the lakes when the children were at home and then also Mallorca for family and sunshine time with Margaret.

Anita Christina Craig (nee Mann)
School Governor
1991 - 2018

1949 - 2023

Former School governor and the wife of OB Gavin Craig (1964) who was a previous president of the OBs' Association. Anita and Gavin had four children, three going to BGS (Sarah, Patrick and Sam) and one to the Girls' Grammar School. Sarah was the first of the girls to go into the Sixth Form under David 'DAGS' Smith. When Sam entered the Sixth Form Anita was asked to be a governor of the school. She also worked as a radiographer, for the NSPCC and was co-owner of the Wellington House nursing home.

She was involved in marketing the school, activating the OB network to raise funds for bursaries, the transition to full co-education and the uniform change from brown to blue. Alongside these responsibilities, she was pro chancellor at Bradford University from 1996 to 2007 working alongside Imran Kahn as Chancellor. She was also Deputy Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire in 2005, working with Dame Ingrid Roscoe.

James Richard Wiley
(1958)

1947 - 2023

Rick was a member of the rowing team at BGS but also went rock climbing, mountaineering and potholing with school friends. Following school CCF he was commissioned into the RAF as a trainee pilot. In 1969 he married Carol. In 1985 he retired as Squadron Leader after tours in Anglesey, Lossiemouth, Germany and several in England as well as flying with the USAF in Arizona and flying the Buccaneer aircraft at air shows. He was also a member of the RAF skiing team and received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery. In flight a mechanical problem had developed but rather than ejecting he fought with the controls and landed safely. After the RAF he became a commercial pilot, joining Cathay Pacific, in Hong Kong, in 1988 and retiring as a Captain in 2001.

Rick and Carol retired to Paphos, where he pursued his love of sailing, walking and visiting family in America, Hong Kong and Yorkshire. There was a helicopter fly past at his funeral at the Dhekelia Military Cemetery in Cyprus.

Donald Munro Lightowler
(1947)

1936 - 2023

Following school, Donald went on to have a career in engineering until his early retirement in 1993.

He was married to Marjorie for 63 years, father of two, grandfather of five and great grandfather of seven. His many interests included hill walking, reading, and a real passion for natural history. He also took part in the local quiz league.

Dr John Denis Wilcock
(1956)

1937 - 2023

Born in Bradford into a musical family, John won a City of Bradford scholarship in 1948. He developed interests that would be lifelong: caving, archaeology, scouting, science, singing and walking.

Following RAF National Service as a radar specialist, he read Physics at Queen's College, Oxford where he was a leading member of the pioneering 1961 Cave Club expedition to Northern Spain. His career started in the early computer industry with English Electric in Kidsgrove, before moving into academia in 1969 at North Staffordshire Polytechnic (later Staffordshire University). He specialised in computer applications in archaeology, obtaining his PhD from the University of Keele in 1972. In a university career of over 30 years, he published widely in computer archaeology and also in cave research, chairing the British Cave Research Association. Retirement was busy with further research activities, singing, Scottish country dancing, theatre, railways and cruise ship lecturing. He is survived by Ann, his wife of 61 years.

A B W "Bev" Risman (Master 1966 - 1969)

Mr Risman, better known as an England and Great Britain rugby player and coach, joined the school in 1966 following a BSc from Manchester University and Loughborough College. He taught Geology, Biology and PE. In July 1968, he led the GB rugby side to Australia and left BGS the following July for Leeds University to take a course leading to the new degree of Master of Physical Education.

Eric R Barnes (Master 1976 - 1997)

Eric was born in County Durham on the eve of the outbreak of the Second World War. He attended Barnard Castle School where he played rugby football as a prop forward, then went up to Exeter College, Oxford to read History. In 1976 Eric joined BGS as Senior History Master. This was a time of great changes for the school: independence following the end of the Direct Grant system, the end of Saturday morning school, the appointment of the first female teacher and, in 1984, the admission of girls to the Sixth Form. Eric enjoyed teaching history in all its forms and his pupils got a string of places to read History at Oxford and Cambridge and other leading universities.

Colleagues found him affable, and he wore his learning lightly. He was sometimes known by the playful epithet 'Eric the Red' owing to his passionate support of the Labour Party. There were many heated debates between Eric, Conservative-supporting historian Tony Moxon, and Economics teacher Peter Kewley. With his pupils Eric was very popular. They affectionately knew him as 'Wally' and remember him as approachable and friendly, a master with whom it was possible to joke and banter.

At the same time high standards and ground rules about what was acceptable were established clearly. Lame excuses about being late or not producing homework were dismissed as "Rhubarb. Bally Rhubarb", a phrase some pupils adopted into their own vocabulary.

In 1997 Eric retired and moved with his wife Susan back to Barnard Castle. He remained a passionate supporter of Middlesborough FC, whilst also retaining a strong interest in local area history. He served as chair of the Barnard Castle and District History Society.

Eric died peacefully in March 2023 and is survived by his wife Susan.

Edward Trevor Hall Master (1987 - 2015)

1932 - 2023

Trevor joined BGS in Manor Row then transferred to the newly opened current building. On leaving, he took up a job with the National Provincial Bank in Bradford. Following National Service in the RAF, in 1951 he joined his father's expanding cloth business - mainly based in Bradford. He was always active in the city, becoming a magistrate and, in 1991, was appointed Chairman of the Bradford Bench.

He held the Presidencies of Idle & Greengages Rotary Club and Bradford St George Society; he was also elected as a Life Governor of RNLI. He later served as a Governor of the school and having always been keen on education in general, after retiring, also became a Lay Inspector for OFSTED. In addition, Trevor was a Methodist preacher and a talented pianist and church organist. He was married for 66 years to Joyce, until her death in early 2023. They had two sons and a daughter.

Richard Anthony 'Tony' Mason (1948)

1932 - 2023

Tony was born in Bradford and adopted at birth. He won a scholarship to BGS and graduated from the University of St Andrews. He continued his National Service in the RAF, eventually ending a successful career in 1989 as Air Vice Marshal, having been appointed CB (1988) and CBE (1981).

Originally commissioned into the Education Branch in 1956, he first served on fighter stations. Fascinated by the operational use of aircraft, he took the opportunity to fly in order to understand better the employment of fighters.

He spent a year at Kings College then in 1968 became the Specialist Education Officer at the RAF College, Cranwell. Whilst serving on exchange at the USAF Academy at Colorado Springs, he introduced the game of rugby and later in life was inducted into the US Rugby Hall of Fame. Following RAF Staff College, he became Senior Education Officer at RAF Support Command and after his time as Director of Defence Studies, served as Director of Personnel (Ground) before being appointed as the Air Secretary. He was the first non-aircrew officer to hold this post.

**James ‘Jim’ Bentley
(1944)**

1926 - 2023

Jim was born in Bingley, leaving BGS, as Head Boy, in 1944. After National Service and Cambridge University (First in Classics, Sidney Sussex), he spent 20 years in the Inland Revenue (HMRC) as a tax inspector, before joining a firm of London solicitors as Head of Tax in the late 1960s. A keen sportsman, he won the Yorkshire Shield with Bingley Rugby Club in 1951. He was particularly proud of kicking a penalty goal on his 50th birthday in a parents'/ sons' school match. He played squash into his 60s and golf into his mid-80s. He was also active in his community with the local church, scouts and after retirement with Probus and University of the Third Age U3A. Jim died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 96. He was married to Ethel from 1953 until her death in 2021 and they leave a son and daughter.

**Julian Spilsbury
(1975)**

From 1975 to 1978 Julian was at St John's College, Oxford reading Modern History. He accepted an Army Scholarship in 1975 and was commissioned into the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire (now part of the Royal Yorkshire Regiment). He served with the regiment for nine years, leaving in 1984. Upon leaving, Julian became a professional writer, wrote scripts for numerous TV programmes, three novels and several books of military history, all published under his own name except one novel, Vision of the Hunter, under the name John Tempest. He also became a battlefield tour guide, specialising in the Napoleonic Wars and worked at the Shakespeare Trust, showing visitors around houses connected with Shakespeare in Stratford Upon Avon. In addition, Julian worked at the museum of a cavalry regiment. Julian died quietly at home on 29 October 2023.

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

**Dr John Wilcock
(1956)**

**Peter R Blakey
(1950)**

**Charles Barry Thomas
(1961)**

Herbert Edward Robin Preston

**Mark Roberts
(1969)**

**Ian McIntosh
(1956)**

**William ‘Ross’ Rostron Jones
(1947)**

**John Thwaite
(1957)**

Sidney James Buckley



bradfordgrammar.com/old-bradfordians



Bradford Grammar School
Keighley Road, Bradford, BD9 4JP

01274 553710 | oldbradfordians@bradfordgrammar.com