

OLD BRADFORDIANS NEWSLETTER



Summer 2026

HEADMASTER'S *Welcome*



Dear Old Bradfordians and Friends of BGS

Welcome to this latest edition of the OB (digital) Newsletter.

Let me begin by thanking all those OBs who made donations towards to recent Colour Run fundraising event in support of the 1662 Fund for Assisted Places. The details and photos below attest to the success of the event and all money raised will contribute towards the 1662 Futures Fund, an endowment that sits under the umbrella campaign and which we are seeking to prioritise over the coming years.

And much continues to fill the days at BGS. Moreover, it isn't the case, as spring turns to summer, that the school year is winding down. A great deal of activity continues over the hotter months. For our pupils however, there is a sense of closure and a drawing together of activities and achievements. I have just drafted a few words of introduction for the summer edition of our termly in house magazine, *Hoc Age*, and I encourage OBs to dip into these publications for the insight they offer into the present day life of BGS. Follow the link [Hoc Age](#) for current and past editions. By way of a preview, here's those aforementioned words of introduction:

"... The Spring and Summer terms have been characteristically lively, and we've packed a great deal in ...

Well done to our pupils, who have once again navigated internal and public exams, GCSEs

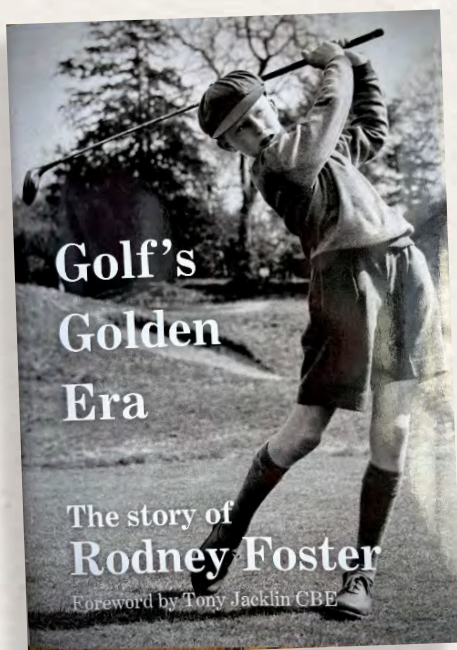
and A Levels, with focus and verve. I have been particularly impressed by those who managed to maintain both work and play, even as the pressure of exam season mounted. Seeing so many of our young people engaged in sport, the arts, societies and competitions, CCF, DofE expeditions, and much more, all while managing other priorities, fills me with great pride.

I do not subscribe to the idea of a life/work balance - these aspects of living are not in celestial opposition. We should enjoy working hard and the fruits of our labour; blend all aspects of life as best we can, without expecting an ideal state (or a 'balance' that doesn't exist). This, at least in my philosophy, is a starting point for a healthy mindset and routine. The wealth of opportunities showcased in these pages speaks to the rewards of such an approach. *Hoc Age* - 'do it' or 'do this' - is not a command as some suggest but an encouragement to embrace life fully and without equivocation. Read on to see how our pupils are measuring up against our motto."



► The same might be said of OBs... so please, read on!

And as you do ... "We came, we saw, we did not conquer ... but we had a wonderful time" were the words of OB Rodney Foster (1960),



golfer and 1981 Walker Cup Captain. It was delightful to catch up with Rodney, and one of his biographers, and fellow golfer, Robin Snook, recently.

Rodney undoubtedly holds the status of one of Yorkshire's and Great Britain's finest amateur golfers with the adventures, achievements and anecdotes to match. I can't recommend his biography, 'Golf's Golden Era - The story of Rodney Foster', highly enough, with all proceeds going to Ovarian Cancer Action in memory of Rodney's wife, Angela - copies available via: [Golf's Golden Era](#) There will be more from Rodney in a future edition of the Old Bradfordian magazine.

Enjoy all that follows.

Yours ever

Simon Hinchliffe

Dr Simon Hinchliffe
Headmaster



OBs perform at FA Cup Final

OBs Jake Keating (2016), Amarpal Singh (2007), Peter Parker (1999) and Peter Lambert (1981) performed at the FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium on 16th May as members of the Bantam of the Opera choir. They were joined by former Governor, The Very Revd Andy Bowerman, who travelled from Australia especially for the occasion. The group performed *Abide with Me* and led the National Anthem. The choir has also released a new single, *Sing 4 England* (2026 remix), raising funds for Bradford Burns Unit and Andy's Man Club.

Rising cricket talent

OB Will Luxton (2021) delivered an impressive performance for Yorkshire in a pre-season friendly against Somerset, scoring 91. Following a successful winter season, he continues to establish himself as a promising young cricketer.

OB exhibition in Leeds

OB Hamish Irvine (2014) is currently exhibiting his photography project, *The Country I Was Told Not To Visit*, at Seven Arts in Leeds until 28th June. The exhibition explores everyday life in Pakistan, focusing on themes of community and connection, and was inspired in part by conversations during his time at BGS. To find out more please visit the following link: [Pakistan Photography Exhibition at Seven Arts, Leeds - Hamish Irvine](#)

Julian Reed Purvis to retire after nearly 30 years

After three decades at Bradford Grammar School, Julian Reed Purvis will retire at the end of the summer term. A highly regarded teacher of History, former Head of Sixth Form, and dedicated rugby coach, he has made a lasting contribution to the life of the School. Former BGS colleague, Jane Chapman records that: "BGS is a school which has always made room for and celebrated its characters. Julian is far too modest and genuine a man ever to have set out to become a BGS character but that is how his students will remember him, with deep affection and gratitude for all he has brought to their lives at BGS". If you would like to leave him a leaving message please visit the following link: [Leaving Messages for Our History Teacher Julian Reed-Purvis, 30 Years at BGS](#)

Bradford Grammar School series of articles and book

OB Nigel Cameron (1971) has recently been featured in the *Telegraph & Argus* with a series of articles exploring the history of Bradford Grammar School, shared here via our [OB LinkedIn page](#). His latest piece, *Look Back: Five Bradford Grammar School Headmasters*, examines the legacy of leadership at BGS from the Victorian era through to the present day. Highlighting five former Headmasters, the article provides a compelling insight into how leadership has evolved across generations, and the enduring values that continue to

shape the School. The feature offers OBs an opportunity to revisit familiar names, stories, and influences that may resonate with their own time at BGS.

Nigel is also preparing a forthcoming book focusing on the mid-20th century history of the School, with a particular emphasis on the teachers who shaped generations of pupils. Contributions and memories from former pupils are warmly welcomed. If you would like to get in touch with Nigel please email nigel.m.cameron@gmail.com.



OB supports BGS geographers

Year 12 Geographers recently visited Wydean Weaving in Haworth, hosted by OB Robin Wright (1979). The visit provided valuable insight into rural regeneration and industry, and highlighted the important role OBs play in supporting learning beyond the classroom.

Legacy Professional of the Year

We are delighted to celebrate OB Megan Paul (née Marshall) (2006), who has been awarded *Legacy Professional of the Year* at the Institute of Legacy Management conference. Reflecting on her journey since leaving BGS, Megan credits the School with playing a fundamental role in shaping both her values and ambitions. We extend our warmest congratulations to Megan on this well-deserved recognition.

OB receives an OBE

This June, OB Peter Higgins (1981) will receive an OBE for his services to Education, Charity & Entrepreneurship. Writes Peter: "I loved my time at BGS, though in truth I spent most of my time playing rugby. I was not a great student, but the quality of the teaching was such that I scraped into Cambridge to read Classics. I managed to play 30 odd games of rugby for the University 1st XV, though sat on the bench at Twickenham twice, because frankly I was not good enough to get in the team! At 28 I helped set up Charles Tyrwhitt Shirts. The great thing about being an entrepreneur is that you are your own boss; yes, it can be very stressful, but once you have recruited a team of people who are much better than you in each role, it does become a lot easier. I have very much enjoyed coming back to BGS to lecture to the Sixth Form about why they should start their own business one day; they asked some inciteful questions too! Our country desperately needs more entrepreneurs, and I dearly hope that BGS will provide many of them in the future."

OB wedding celebration

Congratulations to OBs James Liu (2016) and Fran Berry (2017), who were recently married at Tithe Barn, Skipton, ten years after first meeting at BGS. We wish them every happiness for the future.





Emmy Award nomination

OB Tom Adams (1986) (far left) is an Executive Producer at Blink Films UK and Woodcut Media. Together with colleagues at Blink, Tom's documentary, *Operation Space Station* was nominated for an Emmy at the 47th Annual News and Documentary Awards. Christine Chin, Head of Documentary Emmys, said: "This year's documentary nominees represent

an extraordinary range of storytelling, from deeply personal narratives to sweeping historical examinations ... these films challenge perspectives, elevate underrepresented voices, and demonstrate the power of documentary filmmaking to inform, engage, and inspire audiences worldwide."

OB listed in Forbes 30 Under 30

OB Harry Robertshaw (2016) began his academic journey studying medicine before changing direction to electronic and electrical engineering at the University of Bristol, where he explored the intersection of healthcare and engineering through research into novel COVID-19 tests. After a year on the graduate scheme at Rolls-Royce, he went on to pursue a PhD in biomedical engineering at King's College London.

Harry said "My research now focuses on developing AI-assisted autonomous robotic systems for emergency stroke treatment, with the aim of expanding access to this life-saving intervention into underserved regions. This recognition reflects a collaborative effort over the past few years to establish autonomous



MY RESEARCH NOW FOCUSES ON DEVELOPING AI-ASSISTED AUTONOMOUS ROBOTIC SYSTEMS FOR EMERGENCY STROKE TREATMENT



robotic thrombectomy as a research field. Using AI, we can enable robotic systems to navigate blood vessels and remove clots that cause stroke. This has the potential to expand access to life-saving treatment, where the number of trained human specialists who can perform thrombectomy is small and access depends on where a patient lives."

Read more about Harry's research here: [robotic systems in stroke thrombectomy](#)

From BGS to elite motorsport – a formula for success

EDWARD THORPE (2019)

It was at university where I became interested in Formula 1; and then it was a lecture we had from a visiting team that made me realise I might enjoy the job! I wanted to do an industrial placement during my degree, so I applied for various F1 roles and was thrilled to secure an opportunity at Mercedes-AMG F1 where I still am now.

The high-pressure environment where decisions are made on the spot can be challenging, but it is also thrilling and rewarding. Aside from the technical skills, one important thing is to be able to get along with people easily and integrate well into the team, because when things get tough and the work gets intense, everyone needs to be able to trust you to do your part, just as you do them. You also need a good amount of determination and resilience to keep going even when things don't go your way.

I think the DT department at BGS was particularly great at letting you explore your interests outside of the curriculum. I remember first learning SolidWorks CAD, for example, and we used to make all kinds of random things during lunch times. Mr Taylor and Mrs Richards were great. I remember going on the trip to Bologna to see the Ferrari, Lamborghini and Ducati factories.



The physics department made the subject exciting. Mr Boardman and Ms Powne were always very supportive. And a big shout goes out to Sra Cuesta Gonzalez and Sra Marti Fernandez. I actually keep up Spanish at university alongside the engineering.

Regarding studying engineering at university, my advice to BGS pupils would be to try to get involved as much as possible with the field by doing your own projects, attending courses, working on old cars, whatever! And, don't be afraid to apply for any role that you think you would enjoy, as you might just get it!



SAMATHA TULLIE (2021)

I became enamoured by technology when I was younger. My dad was the first to pick up on this and bought me some Raspberry Pi kit to see if I enjoyed coding. Two of the computer science teachers at the time, Mrs Harvey and Mr Birkenshaw, were probably the main reason I kept going with the subject. They made the lessons genuinely fun and interesting, and it was obvious how much they cared about their subject as well as the students.

During my degree I benefitted from a placement working with the tunnel software team at Aston Martin F1. This team creates and maintains all of the software used by the aerodynamicists to run and analyse the data from the wind tunnel. This also involves communicating with the aerodynamicists to understand what they need from the software and how to best deliver it efficiently, as well as creating the solution.

- And I've supported the strategy team for the Mexican GP by listening in on other teams' radios and reporting anything that might be useful.

Going into a STEM workplace or lecture hall and being the only woman, or one of a small number, can be quite overwhelming. You might worry about not being taken seriously. I'd say to anyone, always remember you deserve to be in the room. Take up space, speak your ideas and don't let people talk over you, and definitely

don't believe anyone when they say you can't do something - use that as motivation instead.

The F1 placement has shown me how a fast-paced environment like motorsport balances delivering solutions quickly and effectively, there is very little room for error. It's definitely strengthened my passion for technology and whilst I don't currently know if I'll want to go back into the motorsport industry, I will definitely stay in the technology sector.

ADAM WHITAKER (2011)

I had great times at BGS and made some firm friends. My most enjoyable time was Sixth Form as I really got to focus on the subjects that I liked the most, business and P.E. for example. School ski trips were always really good fun too.

My dad was always an F1 fan, and I went to some. I used to build things with my grandad in his garage; he also had a huge passion for cars. I did car maintenance in General Studies at BGS. There was an old Toyota in the car park that we tinkered with, and we managed to get it running. I remember pushing it up the hill to the library, letting it roll back down and bump starting it, I don't think anyone thought it would run again!

After school I went to the National College for Motorsport at Silverstone, I then started an apprenticeship with a race team also based at Silverstone. I went straight into GT racing and then endurance racing. I became No.1 Mechanic on an LMP1 racing at the 24 hours of Le Mans, this taught me a huge amount about racing at the top level of motorsport.

My journey has really been shaped by just saying yes to every opportunity I was offered and gaining as much experience as I could. It takes time to build the experience you need to get a job in top level motorsport. It's the same as any other job in that respect I suppose.

I now work for Williams F1 as the No.2 Mechanic. Achieving some podiums with Williams last year was a huge moment for me. Williams is a team that has such a rich history of winning races and championships, but has suffered in the last 10-15 years, so it was an amazing feeling to see progress after all the hard work over the last few years.

If you want to get into F1, put yourself out there, speak to as many people and teams as



you can. Volunteer - teams will normally say yes if you just turn up at their awning and ask if you can help them for the weekend - that's exactly what I did and washed wheels, helped refuel for a couple of weekends - a job might materialise if you show you're willing to get stuck in.

A lot of people think it's very glamorous, but at times the work can be physically and mentally tough, constantly shifting time zones, long working days etc. The older I have become the more I realise this. You've got to make a conscious effort to look after yourself. The F1 season is long with 24 races and 4 tests and 6 months away from home each year. But I don't want to put anyone off going down this route as it's a fantastically rewarding career, with great progression.

CCF at BGS

OB Chris Conley (1982) developing leadership beyond the classroom

Returning to his former school decades after leaving, Chris Conley has helped reshape the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at Bradford Grammar School into a thriving, structured and ambitious programme.

When a call went out for volunteers to support Bradford Grammar School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) a few years ago, I knew it was something I could help shape. I've been involved in cadets for most of my adult life, and I understand the value it can bring - but also the commitment it takes. It's not something you dip in and out of. If you do it, you do it properly.



I'VE ALSO SPENT MUCH OF MY CAREER WORKING IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING DELIVERING ADVENTUROUS TRAINING FOR THE MILITARY AND TRAINING OTHERS TO TAKE YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE OUTDOORS.



As an OB, having been at BGS from 1974 to 1982, there was also a strong personal connection. I wasn't in the CCF myself at school—rugby rather took over at the time—but it always felt like something I'd missed. So, when the opportunity came to support the contingent and to build something meaningful for today's students, it felt important to step forward.

What began as a supporting role within the RAF section quickly developed into wider involvement across the contingent, and ultimately into my current role as Contingent Commander in January 2024.

My path into education and training has come through a fairly varied career. After studying at BGS, I went into engineering through an apprenticeship - something that wasn't the most

common route at the time. I went on to become a chief engineer within a large European logistics company, before moving into teaching and wider leadership and training roles. I've been involved in cadets since 1985, eventually becoming a commissioned RAF Air Cadets officer and running a unit for eight years. I've also spent much of my career working in outdoor education and leadership, including delivering adventurous training for the military and training others to take young people into the outdoors.

When I became Contingent Commander at BGS, the CCF was in a position where it needed some renewed momentum. Numbers were lower than we wanted, but there was a strong foundation to build on. Together with the team, we put in place a five-year plan with a clear goal: to have ten per cent of the senior school voluntarily involved in cadets. That's ambitious in any school, but particularly at BGS, where students already have so many opportunities competing for their time.



▶ Today, we have around 70 cadets, split almost evenly between our Army and RAF sections. The RAF section focuses more on aviation, leadership and air-minded activities, while the Army section develops fieldcraft, discipline and practical military skills. We also have representation from every year group, which is something we've worked hard to achieve. That growth has been rapid—but more importantly, it has been sustainable.

Recruitment is rarely the challenge in CCF. Retention is. At a school like BGS, where students are talented, busy and spoilt for choice, you have to offer something genuinely worthwhile to keep them engaged. That has been our focus from day one.

The strength of the CCF here lies in the students themselves.

In a community cadet unit, you are often introducing young people to opportunities they've never had before. At BGS, it's different. Our cadets are already highly capable and involved in a wide range of activities, which raises the bar for what we need to deliver. It means we have to be thoughtful and ambitious in our programme. We offer a broad and balanced experience - military skills, leadership development, adventurous training and aviation opportunities through the RAF. Cadets have access to flying and gliding, national courses, annual camps and competitions, all of which help broaden their experience well beyond the classroom.

We have also introduced a structured approach to progression. Whether it's marksmanship badges, leadership roles or technical knowledge, cadets work towards clear standards and achievements they can build on year by year. But what matters most is how they grow as individuals, and one of the most powerful aspects of the CCF is that cadets teach cadets.

Our senior students take responsibility for training younger ones—planning sessions, delivering lessons and leading activities. As staff, we guide and support, but we do not stand at the front and instruct. That ownership is what builds real confidence. Seeing a Year 11 student leading a session for Year 7s, or a Sixth Former mentoring younger cadets, is where the impact really comes to life. They're not just learning skills - they are learning how to lead.

We also focus on practical life skills early on. Every cadet completes first aid and CPR training within their first few months. It's a simple but vital qualification, and one that they carry with them well beyond school life.



WE'RE ALWAYS KEEN TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE WHO FEEL THEY COULD CONTRIBUTE, EVEN IN A SMALL WAY. THE MORE HIGH-QUALITY ADULTS WE HAVE INVOLVED, THE MORE WE CAN OFFER STUDENTS IN TERMS OF OPPORTUNITY, CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT.



We are only partway through our five-year plan, but the progress so far has been very encouraging. The next phase is about consolidation and growth - expanding opportunities while continuing to refine what we offer. We want the CCF to be something students choose because it genuinely adds value to their time at BGS.

We're actively growing our team of volunteers and staff, and this is one of the most exciting parts of what comes next. Each brings something different—military experience, teaching expertise or skills developed in other careers - and together they make the CCF richer for our students. For adults, it can also be a highly fulfilling experience, both professionally and personally. There are opportunities to develop leadership, management, and outdoor training skills while being part of something that genuinely impacts young people.

We're always keen to hear from people who feel they could contribute, even in a small way. The more high-quality adults we have involved, the more we can offer students in terms of opportunity, challenge and support.

For me, this is also about giving something back. BGS played a significant role in shaping who I am. It instilled resilience, a strong work ethic and the belief that if you are good at something, you should pursue it fully. Being able to return and contribute to that environment, particularly in a way that supports the next generation, is incredibly rewarding.

Water Polo and Swimming Gala

On Saturday 21st March, BGS hosted the annual Water Polo and Swimming Gala reunion. It was a fantastic afternoon of competition and connection, with the school taking the edge in the swimming events, finishing 71–51 overall. There were some strong performances from the OBs, including multiple second and third place finishes across individual races, and

impressive depth shown in the relay teams. Attention then turned to water polo, where the OBs continued their remarkable record. A dominant performance saw them secure an 11–5 victory, extending their record to an incredible 42-year unbeaten run. All in all, it was a brilliant day bringing together pupils, OBs and the wider BGS community.

Reunion Lunch

On the same day that OBs gathered in the BGS pool, the Headmaster addressed guests at the annual reunion lunch, bringing everyone up to date with school news and ambitions. Gabbey Stefanyszyn, who leads OB engagement in the Development Office was also in attendance, alongside the Deputy Headmaster, Jed Boardman, to share in the good company of those attending.

As ever, wonderful displays were created by our colleagues in the BGS Clarkson Library and Archivist, Tracy Lord, the food was superb, the drink flowed and the service and hospitality provided by the BGS catering team was exceptional.

Following the self-styled “warm up act” of the Headmaster, guests were treated to an excellent speech from OB Professor Nigel Cameron (1971) who is currently in the process of researching and writing his latest book on the subject of



former BGS school teachers of the modern era. Nigel has also turned his attention to the school history pages of our website and we are grateful for the scholarship he has brought to the redrafting of these, now updated and available via: [Bradford Grammar History](#). And as if that wasn't enough to keep the man occupied, Nigel is also in the process of producing a series of articles on aspects of BGS history for the Telegraph and Argus, shared via our [OB LinkedIn page](#), and we recommend these to you.





BGS rugby greats

A rare evening in the company of three BGS former rugby internationals, OBs Dan Scarbrough (1996) (who leads the present day rugby programme at BGS), Stephen Ravenscroft (1989) and Charlie Hodgson (1999) was enjoyed by many OBs. Memories of BGS and the professional game, insights and stories made for an informative and hugely entertaining evening - lots of laughs, a wonderful event.



Dan wasn't the only current member of staff to attend and share in the reminiscences and conversations. Matt Wilde, Head of PE Outreach, Jed Boardman, Deputy Head and Simon Hinchliffe, Headmaster all thoroughly enjoyed themselves too. And it was a pleasure to welcome former colleagues, and key figures of the BGS sport and rugby tradition, Geoff Wappett and Charlie Lines, to the event to share their memories and reconnect with BGS. Grateful thanks too to OB Andrew Foster (2000) who put the questions to our inspirational rugby stars and generally kept good order throughout an informal and very special gathering in London.

Marian Creek, Keeling Society – Italy visit

Marian Creek is a BGS benefactor and member of the Keeling Society of living legators who fund Assisted Places at BGS. The Headmaster and Bursar, Homera Najib, enjoyed a couple of days in the company of Marian, one of the school's most generous supporters, at her home in Italy. Marian's husband and school alumnus, John Creek (OB 1929) was Head Boy and an ardent scholar and sportsman. Their story is told here, on the BGS website: [Marian and John Creek](#)

Marian's connection with BGS is stronger than ever. Friendships continue to flourish across the miles between BGS and her home. The exchange



of gifts (Yorkshire treats included - biscuits and Parkin!) and cards between the BGS Italian Club run by Modern Languages teacher, Henry Carter and Marian was a highlight of the visit.





Year 13, Upper Sixth, Leavers Day

Another longstanding BGS tradition was enacted at this year's Leavers Day - ably adjudicated by Matt Wilde (BGS tug of war referee since 1849!). It remains a privilege to spend time in the company of these young people, our outgoing Year 13s / Upper Sixth - soon to be OBs and their families. This was not goodbye; but it was another poignant way marker in the lives of many - Headmasters included!





Colour Run

We're delighted to share that our Colour Run, held on Friday 17th April, achieved an incredible £40,000 for the 1662 Fund for means tested Assisted Places. The sum raised is destined for the 1662 Futures Fund endowment that is an important arm of our campaign going forwards.

The day was full of colour, energy and community spirit, bringing together pupils, staff, families and friends for a cause at the heart of our school's values.

The success of the Colour Run was very much a collective effort. Our sincere thanks go to our staff, volunteers, families and especially our incredible Parent Association, whose enthusiasm and dedication helped make the day such a success.



At a time when demand for Assisted Places continues to grow, the generosity of our school community makes a real and lasting difference. Thanks to this support, Bradford Grammar School can continue its long standing commitment to widening access, improving social mobility and delivering an outstanding education.



Dates for YOUR DIARY 2026

Bacchus Cup

One of the oldest and most cherished traditions in the OB calendar returns this summer.

In 1905, seven years after its formation, the Old Bradfordians Association was presented with a handsome silver trophy by its President, J B Bacchus, to be awarded to the winner of an annual OBs' golf competition. 121 years on, the 18-hole competition is still going strong.

Wednesday 24 June 2026. Tee times from 1.30pm–3.30pm. The Shipley Golf Club (Alister MacKenzie designed course, near Bingley). Cost: £45 total (£25 green fees + £20 dinner, including prizes)

The 18 hole competition is open to male and female OBs, as well as guests including parents, relatives, teachers and friends. OBs compete for the Bacchus Cup, won most recently in 2025 by OB Dan Murphy (1994), with additional prizes awarded for: best Stableford scores, nearest the pin and the longest drive. Play will be followed by an informal two course meal (in golf attire), prize presentation and the chance to catch up with old friends.

Players must hold a current WHS handicap and are welcome to arrange their own playing partners or be grouped on the day. Please contact OB Simon Shaw (1985) si.a.shaw@gmail.com to take part.



WEDNESDAY
24 JUNE

BACCHUS CUP

TEE OFF AT 1:30PM
THE SHIPLEY GOLF
CLUB, BECKFOOT
LANE, BD16 1LX

ENTRY FEE £25
PLUS £20 FOR
2 COURSE
INFORMAL MEAL



SATURDAY
4 JULY

ILKLEY SUMMER 7'S

ILKLEY RUGBY
FOOTBALL CLUB LTD,
STACKS FIELD, DENTON
ROAD, ILKLEY,
LS29 0AF

Ilkley 7s Rugby

Thursday 4 July (time to be confirmed), Ilkley RFC, Stacks Field, Denton Road, Ilkley, LS29 0AF.

All playing places are now fully booked, which is fantastic to see. We warmly encourage OBs to come along on the day, show their support, and enjoy what promises to be a brilliant festival atmosphere. Spectator tickets can be purchased on the gate for £10.00. For more information about the festival, please visit:

<https://www.ilkleyrfc.co.uk/ilkley-7s-festival>

The Old Bradfordian organising our team is OB Henry Sisley (2021) if you would like to get in touch with him, please email him at henrysisley341@gmail.com



SATURDAY
25 JULY

JF7S WIMBLEDON

9AM-11:45AM
WIMBLEDON RFC
BARHAM RD,
LONDON,
SW20 0ET

Wimbledon 7s Rugby

Saturday 25 July, 9:00am to 11:45am, Wimbledon RFC, Barham Road, London, SW20 0ET.

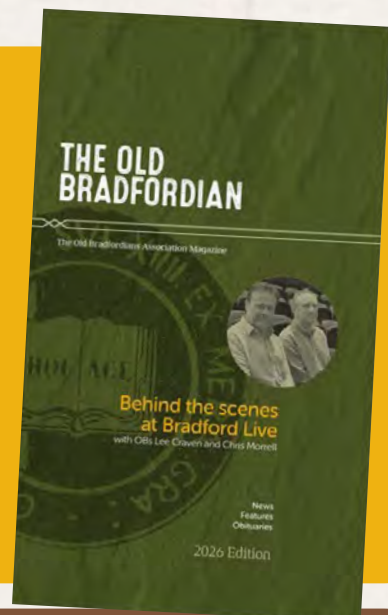
Tickets are £7.50 in advance or £12.00 on the door, please visit the following link for more information: [Buy tickets – JF7s Festival 2026 – Wimbledon RFC](#) We hope many OBs will join us for what promises to be an excellent morning of summer rugby and a great opportunity to connect with fellow alumni.

For further information or to express interest in playing or attending, please contact OB Henry Sisley (2021) at henrysisley341@gmail.com

Old Bradfordians Magazine

If you haven't already done so, please take a look at our recently published Old Bradfordians Magazine 2026 via: [The Old Bradfordian - Bradford Grammar School](#)

The stories of the OBs behind the successes of the Odean, Bradford Live project and NorthHouse Creative who lit up the palace for the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and worked on the spectacular half-time show at the Superbowl, are told in this latest edition, amongst those of other notable OBs. We also hear from major benefactors and OBs Roger Evans (1963) and David Allanson (1974), and Sanya Haleem (2025) a beneficiary of an Assisted Place now reading medicine at Cambridge.



Impact Report, 1662 Fund for Assisted Places

BGS's ongoing commitment to inclusivity, a grounded and a diverse social mix is sustained through the generosity of those who support the 1662 Fund and its subset, the Futures Fund, which endows Assisted Place Awards in perpetuity.

To those who have given to BGS we offer our deepest gratitude. In 2024/25 we raised £1.3m towards the 1662 Fund. The support of OBs and Friends of BGS is enabling our school to transform lives through the positive impact of an inspiring education.

Read the latest edition of the [Impact Report](#) for more details; and explore way in which you can support Assisted Places via this [link](#) or by contacting the development@bradfordgrammar.com directly. Thank you.

And finally... FROM THE ARCHIVE

OB Douglas Hamilton (1896)

This 1662 Crown piece was just one of many gifts presented to BGS by Mr Douglas Hamilton, a pupil at BGS from 1888 to 1896, and President of the Old Boys' Association in 1921. He was also a Governor from 1925 to 1936, and the Chairman of Governors from 1936 up to his retirement in 1956. Upon his death J. Eric Haygarth, the then Chairman of Governors said, "the beautiful buildings in which the School is housed today stand as a permanent example of one of his outstanding achievements, for he was the driving force behind the Building Appeal, which thanks to him attracted substantial gifts from public-spirited people all over the County. Not only did he devote much of his time and talents to raising the large sums necessary to complete the new buildings after the war, but he gave very generous personal contributions" Mr Hamilton died in August 1968.



► Clarkson Library

10 years ago, on the 18th April 2016, the newly refurbished BGS Clarkson Library was officially opened by Axel Scheffler, co-creator and illustrator of the Gruffalo along with our Chairman of Governors, Lady Morrison and our Headmaster, Simon Hinchliffe. The library had to relocate to rooms above the Sports Hall for 12 months whilst the work on the building took place, but the transformation of our library was well worth the wait! Some of you may remember the old Clarkson library with its very large globe lighting that gave off an orange glow? Very Dr Who like! If you are in school, please pop in to the library and check out our library display which follows the journey of the BGS library from 1876.



Lister Park Run

A great photo of a BGS Cross Country run around Lister Park. We don't have a date for this photo so if any OB's can remember running around Lister Park please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Mile Race

This photo was kindly donated to us by an OB. It shows the mile race in the school year 1938/39. The building of our new school in the background was almost complete by this time, but due to the outbreak of war it was commandeered by the army. Our new school wasn't officially opened (by HRH Duke of Edinburgh) until 1949.



Additional contributions for the archive are invited for safekeeping and future telling of our shared BGS history. Tracy Lord and her colleagues can be reached via:
bgsarchives@bradfordgrammar.com

Keep in touch

OBs are encouraged to share their news with us for future editions of the Old Bradfordian magazine and OB Newsletter. We would love to hear from you via development@bradfordgrammar.com – the email for the BGS Development Department and OB events, communications and the 1662 Fund for Assisted Places.