

# BEDALES ASSOCIATION & OLD BEDALIAN NEWSLETTER 2014



**To Members of the Bedales Association**

# **BEDALES ASSOCIATION AGM**

Notice is hereby given of the  
**31st Annual General Meeting of the Bedales Association**

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to be held at Bedales School on  
**Sunday 29th June 2014**

*The details are as follows:*

**11.00**

Bedales Association AGM in the Reading Room

**12.30**

Light lunch for Bedales Association members

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Once the exact timings have been confirmed, they will be published on the school website,  
where the Bedales Association Annual Report will also be available.

Exact timings will also be available from:

Helen McBrown by email ([hmcbrown@bedales.org.uk](mailto:hmcbrown@bedales.org.uk)) or phone (01730 711561)

who will also send you a hard copy of the Annual Report if you prefer.

Please give her the relevant address details.

**Richard Lushington**

**Bursar and Clerk to the Governors**

**Bedales School**

**Petersfield**

**Hampshire GU32 2DG**

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## EDITORIAL

Why Bedales Bee-keepers on the front cover? Just because it's a lovely image? Because I like to emphasise the Bedales Difference and there can't be many schools where you could do this? Because it will remind many a recent student of Ashley Bray (2003–08), a bee fanatic, whose life was so tragically cut short recently and whose memorial service takes place in March? But then why not something to remind us of Tim Slack (Headmaster 1962–74), a major figure in Bedales history, whose service takes place two weeks later? Because Tim and I would surely have agreed that the young always take precedence.

There are more reasons. Because it is a photo taken by Peter Coates (staff 1989–), who has contributed so much to this publication with his images over the years. As a 'thank you' to Peter you can see him with Hector, the school carthorse, on this page. I don't know who took this picture. Peter has contributed hugely to the Bedales Difference over many years as Head of Outdoor Work.

Something else: out in the Caribbean is an OB who has spent his professional life as a bee-keeper. He will be greatly pleased to see these bee-keeping Bedalians. Perhaps it is a little crazy to choose an image for a magazine with a circulation of 4,500 copies with a few individuals in mind, but that illustrates an important principle to me. I have always liked to deal with Bedalians individually rather than en masse. That has seemed to be how they worked best.

Since this is to be the last Newsletter which I edit, I have thought a good deal about what I have been doing over the years as alumni officer – well over twenty years since I first took on the editorship of the Centenary Roll. At about that time, Pennie Denton (née Player 1951–57, Head Girl, Bedales Librarian, Governor,

BGTF trustee, Bedales Association Committee Member) said to me "When Gonda (Stamford née Neale 1924–31, Head Girl, Bedales Librarian, Bedales Association Committee Member) is gone there won't be any such thing as Bedalianism". Apart from enjoying myself a lot, I have spent twenty years trying to prove her wrong.

I have tried to give a distinctive flavour to alumni relations. To deal with them in a way which was sharply different from other schools. My approach has been to treat the alumni as a rather large, loose, extended family and to avoid at all times anything which felt corporate or formal. I like to think that Gonda would have approved of this. It is certainly not in tune with the modern way of running schools, but it hasn't been hard for me – it felt a natural thing to do.

Everything that I have done has been motivated by the idea of offering a service: helping OBs to keep in touch with each other, helping them to achieve things in their adult lives, making them feel that their alma mater continues to be actively interested in them and keeping them up to date with what is happening at Bedales in a way which is not burdensome. Even occasionally offering some entertainment or provocation.

So what of the future? I will still be alumni officer behind the scenes for a couple of years yet, but in a gradually reducing role, so you can still find me at [darcher@bedales.org.uk](mailto:darcher@bedales.org.uk) but hitting the 'reply' button on an eBulletin will not suffice for much longer. Over the next few months, my successor will gradually take over the monthly eBulletins, the reunions and these Newsletters, so it is very much time for you to meet her.

Leana Seriau joined the staff in November. The next Newsletter you

receive will have the stamp of her personality and will also, I hope, be very different from the previous fifteen. She brings much needed new ideas and expertise to the task and I am sure that you will enjoy liaising with her as much as I am already enjoying helping her lay down the groundwork for the future. Please help her now by completing her request for information on the Newsletter cover sheet if you can.

**Leana Seriau** attended the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle in London and then Lancaster University, where she studied Geography. She has worked in Marketing and Admissions respectively at Southbank International School and then North Bridge House School, London. She moved to Hampshire at the end of 2013 and is very excited about her new role at Bedales. She looks forward to getting to know the school, staff and students (past and present!)



Inside this one you will find much that is familiar. Five articles by OBs about their present life are included, of which I draw special attention to Ben Strutt's description of how his Bedales education in general and in Design in particular has prepared him for a successful career. This is pertinent at the moment as the school sets out to renew its facilities in this area. Other OB writings reflect on the trials and tribulations of middle age, offer a pointer towards urban regeneration and explain how the lessons of Outdoor Work remain the most valuable.

Following the huge popularity of Alison Melville's article last year about Dunhurst in the 1930s, I include her sequel about Bedales in the 1940s. This seems to fit admirably with Guy Oram's recollections of life on the Bedales Farm in wartime.

On more general matters, I would like to encourage you to visit and 'like' the Bedales Facebook page and also to send us your email address so that we may include you in the monthly eBulletin circulation list if you are not already there. In any case, email is the cheapest and most efficient way for the school to communicate with OBs about most matters.

Finally, all that remains is to thank all those who have helped me in the production of the Newsletter and in all my other operations over the years. These include, as ever, my faithful proof readers, Anne Archer and Charlotte Bowdery, who is also an extremely valuable



[Visit our Facebook Page. Please.](#)

picture researcher and the brains behind the Bedales Facebook operation. I am particularly grateful to Mary Hancox, my assistant back at base, whilst I enjoy myself working in more scenic locations. Mention must also be made of Jane Kirby's (1974-79) indefatigable work in the Bedales Archive and Philip Parsons,

who continues to work with the younger end of the OB spectrum.

Special thanks are due to Lucy Holmes (OB 1980-87) for the design work on this Newsletter, for which she generously waived her fee.

I hope that many OBs will want to keep in touch with me, as well as with the school, from time to time. Anne and I are always pleased to receive visitors if you are passing by PA21 2EJ, but a glance at the map will tell you that this is a place where people rarely pass by. Maybe more likely at Laroque des Albères 66740, even if it is further away. Several OBs have already found us there!

*Dennis Archer*  
[darcher@bedales.org.uk](mailto:darcher@bedales.org.uk)



[Peter and Hector](#)

## HEAD'S REFLECTIONS ON 2013

Monty Waldin



In the Bedales Reception, there is a cross-section of a hundred year old oak, marked with key events in the school's life. It serves as a reminder, not only of the development of the school since John Badley brought it here in 1900, but also of the connection between the idea and the place, suitably enough memorialised in wood. In the same way that, as Larkin describes it in his poem, *The Trees*, the oak's experience "is written down in rings of grain", so the annual cycles of school life build year by year in order to create the inheritance that we have now: this annual letter gives me the opportunity to think out loud to you, products of past "rings of grain", both about the past annual cycle and about the broader inheritance of the school. A good place to start, if we are talking in round numbers, is almost a hundred years ago and John Badley's Jaw of July 1914 entitled *What the School Stands For*, which gives us some insight. Here are the key elements:

*Freedom from all that has nothing but conventional tradition to commend it, and freedom, no less, to follow when reason and feeling together show the way;*

*All freedom possible in range of interests and choice of work and self government;*

*Comradeship – the delight of sharing all the tasks and pleasure that life brings. The feeling of equality ... that comes from having a common work and ideals and sharing a life in common;*

*The habit of service; of work done ... for the school's good ... to leave it, in any way we may, better than we found it.*

The first twenty years of the school's time in Steep must have been as formative as they were vibrant – and full of hope before the community encountered the trauma of the terrible toll on young OBs' lives which started a few months after Mr Badley's Jaw of July 1914.

Strolling forward, through the school's passionate engagement with the high idealism of the formation of the League of Nations in the 20s to the further trauma of the Second World War, in my mind, the next highly formative time in the school's life was marked by the headship of Tim Slack (1962–74). It was with great sadness that we heard during the course of Parents' Day weekend that

Tim had died peacefully at his home in Steep. As well as presiding over Bedales during the tumultuous late sixties, it was Tim Slack who had the vision and determination to convince the school community that it needed to expand from about 240 students to 370 to provide the necessary range of sixth form subjects that would enable Bedalians to compete in what was becoming a much more demanding environment for university entry. Tim had to battle a good deal of innate conservatism in order to take these changes through, putting up North, South and Art blocks on and around the Orchard and moving the Head's house out of the Wing (where 6.2 housestaff currently live) into the newly built 50 Church Road, a surprisingly tranquil location Tim was instrumental in choosing. Not only have Tim's friendship and wise counsel been important to me since before I started over 12 years ago, but also Tim represented an extraordinary link with Mr Badley: as a very young head, he oversaw Mr Badley's birthday celebrations in 1965 and adjudicated over the argument that occurred on Badley's death in 1967 over what should happen with the Chief's remains, culminating in the scattering of Mr Badley's ashes over the Mem Pitch.



The vision, willingness to challenge established orthodoxies and high energy of Tim Slack in the 1960s put the school in a position to flourish along a distinctive, slightly different path than the one his predecessors envisaged; developing along a comparable path has been very much my goal over the past twelve and a bit years. There are all sorts of ways in which we bring external bodies in to provide a degree of objectivity on how we are doing and in particular how we are meeting our stated aims. Although school inspections are extremely useful, they are as concerned with the regulatory as they are with other more significant educational areas; so it was partly with this in mind that in June 2012 we engaged researchers from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, whom we asked to research the degree to which our students were motivated to be inquisitive thinkers and independent learners. The first phase, which resulted in a stimulating teaching staff Inset in September 2013 and has now led on to a second phase in the current academic year, concluded that many of the distinctive features of Bedales life were instrumental in making our students strongly motivated to learn. In particular, the Harvard researchers commented on the following: the range of choice that students have over their academic courses; the warm but mutually respectful relationships between students and staff; the willingness of teachers to share academic enthusiasms with students outside the classroom; and the degree of independent study afforded by the Bedales Assessed Courses. All these were identified as key factors in student motivation.

Unsurprisingly, the Harvard research identified the culture of creativity within the school as something which is central to its success. I think it is not entirely idle musing to connect a school like ours with the work that has been done since the

## PARENTS DAY AND OLD BEDALIAN WEEKEND

**Saturday 28th and  
Sunday 29th June 2014**

All Old Bedalians and members of the Bedales Association are welcome

**Early evening Concert in The Quad**

**Community Play**

**Dance Display**

**Exhibitions**

**Free tea and much more besides**

Please reserve tickets well in advance for concert and dance to avoid disappointment

Free tickets available from the Box Office 01730 711511 or [tickets@bedales.org.uk](mailto:tickets@bedales.org.uk)

turn of the century on the link between creativity and human development, in particular through the work of Richard Florida of the University of Toronto in his book, *Rise of the Creative Class* (2002). In identifying a particular group of people who are becoming the drivers of economic growth in the USA, Florida's book spawned a range of indices, measuring the most creative countries and the most creative cities in the world. At the heart of Florida's thesis are the three Ts: talent, technology and tolerance. These are seen as the three hallmarks and preconditions of, for example, a creative city. Creative workers are drawn to such cities because they look

for a cultural, social and technological climate in which they can be themselves. In such companies and cities, things like less formal dress, greater autonomy over your time and independent thinking are highly regarded.

It is interesting to take the bare bones of these ideas and to apply them to a school, especially if that school has the benefit of being close to a city like London which, along with San Francisco, Ottawa and Amsterdam, is up there ranked amongst the most creative cities in the world. So, exploring the idea of the creative school, we start with the three Ts. *Talent* – in the adult world of city or company, this means having a population that is highly educated and skilled. This translates easily to a school context, where you have highly educated and inspirational teachers, motivated strongly to instil in their students the skills that those innately talented and receptive students need. The second T is *Technology*: in a city this means the technological infrastructure necessary to fuel an innovative and entrepreneurial culture; in a school I suspect, as well as referring to hands-on access to digital media, it needs a broader interpretation; so in my mind it also relates to the infrastructure of opportunities available – both inside and outside the taught curriculum – for example through the attitude to student initiative. The third T is *Tolerance*, which translates very easily from city, country or company to school: in the same way that creative cities are notable for their tolerance of difference and diversity – racial, cultural and sexual – so adolescent communities (not generally known for their tolerance of difference) need to work against such prevailing innate intolerance and inward-lookingness to promote difference and celebrate the individual, rather than resigning themselves to the chameleon-like and shoaling tendencies of teenagers. I am certainly not saying

that Bedales is the finished article as a creative school, but I think that we have as realistic an aspiration as any school in the UK to get close to that destination. Let me try and articulate this further, initially through dealing with the first T, talent.

Talent in a school will moulder unless inspiration, rigour and active learning are to the fore. Nowhere is the Badleian concept of learning through doing more alive than in areas such as Art and Design. Particular music to my ears were the concluding words from Sir Terence Conran in the Theatre in September when he said in response to Matthew Rice's question about advice to a young designer: "Learn how to make things because in my opinion you can't design a glass or a piece of furniture unless you understand the making process...". (A recording of the talk can be seen at [www.bedales.org.uk/news/sir-terence-conran-talks-design-at-bedales](http://www.bedales.org.uk/news/sir-terence-conran-talks-design-at-bedales)). In the hand-to-eye skills patiently taught in Art and Design lie the basis of the talent that then enables the creative process. The rigour that lies behind Maths or the learning of language also provides the basis for all sorts of creative potential, not only at school but thereafter. It is a source of pride to me that Maths now jostles with English, History and Art as one of our biggest take-up subjects at AS level. Seeing Maths taught well is a reminder that the Humanities have no monopoly on creativity in the classroom.

Turning now to the idea of the school's infrastructure of opportunity or its climate of initiative, this is something which needs to be there at every turn – whether it is through being able to have an unusual degree of choice over the philosopher whose work you choose to explore in PRE or whether it is in the capacity to create a play from your own creative devising. A topical example here is of our recent winter production *Shockheaded*



## LONDON CONCERT

Musicians from Bedales School will be giving a lunchtime concert of vocal and instrumental chamber music at

**St Luke's and Christ Church  
in Chelsea, London SW3 6NH on  
Thursday 13th February 2014,  
to which you are warmly invited.**

The concert begins at 1pm and lasts for one hour. We very much hope to see you there and please do join us for refreshments from 12.15pm.

If you would like to reserve a ticket, please contact Jane Piper on 01730 711569 or external [relations@bedales.org.uk](mailto:relations@bedales.org.uk)

*Peter*, which pushed back the bounds of the way in which the Theatre was used physically and also transformed for the cast the experience of making a play. Cast and crew did this in two ways: they created the play effectively from the original cautionary tales, adding songs composed and performed by students; and they embraced a range of distinctive theatrical styles with a Vaudeville willingness to utilise dance, mime, puppetry and music in pursuit of the grotesque and nightmarish. The sense of scope and possibility that this

production embodies seems to be right at the heart of the best Bedales experience. Closely connected and fresh in my mind as well, is the concluding comment to the 1966 cohort film (on the website under Alumni) when Gyles Brandreth describes how in his life he has taken "the Bedales experience for granted ... I think what it gave me was the opportunity to really allow my enthusiasms to flourish; I was free to do whatever I wanted; and I did it and it was accepted that you could do it; so I think, having been to Bedales, I assumed anything was possible."

Now to Tolerance, the area where I feel schools have the most ground to make up and where, although we are making decent progress, we have yet much to do. Whilst we may be, compared with other teenage communities, relatively tolerant and reasonably kind, we remain much less outward looking and diverse than we should be. One of the most important ways in which we are seeking to move things on is the Global Awareness initiative. The impact of the arrival of our first Head of Global Awareness, Annabel Smith, who writes separately in this edition, has been strong, reminding us of the need to work collaboratively with others and in particular to open ourselves up to new ways of seeing others. In this respect, our first Global Awareness Lecture by Dr Shahidul Alam, *Humanising the Other*, made an enormous impact on the community. Two important initiatives that relate to Shahidul's talk are underway: one is a project involving Panos pictures, (enabled by Harry Hardie OB) which will see large scale outdoor photographic exhibitions (along the lines that Shahidul described in his talk) become a feature of the school in ensuing months; the other is our developing relationship with Charter Academy, an ARK school in a deprived area of Southsea. Our first initiative with Charter, a project whereby sixth formers become



reading mentors, is already underway. It has been heartening to see the way in which students have already quickly become engaged with the different strands of global awareness.

One of the ways in which current students are inspired to develop their skills and creative talents across such a broad range of potential careers is through the variety of talks and educational visits that they are exposed to. Many of the most stimulating encounters come through contact with members of the broader Bedales community, whether they be OBs or parents. In order to maximise the potential of this network and bring together various associated functions under one roof, I am creating a department called Professional Guidance. Situated initially in the unglamorous environs of the academic village and led by our Higher Education Advisor, Vikki Alderson-Smart, Professional Guidance incorporates careers, higher education, university liaison and OB liaison. It seeks to develop what we currently do through the provision of higher education and careers advice, enabling current students and recent leavers to have access to the strong network provided by OBs and current parents. Through linking OB liaison with Higher Education and Careers



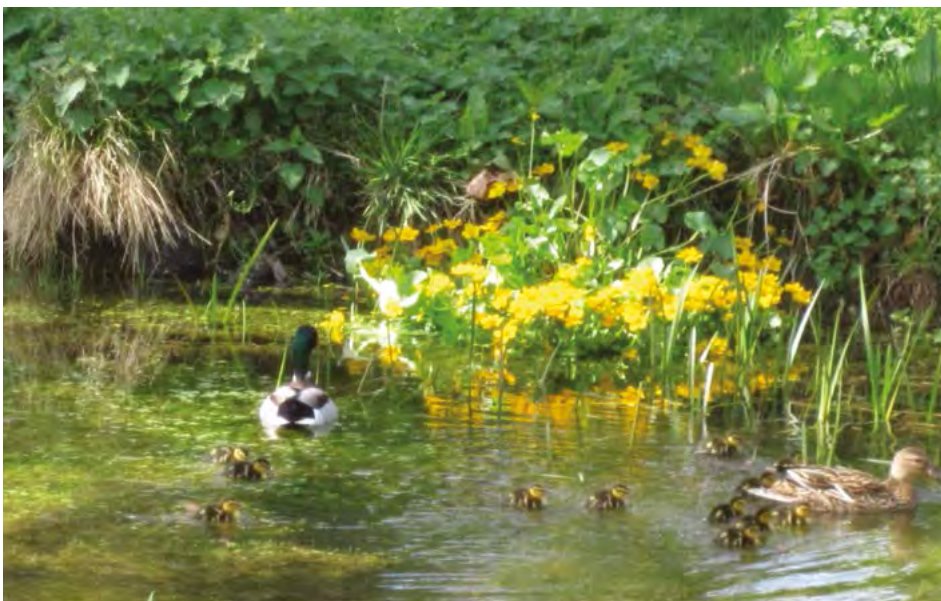
New observatory

we are deploying an existing resource – a former student network – in a mutually beneficial way. Leana Seriau, our new Alumni Liaison Manager, will be leading initially on setting up events and links between current students, Old Bedalians and parents in the world of Art and Design. I trust also that the name Professional Guidance aptly mirrors the scope and ambition of the new department, suggesting as it does both advice from the professional teachers and advice from particular professions/careers. If the experience of the increasing number of OBs who will engage with other students

and recent OBs through this initiative is in any way comparable to the success of the annual After Bedales higher education fair which happens each June, then it will be a positive enhancement for OBs, as well as current students.

Given the creative hallmarks of the school, it is unsurprising that OBs pursue such a diversity of careers and that you have such a high expectation of doing something which is both fulfilling and worthwhile. In this respect it would be wrong not to comment on the fact that in 2013 OB, Daniel Day Lewis, became the first man ever to win three Oscars for Best Actor and also, again with an American theme, another OB, Ben Polak, was appointed Provost of Yale University. I trust that an increasing number of you are availing yourselves of the section on the website which shows OB profiles. I know that the film about the leavers of 1966 was popular when I showed it to the school in November and it certainly looks as if it is gaining some traction with OBs. A number of current students have told me how much the values running through the film resonated with them.

Turning now back to the most recent cycle, although our A Level results,



Peter Coates

in common with those of a number of comparable schools, were not as strong as previous years, GCSE and BACs are up at the top of the range and our parting 6.2s have generally found strong university berths, as you can see from the website listing the courses and universities that they have been accepted by.

A recurring comment from OBs at university is that they have not subsequently had a teacher as inspiring as a Bedales teacher, who nurtured their initial passion for their subject. Happily, this also translates to prospective parents who now often comment to me, whether their tours be ones of Dunannie, Dunhurst or Bedales, that they have been struck by a degree of palpable enthusiasm and enjoyment of teaching which they pick up from their contact with teachers on their tour. In saluting those long-serving teachers who are leaving, our sadness at their departure needs to be tempered with plenty of gratitude for what they have given to many generations of students.

At Dunhurst, Louise Banks and Elaine Hewitt concluded their 22 and 21 years of service respectively as inspiring forces within the Dunhurst Creative Studies department. At Bedales Jane Webster retired following 15 years as an outstanding Maths teacher who cares deeply about her subject and has a remarkable ability to coax, josh and inspire students to feel that they can do Maths and do it well. Whether it was as boys' housemaster, Head of English or in the many other areas of involvement (The Chronicle, Outreach, curricular reform and Civics) Graham Banks has been at the centre of Bedales life for over three decades. A teacher who led his department from the front and was legendary for his passion about English and the high standards he expected from his students, Graham has had a powerful impact on so many of you. Happily for

all of us, his socially committed, humane, searching and deeply civilised values permeated so much of school life. I am sure that many of you will be glad to know that as well as being happily settled in their new home in Lympstone, Graham and Louise are both continuing to teach, albeit not full time, from this January.

Although my initial image of the long limbed oak and its rings of grain suggest annual, automatic renewal, schools like ours will only flourish if we can attract the kinds of families who are drawn to what our schools stand for and are willing and able to afford the fees. At the same time, we must also deploy our resources, in particular our finances, in such a way that we can enable the school to continue to develop; in this respect, money is as much the fuel as it is the lubricant. Healthy student numbers and vigilant husbandry of resources have enabled us to generate surpluses that can be ploughed back into some overdue improvements to the fabric of the school. The three stage refurbishment of Steephurst (at a cost of over £1.5 million) is now complete and has been well received; the replacement of windows in 6.2 (formerly Boys' Flat) is now complete and three magnificent new staff houses sit alongside Church

Road behind Outdoor Work. In addition the Sam Banks Pavilion, built as a result of an admirable fundraising drive, boosted by the Bedales Parents' Association and school funds, sits elegantly between the astro turf and the Dunhurst pitch. Affording salaries and housing that will bring the best teachers to us is one thing, but we also need to develop our stock of inspiring places where we can push the boundaries and where great work is

## TIMOTHY WILLATT SLACK (1928–2013)

**Bedales Headmaster 1962–74**

A Memorial Service for Tim will be held at Bedales in the Lupton Hall at 4.30pm on Sunday 23rd March, followed by a Reception.

*Please note the revised time, different from the one previously announced.*

All friends of Tim, friends of Bedales, and all Bedalians past and present are warmly invited.

Tim's family would welcome gifts to the **Tim Slack Memorial Fund**, established to support the building of Bedales' new Art & Design Centre.

To discuss donations and naming opportunities, please contact Veryan Vere Hodge on 01730 711697 or [vverehodge@bedales.org.uk](mailto:vverehodge@bedales.org.uk).

Thank you

## ASHLEY BRAY (1990–2013)

**Bedales 2003–08**

A Memorial Service for Ashley will be held at Bedales in the Lupton Hall on Sunday 9th March.

Please contact the school for further information on the timing.

All are invited to attend.



Badley Weekend Celebrations

inspired. The impact the Olivier Theatre has had on dramatic innovation here is a case in point. You will see elsewhere in the Newsletter that the plans for the Art and Design Centre have been modified as a result of a consultation that occurred in the summer and that the revised design is now with the planners.

A much appreciated series of additions to the school's resources have been through a number of legacies and donations in individuals' memories over recent years – some for specific purposes: the John Badley Foundation (£2,000 from Susan Salaman 1952–54); the Memorial Library (£53,480 from John Webster

1928–33 and £50,000 from Richard Holder 1968–75) and others for use at the school's discretion (£350,000 from Eve Woodyear 1941–44). Finally we received a legacy towards the Bedales Grants Trust Fund (£1.25 million from Brenda Binding 1924–32). Although the objects of the BGTF go beyond simply supporting children of OBs at the school, this legacy will, I am sure, have the effect of increasing the number of OB children who are able to attend Bedales. As you can imagine, such gifts are having a material effect on what we can do to improve the school and the opportunities it offers.

2014 should afford as many opportunities as there have been in recent years for OBs both to visit the school and for meetings elsewhere. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, whether here or elsewhere, during the course of 2014.

*Keith Budge*

### eBulletin sample

*Dear Old Bedalian*

*Welcome to what is likely to be the final Bulletin of 2013. Here you will find some reminiscences and reflections to watch, a piece of old Bedales archival interest, some up and coming artists and another keeping the flame alive on the Celtic fringes. Oddly, all this comes from the very young and the somewhat more mature, whilst all in the 30–60 age range seem to have been busy doing things they do not wish to tell me about.*

*I also bring news of Tim Slack's memorial service, which is to be held at Bedales at 5pm on Sunday 23rd March. All OBs and friends of the school are welcome.*

*Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and an enjoyable 2014*

*Dennis*

*Claerwen Onslow-Smith (2001–06) experienced a moment of revelation during her A Level history paper on Russian industrialisation from 1855–1956. From that moment, she knew that she wanted to be a painter, not an...*



Send your email address to [darcher@bedales.org.uk](mailto:darcher@bedales.org.uk) to receive our semi-regular monthly email Bulletin – start of the most recent edition shown above.

## GLOBAL AWARENESS AT BEDALES

Schools were created to achieve ambitious civic purposes ... reconnecting with those purposes can make education more relevant, engaging the imagination and energy of both students and teachers.<sup>1</sup>

Global Awareness is about the urgent issues of the day, both grand intercontinental narrative and the intimate detail of ordinary life. It encompasses the study of poverty, global public health, complex emergencies, human rights, gender, sustainability and the working of the media and requires an appreciation of the political, economic, social and cultural forces which contain and define our lives.

It is about learning how to look, understanding what you see and knowing what to do.

More than ten years after first jumping on my Global Awareness soapbox, the best argument for Global Awareness is still the simplest – young people love it. My first class renamed our course Reality 101, and that it exactly what it is.

Consider for a moment this question and answer:

“Who are the five biggest arms dealers in the world?”

“The five permanent members of the UN Security Council.”

The world looks different when you know that.

Yet, despite universal agreement on the vital role of global education – from academics, universities, employers and experts – and a cornucopia of fabulous resources, only a handful of schools have made more than a token commitment.

The norm is a ragtag and bobtail collection of assemblies, speakers, lunchtime and afterschool activities – resulting in bewildered students concerned this week about child soldiers in Uganda, next week about micro-credit in Indonesia. We wouldn’t teach any other subject this way.

At Bedales we are developing a clear rationale based on two central principles: making Global Awareness part of our progressive, mainstream curriculum and rooting it in our local community.

There are, after all, many Nobel Laureates who cannot fix poverty and many brilliant

statesmen and women who cannot prevent war. These are subjects worthy of curricular space and also of collegial collaboration. One of the distinctive qualities of Global Awareness is that it works both vertically, as a distinct subject, and horizontally, as connective tissue linking and enhancing the existing academic programme. It is not, as a colleague once suggested with a dreadful mime, just another thing you have to jam into the great jar of learning.

As for starting the learning locally, it seems to me that this is where our integrity lies. We cannot speak with any authority about issues elsewhere if we have no understanding of our own neighbourhood. As Kofi Annan wrote: ‘I am often asked what can people do to become a good global citizen? I reply that it begins in your own community.’

This is a hugely exciting innovation and one that I feel extremely lucky to be part of. When fully realised, Global Awareness is the ultimate expression of ‘Head, Heart, Hand’ – and ‘The Work of Each for Weal of All’ – and intrinsic to a lived awareness that feels perfectly at home at Bedales.

### Here are a few highlights from the first term:

The inaugural Global Awareness lecture, given by Dr Shahidul Alam. His theme, Humanising the Other, made an enormous impact on the student body. Legacies include an increase in the determination to fold ideas of visual literacy and storytelling into the curriculum and to create digital spaces for students to continue discussion and debate beyond the classroom and the school day.

The creation of a Global Awareness student group. This has over 30 members, all of whom are full of ideas. Students



Dr Shahidul Alam

want to find times and spaces for more conversations, to bring in speakers and people with different life experiences, to focus on photography and film, mental health and women’s rights, to connect through social media and contribute to the creation of a Global Awareness BAC.

Deepening the new partnership with Charter Academy, Portsmouth, through a reading mentors/literacy project. Six Bedalians are working with Charter students and teachers on reading, writing and storytelling.

Developing connections with international partner schools, including Woodstock and

Vasant Valley Schools in India and Putney and Groton Schools in the US. Planning new exchanges with Putney and Woodstock for 2014, and integrating these into a progressive five year programme of international learning opportunities for all students at Bedales.

The Swaziland Project and trip. This was a great success. A thorough debrief produced a set of recommendations for future trips. Chief among these is a commitment to creating a learning strand that connects the before, during and after.



Swaziland project

Auditing and mapping the existing curriculum in preparation for building a five year, progressive curricular strand that ensures that all students leave Bedales with knowledge, skills and understanding of global issues, as well as opportunities for action and 'lived awareness'.

*Annabel Smith, Head of Global Awareness*

*1. Leading for Global Competency by Fernando Reimers. Educational Leadership, September 2009 | Volume 67 | Number 1. Fernando M. Reimers is the Ford Foundation Professor of International Education, Director*

*of Global Education and Director of the International Education Policy Program at Harvard University.*

## JOHN HADEN BADLEY SOCIETY

On Friday May 3rd 2012 eleven members of the John Haden Badley Society met to have lunch together at the headmaster's house at Bedales. Membership of the Society is open to all those who have informed the school that they intend to remember Bedales in their Will, and is a way of saying thank you. Members meet annually for lunch either in London or at Bedales and are also invited to other events at the school.

The weather was perfect for the occasion, after which Keith Budge spoke about the school and its latest development plans, in particular the proposed Art and Design

building. There was plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion as well as reminiscing. Next year's meeting will take place in London and members will soon be advised of the date.

### **Building on the Legacy of John Badley**

In recent years Bedales has benefited substantially from the generosity of Old Bedalians who have been inspired by their own experience of the school to further its work by means of a legacy in their Will. Such gifts have helped to build new facilities, maintain and improve existing ones and fund bursaries for students who

would benefit greatly from a Bedales education but who would otherwise not have access to one. Anything that OBs feel that they can do to support the school in this way will be greatly appreciated. The school alumni officers, Philip Parsons and Dennis Archer, are happy to advise on legacies and can provide information on the various projects here at Bedales that would benefit from your help.

*Philip Parsons  
pparsons@bedales.org.uk  
01730 711631*

## THE TIES THAT BIND US

On 9th November 2012, Lucie Brenda Binding OB died, leaving almost exactly £1.25 million to the Bedales Grants Trust Fund (BGTF). This raised a number of questions: Who was she? Why did she leave so much to this particular charity? In turn, it made me reflect on why I work as a trustee for the BGTF and why it matters.

First to give some details of Brenda, born Brenda Graves on 3rd February 1914, who attended Bedales from 1924–32. She apparently enjoyed her time at the school, keeping loosely in touch over the subsequent 80 years after she left, but never very closely so.

It is not clear why she came to Bedales, sent by a father who worked around the globe for Cable and Wireless, though settling in Sheet at some point for a time. We do know that she and her elder sister Juliet pestered their father to let them come to the school. Her sister married an OB, Fred Seyd, whose family were deeply involved in Bedales. I am grateful to their daughter, Nicola Seyd, for all my information about Brenda.

She achieved fame but once in her life, whilst she was still at school, bravely attempting to rescue a boy in difficulties swimming in the River Rother at Sheet.



Sadly, what she struggled ashore with turned out to be a body, but she was complimented on her bravery by the coroner.

After leaving Bedales, she studied stage design at the Grosvenor School of Modern Art, working at the Old Vic and Sadlers Wells, before moving to Paris. Later, she travelled extensively in the Americas. When the war came, she joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) working, amongst other things, as an ambulance driver. After the war, she married Roy Binding, a former prisoner of war in Italy, but there were no children and the marriage did not last.

After that, very little is known, apart from the fact that she became a carer for her ageing father, settling in Salisbury, where she eventually died. Communication with Bedales in all these years was entirely carried out via Hugh Thomas OB, a fellow Salisbury resident some 14 years her junior, but who sadly predeceased Brenda comfortably.

So why did she leave almost her entire estate to the BGTF, a charity that exists primarily to help children of OBs attend the school? It's not an obvious move in the current political climate, appearing to perpetuate privilege by enabling fortunate children to follow in their parents' footsteps. I face the same question myself, wondering why I invest so much time and effort supporting this process. It won't do to say that I get a certain amount of



vicarious pleasure from helping children of Bedalians whom I enjoyed teaching to benefit from the same experience.

It is worth examining another question. One which I am asked more often than any other by OBs who visit the school: Has it really changed? A silly question, of course, since no school could stand still, but OBs really want to know if that indefinable essence, the thing which makes them feel attached to the school, is still there. This presupposes that such an 'essence of Bedales' exists in the first place. Obviously I believe that or I wouldn't have worked here for 40 years.

Headmasters and others have expended endless hours and reams of paper over the decades to try to identify and distil this spirit, so that they will know better how to cherish and preserve it, but that is immensely difficult. An alternative approach is to let the Bedalian family, parents and their children, do much of the work for us. Those OBs who most valued and appreciated the ethos and atmosphere of the school will naturally be the ones most likely to want their children to enjoy the same experience. If sufficiently many of them are in the school at any given moment, they are likely to want to support and nourish the more important values and traditions in the context of the modern school.

Now many of these people are neither privileged nor wealthy and the regrettably high costs of sending children to Bedales are often prohibitive. Through help from the BGTF, many more children of OBs are able to attend than would otherwise be the case. The hope is that, in some sense, they are helping to keep the flame alive.

Brenda's bequest has instantly doubled the contribution that the BGTF is able to make. In particular, via the new Brenda Binding Bursary, she has enabled the trustees to support a student whose

parents could not have even contemplated Bedales with the levels of funding previously available. The trustees hope to extend this level of assistance to increasing numbers of pupils as funds permit.

The past year has been a good one for the BGTF in many ways. Funds invested have now grown to a little over £2.8 million. Simon Latham (OB 1993–98) has joined the trustees and chairs a small sub-committee who take responsibility for the investments. We have also welcomed

Peter Hall (OB 1975–79) back as a trustee after a short absence. We are delighted to have him back.

We are supporting more students than ever, most, but not all, of them children of OBs. We have high ambitions for the Fund, which we hope to achieve by good investment. However we are always pleased to receive further contributions from donors who sympathise with our aims.

*Dennis Archer (trustee)*

## A YEAR IN THE ARCHIVES

The Archive holdings now fill the back of the Library office and the room behind that was created from the storage area to the rear of the Lupton Hall. The theme this year has definitely been World War 1 as people are starting to think about writing articles or books for which they want information on Bedalians of the era. We were very touched that Jill and Bidy Trubshawe (OBs) have recently donated the letters their father Vyv had saved from the War and I'm sure that we will be using some extracts from these as we commemorate the centenary. Bedales is mentioned briefly in Anthony Seldon's new book *Public Schools and the Great War*. Ruth Whiting spent a great deal of time collating our statistics in answer to his questionnaire, and we were slightly disappointed that he and his co-author did not explore in more depth the contribution made by Bedales women.

The other significant change over the past 12 months has been an increase in the number of visits by groups of people interested in Arts & Crafts Architecture. Alastair Langlands has led some of these, with great success, and there are more planned for next year. The School is currently focussed on increasing 'Global Awareness' and we are reminded that Global includes Local, so it is good



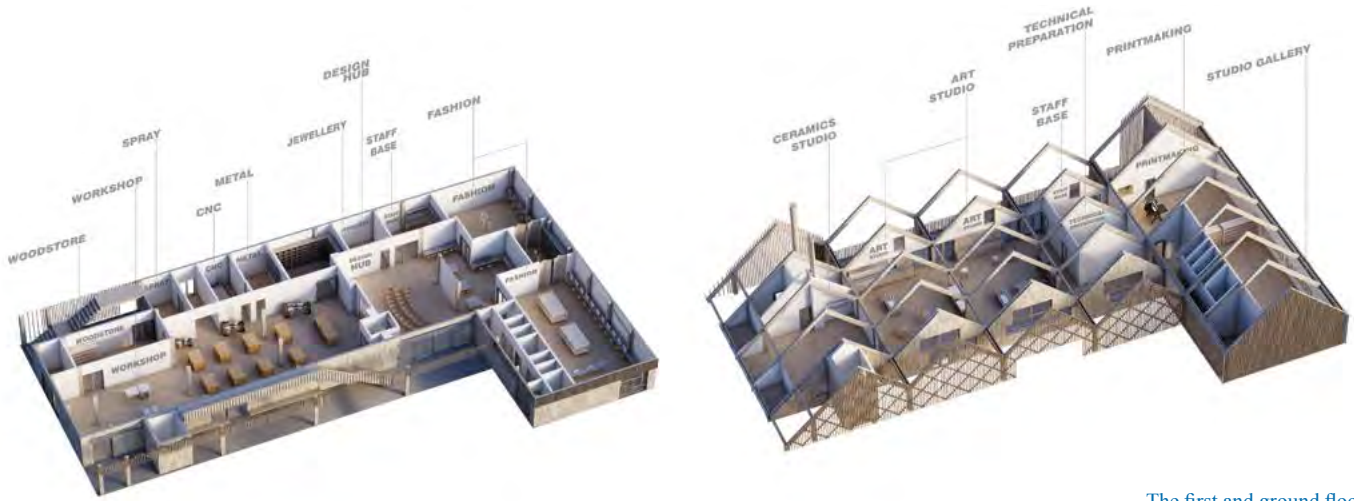
Vyv Trubshawe in the Bedales Book of Remembrance

to have these positive experiences with local arts and history societies. Another visitor, this time from the National Trust, was the curator appointed to prepare the Gimson house Stoneywell for its public opening in 2014. He came with Hugh Routh OB and thanks to the Bursar we were able to explore the architecture of Five Oaks as well as the Library and Lupton Hall. Some of the furniture

that will on display at Stoneywell was originally made for Five Oaks.

*Jane Kirby (née Williams, OB 1974–79  
Librarian/Archivist)*

# ART & DESIGN CENTRE NEWS



The first and ground floor layouts

## Consultation Results

The school is grateful for feedback on the Art & Design Centre plans and as a result, many aspects have changed. In keeping with Bedales' reputation for creativity, the building will represent the best in arts education – and it will now be more compact, maximise teaching space, have lighter cladding and be set further from Steephurst. There will be a smaller Facilities building next to the Centre with the bulk of maintenance activities moved to a new yard elsewhere.



An impression of what the new Art & Design Centre will look like



Image to show where the new Art & Design Centre will be situated on the Bedales Estate



## Student Opinion



“Bedales really helps me to be creative. The Art teachers encourage you to do things off your own initiative. When you get to the second year of A Levels, they say it is completely up to you, you can do your own thing, make it what you like, which is quite scary, but it is absolutely incredible.

The current Art classrooms are really hectic and cramped. Having a bigger space would be great to work in; it would enable us to do pieces that are really huge, as opposed to having to fold them up on easels to try and fit them in.”

*Imo Jeffes*



“I feel the way that Design is taught in the Bedales workshop is very much a teaching of the core craft. As soon as you think of an idea, the teachers are very good at helping you visualise your design and actually see it on paper or screen.

As a student committee, we looked at the initial designs of the new Art and Design Centre from the architects and we showed them what we really thought was a good move for the building as opposed to what didn't need to be there. The teachers have also had many different inputs. The initial designs now look nothing like the final plans. But that is a good thing; in the sense that now the building has been adapted to what we really need.”

*Albie Waterton*



“I've got this picture in my head that the new Art and Design Centre is going to be this building here you can just turn to your left or turn to your right, and there is this amazing view that you can draw a picture of, or get some inspiration for your new textiles design or building a chair.

It is going to be in the perfect location because it's still very much in the school area where all the main buildings are.

It is going to be an inspiring place that will really fit in well with the other buildings. It's like they're all brothers and sisters and there's just the new kid that has been born!”

*Eddie Ashley*



“There is a huge emphasis on not just the creative process of designing in Fashion, but also the actual process of making and technique, which in my view are the most important things to know if you want to design effectively.

Seeing as our syllabus is such a technical one involving a lot of pattern cutting and rather large-scale work, it is very important to have the space to work in really effectively. I think one of the lovely things about a bigger Design Department would be the ability to come in and work outside lesson times. I think it would be brilliant if we could have lots more shared spaces so the process of creating could be more interlinked.”

*Alexander Yetman*

**Keep up to date with the latest Art & Design Centre news by visiting:**

[www.bedales.org.uk/art-design-project](http://www.bedales.org.uk/art-design-project)



## BEDALES IN THE 1940s

### A Personal Reminiscence

The year 1939 recalls two major shocks: one personal, one global.

For me, going up to the big school was a great change. From the warm and always encouraging ambience of Dunhurst, with its positive Montessori approach (my grandmother had been a friend and admirer of the Dottorossa and Aunt Amy trained in her methods) to what seemed like a hostile environment, was upsetting. Bedales was going through a difficult patch and a negatively critical attitude infected the school. One or two of the teachers considered, perhaps with reason, that I had been favoured by Aunt Amy, Head of Dunhurst, and took it out on me. But far worse was the second shock: war.

How we had rejoiced, in 1938, when Mr Chamberlain made peace with Hitler! And what a horrible surprise hit when war started. Poor Freddie Meier, new to his job as Head, was faced with the sudden loss of a number of pupils whose parents thought they would be safer in America. Some left for good – Wedgwoods for example – some returned after the war. There was some recompense when such as the de Peyers and Parsons came to Bedales to be safer from school in London. Nevertheless we faced the threat of air raids. Hastily, trenches were dug along the field below the top games pitch (near the Church), and whenever the siren went everyone had to trek up there. The great entertainment was to find the biggest slug (record 10 inches?). Soon new concrete bunkers were built near Steephurst, and the trenches abandoned.

We Melvilles, being day children, did not have to endure the bunkers at night. Our neighbours in The Camp dug a great pit for an air raid shelter and had the bright idea of lining it with a huge rainwater tank. Needless to say it filled with water, so they used to take shelter with Mrs Rollo Russell next up the hill. My father stoutly refused to build a special shelter, so when a raid came close – and frequently Portsmouth was attacked – we would gather in the strongest part of the house, at the foot of the stairs. I shivered and shivered, blaming the cold. But it was fear. (Was it worse for the boarders in the bunkers?) Towards the



Workshop

end of the war Janey and I would huddle in bed together for the most frightening thing: without warning you'd hear the hideous drone of a doodlebug. When it stopped your heart stopped: it was going to dive. Nowadays the sound of a siren sends me all of a wobble.

Personnel were changing. Our gardener left to join up and my father learned to Dig for Victory. His first plan, to grow the most concentrated nourishment possible, was peanuts. This scheme was no more successful than a later one in Africa,

but he soon became an expert. Both our parents' lives became hectic. Father took on the job of Billeting Officer and, having sold our car for a song, bicycled around persuading perhaps a single lady and her housekeeper, in a 'small country house' with only 17 bedrooms, to take on one or two snivelling Portsmouth slum brats. Mother, apart from W.V.S., learnt to make do and mend for six hungry children (and occasionally for thirty unscheduled evacuees). They'd taken in two boys from Emanuel College (evacuated to our area) who became like brothers to us four girls. One of them liked the area so much that he stayed for good: Paul Townsend, at one time Head of Dunhurst, and husband to Molly, Bedales girls' Housemistress.

As schoolchildren our war efforts were perhaps more a matter of endurance than hectic activity: hungering for butter, sugar and jam (good training for later times of recession!), Red Cross, KIT (Keeping in Touch), knitting mittens out of Elastoplast waste for the Merchant Navy, writing letters to lonely sailors.

Some favourite teachers left. Latin had been fun, taught by an imaginative Welshman, Wyn Lewis. We had Latin names, conversations, notebooks and the occasional Roman feast in the Studio. When Wyn left for the army, some of us gave up Latin. Likewise we lost our Bio teacher, Jeff Spencer, whose riotous parties at his home (The Lodge, up the road from The Cricketers Inn) were extremely popular. His lady replacement is remembered for having shown us how to get through a thorn hedge: backwards, 'like a tramp would do', and was torn to shreds. Not so brilliant in a time of severe clothes rationing.

My best subjects became German and French. Miss Chapman, tiny and birdlike, battled successfully against recalcitrant pupils ('I'm waiting, I'm looking at the clock') and won. She would take some of us across the fields to artist Paul Maze's house which he had turned into a haven for Free French sailors. Miss Chapman married one of them later and went off to live in the Channel Islands. Ken Keast was great for German, a brilliant teacher. These two were crucial in getting me into university, bless them.

Music was another 'best'. Nancy Strudwick, who took over 'cello, was tremendously encouraging. She even achieved the rare permission to take me up to the Albert Hall to hear Casals play the Dvorak 'Cello Concerto. Similarly, Harry Platt was a very positive influence. Towards 5th/6th form days, Geoff Spencer and Jan Fabricius got together a voluntary chamber orchestra. We started on the Brandenburg Number 2, they taking the solos on their flutes. With no conductor things got a bit out of hand. One after another, players stood in front to conduct, but could not keep time! "Well Ali, you'll have to do it." Years later John Bush wrote to me from Australia, relating how, without a word, I broke a twig from the nearby flower arrangement, and waved it up and down – in time. Harry Platt heard of the enterprise and came to encourage. He lent me his own baton and gave me some lessons. "To bring them in, lift your baton with a strong upward sweep". When it came to our concert performance I did just that, caught Geoff's music with the tip of my baton and sent it flapping over the orchestra kerplonk onto the idle drums.

The first few phrases were drowned in laughter.

As day children we were allowed to feel that we were almost pariahs (though I must admit, our attempts to do as boarders did – morning run and cold bath – were short lived). Even my sister Wen, the most popular girl in the school, once told me that she felt we were second class citizens. And this was not mitigated by a few of the teachers. Strangely though, when Peggy Barnsley/Karen Antonini was made a boarder she became so unhappy that she and Peter Wright ran away from school.



School Council Meeting

Our English teacher, an ex-army major, provoked mixed feelings. The Shakespeare performances he produced in Lord Horder's garden, with the Steep Players, were outstanding, his schoolwork enlivening. He liked to fill in the expurgated passages in Hamlet and he thought teaching grammar was quite unnecessary – "You'll pick it up as you go along". This was not popular with the language teachers, and School Cert questions about participles and constructions left us mystified.

Feeding the school must have been a nightmare. I don't remember much: semolina pudding stuck on one's uvula; Brussels sprouts and kale recalling frozen fingers from having to pick them for Outdoor Work, to be served with corned beef for lunch; seeing hulking 14 year old boys stuffing four-tier peanut butter sandwiches at break; munching sweet chestnuts gathered under the trees along the top games pitch, beyond Tom Holding's wind instrument hut.

Morals: boys and girls were accommodated in separated buildings, unlike one or two more progressive

schools. If you had a special relationship, you were said to be 'going' with so-and-so. Only in one case did I learn of a couple 'going the whole hog' (there was a barn down at Dunannie) and then for some reason or other they went hand-in-hand to Freddie Meier and confronted him. But as they'd finished school there was hardly anything he could have done. For all his troubles, Freddie was a kindly fellow. He once gave a wonderful Magic Lantern Show (how Proust would have loved it!); and another

time he booked all two carriages of the Bluebell Express for the school to go to Midhurst to see the film of *Henry the Fifth*.

Entertainments: you could almost include Evening Assembly here, for each was splendidly interdenominational. As was Sunday Jaw, though that was occasionally rather long drawn. Besides our own music, plays and Merry Evenings, we had some memorable visits: Stephen Spender, beautiful as a god, and the Griller Quartet. They were in the R.A.F. and the cellist's

uniform buttons rattled, so he called for a pair of scissors and chopped them off.

My father had retired in 1930 on a fixed pension. By 1948 when he had seen all four of his children through Bedales, his income was less than that of a farm labourer. Then university costs meant extreme abstention. It must seem ungrateful to be resentful of some of our Bedales experience – especially when people like Mike Caine thought Bedales the happiest time of their lives. A few who could afford it, sent their children there. We didn't: when our oldest child was two we apparently needed to make early bookings, so wrote to several independent schools asking for brochures and copies of school magazines, with a view to picking the right place. Most sent kind

and interesting replies. Some person in Bedales administration replied demanding a banker's written assurance that we could afford the fees. My husband went through the roof.

When seven of my grandmother's children went to Bedales it was situated in Sussex. How was it that Mr Badley found such a beautiful part of the world as its present location? It leaves wonderful memories of bike rides with friends up into the Downs, for example, or walks through Lord Horder's beautiful Ashford Chase and up Stoner, and skating on Peefee Lake.

I suppose there will always be a caste system in some form or other but I sincerely hope that the erosion of it that

occurred through World War Two will hold good. I hope that a basic requirement for acceptance will not be wealth; that there will be a strong element of day pupils on equal footing – I believe there are excellent links with the locality. Finally, having had a long lifetime to make comparisons and see the influence that Bedales has had on education nationally, acknowledging the excellence of the greater part of my education there, and the intense appreciation it instilled, most of my earlier bitterness has melted. John Badley was so right!

*Alison Mallett (née Melville, OB 1939–46)*

## BEDALES FARM IN WARTIME

Priscilla Siebert (née Thornycroft)



The main purpose of the farm, I think, was to provide milk for the school and probably eggs and pork, though the last two were curtailed when war broke out.

Most of the fields were under permanent grass for the cows to graze and to provide hay for the winter. There was one field under the plough if I remember right (behind the swimming pool). They grew

kale and marigolds for the stock and a bit of corn partly to provide straw for thatching and bedding.

When war came, a tractor appeared on the scene driven by Bob Ferguson, who was a bit of a hero of mine, as was anyone who drove a tractor; like the engine drivers who came puffing through our stations. How we longed to be like them!

A few more fields were ploughed and potatoes were grown. In Outdoor Work we made ourselves useful picking up the spuds lifted and scattered by Bob's machine.

I wish we could have watched the milking sometimes. The nearest we got to that was the daily chore in pairs when two boys brought the milk down from the dairy to the school kitchen in a sort of churn on wheels. I remember this because one day the boy I was working with, who later became famous in the world of ballet,

found a dead toad and was about to drop it in the milk but fortunately thought better of it. There might have been recriminations.

Then there was haymaking. One year some of us turned the whole of the San field with rakes. Hard-turning hay is fun in a small area and it smells lovely but doing a whole field under a blazing sun made us grumble a bit. "Why doesn't the school buy a machine for this job?" Luckily for us the weather held dry or we would have had to do it again. I think they did get a rope-drawn swath turner after that.

When I first came to the school in 1939 there were riding horses down beyond the Gym. My only memory of them is that I was standing leaning against the fence with my back to the field and one came up and bit me on the shoulder! When war came the horses just disappeared. I hope they found good homes for them.

A wealthy benefactor paid for the creation of a riding ring with sand and fences. Of course this fell into disuse. One day the powers that be heard that this person was coming to visit, so a group of us was hurriedly dispatched to tidy up the ring. It was full of thistles. I never did discover if he or she actually got to inspect it. I hope the horses are back now. They had some lovely stables.

Some children had little garden plots I think and I myself was involved in breeding rabbits for meat (remember it was wartime), but this project came to a sudden end, probably because the rabbits multiplied so much during the summer term. We could not cart them all home for the holidays and there was no one able or willing to look after them at school.



is shining and that's all. Same with the staff, though I think Miss Hobbs kept bees somewhere. She liked talking about them.

But what an asset the farm is! I was perhaps unusual in that I would go wandering off alone through the fields and

Today there is felt a need to reconnect young people with earthly things and I'm sure the school is going along with that. I feel sorry for children brought up in cities. No wonder some of them go off the rails. Not many will grow up to become farmers these days but to learn to garden and grow a bit of food can be most satisfying.



Looking back, I wish we could have been more involved with the farm but it was war time and such activities probably had to be curtailed. We were useful for dull, back-aching jobs like potato-picking and hoeing which would put some people off for life.

Many of the pupils came from London ("town" they called it) and may have had the urban attitude to the countryside – a nice place to walk in when the sun

woods, exploring and looking for birds' nests. There were so many then. I did not take eggs. I was like Bill Oddy – allowed one of each sort for my collection. But even if you weren't interested in that sort of thing, the benign influence of the countryside would help many.

One would lie in bed on spring mornings when it began to get lighter and listen to rooks cawing round their nests and feel the stirring of a new year.

And that's about all I recall. Not very exciting. No stories about chasing German parachutists around haystacks! Thank God. In fact the War left us largely unscathed. We used to lie in bed at night and hear the doodle bugs trundling over on their way to London and wonder if they would cut out over us. If one had then I might not have been here to write this. One did land or get shot down one afternoon while we were in class, about two miles away. There was a mighty bang and the windows rattled.

*Guy Oram (OB 1939–45)*



Bedales Farm today

## AVOCADOS, ADVERSITY & LA BONITA ANDALUCIA



Sometimes things in life just creep up on you. And looking back, it's hard to pinpoint exactly when or where a longing transformed itself into a possibility and finally into a reality.

But John Rogers has much to answer for as I smile on remembering the hours spent doing Outdoor Work, complaining even as I volunteered in a masochistic sort of way. How I loved the soggy afternoons spent in the outdoors, when I was part of a motley crew of teenagers struggling with cutting back undergrowth or digging up potatoes. Long after everyone else had finished sports and disappeared from the Quad, we would arrive back at school from an arduous, back-breaking job and tuck into the leftover jam sandwiches (that were always somehow squashed) and hot cuppa served at tea. There was something deeply satisfying about being in nature, having only hours before studied Wordsworth or Hopkins whilst at the same time avoiding P.E. and the dispirited, resigned atmosphere of a group of girls being forcibly made to play lacrosse.

It's the unexpected in our education that often transforms into something more many years later. And Bedales was brilliant at this: we were all exposed to things that opened our minds and hearts to a world that sadly so few seem to value today. Having gone on to study law, become a criminal defence barrister, then done a stint at the BBC, Time Out, ended up moving to Argentina, had three children ... the list goes on, I found myself, a few years ago, living down in Andalucia, on the Costa del Sol. El Dorado it was not. Spain had just imploded, the property boom and endemic corruption having taking its toll on an otherwise healthy economy, and everyone, and I mean everyone, was getting out of euros and Spain as quickly as possible.

I had some cash from the sale of my home in Switzerland, and because generally I am not risk averse, I decided to go against the tide and invest in agricultural land. I reckoned that if the entire financial system collapsed, then owning a primary food source, where the sun shines and I speak the language, was not a bad bet.

So with absolutely no farming knowledge, except for the vague memories of trudging around Stoner in wellies and dog walks in Hampshire, I began to look for a farm with a house to renovate and that already had a well. Properties were, and still are, half price to what they had been in 2008 before the crash, and with luck, perseverance and tough negotiating, I finally bought the most idyllic Cortijo (farmhouse) on 12 hectares of land that had once been an avocado and citrus farm. During the Franco years it had belonged to one of his generals, and it was as if time had stood still. The finca had been abandoned for over 10 years: the previous owners had failed to get planning permission for 80 houses so eventually they had agreed to sell on to Russians whose intention it was to turn

it into a high class brothel and fly in rich clients by helicopter. But as my luck would have it, they were all bundled off to jail and the property was put back on the market, helipad included. By then, everything had been stolen: the irrigation pipes, the fencing, even some of the trees had been pulled up or burnt and the rest had died from lack of water, and the house was derelict. The local lads used a large chunk of the land as a motor-cross circuit and the goatherd let his animals roam free across the terraces all the way down to the river. Squatters had been living in the house and the patio was rat and scorpion infested. The minute I set eyes on it, I was smitten.

Blinded by my recklessly adjusted rose-tinted specs my enthusiasm knew no bounds. La Bonita, as I decided it would be named (which means the Beautiful One), was destined to be the most spectacular and profitable farm in Spain, and the entire project would be achieved and managed in an ethical and upstanding manner. No corruption or nasty chemicals for me! Well, I do hereby confess, I spoke too soon. When in Rome... There is absolutely no way the project would have ever got off the ground had I not become more Andalus in my approach. At times I had to empathise with Scarlett O'Hara when she dressed up in her curtains to gain favour. I now have an entire wardrobe of very low-cut dresses and have learnt what discreet envelopes contain. I had too much invested for it not to work and am too headstrong to allow my dream to fail, but even I, who 'gets' how Andalucia works and cut my teeth during Menem's time in Argentina, was ill-prepared for what awaited me.

What I can say is that my learning curve has not been boring. Two years after signing the 56-page title deeds – at which meeting there were only 11 people including the mayor's cousin

– I am now able to call myself the only female avocado farmer in Spain. I not only grow three different varieties of avocado (Hass, Fuerte and Bacon), but I also produce the most extraordinary olive oil, oranges and tomatoes this side of the continent, and will next year hopefully have my first lemon harvest. I have planted over 2000 trees, rebuilt the entire drip-feed irrigation system to the point that we are bursting with the latest technology and automated valves, outbuildings have sprung like mushrooms to house the farming paraphernalia and visiting Woofers, I have a fence and the necessary permissions for it (which is no small thing), a fabulous gate, and a totally renovated house. That I haven't had a nervous breakdown in the process and am still financially solvent is rather strange to be honest, because I have had to read books and watch videos on everything from apricots, bees and fertilizers to water-pumps, septic tanks and labour law and had the joy of paying for it all. The subsidies I was promised have yet to materialise, and all the problems that I was told I would never have, have materialised as if by magic. I am known locally as La Terrateniente Suiza, an affectionate term for a foreign military task-master who likes things done right.

I employ two farmhands part-time to cut back the trees, check the irrigation, help with the olive harvest and fruit crops, plant new seedlings and deal with the general maintenance of the terraces and buildings. Twice a year a *perito* (agriculture specialist) drops by for the princely sum of 200 euros, gives his opinion on what we are doing, and then, depending on whether or not what he says makes sense to me, I follow his advice or ignore it. I am also a member of ASAJA (an agricultural association in Malaga) that offers free advice on anything from labour and tax law to feeding trees via the leaves and pecan-nut

grafting. And I ask everyone I meet about their small-holdings and how they deal with problems when they arise. In the main, most people are very kind and try to be helpful in sharing their farming experience, but I have had some nasty surprises and more than once ended up with the Guardia Civil at my gate, guns in their holsters and a cold look in their eye. This invariably happens when someone with an axe to grind makes a *denuncia* (official complaint) about anything and everything. It is never clear who the *denunciante* is or why the police have been called out, but all working papers and licences are then pored over and IDs checked.



In the summer we start work at 6am, break at 9am for olive oil on bread with cucumber, tomato and chorizo, and stop work by midday when the temperatures hover around 40C. In winter we are busy both in the morning and afternoon, with a big break for lunch and siesta. The trees need constant care, not only twice daily watering, but also fertilizer (which we put through the drip-feed system), spraying

to combat fungi and pests, and painting of the trunks with whitewash to protect against the sun. The land has to be kept grass free in case of fires, the paths and terraces require constant rebuilding and the wells and pipe-system have to be checked regularly for blockages and leaks.

It's not been easy dealing with the financials and misogyny, and at times I lie awake at night, eyes wide open, wondering how I will get through the next 12 months seeing as most of last year's avocado crop fell to the ground in a hurricane and this year's Clementine harvest has been sold at half-price to the local jail just to get it off the trees. Agriculture in this part of the world is financially precarious (for example, I get 3 cents per kilo for oranges so I simply let them drop to the ground), so I've decided to diversify and am now taking bookings for weddings under the stars and holiday lets.

Once I have an up-and-running website, I will do a blog. Woofers are always welcome, but you must have a sense of humour because you will need it. I do have a Facebook page (LaBonitaAndalucia) that I run as a diary and where I upload photos of the latest chapter in what is turning out to be one of the most fulfilling projects I have ever undertaken. I love my farm and I love what I do, and if I can survive the economic crisis, I shall hopefully see out my days walking in moccasins around the finca in the company of my rescued dogs and anyone who cares to join me in getting their hands dirty before going for a dip in the pool.

*Katja Faber (OB 1976–81)*

# FROM CYCLONES TO A GRAND CONDOM CHALLENGE

## How Bedales helped pave the way for a career in design

I left Bedales for the ‘outside world’ in 1996. It had been my home for over ten years, both parents teaching at the school since we arrived as a family in 1986, and for more than half of that time we’d been umbilically attached to one of the boys’ boarding houses. However, within days of my final summer term ending I was on a plane to Swaziland for a summer of teaching and travelling and a first real insight into ways of life that fortunate Europeans struggle to comprehend.

What’s all this got to do with cyclones or condoms I hear you ask? I am now Head of Design at Cambridge Design Partnership, one of the major Design and Technology Consultancies within the ‘Cambridge Cluster’.

Started 18 years ago, the team has grown to sixty designers, engineers, and scientists who provide core applied expertise, as well as more intriguing skills such as ‘Usability’ (believe it or not, there are regulated Standards for Usability Engineering to support the intuitive, and ultimately safe, use of medical products), and Kansei (emotional or ‘affective’ design which focuses on connecting product attributes to the senses and emotions). We operate across consumer product, packaging, healthcare and increasingly ‘clean-tech’ sectors, and are fortunate to work with clients ranging from global giants such as Unilever, Pfizer and Reckitt Benckiser, to rapidly growing VC funded start-ups. Perhaps the best known of our products is the Dulux Paintpod, an automated painting device including a self-cleaning roller!

When offered the opportunity to write this article, it was intriguing to reflect (as many of us probably do) on my time at Bedales and, regardless of the stage of our



lives, wonder what elements contributed to steering our destinies. Was it Martin Box’s penchant for automotive exotica, or (what seemed at the time pedantic) attention to detail? Or David Butcher’s dove-tail joints, or Mohammed’s easy going ‘everything’s possible’ charm? There is no doubt that the Design Department and these important characters made positive lasting impressions on a certain creative teenager. However, pondering more deeply my feeling is that it was the cumulative effect of much, much more...

We use the word ‘holistic’ regularly at Cambridge Design Partnership. Not with any desire to be seen as elaborate word-smiths, but because it is one of the few ways of accurately describing how such a deeply and broadly qualified team apply themselves to the diverse challenges which come across our doorstep. We truly believe in the power of a multi-disciplinary team, approaching a problem from all angles, putting ourselves in the shoes of users and other stakeholders. Having an empathetic hunger for insight into how people from all demographics and cultures live and do things, and a broad range of interests from travel to DIY are

almost prerequisite to a successful career in design.

During my time at Bedales I actively sought involvement with theatrical productions, (from backstage sound and lighting, to playing Hamlet’s scheming Uncle Claudius), the Orchestra (how many people can say they’ve performed using Roger Taylor’s percussion?!), and thriving on other creative and competitive roles within the school from Outdoor Work to hockey.

I was fortunate that design came naturally to me – I enjoyed the challenge of three dimensional problems, of working with different materials; from a wooden chair with hand-turned legs and spindles, to a 4m diameter welded steel gazebo, I developed a real appreciation of the sensory quality and structural value of different materials, and the school’s strong art focus helped hone the skills to visualise my ideas effectively. As my main A-level project I went on to prototype and help specify the rotating seating solution for the Olivier Theatre which had to adjust to suit the variety of alternative stage arrangements.



There was no doubt about where to study after school – Northumbria University was and remains world renowned for Industrial Design; its most famous alumnus, Jonathan Ive, is among many other equally talented figureheads leading global design businesses. During the four year course which included ‘live’ briefs, and industry placements, I was also fortunate to win two prestigious Royal Society of Arts ‘Student Design Awards’; one of these, a footwear brief set by Reebok, included a prized opportunity to travel to their Boston design centre.

Graduating in Summer of 2000, my final year project (a concept Chainsaw, which was evaluated by Stihl) was on display at the Business Design Centre where I met one of the Directors of Dyson, who invited me for interview. I had the challenge of explaining that I was shortly leaving for a four month internship in New York, and hoped it wouldn’t affect my chances of employment – thankfully

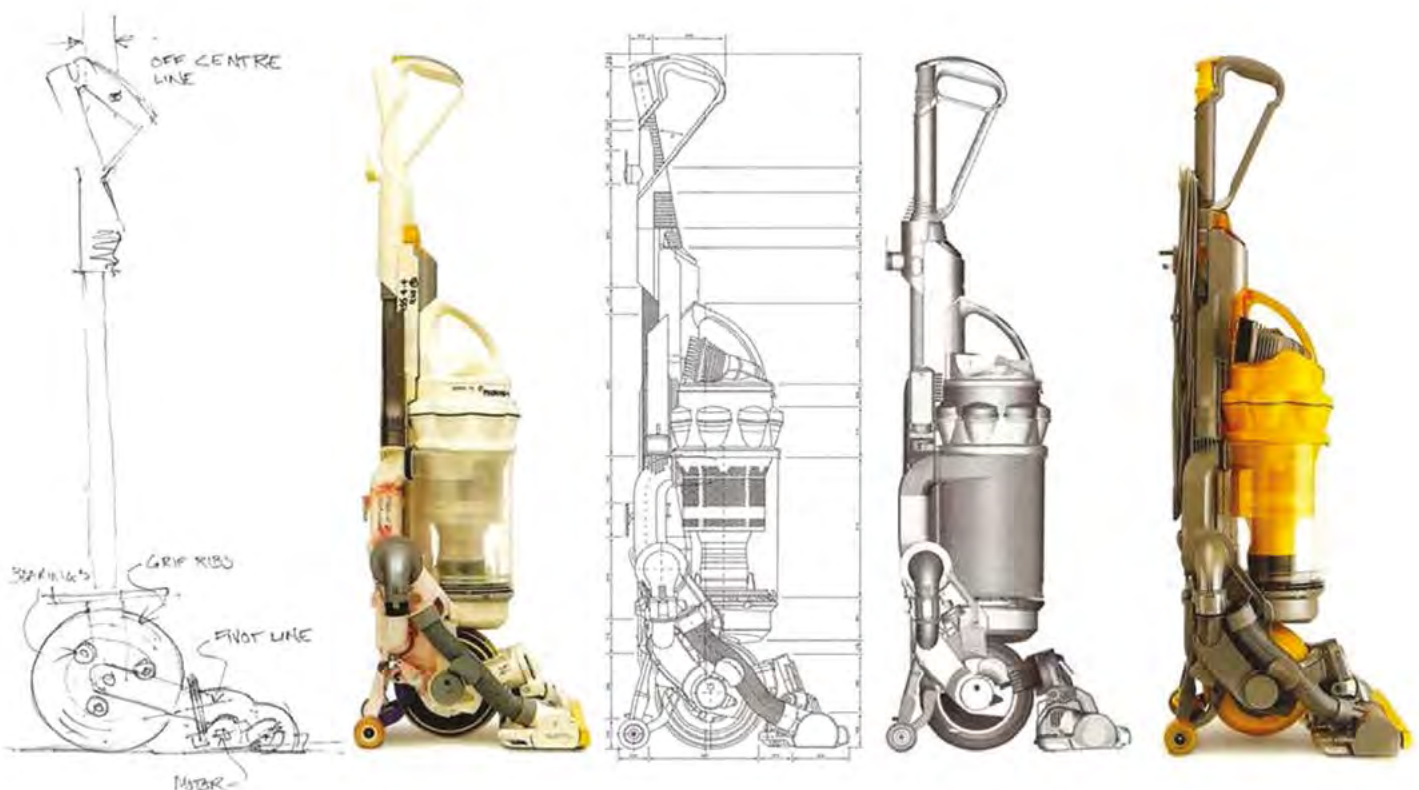
they were happy to postpone my start. Working in New York was as fast and furious as you’d imagine it to be, and thankfully old school friend and NY resident, Simon Hammerstein, showed me round while I found my feet!

Returning to Dyson in January 2001 was like a dream coming true – straight into a New Product development department where I was working ‘blank sheet’ on a next generation of iconic products with my design hero. Responsibility came quickly and during the four and a half years in Malmesbury, the pinnacle was being on the team for the first ‘Ball’ vacuum. I designed the cyclone systems for DC14 and DC15, and am named inventor on numerous patents, including a cyclone performance-improving feature which has appeared on most of Dyson’s vacuum cleaners since.

From household products to power tools, I eventually moved on to join

Black & Decker’s Global Innovation Team at their UK office based just south of Newcastle. Three fun years saw my time divided between design studio, workshop, various international offices and field research watching consumers maintain their gardens and repair their houses, and creating new ideas inspired by the gathered insights. This intense focus on the colliding global business, technology and user needs persuaded me to begin a parallel path of personal study which resulted in achieving my Chartered Marketer status last year.

The one thing I can guarantee is that every designer you meet will have a very different career story to tell – it is the nature of the beast, and in 2008 I took a risk – I stepped away from mainstream design into the public sector. An experimental role was being created within the North East Regional Development Agency – the Director responsible for economic growth knew





that design could be an economic catalyst; his challenge to me – can you create a multimillion pound portfolio of activities to help the region’s businesses use design to grow? Five years on, the organisation I set up, ‘Design Network North’, is going strong and a new design hub, the ‘Northern Design Centre’, sits proudly on the Gateshead quays, metres from the Sage and Baltic Mill arts venues.

However the 2010 change of Government sounded the death knell for RDAs, a sad day for the North East, but a blessing in disguise for me – I had been out of the design industry for two and a half years and was getting the urge to sharpen my pencils again! Luck was smiling on me and I was offered the opportunity to join Cambridge Design Partnership. Three years on I am now one of the six members of the Board of Partners.

During my career, I have had the privilege of working on products that many of you will have in your pockets and homes. Our labs buzz with prototypes that range from new domestic heating technologies to potentially life-changing surgical equipment. Our most recent product,

Tommee Tippee’s new ‘360 Sealer’ diaper disposal system was launched in the US in Autumn 2013 and is chalked for global roll-out in 2014.

In November our team was successful in securing a first stage grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and their ‘Grand Challenge Explorations’ to develop a *Next Generation Condom*. One of the lowest cost and accessible ways of preventing unwanted pregnancy and spread of disease, the class II medical product still faces problems of low adoption in many developing countries. Our challenge is to tackle the issues with fresh thinking and our new UK R&D centre, completed in January 2014, will play a key role.

If you’re in the Cambridge area, do drop by...

*Ben Strutt (OB 1991–96)*  
[www.cambridge-design.co.uk](http://www.cambridge-design.co.uk)  
[www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org)



# JUDGEMENTAL? YOU MUST BE MAD

## A personal view on the stigma of mental health

The 25-year reunion approaches. Eek. Hands up who remembers swigging vodka out of barely-rinsed shampoo bottles in the Sand Quarry? (I've not been able to touch Timotei or vodka since, after a nasty incident that left me foaming at the mouth.) Or hours in The Donkey Cart with friends, gossip and a packet of Silk Cut? What about Wednesday afternoons in the back of Billy Bullpitt's knackered blue estate, on the way to see the school shrink in Winchester? I always wondered how many of us were disappearing for these mental MOTs, whilst others might be gorging on Hula Hoops and taramasalata in a nearby field. I felt part of a secret tribe, so covert that the identity of fellow members was a mystery. For some, these visits would be nothing but a phase in the adolescent process; for others, they would come to signify what it means to live with a mental health issue. And the added burden of the associated stigma, of which I was rudely reminded recently when my new neighbours came to supper.

My neighbours and I share nothing in common other than a garden wall and bin collection day, so I scabbled through the apple crumble for safe conversation topics. Current affairs ... literature ... comedy ... Stephen Fry. Phew, I'd struck gold with Mr Fry. Or so I thought. How could this wonderfully funny man possibly suffer from depression when he not only earns a hefty income, but also counts HRH Charles amongst his chums and finds himself on everyone's dinner party wish list? Pull yourself together Stephen, you verbose solipsist. Get over it, you self-indulgent and ungrateful luvvie. All these comments after they'd been admiring a picture I'd made – the word 'JOY' spelt out with those pretty green and cream happy capsules (past their sell-by-date, in case anyone from the



NHS is reading this). So you'd think the proof was in the Prozac, right? That these pedestrians would take the hint that I'm with Stephen. Weirdly though, this was the moment they chose to unleash their bigoted bile on anyone who's a bit 'funny in the head'. I was as enraged as my SSRI-suppressed self allowed and offered them another glass of apathy, vowing to do something about it tomorrow.

Depressingly, mental health is on the increase. And social stigma and prejudice are still a terrible blight on our society. Every sixth handshake at the end of Jaw is a potential depressive, OCD sufferer, anorexic, schizophrenic etc. So if one out of every six is a likely candidate, how come it's still such a hard conversation to have? ("Hey, what you been up to?" "Oh the usual suicidal ideation and a spot of self-harm. You?" "Oh, some Tourette's tics and ARSE BISCUIT.") Back in the 80s, Bipolar and other conditions such as its junior sibling Cyclothymia were classed as 'personality' rather than 'mood disorders'. Before public prejudice got a look in, it felt like medical science had already pigeonholed you under P for Problem. Medicine has moved on from

this and is making brilliant neurological discoveries that will help the next wave of sufferers. In this regard, malfunctions of the mind are no longer taboo. However, this has yet to filter through to the public at large. Any form of mental imperfection is perceived as a weakness. While more succumb to it, few are prepared to admit to it for fear of being metaphorically tarred and feathered. It's only through dialogue that we can help find understanding on this debilitating set of illnesses and break down the stereotypes and barriers of what it actually means.

Anyone with a history of mental health who has tried to get a job will tell you what a perverse game of Catch-22 it is. If you don't disclose any previous episodes of illness and are then innocently 'outed' by your GP, the chances are you won't make your probation period. If you do disclose your illness ... well, in truth I don't know what would happen because I've never met anyone brave enough to test the system. As if stress in the workplace isn't enough, the strain of trying to maintain a healthy brain and conceal your condition can wreak havoc with cortisol levels. The constraints placed upon managerial staff can often deny them the opportunity to behave intuitively, and perhaps they lack sufficient guidance, training and authority to intervene and assist those in distress. According to the charity Mind, 25% of workers consider resigning from their employment due to stress. It's why so many of us are freelance, when in fact the dodgy wiring in our brains would really benefit from the camaraderie and sense of connection that an office can offer. When it comes to other life essentials such as mortgages, loans or insurance the slightest whiff of black dog can deny you a product or leave you faced with an extortionate premium. Mental health is an equal opportunities illness, happy to hire anyone. Shame it doesn't work the other way.

So here I am; a 42 year old mentalton/loony/freak/nutter, if you will. These are labels that I happily bestow upon myself. After all, it's my condition and I'll self-deprecate if I want to (but woe betide anyone else who calls me cuckoo). If we are to look mental illness in the eye and win the staring match, we must be able to have open and honest conversations across all levels. We can take our lead

from those who lend their voice to communicate that message (thank you Stephen Fry, Ruby Wax et al) but, until EVERYONE is comfortable with joining in the conversation, any understanding will continue to be trumped by stigma. And if we are unable to overcome this enduring malaise, I will definitely be increasing my dose.

*Emma Burgess (OB 1984–89)*

*Emma is compiling a series of other people's stories on depression and stigma for publication in 2014. If you want to find out more or contribute, contact her at [emma@thepigeonbureau.com](mailto:emma@thepigeonbureau.com)*

## SOME PLAIN FACTS

Hear, Hear. I admire Emma's bravery above, because sadly the reality is that the majority of people with mental health problems do continue to experience serious and frequent discrimination, whether that is during their search for work, accessing services or buying travel insurance<sup>1</sup>.

We need the courage of people like Emma to talk about their problems because it's by sharing and investigating experiences that we can make the necessary progress to improve lives.

Mental health is a subject about which I care passionately. For over 10 years I've been working alongside public health professionals to improve mental well-being. Then, in 2009, my work and home life collided when my mother, at the age of 61, developed severe depression and tragically made the fateful decision to end her own life. Since then I have sought every opportunity to increase awareness, challenge attitudes and raise funds through a wide range of initiatives with which I am now involved, including being the Founder of the Judi Meadows Memorial Fund, a suicide prevention charity, a Trustee of the McPin Foundation, a mental health research charity, and an advisor to various government programmes.

As Emma notes, mental health problems are surprisingly common and their impact

is huge. Many people manage their conditions alone, but for those that do seek help a conservative estimate suggests it accounts for over 30% of GP consultations, and 14% of the NHS budget<sup>2</sup>. The reduced life expectancy of those with mental health problems is said to be as great as 20 years for men and 15 years for women because of a host of associated complications<sup>3</sup>. And the wider costs to the national economy in terms of welfare benefits and lost productivity at work amount to some £77 billion a year<sup>4</sup>.

I believe there are three key challenges that need to be urgently addressed to lessen the devastating effect of mental ill health.

Firstly, we need much more significant and accelerated progress to improve our scientific understanding of the issue. Ultimately, we must hope that we might learn how to prevent mental ill-health altogether; until then we need to find more successful ways to cure or treat it and become much better at managing and mitigating the symptoms (including reducing the often debilitating side-effects of prescribed medication).

We're a long way off achieving the breakthroughs that are needed. Research into mental ill health is woefully underfunded. For example, in 2009/10 the Medical Research Council spent just 3.4% of their £758.2 million spend on



mental health research<sup>5</sup>. This proportion has barely changed for years despite the growing incidence of the problem. Furthermore, even if more money were to become available, there is a dearth in the quantity and quality of academics and clinicians dedicated to studying mental health. We urgently need young people

to be attracted to developing their careers in this area of medical research.

Secondly, we need to take steps to mitigate the scale of the problem that is facing our children and future generations. Currently, one in ten 5–16 year olds have a diagnosable mental health-problem and more than half of all adults with mental health problems were diagnosed in childhood.<sup>6</sup> To improve children's well-being, both whilst they are young and when they become adults, we need a wide range of organisations, including crucially schools, to accept responsibility to build mental health resilience. Humans have the capacity to face, overcome and ultimately be strengthened by life's adversities and challenges. These resilience techniques are not something that you either have, or do not have; instead they are learnable and teachable. Resilience building is not a quick fix to solving everyone's mental health problems, but it is a positive, hopeful and increasingly evidence based approach to improving well-being.

Third, probably the least glamorous of these challenges and by far and away the most difficult, is the revolution of kindness that is required for us as individuals and also as a society to show empathy, understanding and inclusion of those facing mental distress. Sadly, too many misconceptions abound about mental ill health, such as that it is self-induced and that it results in violent behaviour that means the public are at risk. This ignorance breeds misunderstanding and fear and acts as a barrier preventing people from displaying basic compassion and care. It's to address this that the voice and experience of people like Emma is so vital. By humanising and normalising the experience of mental ill health it helps people to understand how the illnesses are manifested. It encourages social contact, and tackles stigma and discrimination. I hope too that it will reassure more individuals who are unwell that it is safe for them to talk about how they are feeling and to seek help. We urgently have to learn to be more open about mental illness

if we want to reduce suffering and help tackle the 6,000 lives that are currently lost each year to suicide<sup>7</sup>.

*Amy Meadows (OB 1987–92)*

1. *In 2009, King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry Viewpoint survey found that 88% of people with mental health problems have experienced discrimination.*
2. *Health of the Nation Index (2004)*
3. *British Medical Journal (2013), Premature death among people with mental illness*
4. *National Mental Health Development Unit: The costs of mental ill-health (Department of Health)*
5. *Medical Research Council (2012), personal communication to Amy Meadows*
6. *Young Minds (2013)*
7. *Office for National Statistics, suicides in the United Kingdom (2011)*

## CLASS OF 2004 REUNION

This year's 10 year reunion will be held over the weekend of Saturday June 28th and Sunday June 29th. All who belong to the Class of 2004 are invited.

Saturday June 28th is Bedales Parents Day and all the usual events and entertainments will be available. The day will conclude with a Block Barbecue Party by the Cricket Pavilion.

Invitations were sent out in January. If you should have received one and did not, please get in touch with one of the following:

**Philip Parsons**  
pparsons@bedales.org.uk  
01730 711631

**Bella Mates**  
arabellamates@googlemail.com  
07766 135564

**Jeremy Walker**  
jeremy@newsfixed.com  
07747 637224

*Below is a list of those to whom we have been unable to send an invitation to the reunion due to lack of any kind of address. If you can help us to contact any of them, please get in touch.*

Alexandra Becerra  
Alexander Craig  
Willem de Vries  
Thomas Guinness-Taylor  
Byzantia Harlow

Nick Kinnegen  
Alexander Logsdail  
James McCreddie  
Ingrid Nelson  
David Robertson

Rupert Runewitsch  
Benjamin Scott  
Jemima Scott  
Culum Simpson

## DEATH OF A NEIGHBOUR

Life moves so fast. Approximately 30 years have gone by, but some memories of Bedales seem as vivid as ever, while others have probably drifted away for good. My time at school was all about 80s music, mullet hairdos, bad clothes, Miami Vice and Top of the Pops. In those days there were no social networking sites, smartphones or internet providing the escape so many teenagers rely on today. According to my children I'm now incredibly old, have bad taste in music, often embarrass them and really should sort out my wardrobe. I would disagree. Surely flares and tank-tops will be back in fashion in only a month or two? Since those days, we're all older, wiser and probably more critical of just about everything. It's the inevitable slide towards a final destination of Victor Meldrew.

One thing I never really considered is how mid-life seems to creep up on you. As you move towards middle age, it seems the only advice comes from a barrage of 'funny' birthday card quips. Its start and finish is often difficult to pinpoint, making it as elusive as a World Cup winning England football team. More recently and as a result of the death of our neighbour, my view on this peculiar point in life has altered somewhat.

On a cold mid-Winter day in 2013 there was a knock at the door. Two 60-something pensioners were standing in the gloom. Oh crikey, I thought, what's the cat done now? Has my wife left the car upside down in the village car park? "Hello, I'm a university friend of your neighbour, Chris, and this is my wife. We have some very bad news. Chris has been killed in a motorcycle accident." Chris? I thought to myself. No, he's in New Zealand on a motorcycle tour with his friends. Chris, a very active member of an international touring motorcycle club, spent weeks away at a time.

His BMW would be loaded into a container and shipped to South America, Africa, Russia, the Middle East or wherever. He and his club friends would fly out to meet their machines and spend several weeks riding through the country. This time it was to be New Zealand. Chris had been looking forward to this one.

After collecting his motorcycle at the dock, riding out onto the highway, Chris met a truck coming the other way. At the scene, he suffered only a broken leg. In the ambulance things took a turn for the worse and Chris was airlifted to Auckland where he later died of a ruptured aorta.

The pensioners were invited in. It turned out Chris had no immediate family and no living relatives. It had fallen to the university friend to begin the laborious task of wills, solicitors and winding up the estate. After they'd left, I went upstairs to my small office and wept. Why? I barely knew Chris. We would chat over the fence, in the local café, on the pavement outside or in the driveway. When he was away I would keep an eye on his house and he would do the same for me. But I didn't know him *that* well.

I turned 45 this year and, looking back over the past few years, there have been similar cases of work colleagues, friends and relatives passing away. It seems as you get older this is more commonplace. But until I experienced it first hand I have remained in beautiful, ignorant bliss. Life surely goes on forever, doesn't it? Generally, it's only the very old that die, right?

Three years ago a work friend of mine was at home working through the day's usual mix of uncompromising customers and difficult problems. A typical working day in the wonderful world of telecommunications. Walking to the kitchen



to make a cup of coffee, he collapsed and remained unconscious for several minutes. Tim and I were peers, managing teams of specialist consultants providing deep technical know-how. Frequently we would compare notes and chat on the phone. This helped dilute the stresses of the job. We would speak almost every day and Tim often reminded me 'it's just a job, Dave, don't worry about it, there's always a solution out there somewhere'. And he was right. I just needed to hear him say it.

Over the next six months, Tim fought a familiar battle. This was brain cancer, the most aggressive of all. A tumour was removed from the right side of his brain just above his ear. After several months of radio and chemotherapy, Tim was better but still fragile and weak. The cancer and its treatment had aged him incredibly. Although the tumour was treated successfully, it returned a few months later. This time, it was more aggressive than ever and the surgeons couldn't wield their magic. Eighteen months after he first collapsed and only a week before his death, I visited Tim in a hospice near Leeds for the last time. He was just 45. As I left his room, he remained the same jovial Tim, insisting I shouldn't worry about work. It's just a job, Dave, just a job. I miss him.

So what's it all about? Why am I rattling on about these rather depressing things? Well, I've come to the conclusion, there

is no such thing as a mid-life crisis. I recently bought a 1970 Triumph TR6. A car I'd wanted ever since I'd first seen one when I was about seven or eight. A few years ago on a warm Sunday afternoon, I sneaked away from the family to look at the classifieds online. Within a week it was sitting in our newly tidied and swept garage. My family and friends laughed and looked at me in that strange but 'knowing' way. My 10 year old son asked if I was having a mid-life crisis (and what exactly *was* a mid-life crisis?). My daughter and wife rolled their eyes skyward. The accusations of a mid-life crisis came thick and fast. And I agreed. This is what it must be like to go slightly bonkers in your mid-forties.

On reflection and after the death of Chris, I now think I was wrong. As you reach

mid-life you begin to realise how lucky most of us are to make it this far. The trials of life are merely a side show to the big event and it takes some discipline to continuously adjust your thinking with this in mind. Now really is the time to do those things you always wanted to do. Mid-life crisis is not a crisis at all. It's a realisation that the most precious thing you have is *time*.

A friend of ours was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Whenever we talk, one thing (among many) continues to amaze me. The knowledge that even though the future may be extremely uncertain, there is a keenly focused sense of what must be done in the time left. A single-minded selfishness concentrating only on what's important and leaving out anything that doesn't fit into the 'must do' list. Most

of us just don't experience that kind of clarity.

So back to the original question: Why did I get so upset over the news of Chris's death? Well, as the old cliché goes, life is brief. Live it as if every day was your last. Chris died doing what he *really* loved and it's taken a dummy like me a while to realise what it all means. Here's to Chris, Tim and the others. On a warm summer's evening we'll drive the TR6 to our local pub and raise a glass to them all.

*David Randell (OB 1981–86)*

## CLASS OF 1989 REUNION

This year's 25 year reunion will be held over the weekend of Saturday 28th June and Sunday 29th June. All who belonged to the Class of 1989 are invited.

Saturday 28th June is Bedales Parents Day and all the usual events and entertainments will be available. The day will conclude with a Block Barbecue party in and around the Sotherington Barn. Sunday 29th June is likely to involve

a family picnic and some quiet enjoyment of the school grounds.

Invitations were sent out in January. If you should have received one and did not, please get in touch with Georgia, Chris or Leana as shown below:

**Georgia Cameron-Clarke**  
gcameronclarke@gmail.com  
07801 672052

**Chris Granier-Deferre**  
christophergd@mac.com  
020 7610 6909

**Leana Seriau**  
lseriau@bedales.org.uk  
01730 711572

*Below is a list of those whom we have been unable to send an invitation to due to lack of any kind of address. If you can help us to contact any of them, please get in touch:*

Marco Arcaini  
Rodrigo Basave  
Harry Benjamin  
Larissa Bennett  
Benjamin Duncan  
Aline Duriaud  
Rebecca Hardie

Alexandra Johnston  
Tamsin Lion  
Louisa Manisty  
Joanna McLeod  
Annabel Oakley  
Bruno Quintavalle  
Alexander Rawlins

Oliver Scully  
Mateo Solares  
Jemima Taylor

## STREETS ALIVE

Like many others with a young family and no love of the rat-race, we left London, moved out to Bristol, and didn't look back. There's more time. There's more space. There's more connection...

I know my neighbours: We have parties, sing carols, chat, play and drink tea; we regularly engage, in passing, just outside our front doors. My neighbours are my friends. Two weeks after we moved in, our road had its first, annual, street party – no royal birth, death or crowning – it just seemed like a good idea, and eight years on they are still getting better!

This situation isn't too unusual around here: Bristol is the UK's street party capital and, along with other hotspots around the country such as Oxford, Brighton and Streatham, street parties have become an integral part of the local culture. Make Sunday Special brings life to the city centre as parts of Bristol close to traffic during Summer Sundays and people, performances, fun and games spill off the pavements and onto the roads.

Much of this has been made possible through the work of a pioneering organisation called Streets Alive. It is the national group that supports neighbours' street parties and car-free days. For 12 years people have beavered away behind the scenes to help this quirky part of our culture grow, confronting needless bureaucracy and 'no one knows their neighbours nowadays' cynicism. Streets Alive quietly drills into the issue and makes a real contribution to thousands of people's lives, countrywide. According to after-party surveys, residents, on average, meet eight new neighbours at such gatherings. These are relationships that are sparked into life at a street party and build over later months and years to become something meaningful, with the

power to really transform quality of life for the better.

Streets Alive has trained community workers and housing associations in less confident neighbourhoods; it has supported local partners and kindred organisations, such as Playing Out and London Play, to help promote positive social cohesion between neighbours. Across the country, its negotiations with local councils and government departments have minimised red-tape and barriers to neighbours' integration and participation, taking the sting out of insurance requirements, risk-assessments, food-standards, road signage, council charges and endless other paperwork.

Set up in 2001, Streets Alive demonstrates that these local events are a small but powerful part of our culture, with real potential to build elusive community spirit. It might sound like a cliché but I have very definitely found this to be the case in my own life, so much so that I became a trustee of the organisation a few years ago.

Focus is currently turned on a Neighbours Campaign, working with Age UK, to help combat loneliness and isolation, particularly amongst the elderly. In a world where it is increasingly easy to stay indoors and avoid face-to-face communication, Streets Alive helps provide an impetus to make our neighbourhoods more convivial, welcoming places where we can all feel a sense of belonging – young and old alike.

So! This is a call to arms in support of a unique part of our culture, and an invitation to try a street party where you live. Our street party website [www.streetparty.org.uk](http://www.streetparty.org.uk) is a font of wisdom, pushing aside doubts that you can do it. Taking the best experience from around the country, it shows that you do



not necessarily need insurance, a licence or to pay your council for a road closure. You just need to open your door, start talking to your neighbours and see what happens next...

Streets Alive operates on a shoe-string: With just one, sometimes two, paid members of staff, it makes waves. Have a look at what we do, try it for yourself and if you find it works we'd be very grateful for any support or donation that you'd like to give us. I feel sure that part of the reason that I value such a movement is due to the communal way of life I enjoyed during my years at Bedales, and why I thought that writing this piece might attract other like-minded people to join the party!

*Gaby Solly (née Bendall, OB 1984–91)*

*For more information:  
Streets Alive [www.streetparty.org.uk](http://www.streetparty.org.uk)  
and [www.streetsalive.org.uk](http://www.streetsalive.org.uk)  
Playing Out [www.playingout.net](http://www.playingout.net)  
London Play [www.londonplay.org.uk](http://www.londonplay.org.uk)*



## ALUMNI COMMUNICATIONS

There are a number of reasons why a school would want the relationship with its students to prosper after they leave: advocacy, role models, potential speakers, source of advice for current students and to provide the next generation of parents, governors, and donors. Alumni too can find it useful to turn to their alma mater for information, social events, networking and career support.

In most cases, the longer people are exposed to life at Bedales, the stronger the sense of positive feeling about the school. A recurring theme is the strength of relationships between staff and students. Fortunately, by their very nature, Bedalians are not shy of expressing their views, and have a good track record in wanting to help the school.



Oxford reunion

As our students move into adulthood, we are very keen to maintain those relationships and keep in touch. Hence all the good work by Dennis Archer and more recently Philip Parsons, in communicating with so many Bedales alumni. As Keith Budge outlined in his Head's Reflections, we want to do more, particularly for OBs at the earlier phase in their careers. I am very pleased that Leana Seriau has joined the alumni team of Dennis and Philip. One of Leana's tasks is to link up younger Bedalians seeking information on particular professions and sectors with people with sector experience. I encourage

you to respond to the questionnaire accompanying this newsletter to offer help with this, or to get in touch with Leana directly ([lseriau@bedales.org.uk](mailto:lseriau@bedales.org.uk); tel: 01730 711572). Leana has also set up a LinkedIn group for Old Bedalians ('Bedales Alumni' – do please join if you are social media savvy). As Dennis mentions in his editorial, he will be handing over the running of the OB electronic bulletins and future newsletters to Leana, although Dennis, Philip, OBs and colleagues will still be providing the content. I would like to thank Dennis for all he has done in communicating with the OB community and for sharing his encyclopaedic knowledge with colleagues – he has worked tirelessly, usually from his out-posts in Scotland and France (with their associated IT gremlins), showing huge commitment to Bedalians and the school. It is too early for a fuller thank you, as we are delighted that he will continue to as Alumni Officer for those Bedalians who left the school before 1995 (with Philip Parsons picking up the more recent leavers) and to advise the school on all matters Bedalian.

A recent innovation has been the formation of the OB Events Committee to help the school identify and respond to the needs of OBs. One significant output has been the film of the 1966 cohort – we are very grateful to the OBs who participated to provide wonderfully inspirational and witty insights into the Bedales culture (see [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni.html](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni.html)). Whilst on the subject of film, do take a look at a new video about the musical life of the school ([www.bedales.org.uk/bedales-music.html](http://www.bedales.org.uk/bedales-music.html)). The idea of sector-specific events also came from the new committee. Will Wollen has initiated a theatre day with Mira Mina at Bedales on 16 March.

The area of development has received column inches elsewhere (see articles

on Art & Design, Bedales Grants Trust Fund and the Legacy Society), but I would like to mention the John Badley Foundation (JBF) which was established in 2010 to widen access to Bedales through full bursaries. There are currently five JBF beneficiaries spread from Dunhurst Block 1 through to Bedales 6.2 and contributing to the full life of the school. Many OBs continue to support this cause for which the school is most grateful. The JBF initiative has also opened up opportunities for collaboration with other organisations that share the aim of transforming the lives of children, in particular the Buttle Trust, Rank Foundation and Springboard.



Class of 1966 video

Finally readers will be interested to know that the school continues to attract a great deal of interest in its innovative approach to education, particularly the Bedales Assessed Courses. We have created a section on the Bedales website to capture recent media coverage ([www.bedales.org.uk/media-coverage](http://www.bedales.org.uk/media-coverage)), and I would particularly draw your attention to the recent coverage in The Independent and ITV Meridian.

Thank you for your interest in and support of Bedales.

*Rob Reynolds,*  
Director of External Relations  
[rreynolds@bedales.org.uk](mailto:rreynolds@bedales.org.uk)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

\*An asterisk indicates a direct link to a website in the electronic version of the Newsletter, a pdf of which is available on the Old Bedalian section of the main school website, [www.bedales.org.uk/alumni.html](http://www.bedales.org.uk/alumni.html). Readers of my monthly electronic Bulletins will inevitably feel a certain sense of déjà vu in parts of the following, which is designed to give a thorough service to those who prefer paper.

Pride of place must go to **Cara Delevingne (2003–09)** who, at the tender age of 21, has surely become the world's most influential OB of the moment. Her face beamed down on me even from the billboards of Moscow and St Petersburg. I guess it must be the same the world over.



**Andrew Graham-Brown's (1978–85)** company AGB Films\* makes high

quality documentaries for British and international TV. A highlight of the past year was a two-part BBC Natural World Special called *Kangaroo Dundee*.

**Charley Henley (1986–89)** was nominated for an Oscar for the special effects on Ridley Scott's film *Prometheus*\*

Naughty boy **Sebastian Bergne\* (1977–84)** has designed Bandit, a rubber band shooting ruler. A snip at £18. Ideal present for all those OBs who never grew up.

It takes something really special to get into News in Brief posthumously, but **Professor Douglas Hartree (1910–15)** deserves it. In memory of his work, the computing centre at the new Science and Technology Facilities Centre\* at Daresbury, Cheshire has been named The Hartree Centre.

Harpisichordist **David Pollock (1976–78)** released a new CD, *The Unknown Purcell\**, part of an ongoing series exploring the little-known English Baroque. These are not unknown pieces by Henry Purcell, but works by the less familiar Daniel Purcell.

Extensive extracts were played on Radio 3's *Early Music Show*.



**Juno Temple (2005–07)** won the Rising Star BAFTA award, voted for by the public, in 2013. She will be appearing in *Far From The Madding Crowd* in 2014.

**Tomas Graves (1965–71)** spent the first sacred bathing day of the Kumbh Mela (the largest gathering of humanity, held every 12 years since pre-Christian times) and his 60th birthday bathing at the confluence of the Ganges and the Yamuna. He asked for blessings for all his family and friends past and present, so if that includes any of you, you may win a ticket to nirvana!



**Mark Kidel's (1960–65)** film subjects this year have included composer John Adams and singer Elvis Costello. Lots of information on his *Calliope\** website.

**Anna Craven (1953–59)** travelled to northern Nigeria with members of the Africa Healthcare Development Trust\*. She is a patron of the trust and was there to record work carried out by NHS practitioners on one of their annual projects.

**Fi Godlee (1972–77)**, as editor of the BMJ, has been commenting in the press on the failure of drug companies to report on clinical trials even-handedly regardless of whether they are favourable or otherwise to their drugs. Good for her.

**Olivia Harrison (1995–2000)** was part of a Guardian panel discussing the problems arising from employees using their own IT devices at work.



**Mick Csaky's\* (1958–63)** film *Sister Rosetta Tharpe: Godmother of Rock and Roll* was part of the American Masters series. Mick was also director of the very first One World Media Festival at University College with a diverse range of events for all those interested in media and their relation to human rights, development and international affairs.

**Will Wollen (1985–92)** commissioned a new book for children while he was at Theatre Royal Margate, *The Positively Last Performance\**, by Whitbread award-winning author Geraldine McCaughrean. It's set in a town uncannily like Margate,

where an old theatre is under threat. If any OBs are interested in what he has been up to for the last five years this should give them an idea.

Good to hear the suggestion on Radio 3 that **Roxanna Panufnik (1982–86)** might follow Sir Peter Maxwell Davies as Master of the Queen's Music.

**Jackie Abrahams (1984–86)** has been earning praise for her work as production designer, in particular for *King of Soho\**, Michael Winterbottom's film about Paul Raymond, and *Top Boy\** on Channel 4.



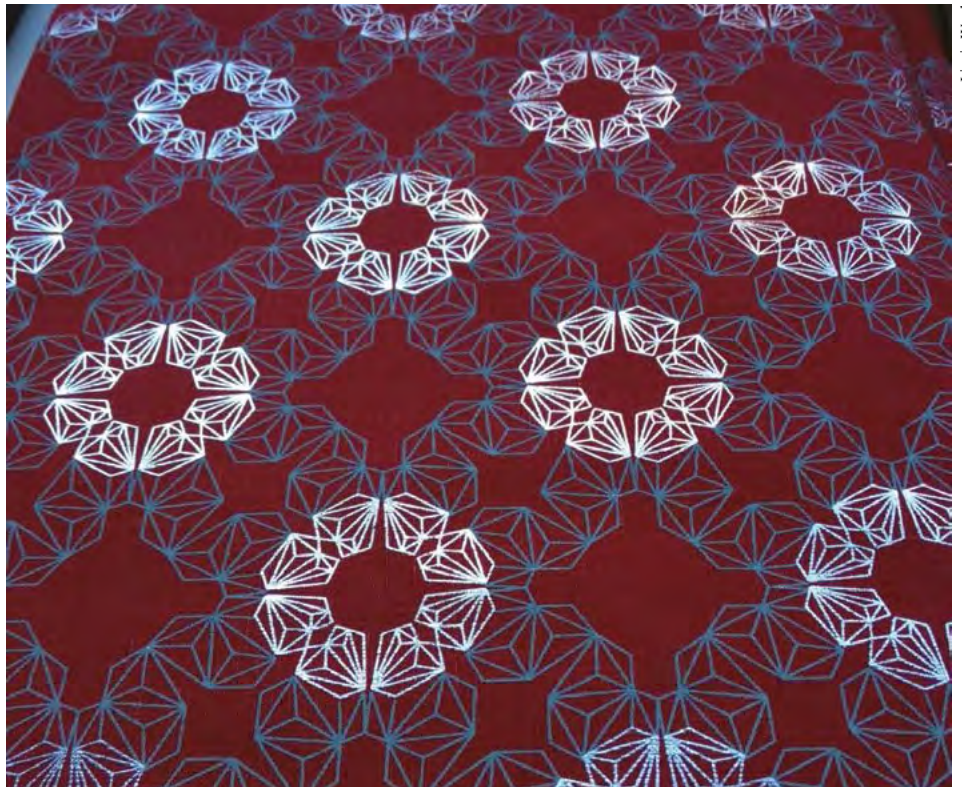
**Robert Zamenhof (1959–63)** has a new scientific blog, *Dr Simple Science*. Its aim is to explain scientific matters of current interest

in the media at the 'intelligent layperson' level. He describes it as 'a notch below Wikipedia' in technical complexity and a good deal more compact.

**Charles Devenish (1952–58)** is involved in the Australian Indian Rural Development Foundation\* and is running a number of Mineral Exploration Companies in India that he hopes one day will help bring prosperity to rural India.

**Emma-Lee Moss (1998–2002)**, aka Emmy the Great, has four titles from the film *Austenland* in the longlist of nominations for the Best Original Song Oscar in 2014.

**Iona Brown (1969–75)** is practising psychotherapy and hopes to run a psychodrama/psychotherapy group for the inmates at HMP Long Lartin in Evesham.



Lizzie Ward

She continues to work in the NHS and has also found Quakerism, which she discovers shares many of the values of the Bedales that she remembers.

**Lizzie Ward (2001–03)** is living in Brazil where she has set up an interior design business\*.

**Sam Henham-Barrow (1985–92)** has returned to TV, working at NBC Universal International Television Production as their Vice President of Production.

**Simon Aldrich (1975–82)** has recently been appointed by Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords) to be the independent Assessor of Environmental Impact for a proposed new High Speed Railway Line between London and Birmingham.

**Val Corbett\* (née Poole 1961–67)** is a freelance photographer whose latest book, *Rainy Days in the Lake District*, is a humorous look at that subject most commonly associated with holidaying in

the Lakes. It follows *Winter in the Lake District* and *A Year in the Life of the Eden Valley*, all published by Frances Lincoln.



**Kate Bulman (née Harper 1978–83)** won the Sexual Health Professional of the Year award. She won it for developing a Fatherhood

course for teenage boys in custody. She is a nurse in a Secure Training Centre, Oakhill STC.

Artist **Emma Hartley (1967–72)** has had exhibitions in The Gallery, Redchurch Street, London and Gallery Muse, Petersfield.

**Remy Blumenfeld (1977–82)** has written and produced a film which was shown on BBC2, *The Man Who Shot Beautiful Women*, about his grandfather

the photographer Erwin Blumenfeld\*. It had a cameo performance by **Alastair Langlands (former staff 1973–??)**, as Cecil Beaton!

Nic Dunlop



*Brave New Burma*

**Nic Dunlop (1986–88)** spent 20 years photographing Burma under military rule. His new book, *Brave New Burma\**, is an intimate portrait in words and pictures of a country finally emerging from decades of dictatorship, isolation and fear.

**Sirio Quintavalle (1987–92)** has been in the visual effects industry for the past 15 years working on films such as *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Warhorse* and *Sherlock Holmes 2*, as well as travelling the world in search of prehistoric landscapes for *Walking with Dinosaurs* and other related TV series.

**Andrew Sofer's (1977–82)** little book of poems *Wave\** is going down well with readers and critics. More recently his *Dark Matter\**, a study of invisible things in theatre, has been published by University of Michigan Press.

**Luey Graves\* (2000–05)** graduated last year from the Royal Academy Schools with a postgraduate diploma in Fine Art. She also won a year's studio residency at the Bow Arts Trust in East London and the Gordon Luton prize for

Luey Graves



London postgraduate painters, awarded by the Worshipful Company of Painters and Stainers.

**Peter Draper (1955–60)** is currently Visiting Professor in the School of History of Art and Visual Media at Birkbeck, University of London. His work has focussed on English medieval architecture and he was appointed a Commissioner of English Heritage in 2011.

**Becky Saer (née Slack 1983–88)** runs an IVF service called Your IVF Journey\* with her husband Ben. They help couples access affordable fertility treatment abroad, supporting them throughout the process. They act as the clinic's UK agent and offer any OB family and friends a discount.



*Mother Angie McLachlan*

In October, **Angie McLachlan (née Illingworth 1970–74)** was ordained Priest in the Liberal Catholic Church International. Her ministry obligations include daily Mass and a continuation of her educational work in the field of death. She is no longer Reverend Angie, but has become Mother Angie.

**Nicola Dudgeon (1990–95)** is an interior and garden designer. Recent projects include a group of restaurants and a luxury country house hotel just outside London, at Lord Beaverbrook's former family seat. Her work has been featured in the Sunday Times Style magazine, Stella (Sunday Telegraph), Elle Deco and How To Spend It (FT).

**Simon Firth (1977–82)** has been appointed Principal of Salisbury Sixth Form College.



**Paul Simmons (1988–93)** is Head of Marketing at Marwell Wildlife\* in Hampshire and **Emma Simmons\***

(**née Dinnage 1989–92**) continues to further her work as a spiritual healer specialising in horses, an animal intuitive, equine reiki teacher and equine facilitated therapist.

**Alice Hush (2002–07)** has been at Sotheby's for over three years working in the Contemporary department for almost all that time. She works directly for the Chairman of Contemporary Art in Europe on proposals for individual works or larger collections, building relationships and producing valuations.

**Charis Reid (1981–85)** has been a primary school teacher in a deprived area of Newcastle for many years now, work which she loves, most of the time. She describes herself as 'still stropky, I do not suffer fools gladly and I often get into trouble at work'. These are the qualities we like to hear about!

After six years as Fashion Editor at Harper's Bazaar, **Nathalie Riddle (1990–95)**

spent the last year as Fashion Director of The Evening Standard ES magazine. She now freelances as a stylist, but remains a Contributing Fashion Editor to ES magazine, travelling the globe styling all manner of celebrities and supermodels for fashion shoots and the Oscars. She is married to **Daniel Daukes (1987–90)** who is the Picture Director for Sky News.



**Peter Hall (1975–79)** spoke on Australian radio about his support for efforts to save the rhino in SE Asia. He is director of the International Rhino Foundation\* as well as being involved in a number of other environmental initiatives.

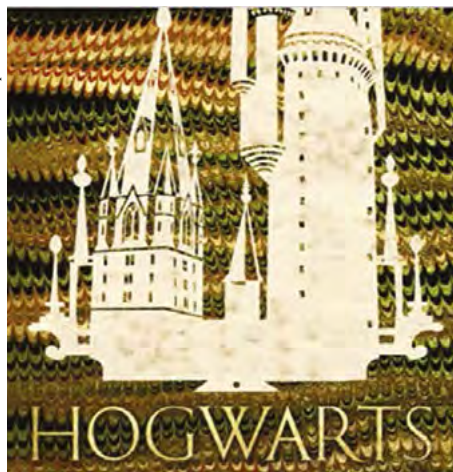
**Nigel Horsfield (1962–69)** retired from his post of Consultant Physician (Respiratory Medicine) at Blackburn, after 29 years. Having climbed all of the 282 Scottish Munros, he has taken to road cycling, as well as playing tenor sax in Clitheroe Town Band.

**Ian Sheeler (1981–88)** runs wideaware\*, an organisation whose mission is to promote equality and the inclusion of disabled people in society by offering support, in the form of training and advice, to organisations that also share these goals.

**Guy Griffin (2001–06)** is working incredibly hard in marketing and has bought a tiny flat in Bexley, Kent last year. **Sister Piper (1999–2004)** is working in paediatric community mental health in Oxfordshire whilst **Rowena (1997–2000)** lives in the wilds of Scotland with her New Zealand boyfriend, doing various jobs.

**Miraphora Mina (1978–85)**, has a new venture, The Printorium\*. Launched in September 2012, The Printorium is the

Miraphora Mina



latest project by Mira and Eduardo Lima, collectively known as MinaLima, the London-based graphic design duo of the Harry Potter film series.

Until recently, **Tom Jenkins (1972–77)** worked at Bangor University but is now with Forest Research working mainly from home in an idyllic setting in Ynys Mon.

Miranda Richmond



Miranda Richmond, better known to Bedalian contemporaries as **Kate O'Sullivan (1966–70)** had an exhibition of landscapes and portraits at The North Wall Art Centre, Oxford in June.

**Elliot Theis's (2005–10)** company MileWise was bought out by Yahoo! Milewise was a technology startup based in New York, designed to help frequent fliers to book flights, using their accumulated airmiles to best advantage.

**Lucinda Sebag-Montefiore (1975–77)**, producer of Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*, revisited Bedales last year to talk to

students at Civics about feminism and her job at the BBC.



**Charles Cecil (1975–80)** MBE was appointed to the board of

governors of the British Film Institute in May.

**Greg Penoyre (1970–75)** continues to design buildings, ranging across the public estate, including education, healthcare, housing and performing arts projects. Penoyre & Prasad\* have just completed the new UCL Academy and Swiss Cottage Special School in Camden, along with a new building for Ruskin College, Oxford and London's first Zero Carbon school in Islington.

**Lydia Leonard (1995–99)** has been cast as Anne Boleyn in the RSC adaptations of Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up The Bodies*.



ODW Toolshed

**Richard Gibson (1948–54)** has retired from Richard Gibson Architects and left the practice in good hands. His personal final project, Da Vadill\*, won a Saltire Housing Design Award. This made him think of the Outdoor Work Toolshed (pictured) at Bedales, which was his first! We would be interested to hear from anyone who can date it and remembers its demise.

Richard Gibson

**Zinnie Harris (née Shaw 1985–90)** has bravely written a new version of Ibsen’s *Doll’s House*, setting it in London in 1910, performed at the Donmar Warehouse and in Edinburgh.



**Martino Tirimo\* (1956–59)** continues to enthral audiences at venues as disparate as the Barbican and Bedales Olivier Theatre, where he appeared in September. At present he is recording the complete works of Chopin at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Recently, Musical Opinion described him as “a true giant of the keyboard”.

**Ben Cockrell (1993–98)** is working in London as Group Strategy Director, Global Solutions for MEC, who are a global Media planning and buying agency.

**Jennifer Davidson\* (1973–76)** has written a novel, intriguingly entitled *Virtual Fidelity\**. She is also an experienced EFT practitioner (Emotional Freedom Techniques, aka “tapping”) now moving into working with actors and performers – helping with audition/onstage nerves, concentration, learning lines and anything else that might enhance their performance.

**Alison Berman\* (née Press 1958–63)** has been developing a career in sculpture in recent years and she exhibits work at the Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden\* in Ockley Surrey. Also on view there is recent work by **Felicity Aylieff\* (1971–72 and former staff 1978–82)** and **Alison Crowther (staff 1992–??)**.

Felicity Aylieff



**Eric Lawrie (1970–77)**, still with the British Council, has moved to Dubai where he is Regional Head of English Language Programmes for the Middle East and North Africa, covering 17 countries.

**Sophie Hauptfuhrer (2000–05)** has joined advertising agency Anomaly in New York, where she is in the Account Management team for Budweiser. Her company are main sponsors for the Super-bowl and the World Cup in Brazil, two events she looks forward to working on.

**Alex (aka Ali) Harwood’s\* (1977–84)** new ballet score, *Automatic Flesh*, for Rambert Dance Company, premiered at the QEH, London in May and her film score *First Light* had its world premiere at the Edinburgh Film Festival, getting selected for the prestigious Oscar-qualifying Anima Mundi Film Festival in Brazil.



**Stephen Gooder\* (1974–81)**, ‘versatile, BAFTA-nominated, multi award-winning freelance film director and producer’, wrote and directed *Leopards: 21st Century Cats\**, shown on BBC2 in May.



**Gabs Weston (1983–88)** published her second book: *DirtyWork*. It

was novel of the week in the Daily Mail and has good reviews elsewhere\*. Writing is her second career as she is also an ENT surgeon.

**Charlie McVeigh (1979–83)** has bought an old Post Office near to the entrance of the Tower of London on Seething Lane and has turned it into a Draft House\*. There is a massive range of beer, a short but pertinent wine list and sensational hamburgers, steaks and other health-food items.



**Mark Hanson (1977–84)** has been appointed Deputy Chair\* of the UK Sport Board. He will now work with a focus firmly on delivering medal success at the Sochi 2014 and Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Oli Holmes (1999–2004)** has been in Syria for ten days, reporting for Reuters from Aleppo in June with a three-part Special Report called *Inside Rebel Syria\**.

**Charlie Hughes (2003–08)** continues as a choral scholar at Exeter cathedral and has been touring Austria with the cathedral choir. He also sang the role of Sir Arthur Sullivan in a new play about G and S at the Edinburgh Fringe before heading back to sing plainsong at the Edington Festival in Wiltshire.



**Alexis Housden (2000–05)** won Collection of the Year award at the London

College of Fashion BA graduate show with his menswear designs.

**Victoria Pike (1976–83)** is still working in the architecture-related world, being most involved with the Aga Khan Development Network who are building three projects in King's Cross, including a cultural centre for Islamic Arts.

**Georgia Glynn-Smith (1980–85)** has been prominently credited for her food illustrations in recent editions of The Guardian Weekend magazine.

**Louise Rowntree (1988–93)** had a scholarly letter published in the Financial Times in August on the subject of China, trade and Europe's vision for its future.



Hartley Tree Seat

**Alexandra Oustromoff (née Hartley 1987–92)** has been busy, serving up 6000 pizzas at Glastonbury – from ovens made by husband Piers' engineering firm. They also built the restaurant and make tree seats (very Bedalian).

Of a London cycle ride, The Guardian reported: In the end, supported by a mini-peloton of officials and his wife,

**Marina (née Wheeler 1976–82)**, (Boris) Johnson made it in a very decent eight hours ten minutes, including several "long and liquid breaks". Not clear whether she was actually riding as well.

**David Blishen (1983–90)** was the IT expert for The Guardian who supervised the infamous destruction of their incriminating hard drives and memory chips containing information 'dangerous to the nation'. Probably a Bedalian is best equipped to cope with such a bizarre event.

**Georgina Lee (1977–82)**, out of touch with Bedales for a good 30 years or so, has been rediscovered working as a graphic designer in California.



**Jonathan Hugh-Jones (1966–72)** writes under the pseudonym of Jonathan Falla and has just had his fourth novel, *The Physician of Sanlucar\**, published by Aurora Metro Books. It is described as 'a beautifully written and absorbing story of addiction, cruelty and repressed desire set against the starkness of Chile and Argentina circa 1915'.

**Carlo Gebler (1968–72)** was interviewed on Radio 3 by his former dorm boss **Martin Handley (1964–69)**, talking

Steuart Padwick



Horseshoe Chair

**Steuart Padwick's\* (1973–78)** Horseshoe Chair was awarded a Design Guild Mark in April. He was asked to submit a number of items for the Best British Design awards. Some of his pieces also featured in an extraordinary promotional film for Made.com\*.

**Nicolas Lefebvre-Cavallier (1976–78)** made his debut at La Scala, Milan in Berlioz' Romeo and Juliet, becoming, to the best of my knowledge, the second OB to appear there. **Brother Sylvain Lefebvre (1978–80)** had his first London exhibition at the Hossack Gallery.

**Alex Hemmings (2003–08)** graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations including a thesis on the legal aspects of archaeological practice. He has since been working with lawyers knowledgeable about antiquities affairs, illegal object trafficking and heritage ownership and is now studying International Law at SOAS.

about Carlo's Enniskillen International Beckett Festival.

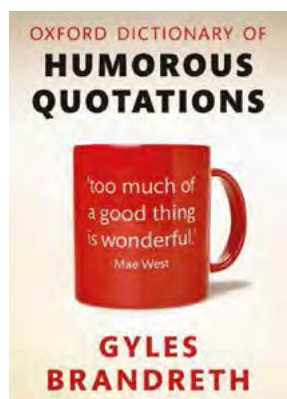
**Hannah Keenan (2007–12)** has been elected as the President of OULRC, the Oxford University Lightweight Rowing Club (the men's club only) for whom she is cox.



**Philippa Rowland (1979–81)**, trekked to Everest base camp with a bunch of Australian youths to raise funds for ongoing climate change work by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition\* She was also recently invited to Oslo to present an Australian paper at a Transformation in a Changing Climate conference.

**Simon Vickers (1973–76)**, Head of Books at Edinburgh auctioneers Lyon and Turnbull, managed to sell a copy of Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations for an impressive £50K.

Professor **Nick Fox\* (1976–78)** appeared recently on TV being interviewed about the government's increased commitment to research into dementia.



rest of world outside the Americas) and

**Kate Farquhar-Thomson (1980–82)** heads up the publicity team for Oxford University Press in the UK (and Europe and

was thrilled to be working with **Gyles Brandreth (1961–66)** on his brand new *Oxford Dictionary of Humorous Quotations*.

**Jo Seth-Smith (1996–99)** lives in Malawi, where she is project manager for a charity called Theatre for a Change.

**Susie Hopkinson (1992–97)** is working at Great Ormond Street Hospital as head of their arts programme, *Go Create!* She pointed out to me a video\* about the work which happened also to feature another OB, **Molly Russell (1992–97)**.

David Walsh



Tuscan Landscape

**David Walsh\* (1971–75)**, exhibited at Shepherd Market Gallery, London in September, showing landscapes from the UK, France, Italy and Switzerland.

**Peter Harris (1960–65)** has been visiting professor at the University of Nanjing, China, where he is researching a couple of book projects and teaching English graduates a course on translating classical Chinese poetry into English, as well as co-teaching an undergraduate course on classical Chinese philosophy.



My agents on the Riviera report that **Irina Brook (1975–80)** has been appointed Director

of the National Theatre in Nice. It is certainly in her blood.

**Gautam Lewis (1990–95)** has been working with tve and Al Jazeera to produce a series of educational films and other resources as part of tve's Reframing Rio\* project, which is an ambitious multi-media initiative that aims to reignite the global debate about the need to re-set the world on more sustainable pathways.

**Alison Allwright (née Kerlogue 1963–68)** achieved fame in the Bournemouth Echo for her work in saving the Corfe Castle Community Library from threatened closure.



Peter Grimdsdale

**Peter Grimdsdale (1968–73)** and **Paul Unwin (1971–76)** together created the new ITV series *Breathless\**, with Paul

directing and being executive producer. *Breathless* is a 1960s medical drama. Meanwhile Peter has been busy on his next book *Battlefield 4 – Countdown to War\**. It is a prequel to the videogame.

**Olivia Lacey (1981–88)** is an event organiser and cook who runs The Feast of Reason, a supper club with interesting speakers, from her home in South London. New members welcome.

**Dominic Price (1973–77)** continues as Headmaster of Merton Court prep school in Sidcup, whilst brother **Chris (1973–77)** takes charge of the IT and finances. The school has been in the family for 35 years now.

**Will Hardie (1993–95)** has been appearing again in George Clarke's



*Amazing Spaces*, Channel 4. This time he was designing tree houses for Kielder National Park in Northumberland (and is just as scruffy as he was in the last series).



**Simon Perks' (1972–75)** company, Unicorn Press, published a monograph\* on **Sarah Raphael (1971–77)**. In connection with this there was a major exhibition of Sarah's work at Marlborough Fine Art.

**Jack Graves (1999–2004)** has a new job as Press Officer for the Royal College of Nursing.



Having performed and presented music by women for the last 25 years and created the information site *Women of Note*\*

**Diana Ambache (1960–66)** has used funds from the sale of a Del Gesu violin to set up the *Ambache Charitable Trust*\*, dedicated to raising the profile of music by women composers.

**Nicholas Maxwell (1952–56)** has recently published *How Universities Can Help Create a Wiser World*\*: *The Urgent Need for an Academic Revolution*

(Imprint Academic). The book argues that in order to create a wiser world, it is essential that we bring about a revolution in universities around the world, so that they become rationally devoted to helping us solve problems of living.

**Sasha White (1980–85)** is a barrister and was appointed Queen's Counsel in March. He specialises in planning law and spends his spare time watching Arsenal FC, London Scottish RFC, Kent CCC and Rangers FC. He also runs his own cricket team, Primrose Hill Elephants.

**Louise Burnet (née Glanville 1975–76)** is re-emerging as a professional flautist and her trio *Vocali3e* \*(flute, soprano, piano) performed at the Edinburgh Fringe in August and on the strength of this has plans to tour USA next Autumn. She runs the successful *Flutes du Soleil* International Flute Course in the Haute Savoie and would be delighted to welcome any past or present Bedalian flautists onto the course.

**Jill Percy (1975–80)** and her husband are running an artisan foods business in their spare time, Jake's Artisan Foods, which makes fabulous pork pies from Hampshire free range pork. Considering her day job is Head of Communications for HS2, I am slightly surprised she needs another one. You can find them\* on Facebook.



**Lucy Parham (1977–82)** has series of Sunday Coffee Concerts at King's Place and matinées at St John's, Smith Square under way. As always she appears with one or more

stars of the theatre. Full details are on her website\*.

**Tim Johnston (1954–59)** is working for two international courts in The Hague and would be happy to make contact with any past or present Bedalians working or living in the vicinity – email [timfkj@yahoo.com](mailto:timfkj@yahoo.com).

**Laurance Goldsmith (1963–69)** has recently been driving across the USA and visiting Uzbekistan. A keen cricketer, he is still a regular participant at Stoner Cricket week in July. Being virtually the oldest playing member at Stoner, he is frequently in line for the Band Aid award for the most impressive injury incurred during the week.



**Miranda Hamilton (née Boughey 1967–72)** has co-authored the *Puffer Cookbook*\*. As a fellow Scottish west coaster,

I support her exhortations to OBs to buy this. All proceeds to The Puffer. Probably you don't understand, but please look it up!

**Rosie Craggs (née Greenwood 2000–05)** now has her own architectural practice, SS4 Architects\*. "We work all over the country, but focus is in London and the home counties, and would be more than happy to help out with any projects old Bedalians may have in mind!"

**Charissa Shearer (2002–07)** appeared in the part of Peg in the excellent new film *Philomena*.

An extensive article about **Mella Shaw (1991–96)** appeared in a recent edition of *Crafts* magazine, featuring her latest ceramics.

**Claerwen Onslow-Smith\* (2001–06)** has had the first solo exhibition of her portraits, having worked for four years at the studio of Charles Cecil (not the OB one) in Florence. Brother **Kit (2003–08)**

Claerwen Onslow-Smith



Kit Onslow-Smith

has been working in Shanghai for a bilingual magazine for the past three years as well as studying for an Open University degree.

**Marcus Alexander (née Ebelthite 1988–93)** will be publishing part three of his *Keeper of the Realms\** series in February 2014 as a Puffin paperback. He has also been working with a tours agency Authors Abroad giving him a platform to push literacy in the UK and overseas including Dubai and Muscat.

**Lu Flux (2000–02)** has a new website\* to display her collections of womenswear and childrenswear.



**Simon Anholt (1974–79)** has been made a Professor *honoris causa* in political science by the University of East Anglia.

**Alice Eastwood (1985–90)** works for Christian charity SIL International\*, Indonesia with minority language groups, helping them to develop educational curricula. 750 children from the Moma and Tado language groups in Sulawesi are now learning to read and write their own languages, which were unwritten until 2008. She spent 2013 sharpening her

skills with an MA Literacy Programme Planning at Gloucestershire University. She hopes to return to Indonesia for further adventure in March.

**Deborah Harwood (1974–79)** has expanded her business The Textile Space\* into retail, with its own online haberdashery and fabric shop.



**Edward Impey (1975–80)** has been appointed Director-General of the Royal Armouries\*, Britain's oldest

public museum. He is in charge of their three British sites at the Tower of London, a purpose-built museum in Leeds and at Fort Nelson in Hampshire.

**Dan Wheeler (1995–2000)** has again been appearing for Propeller\* – as Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream* and Antipholeus in *Comedy of Errors*. Now on tour, probably near you.

**Richard Harrison (1997–2002)** has given up his regular job to make a motor-bike trip the length of Africa. Currently he is in Nairobi where he has been delayed for many months using his professional skills on various solar power projects.



**Claire Morris\* (1985–90)** is Deputy Director of International Programmes for the Marie Stopes Foundation providing vital strategic and

operational support to reproductive health programmes in 18 countries across Africa and Latin America.

**George Alldridge (2001–06)** passed out from Dartmouth Naval College last October and is now a sub lieutenant serving on HMS Daring which visited the Philippines in November as part of the international aid effort.

**Camilla Hall (1998–2001)**, US banking correspondent of the FT, was joint winner of the Foreign Press Association's 2013 Print and Web Feature Story of the Year: *Qatar: From Emirate to Empire*.



James Morris

On the Celtic fringes, **James Morris\* (1974–81)** had an exhibition, *Time and Remains*, of his photography at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre and **Alison Lochhead\* (1966–68)** likewise of her sculptures at the Rhyader Museum. Incredibly, no fewer than three independent OBs live in their tiny hamlet in west Wales.

Molotov Jukebox, with lead singer **Natalie Gastiain-Tena (1998–2003)** and manager **Sirius Flatz (1996–99)**, have a UK tour in April.

**Peter Farrell (1959–64)** has recently retired as Professor of Special Needs and Educational Psychology at the University of Manchester. He is a former President of the International School Psychology Association and still speaks at conferences and runs workshops in countries such as India, Palestine, Slovakia, Hong Kong and Malta.

## SENIOR REUNION

On the 22nd September 2013 Bedales hosted its first reunion lunch for former students aged 75 and over. In response to the 413 invitations sent out 78 attended, which, considering some of us are now well dispersed throughout the world was a pretty good showing.

The reunion began at 10.45 on what was a cloudy and cool day. After collecting our name badges from the smart reception area in the Orchard building (the award winning teaching and administration block built in 2005) we were met by sixth formers who, as our hosts for the day, accompanied us to the Pigeonhole Café situated in what most of us will remember as the girls' changing rooms.

I arrived shortly after the appointed time to find the café already packed with a sea of faces, none of whom I immediately recognized. This was a problem I had half expected, but let's face it, at 75 years plus we are not all going to be replicas of our teenage youth. Added to this there was the problem of remembering which names went with which faces. Name badges had now, sadly, become a welcome prop for old friends and helped to reduce those 'senior moments'.

At 11.45 we left our coffee and biscuits to assemble in the Lupton Hall (New Hall to those over 80!) to hear from Keith Budge, the headmaster. Both the Lupton Hall and the library have, thankfully, remained fixed in time where so many of the buildings around them have undergone change. The seating capacity in the Lupton Hall is insufficient for over 400 students and staff, but it was the obvious and perfect place for our assembly. Keith gave a short address on how Bedales had expanded since we were students and how the school held on to the values and close community spirit that had been the founding ethos.



We were then treated to a classical duet by two present Bedalians, Olivia Brett and Imogen Welch, accompanied on the piano by Nick Gleed, director of music. The girls' voices were outstanding and, judging by the applause they received, generated an emotional experience too. I'm sure I was not alone in my thoughts of being carried back to those evening assembly recitals that ended the day with the staff line-up of goodnight handshakes; a Bedales tradition which continues today.

We then headed to the dining hall where four rows of attractively laid tables were set out the length of the hall. After an excellent lunch and toasts of thanks, we were partnered up in small groups with our sixth form hosts who took us for a tour of the school. It was an excellent opportunity to exchange our experiences and to talk about the changes that had taken place over an historical time span stretching from the early 50s to the early 30s. Mary Henderson who attended Bedales between 1933 and 1939 was, at the age of 92, the oldest of several OBs attending from those far off years.

Our reunion coincided with the annual Badley weekend, when all students remain at the school and take part in various activities and projects to benefit

the school and charitable causes outside it. Such an activity was going on in the workshop, where a team was busy renovating old garden tools for sending to Africa. There was also much activity in the Outdoor Work area, located close to the old dairy buildings (remember the early morning milk run?), where students were having a messy time with coloured paper, bamboo and copious amounts of PVA glue, making lanterns for the evening Badley event.

As we visited the fabulous new buildings around the perimeter of the orchard we had no doubt that Bedales students today enjoy facilities way beyond those we experienced in our time. Has the increase in student numbers and the many new sophisticated facilities taken away the informality and small family community that we associate with those earlier days at Bedales? Keith Budge thinks not; furthermore we'll never know, though I for one would love to have the experience again to find out.

Our thanks go to Philip Parsons for what was a seamlessly organised occasion to remember.

*Richard Fenwick (OB 1948–52)*

## BEDALES ARTS 2014

Contributions from the wider Bedales family feature strongly, once more, in this year's programme.

Michael Minas – a former Bedales parent (Miraphora), now a Bedales grandparent (Luca) – exhibits his paintings, studies and life-drawings in the Gallery from 11 January to 8 February.

Towards the end of the year we plan a major Barnsley Workshop exhibition in the Gallery, celebrating not only fine furniture-making and design, but also the Barnsley family's strong ties to Bedales. A brief hiatus in gallery planning delayed this exhibition from 2013 but has given us the opportunity to extend its scope to include complementary landscape paintings of Hampshire and the South Downs.

In March we benefit, again, from the great generosity of William Jackson in bringing works by some of the world's finest printmakers to our gallery. The Vigorous Image 2 (28 February – 29 March) features Christiane Baumgartner, Dexter Dalwood, Jim Dine, Howard Hodgkin, Lisa Milroy, Julian Opie, Mimmo Paladino, Frank Stella, Joe Tilson and Paul Winstanley (all through the kind co-operation of the Alan Cristea Gallery) and Dale Devereus Barker, Alison Lambert, Jock McFadyen RA, Bruce McLean, Chris Orr RA and Thomas Watson (all with the kind co-operation of the Jill George Gallery). There is an opening reception (at which all are welcome) on Saturday 1st March from 11.30am – 2.30pm.

More visiting professional work comes to the stage of Olivier Theatre on 11 February in C-12 Dance Theatre's recently created piece *Shhh!*, an entertaining contemporary dance story of a library under threat.

The Youth Dance Platform continues to flourish (2nd March) and Bedales Dance

© Chris Orr RA



View From Delft, courtesy of the Jill George Gallery

Performs (4th March) sees the stage given over entirely to the senior school's dance students.

Bedales Jazz brings another exciting group of top UK professionals to Steep on 18 March with a varied octet led by pianist Ivo Neame.

**The Eckersley Lecture**, on 21 March, will be given by Dr Rupert Sheldrake.

© Bruce McLean



Garden Blue Toronto, courtesy of the Jill George Gallery

The lecture is titled *The Science Delusion: Freeing the Spirit of Enquiry*.

The Spring programme in the Theatre also includes a generous selection of work produced on the Theatre Studies Courses at BAC, AS and A2 levels and performed publicly as part of the examination process (A2 30, 31 January, BAC 12, 13 March, AS 2, 3 April).

The Bedales Spring Concert will take place in the Quad on Friday 28 March and the traditional Summer Concert on Parents' Day, Saturday 28 June.

The Gallery's Summer programme opens with what promises to be a charming exhibition of creative work by Dunannie's pupils, entitled *It All Starts Here*.

The Wilfred Brown Recital Series claims something of a coup by presenting the leading tenor Ian Bostridge (accompanied by James Cheung of the Bedales visiting music staff). Booking is already open for this concert on Tuesday 6 May.

*The Summer Production*, featuring performers from Blocks 3 & 4, will be



Ian Bostridge

given in the Theatre on the evenings of 20, 21 & 22 May. Performances of new writing, created by students from Bedales and Portsmouth's Charter Academy under the auspices of the National Theatre's New Views programme, will

be given in the Theatre on the evenings of 23, 24 & 25 June. A community performance project – *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens* – has evening performances on 26 & 27 June and a lunchtime performance for Parents' Day guests.

*The Art and Design Summer Exhibition* will be open in the Gallery and surrounding studios on 28 and 29 June.

The Autumn programme is still partially under development but the Poetry Series will present the increasingly celebrated Daljit Nagra on 23 September and the Gallery will open the new academic

year with *Bedales Selective* followed by another in Paul Martin's excellent *Head/Hand/Heart* series of exhibitions in late September/early October.

Please check the website or telephone to check before visiting the Gallery, in case of unanticipated changes, and remember to book in good time for drama and music performances.

*John Barker*

*Bedales Arts box office:*

*01730 711511*

*tickets@bedales.org.uk*

*www.bedales.org.uk/bedales-arts.html*

## CLASSES OF 1978 & 1979 REUNION

A reunion lunch will be held on Sunday 29th June for all members of the Classes of 1978 and 1979. Reception will be in the Pigeonhole Café (formerly the Girls Changing Rooms) from 11.00, followed by lunch in the Main Dining Hall.

Invitations were sent out in January. If you belong to one of these Blocks and did not receive one, please get in touch.

Saturday 28th June is Bedales Parents Day and all Old Bedalians are invited to that. There will be the usual performances, exhibitions, concerts and tea parties. The main exhibitions will remain open on Sunday 29th June.

### **Leana Seriau**

01730 711572

lseriau@bedales.org.uk



*Below is a list of those to whom we have been unable to send an invitation to the reunion due to lack of any kind of address. If you can help us to contact any of them, please get in touch.*

Helen Beecroft

Victoria Bridges

Catherine Brooks

Julia Munyard

Alison White

Thomas Creighton

Mainardo de Nardis

Charles Farnell

Eve Halley

Charlotte Jones

Linda Kemp

Jane Wright

Andrew Nisbet

Stephen Paul

Tina Potter

Marc Reuben

Jonathan Simons

Susan Smout

Jacqueline Strand

Lucinda Woolrych

Thomas Young

## BIRTHS

**Francesca (née Bonner)** and Fraser Birt, a daughter, Caroline, on 6th September 2013

**Lisa (née Bowles)** and Simon Lewis, a daughter, Penelope Jean, on 15th March 2013

**Olivia Boyd** and Mark Fell, a daughter, Edie June, on 5th July 2013

**Lucy (née Carp)** and Mathew Gapper, a daughter, Eliza Hineani Macie, on 12th May 2013

**Claire (née Cochrane)** and Tom Sewell, a son, Alfie, on 9th April 2013

**Helen (née Cogan)** and Paul Martin, a son, Montgomery Charles Henry, on 21st September 2013

**Charlotte Dellal** and Maxim Crewe, a son, Rio Solomon, on 12th September 2013

**Kim (née Graves)** and Taz Babiker, a daughter, Sofia Joan, on 11th October 2012

**Rosie (née Greenwood)** and Daniel Craggs, a son, Oscar Blake, on 27th December 2012

**Daniel** and Tory **Harris**, a son, Jack James William, on 27th June 2013

**Jess (née Harris)** and Ian Ashbridge, a daughter, Emmeline Rachel Ann, on 25th May 2013

**Laura Hickman** and Simon Wheeler, a daughter, Posey Irene Elsie, on 11th September 2013

**Tamera Howard**, a daughter, Maya Agnes, on 3rd August 2013

**Anjali (née Krishnadasan)** and Adam Walker, a daughter, Indigo Poppy, on 8th July 2013

**Sofi (née Longhurst)** and Simon Chabowski, a daughter, Kaya, on 27th December 2012

**Abigail Martin** and Kevin Fraser, a daughter, Lilly Rose Alexandra, on 18th June 2013

**Emma (née Oakman)** and Daniel Cushworth, a daughter, Holly Rose, on 4th December 2012

**Alysen (née Miller)** and James Cork, a son, Raphael Isaac Miller, on 20th August 2013

**Ruth (née Pearse)** and Antoine Edgcombe, a daughter, Amelie Arles Rose, on 14th May 2012

**Jonnie** and Catriona **Reed**, a son, Lachlan William, on 21st June 2012

**Tim** and Ciara **Rowe**, a son, Bertie Spencer Jack, on 12th December 2012

**Robin** and Caroline **Sjoholm**, a son, Tor, on 18th November 2012

**Becky (née Slack)** and Ben Saer, a daughter, Ida Ellen Kate, on 15th July 2013

**Dom** and Lucy **Strutt**, a son, Rory, in July 2013

**Jenny Weaver** and Duncan Stacey, a daughter, Matilda on 13th July 2013

**Kate Willcocks** and Joey Gardiner, a daughter, Ella Alison, on 25th January 2013

**Alex** and Clare **Williams**, a son, Matthew, on 21st January 2013

**Rod** and Rosie **Williams**, a son, Orlando George Tancred, on 27th March 2013

**Ben** and Clem **Wilmot**, a son, Arlo, on 28th May 2012

**Holly (née Wilmot)** and David Beck, a son, Sasha, on 9th March 2013

**Lora (née Wood)** and Kevin Luton, a daughter, Bowen Robin Olwen, on 2nd September 2013

**Bob Yeo** and Sandra Collins, a son, Francis William, on 2nd July 2013

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## ENGAGEMENTS

**Nico Ball** and Nadine Hawa

**Alexandra Brown** and **Henry Danowski**

**Becky Byrne** and David Gallagher

**Anna Case** and Simon Heesom-Green

**Justin Etzin** and Lana Zakocela

**Maddy Garcia** and Ed Jenner

**Ipek Gencsu** and Alex Voorhoeve

**Stefan Hardy** and Olga Makiievska

**Laura Hickman** and Simon Wheeler

**Peter Hutt** and Kay Norton

**Jo Long** and Andrew Dewar

**Alastair Mackeown** and Joanna Kelly

**Charles Maybanks** and Sophia Sidney

**Shoo Pick** and Matthew Larson

**Anna Searight** and Robbie Hookins

**Nick Shorvon** and Kate McEnery

**Gary Skinner** and Heather Carré

**Rosslyn Stewart** and **Elias Kulukundis**

**Antony Taylor** and Kelly Dixon

**Rebecca Willoughby** and **Ben Bradley**

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## MARRIAGES

**Bianca Blum** and Alastair Gudgeon  
on 3rd May 2013

**Yolanda Carslaw** and Peter Guthrie  
on 31st August 2012

**Christianna Coates** and Liam Vandooren  
on 31st August 2013

**Lalage Damerell** and Stephen Rales  
in 2012

**Joanna Evershed** and Nick Hodges  
on 20th April 2013

**Iain Fairley** and Sarah Vine on  
6th July 2013

**Stefan Hardy** and Olga Makiievaska  
on 7th December 2013

**Rebecca Heathcote** and Owain Blakje  
on 17th August 2013

**Anna Howarth** and Paul Smuts  
on 17th August 2012

**Ellie Keenan** and **Ed Yeo** on  
20th July 2013

**Vicky Keene** and Alex MacDonald  
on 9th August 2013

**Klaus Moller** and Shelle Mannion  
on 22nd September 2013

**Bill Rigg** and Clare Colvin on  
10th August 2013

**Alex Robinson** and Katie Misselbrook  
on 17th May 2013

**Jeremy Walker** and Mai Noman  
on 29th June 2013

**Michael Wilding** and Holly Blair  
on 27th July 2013

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## DEATHS

**Eric Ashley Bray** on 26th October 2013.  
Bedales 2003–08.

**Vivien Pritchett (née Brothers)** on  
8th April 2013. Bedales 1955–59.

**Keith Martin Clayton** on 12th February  
2013. Bedales 1941–46.

\***Nicola Corinna Cleminson** on  
7th June 2013. Bedales 1961–66.

**Alan Barry Dakers** on 22nd May 2013.  
Bedales 1938–41.

**Gillian Mary Davies** on  
24th September 2013. Bedales 1987–90.

**Barbara Ann Thorpe (née Forrester)**  
on 19th February 2013. Bedales 1940–43.

**Patrick Pearse Freyer** in June 2013.  
Bedales 1930–36.

\***Brenda W Gillingham (née Gimson)**  
on 5th March 2013. Bedales 1929–35.

\***Bastien David Gomperts** on  
13th October 2013. Bedales 1947–53.

**Bertel E L Gripenberg** on  
5th April 2013. Bedales 1935.

**Peter Herbert McCarthy** on  
30th April 2012. Bedales 1971–72.

\***Jill Bright (née Mursell)** on  
19th September 2012. Bedales 1954–56.

\***George Martin Nelstrop** on  
4th June 2013. Bedales 1923–28.

**Veronica Muriel Farrington (née Pease)**  
in October 2013.

\***Christopher Thomas Inglis Rayson**  
on 6th February 2013. Bedales 1947–53.

**Cecil (Bob) Robert** on 20th November  
2013. Bedales staff 1943–48.

\***Timothy Willatt Slack** on 29th June  
2013. Bedales Headmaster 1962–74.

\***Martin Arthur Rackham Soper**  
on 9th January 2013. Bedales 1950–57.

**Susan Caroline Salaman** on  
27th October 2012. Bedales 1952–54.

**Daphne Powell (née Stevens)** on  
25th July 2012. Bedales 1943–47.

\***Peter Oswald Eric Trubshawe**  
on 20th March 2013. Bedales 1935–42.

**Elizabeth Ann Foster (née Wheeler)**  
on 27th February 2012. Bedales 1930–36.

**Peter Grahame Woolf** on 19th August  
2013. Bedales 1939–40.

**Brenda Wright** on 16th February 2013.  
Bedales 1942–43.

*Those marked with an asterisk have an  
obituary elsewhere in the Newsletter.*

## RECENT DEGREE RESULTS

### Stephanie Carey

Accounting from Otago University,  
New Zealand

### Charlie Hughes

Mechanical Engineering (Lower second)  
from Exeter University

### Sophie Musgrave

French with International Studies  
(Upper second) from Warwick University

### Richard Draeger

Medicine (MB, BS) from University  
of East Anglia

### Josephine Jonathan

Mathematics (Upper second)  
from Edinburgh University

### Harvey Patchett-Joyce

Mathematical Physics (Upper second)  
from Warwick University

### Alexandra Harwood

Film Composition (MA) from the  
National Film and Television School

### Rhonwen Lally

Geography (First class)  
from Nottingham University

### Mella Shaw

Glass and Ceramics (MA) from  
the Royal College of Art

### Sophie Hill

Mathematics and Philosophy (First class)  
from Balliol College, Oxford

### Julia Langdon

Psychology (Upper second)  
from Warwick University

### Rebecca Willoughby

Osteopathy (Upper second) from  
the European School of Osteopathy

### Harry Hopkins

Mathematics and Philosophy (Upper  
second) from Glasgow University

### Anne-Katrin Loos

Orthodontics (M.Sc., Distinction)  
from Danube University, Krems

## DESTINATION OF LEAVERS 2013

Name	Destination	Course	Year
Piper Anderson-Klotz	Applications to Art Colleges	Art Foundation	2014
Jo Arrowsmith	Tailoring Apprenticeship		
Tom Austin	University College, Falmouth	Art Foundation	2013
Sebi Bacon	University College, London	Economics	2013
Patrick Baigrie	University of West London	Music Technology	2014
Jack Barton	Applications to Drama Schools	Drama	2014
Eddy Bassett	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Emily Bonsor	Plumpton College	Wine Production	2014
Georgie Brand	UCAS	Philosophy and Psychology	2014
Anna Brown	UCAS	Biology	2014
Sasha Bruml	Brunel University	Product Design Engineering	2014
Jonny Campbell	Leicester University	Ancient History and History	2013
Clara Carminger	City College, Brighton	Art Foundation	2013
Talia Chin	UCAS	Media Studies	2014
Louis Church	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Bibi Collins	Applications to Art Colleges	Art Foundation	2014
Felix Conran	University of the Arts, London	Product Design	2013
Oscar Cooper	UCAS	Economics	2014
Nick Crane	University of Chichester	Music Performance	2013
Evie Cullingworth	New York University	Drama	2013
James de Courcey	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Pippa Duncan	University College, Falmouth	Art Foundation	2013
Kris Fisher	TU Delft – Netherlands	Aerospace Engineering	2014
Angus Grant	Goldsmiths College, London	History	2013
Georgia Green	UCAS	English and Drama	2014
Maddy Green	Murray Edwards College, Cambridge	Medicine	2014



<b>Name</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Year</b>
Benny Grey	Finishing Art A level		
Sophie Grierson	Leeds University	English Literature	2013
Katie Griffiths	UCAS	Acting	2014
Georgie Gulliver	Manchester University	Architecture	2013
Chihiro Hoddinott	University College, London	Linguistics	2014
Leah Hemmings	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Zach Hobbs	In USA teaching Guitar		
Archie Howes	Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester	Agriculture	2014
Anna Jacobs	UCAS	History	2014
Tim Jones	Imperial College, London	Mathematics	2013
Cecily King	UCAS	Acting	2014
Charlie Laughton	Chippendale School of Furniture	Furniture Making	2013
Elize Layton	UCAS	Acting	2014
Lilly Lewis	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Angus MacLeod	Swansea University	Materials Science & Engineering	2013
Felix Manley	UCAS	Product Design Engineering	2014
Beth Maskall	Sheffield University	Biochemistry	2013
Ed Mason	University College, Falmouth	Sustainable Product Design	2014
Toby Matimong	UCAS	Music	2014
Ollie May	Applications to USA	Liberal Arts	2014
Matilda McCann	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Katie Millard	Keble College, Oxford	French and Linguistics	2013
Charlotte Mills	York University	Mathematics	2013
Paul Nethercott-Garabet	UCAS	Film production	2014
Mo Pechuho	St Andrews University	Classical Studies	2013
Peers Peel	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Jo Pemberton	Warwick University	Mathematics	2013
George Perry	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Talia Pick	UCAS	Acting	2014
Egor Platon	Southampton University	Law	2013
Neal Raitthatha	Loughborough University	Mathematics	2013
Aliya Raphael	Le Cordon Bleu, London	Patisserie Diploma	2013
Poppy Riddell	Leeds College of Art	Art Foundation	2013
Charlotte Robins	Exeter University	Natural Sciences	2014
Molly Rogerson	Royal Veterinary College	Veterinary nursing	2013
Kristopher Rolt	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Dougal Russell	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Jess Sankey	Sussex University	English	2013
Katie Shannon	Edinburgh University	Architecture	2013
Sam Shuckburgh	UCAS	History	2014
Arran Stamper	Edinburgh University	Illustration	2013
Isabela Swiderska	University College, Falmouth	Art Foundation	2013
Barney Taylor	University of Chichester	Sports Coaching Science	2014
Reuben Thompson	Exeter University	Geography	2013
Max Turner	UCAS	Theatre Arts	2014
George Veys	SAE Institute	Audio Production	2014
Korel Walley	Gap Year	Work Experience	
Lucy Waterhouse	Bristol University	History of Art	2014
Scarlet Watney	Kingston University	Art Foundation	2013
Nell Whittaker	Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge	English	2014
Sam Wilkinson	Oriel College, Oxford	Physics	2013
Tom Wilshire	Aberdeen University	History	2013
Eleana Wilson-Smith	Bournemouth Arts University	Art Foundation	2013

## OBITUARIES

### Tim Slack

Tim Slack was headmaster of Bedales from 1962 to 1974. He was appointed at the early age of 34, making him perhaps the youngest head of an independent school in the United Kingdom at the time.

Tim brought to his appointment considerable energy, a strong sense of purpose, a spirit of duty and obligation to those less well off than himself but who shared his desire for a better life and world, and a real depth of understanding of people from different cultures. These qualities can be traced back to his ancestry of Methodist missionaries and Yorkshire businessmen, his Wykehamist upbringing, and his experiences of teaching: at a Lycée in France, at a school in Germany, at Repton School, and, most recently before coming to Bedales, as headmaster of Kambawsa College in Burma.

Tim considered that Bedales needed to change, and, in particular, to expand, if it was to be truly “progressive”, to live up

to the vision of its founder, John Haden Badley, and to prosper in an age where university applications were becoming more competitive. In his own words, written in 1963: “At long last Education is getting the national prominence it deserves; the future of all types and stages of school is under review; Bedales has not stood still and cannot stand still likewise, and we must prepare to look at our future, determined to hold on to the best of the present, but not fearing to think radically about everything else ... our determination to avoid early specialisation must not cut across the need for sound results in ‘A’ levels, so that the channels to as many branches of further education as possible, as well as direct entry into the professions and industry, should be kept open”. In the Headmaster’s Report of 1965 he stated: “Any school in which no change or experiment takes place becomes dead – or at any rate deadly dull”. Tim ensured that Bedales avoided this fate.

Tim’s main legacy was to increase the size of the school from 240 to 370. In the process, the intake of international pupils

went up, and the sixth form was enlarged. This meant that Bedales was opened up to families who could not afford to pay for more than two years’ fees, while at the same time the school was better placed to secure university admissions. The school gained wider recognition, and the application figures rose. The expansion also involved the “Development Plan”, a major programme of building works which included the replacement of most of the old classrooms. Tim was at the heart of all these events, as *The Chronicle* recorded in 1974: “Despite the pressures on his time he remained open and receptive to opinions from all quarters, seemingly undisturbed by organisational concerns, and could often be seen striding across the Orchard, red clip-board in hand, occasionally stooping to retrieve a Mars wrapper dropped by a somnambulant Bedalian”.

The greatest changes in the character of the school since its foundation had other manifestations. Prefects gave way to “Collective Responsibility”, and school uniforms to jeans. This was, perhaps, the least the school could do to keep up with the times. As Patricia Duncker (OB 1969) said recently of Bedales in the 1960s: “It was all about the rock ‘n’ roll. Not the Beatles, who always struck me as a bit too clean-cut, but the Stones, the Animals, the Kinks”.

Not everyone was in favour of these radical changes, but they stood the test of time. In due course, although not until long after their intended life span had expired, the pre-fabricated structures which covered part of the much-loved Orchard were replaced with a prize-winning building, and the school thrives today in large part because it has followed a course which Tim had the vision to set.

Badley was born in 1865, founded Bedales in 1893, in 1899 moved the



school to its present location on a 120 acre country estate near Steep which he purchased with family money derived from coal mining, retired as headmaster in 1935, and lived in a house in the school grounds until his death at the age of 102. Accordingly, not only Badley's 100th birthday but also his death in 1967 took place during Tim Slack's time as headmaster, and Tim presided over the arrangements for both events.

Although he inevitably grew frailer over time, Badley maintained his strength of spirit and his mental acuity throughout his life: until very shortly before he died, he did the Times crossword every day, and he played chess with one of the pupils each Sunday morning. Tim Slack made a point of visiting and spending time with Badley every week, and he gained a great deal from these meetings. As Tim said in an interview which he gave in the Autumn of 2011 "It was not an act of charity. It was an act of great pleasure. He was interesting and interested in the school". Importantly for Tim, Badley supported him, saying "Go ahead and do what you think is right". That interview and a memorable Jaw which Tim gave in May 2010 can still be viewed on YouTube, and they are a remarkable testament to Tim's resistance to the ageing process: at school reunions held many years after he left Bedales, Tim neither looked nor behaved as if he was any older than when he retired as headmaster, and – as this footage shows – well into his eighties his mental and physical vigour and his powers of recollection were such as to enable him to talk engagingly for minutes at a time without notes.

Both Tim and his first wife, Kate, took an active part in school life, living initially in the Wing and later in the new house which was purpose built for future heads of school as part of the Development Plan. Tim acted in staff plays, sang in the choir,

coached the First Eleven, rode in the annual Le Mans cycle race, and played a weekly tennis match with another member of staff against two members of the school. Kate taught Speech and Drama, produced and acted in staff plays, and as *The Chronicle* records: "As the Headmaster's wife her charm and patience shone through when, after a Jaw or during a 6.2 Social, she catered for marauding hordes as if they were welcome guests".

Family life was of great importance to Tim, and not least because of the support which he received from his family, and especially from Kate. As Ruth Whiting recalled in her address at Tim's funeral: "Those of us who were part of the school in those years did not think just of Tim as Headmaster but 'Tim and Kate' as the driving force in the school. The example of a strong, loving and supportive family at the heart of the community was a valuable lesson for those Bedalians who were less fortunate in their own family circumstances. Kate's infectious laugh and great sense of fun enlivened the atmosphere and prevented Tim from taking himself too seriously". His family, in particular, brought out Tim's more personal qualities: his boundless enthusiasm, his Tiggerish attitude to life, his kindness, and his good nature. Tim and Kate had four children – Caroline, Henry, Louisa, and Becky – all of whom went to Bedales.

Tim left Bedales in 1974 in order to contest the Petersfield constituency as the Liberal candidate. He stood for Petersfield in February and again in October 1974, for Enfield Southgate in December 1984, and (as a Liberal Alliance candidate) for Fareham in 1987. Although never elected as an MP, he had a measure of success. In particular, the Enfield Southgate by-election of 1984 resulted from the IRA's killing of the incumbent Conservative, Sir Anthony Berry MP, in October 1984. It was won



by Michael Portillo with 16,684 votes. Tim came second with 11,973 votes. This represented over 35% of the votes cast, and an increase of more than 12% in the Liberal party's share of the votes.

*Timothy Willatt Slack was born on 18th April 1928 and educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, where he read PPE. From 1968 to 1970, during part of his time as headmaster of Bedales, he was Chairman of the Society of Headmasters of Independent Schools. After leaving Bedales, Tim held a large number of posts. From 1975 to 1983, he was Deputy Director and later Director of Wilton Park FCO Conference Centre, from 1983 to 1984 he was headmaster of the Hellenic College of London, from 1985 to 1995 he was Principal of St Catherine's Foundation at Cumberland Lodge, from 1988 to 1995 he was chairman of governors of the Royal School, Windsor Great Park, from 1993 he was director of the National Tenants Resource Centre, and from 1994 he was chairman of the Round Table Moot. He was made LVO in 1995. Tim died peacefully at home on 29th June 2013.*

*Richard Spearman (OB 1965–73)*

## Jill Bright

We will all have our own unique memories of Jill; but let me invite you, at the family’s suggestion, to see her in two different but complementary ways. The first is as someone breaking out, partly from a very particular kind of background but more generally from established conventions. Jill’s home background in rural Sussex was loving and supportive, in many ways privileged, but with clear guidelines and boundaries, for example about the role of women. To step from that background into the world of urban America in the late 1950s, which is what Jill did when she got a job in the domestic service of the British consul-general in Washington, was to enter an utterly different world. Before long she was meeting all kinds of exotic people through International House in Washington, among them a Tunisian prince – an incredibly different world from late 1950s Wisborough Green.

America in the late 50s and early 60s was a turbulent place: there was the death of JFK and the rise of the civil rights movement, the protest songs of Woody Guthrie and Pete and Peggy Seeger. It was in that kind of world that Jill met Ned Bright, at a YWCA dance in Washington. They were married in 1961 back in Wisborough Green – however different their background, Jill’s parents Peter and Dil welcomed Ned warmly into their family – and Jill and Ned set up home in Constitution Avenue, Washington DC, where in the following years Phoebe and Adam were born.

A few years later, this “breaking out” from the world of rural Sussex took an even more surprising turn. They moved to Ireland. Washington in the late 1960s became a dangerous place to bring up a family, and, pursuing a dream of self-sufficiency in a rural setting, Jill, with



Phoebe and Adam, drove all round Ireland looking for a home, and the moment they saw the house at Cooragannive they knew it was where they wanted to live. Ned didn’t find out until the place was bought. The southwest of Ireland at that time was utterly different both from Washington and from Wisborough Green – which was part of its attraction. It was also a place where “blow-ins” were few; yet the young family felt welcomed right from the start. And ever since the terrible tragedy of Adam’s death in an accident and subsequent relocations in London and America, the house at Cooragannive has been home.

“Breaking out” remained characteristic of Jill through the rest of her life. She was never an institution person. She was not conventionally religious, but she was profoundly spiritual: in fact she had a wonderfully rich inner life. While ironing one day, before they left Washington, she heard the Buddhist guru Alan

Watts on TV, talking about how reality is “inside out” – what you see on the surface is rarely the real thing. It deeply influenced Jill: as a girl at private schools in southern England she’d been fed a rather arid version of Christianity. Alan Watts, and perhaps her own “inner rebel”, led her to question all that, as she would question all kinds of established authority – when she got cancer a few years ago she endured the trauma of chemotherapy, but when it returned she rejected conventional medical treatment and opted for alternative medicine instead. It was important for her to be in control of her own life, and she gave those around her the space and the confidence to do the same.

That theme, of seeing reality from the “inside-out” was prevalent in her life. It made her an outstanding psychotherapist with an exceptional gift for listening rather than rushing to judgement, making people safe and

valued and affirmed in the midst of fear and stress. She loved gardening, but here too she began from the inside out: she planted things and let the wider landscape grow from there: her view of nature, and of the Irish landscape she loved so much, was earthed, not just romantic. Phoebe remembers being sent out to gather lichens for her mother to make dyes from. She was a wonderful cook, and she inspired Ned and Phoebe to be creative cooks too. Between them, they made the house at Cooraganaive not just a hospitable place but a place of beauty – not the formal beauty of the conventional and the ordered but a beauty that grew from within.

Beauty feels a key word to associate with Jill: both an external and an interior beauty, a beauty of soul. She was always beautifully turned out. She was a gifted weaver, and for years made clothes and rugs and other things in her workshop at

Guarannes, using her loom and the wool from the nearby Dripsey woollen mill. She took a course at West Dean in Sussex in tapestry making, and later won first prize at the Royal Dublin Show for one of her tapestries. She made a tapestry for Bothar, the Irish organisation that sends in-calf heifers to Africa: the tapestry depicts the life of a heifer from birth until it was flown out there. She was also a very gifted artist: she began drawing when the family first moved here, and was taught by Brian Alderidge in his own very individual way: for Jill, drawing was a meditative, spiritual activity – as was her love of music. She grew up playing the piano but gave it up when her teacher insisted on her cutting her nails and she refused: the rebel in her again. She loved folk music as well as classical: she was one of the earliest supporters of the West Cork Music Festival, and until very recently played in a recorder group on Fridays. She loved reading, and read

exceptionally widely. She loved people, and although she could come over as reserved or even intimidating, she had an amazing gift for affirming and enabling people to be themselves; and her interest in people was, like everything else, inclusive, never cliquy. In all these areas she had this intuitive ability to see from the inside out, to see the reality beneath the surface. Most of all, she loved family: she and Ned were kayaking on Lough Ine until near the end of her life, and it seemed utterly right that Ned and Phoebe and Jill's sister Ann were with her when she died at home.

*Rev. Gordon Mursell (cousin)*

## Nicola Cleminson

Nicola Cleminson has died from cancer at the St John's Hospice, St John's Wood. She was 65.

Nicola was talented both as a musician and an artist. Fellow Bedalians from the 60s may remember her lyrical solo viola playing, for a performance in the Quad, of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola, with Ali Hyland on the fiddle.

Nicola went to St Martin's College of Art from school but after a year left and won a place at the Royal College of Music to study the violin. After her left wrist was damaged she took up the viol instead and joined the Baines Early Music Consort. Later, having broken the same wrist in a skating accident, she sought help from a surgeon working for



the Royal Ballet. He reset the fracture so expertly that Nicola was once again able

to play both violin and viola. She went on to have a successful career of many years performing with groups such as The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and The Sixteen. She also played under the baton of John Eliot Gardiner, Roger Norrington and Christopher Hogwood amongst others.

Sadly Nicola was so deeply affected by the sudden death of her brother in 2004 that she was forced to retire early, although her love of music and art never left her. She was much missed by her fellow musicians.

She is survived by her father Antony Cleminson, 92, and by her cousins Rosalind Bleach and Melanie Musman, both OBs.

*Melanie Musman (OB 1960–65)*

## Brenda Gillingham

Bedales was the ever-present backdrop to the life of Brenda Gillingham for her first 53 years, until she left the area in 1970.



Her father Basil Gimson was an enthusiastic pupil from 1896 (aged 8) to 1904; The Chief (Mr Badley) was like his second father. Basil persuaded his actual father of his vocation for teaching, and taught maths at Bedales from 1911 until his retirement in 1947, being second master from 1933. Five Oaks, designed by his brother Humphrey, was built for his marriage to Muriel in 1913. Here Brenda was born in 1917, with an older sister Janet and later a younger brother Donald.

Brenda was a pupil at Dunhurst from age 2, then at Bedales until 1935, ending her time as head girl. At home as at school there was an atmosphere of intellectual curiosity, as well as music-making, love and laughter. Brenda was a happy child, but aware of social injustice particularly through the camps organised by housemaster Fred Seyd which brought together young people from contrasting backgrounds, including some in serious

poverty at the time of the Depression of the early 1930s.

Brenda went up to St Hugh's College, Oxford in 1936 to read Maths, switching after Part I to PPE. Among fellow students was Edna Edmonds, later Mrs Denis Healey. She joined the Labour Club and was active in their campaigns, collecting money for Spain, discussing Communism and organising against Fascism. In her first term the Hunger Marchers were due to pass through Oxford, and Labour Club members got involved in feeding them. Next to her peeling potatoes was Anthony Gillingham, fellow Maths student (her golden hair had already attracted his admiration in lectures) and fellow Communist. He started chatting, and was to become the love of her life. The Bedales ideal strongly appealed to him, in contrast to the coercion, militarism and corporal punishment of his public school education.

They married immediately after her graduation in July 1940, but spent most of the next 22 months apart as he was in training and then active combat in the Fleet Air Arm. Brenda briefly taught Maths at a teacher training college in Durham, but the college closed when all the students were called up. She then worked at the Admiralty, which had been evacuated to Bath, preparing statistics on shipping losses which went to Churchill. In summer 1942 Anthony returned after several months in Malta, and was posted to Scotland. Brenda eventually won the right to join him, having had her resignation refused because she was indispensable. At last they could start married life – and a family.

Brenda was still contributing to the war effort: using calculus, she and Anthony worked out how planes flying from an aircraft carrier escorting a convoy could conduct an efficient search for predatory



U boats. The cardioid shape appeared in Admiralty manuals but was never acknowledged.

Brenda returned to Five Oaks for Jane's birth in 1943, then taught half time at Bedales with her mother doing the other half of a 'job share' before the term was invented. Basil was responsible for the timetable, and infant feeding in those days was on a regular 4-hour schedule, so no problems arose. Somehow (I assume through Basil's intervention) a post was created for Anthony when he was demobbed, to teach Maths at Bedales, which he did successfully for 25 years.

When Basil and Muriel retired to Stoneywell, Leicestershire (see below) in 1947, Anthony, Brenda and their children moved into Five Oaks. Here they completed their family: after Jane came Sarah, Stephen, Angela, Naomi and Rachel. All but Rachel went to Bedales. In many ways Anthony stepped into Basil's shoes: conducting Steep Choir, producing and taking leading roles in the Gilbert and Sullivan production in Petersfield, actively participating in music making at Bedales. Brenda taught part time when the opportunity arose, but was rather eclipsed by Anthony's hyperactivity.

Unfortunately for Brenda, she became somewhat swamped by domesticity and Anthony was irritated by this. By the end of the 1960s he was disengaging and in 1970 left to teach sailing. Brenda never really understood why her marriage ended, and took several years to recover. She moved to Nailsea, Somerset, where her youngest child, Rachel, attended the local comprehensive, run by a former teacher at Bedales. When Rachel left school Brenda moved into a flat in Clifton, Bristol, near her daughter Sarah, by then a teacher with a young family. In her 60s, 70s and 80s Brenda regained her energy and led an eventful life, with various jobs interspersed by

holidays walking, sailing and visiting children abroad.

Just before her 90th birthday Brenda had a fall while visiting her daughter Angela in Hamble. After a spell in hospital she moved into sheltered housing in Bristol run by the Monica Wills Trust, where she spent over five years. Although her health was deteriorating due to vascular dementia she enjoyed life, particularly when visited by members of her ever expanding extended family. Her death came (thankfully) before she had lost the capacity to be mostly independent, albeit with drop-in carers. She died in Bristol Royal Infirmary on March 4th 2013.

She is survived by her six children, fifteen grandchildren and (to date) twenty great-grandchildren, as well as by her brother Donald (OB), who recently moved from the family home Stoneywell in Leicestershire, designed for his and Brenda's grandfather Sydney Gimson by his brother Ernest. This Grade II\* listed house, where Brenda and later her children spent happy summers with grandparents, has now been acquired by the National Trust. Those wishing to make a donation in Brenda's memory are asked to contribute to the associated appeal.

*Jane Darke (OB 1955–61, daughter)*

## Bastien Gomperts

My colleague and friend Bastien Gomperts, who has died aged 77 from respiratory failure, was a world-renowned research scientist in biochemistry and cell biology. As a professor at University College London, he studied cellular signalling mechanisms. He was best known for his work on the regulation of secretion, a fundamental biological process, showing that its mechanism in cells associated with allergy and inflammation is mediated by changes in cell calcium concentration and by proteins that bind the nucleotide GTP. Bastien was a memorable teacher and the author of two textbooks.

The Gomperts name, with its various spellings, derives from a community originating in the Lower Rhine around 1600, which then expanded across Europe and beyond. As with many other Jewish families, this entailed a degree of suffering, but on the way they acquired a reputation for – according to one chronicle of the family – “outstanding intellectual gifts and noble virtues of the heart”.

Bastien's father, Coenraad, a Dutchman from Surinam, was a violinist and later a



psychoanalyst. Bastien's mother, Barbara Singer, a descendant of Rabbi Simeon Singer, was a musician, painter and photographer. She was a great friend of the ceramicist Lucie Rie (née Gomperz, therefore related to Bastien, although their most recent common ancestor died in 1647). This colourful background was enriched further by Bastien's marriage in 1960 to Zerine Ismail, who was born in Madagascar, with connections in Pakistan and a family that also has a presence in London and Paris.

Intellectually confident and with a firm independence of mind, Bastien had a tendency to shun convention and

question authority. Unimpressed by hierarchies, he was invariably generous to and supportive of those around him, always listening, always ready with advice, invited or uninvited. His other attributes were his energy, curiosity and sheer virtuosity, which he directed into an endless series of unusual projects, in retirement setting up a cabinet maker's workshop in his basement where he crafted elegant furniture and boxes of unique design, often with complex, mathematically derived patterns.

Bastien hosted concerts in his home with the Fitzwilliam String Quartet, and supported visual artists through the Juliet Gomperts Trust, set up in memory of his youngest daughter, who died in an accident on the Khyber Pass in 1989.

He is survived by Zerine, their daughters Natasha and Miranda, and five grandchildren.

*Peter Tatham  
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The Guardian*

## Martin Nelstrop

What a marvellous achievement to live 103 years! Although he became increasingly frail, he could hardly see, and his hearing was poor; his mind was still as sharp as a button.

Martin was born in Heaton Norris, Stockport, and for most of his adult life stayed in the area. He moved into the family home in Bramhall in 1939 and stayed there until soon after Joan, his wife, died in 1992.

At the age of 13, Martin followed his brothers, Francis and Bernard, to Bedales, where he used to help with stage management of the school plays. One of his tales he liked to tell, (usually prefaced by: "I may have told you this before"), concerned an incident after helping dismantle the theatre set late on a Saturday night. He took a shower in the theatre dressing rooms and ran stark naked over the quadrangle, to be met by one of the female teachers, who ignored the 17 year old's embarrassed state and wished him a curt: "Goodnight Nelstrop".

Martin was a very practical person. He took delight in knowing how things worked. In his work as mill manager he loved solving problems when things broke down and finding new ways of doing things with new materials and technology. I can remember when I was young boy, father getting excited about small samples of conveyor belt material. Martin also was very involved in his work. We remember many phone calls in the middle of the night, followed by a rush to the mill to sort out some kind of emergency.

When he left school, Martin decided to study Agriculture at University. He spent a year on a farm in Lincolnshire, before his two years at Leeds University. On one occasion he fell off a horse at the farm and dislocated his shoulder. He was promptly dispatched by the farmer in



a horse and cart to the vet, who then manipulated his shoulder back in place!

At home he liked to have the latest gadget, and although he never got into computers, he astounded hospital staff at the age of 100 with texting his orders to us on his mobile. He also took to reading books on his Kindle when his sight was too poor to read large print books.

He found plenty of time for his family. We have particular memory of lots of caravanning holidays. Etched in our memory was one particular incident. It was decided not to stop at a rather muddy and wet site, so we drove with the Wolseley and a pretty heavy caravan up ever steeper and narrower mountain roads with a precipice on the side. Eventually father decided we had no choice but to retrace our steps. There was nowhere to turn round, so mother held five frightened children, while father unhitched the caravan and single-handedly turned it around, with the deep drop on one side and a mountainside on the other. We returned gingerly down the hill and camped up in the safety of the village school playground.

Martin continued to be very active into old age. He worked at the mill until

he was 75. He loved the Lake District and regularly made walking trips there. He also continued to travel well into his nineties, to South Africa, Spain and France. When he came to France with me at 95, he couldn't get travel insurance, and said then: "If I die over there, just sit me in the car and drive me back".

Martin had five children, 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grand-children. Until he was 100 years old he sent birthday cards to everyone. Until he died he continued to know all their names and whereabouts and welcomed any news.

Martin was a modest man of strong character; he was very moral and believed strongly in fairness, truthfulness and doing right. He felt there was good in all people. He was upset by suffering and cruelty. He was always willing to help others and did not seek recognition for it. He supported a lot of charities and until he was 90 he used to drive 'the elderly' to hospital.

*Peter Nelstrop (son)*





## Christopher Thomas Inglis Rayson

**M**y dear brother Chris died very suddenly on February 6th 2013. It was unexpected and surprised all the family and friends.

He left his devoted partner Eleanor and three of his sons, Jake, Saul and Sam and his dog Jack. Seth, the eldest, died of cancer in July 2006, a tragedy for everyone.

Chris was born in Oxford and we had a very happy childhood living on Shotover Hill, a wild environment where we built tree houses and could roam freely. Our architect father built several houses for L.P. Jacks, father of Hector Jacks, Bedales headmaster from 1946–62. Both Chris and I went there.

At Bedales, Chris was probably best known as a fanatical cyclist, also for running the mile. He enjoyed acting: Falstaff in the Merry Wives of Windsor and Noah in an outside production on Steephurst lawn.

He studied at the A.A. in London where

he qualified in 1965. He was particularly known for his conservation and historical interests which probably dated from his teens, by going around with father looking at buildings and gleaning information at an early age. His students found this information not only informative but very special. He developed a particular interest in and expertise on old and listed buildings, being involved in their repair and maintenance, conversion, alteration and change of use.

Continually involved in an advisory capacity to various interested groups and committees, he served most recently on the judging panel for the 2007 RIBA South competition for the reuse of existing buildings. For many years he taught part-time at the School of Architecture in Oxford at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, his knowledge serving the Built Resources course well.

He took over from our father as architect to the fabric of Blenheim Palace, 1966–2002. He was Adviser on listed buildings for Abingdon Borough and in charge

of repairs and maintenance of its Abbey, also for numbers 28 and 41/42 Cornmarket, Oxford and more recently work on Saint Giles Church, Oxford.



As far as Chris's capability as an architect goes, my husband, a musician with no particular DIY skills, really enjoyed building an extension to our one room cottage via Chris's drawings and practical instructions, with basically only a hammer and countless nails in his hand! The result? A wonderful four roomed cottage which has kept us happy for over 35 years without complaints.

I miss Chris greatly. He was such a kind and supportive brother.

*Julia von Hauenschold (née Rayson, OB 1950–56)*

## Martin Arthur Rackham Soper

**M**artin was the eldest son of Phil Soper and Barbara Edwards, daughter of Arthur Rackham.

After leaving Bedales, Martin qualified as a geologist, specialising in Palaeontology, at Chelsea College, University of London in 1960. Geology led him to work in Africa where he became an expert in mineral exploration. Martin's professional life was very successful, and he worked in many different countries including Liberia, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania. Finally he, his wife Margaret and their two children, Mark and Barbara, settled in Zimbabwe where he worked for the government at Zimbabwe Mining and

Development Corporation and also as a geological consultant.

Martin's expertise recently came to light when his brother Paul happened to meet Victor, another geologist who had worked in Ghana some years after Martin was there. Victor knew of Martin by reputation and had used the geological maps and reports that Martin had produced. Victor told Paul that these maps were very useful in demonstrating the commercial success of the Ghanaian mines, and played an important role in Victor becoming a director in Goldfields, the Australian mining company that took over the Ghanaian government company

that Martin had worked for.

Martin was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1993. The family continued to live and work in Zimbabwe until his health deteriorated. Eventually they moved back to England where he lived in Weymouth, Dorset. He died peacefully after a long battle with Parkinson's.

Martin was a very much loved husband, father, brother and uncle. He was always amusing, often joking at his own expense, and he made many life-long friends. We will all miss him.

*Viv Peto (OB 1958–63, sister)*

## Peter Oswald Eric Trubshawe



Peter's parents were both at Bedales: Vyv Trubshawe and Pamela (née Clerke) as also uncles, aunts and cousins. His middle names were Eric after Vyv's brother, and Oswald after Vyv's great friend Oswald Horsley – both OBs and both killed in WW1. Peter and his sisters, Bidy and Jill, grew up hearing about early days at Bedales with vivid memories of so many lost friends. The family often visited the area, particularly seeing the Gimson and Barnsley families. Many holidays were spent on the nearby Sussex coast where Peter loved “messing about in boats” and quickly learnt to sail.

Peter early showed mechanical and mathematical ability. The teaching

of science and maths was strong at Bedales before WW1 but by the 30s it had declined, so Vyv considered Rugby as a school for his son where there was a fine scientist teaching. But when this teacher, “Freddy” Meier, was appointed Headmaster of Bedales the dilemma was resolved and Peter happily followed family tradition.

Peter wrote in 1998 memories for his granddaughter Naomi aged 12 – and included some experiences of being at Bedales in WW2:

*At the start of the war, the school created air raid shelters by digging a series of covered trenches in a field about 200 yards away from the school. Whenever the air raid siren sounded,*

*we all had to stop what we were doing and go up to these trenches. At night a “blackout” was imposed, i.e. no lights were allowed to shine outside because it was thought that enemy bombers might see them and drop bombs. This made going up to the trenches quite an expedition at night. In fact, although Portsmouth which was only about 20 miles away was heavily bombed, no bombs were dropped near the school.*

*In the summer of 1940, after the fall of France, it was thought that Hitler would try to invade England. It was expected that any such invasion would start at dawn. The top floor of the school building had a balcony facing south which gave an excellent*

view toward the South Downs. So a "dawn watch" was set up which meant getting out of bed before sunrise, going out onto this balcony and keeping a lookout for any signs of such an invasion. We had a rota of the older pupils for this job.

Peter was Head Boy for a year from autumn 1941. In the long term the aspect of Bedales most important to him was his long friendship with Jean Mckinnon Wood – who became his wife.

In 1942 he went to Clare College, Cambridge, to study engineering. There he was also able to develop his love of dinghy sailing and became team captain. In wartime his course was crammed into only two years and he graduated in mechanical sciences in 1944.

Peter then joined the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors. He had four years training with them based at Greenwich Naval College, but also spent time at sea and at Devonport. He qualified as an Assistant Constructor in 1948 and was posted to Bath (Admiralty HQ). His career then followed a series of postings (varying in length from eighteen months to five years) including Devonport (three times), Malta, Chatham, and Bath (four times). He also had work trips to Australia and Pearl Harbour.

Peter and Jean had married in 1947. Throughout his many moves Jean was very supportive, coping efficiently and charmingly with all the different circumstances. Despite these frequent changes they kept their four children with them, forming a particularly close unit. Perhaps remembered most happily was the time spent in Malta. His daughter Diana has found a report written in 1962 by the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean on

Constructor Commander POE Trubshawe: "*An able officer with an alert and inquiring mind and a delightful personality. A very able naval constructor and a good staff officer. An excellent companion, he has fitted in well with his naval surroundings and has been a real asset. I trust he will go far in the RCNC.*"

During his whole career, Peter worked on a range of ships, from submarines to aircraft carriers, from repair and maintenance vessels to depot ships, with his particular skills being used in refits and modernisations, rather than designing new vessels. He considered his greatest achievement was the major refit of the aircraft carrier Ark Royal, for which he was project manager. He took the option of retirement in 1980, having been a manager of Planning and Production Departments at Chatham and Management Services and Productivity Departments at Devonport. He always thought of himself as an engineer rather than a manager and rarely looked forward to promotion, as it meant the job was less practical and had more to do with management of people.

Several of Peter and Jean's homes had access to sailing nearby – but during some postings when they lived inland he successfully took up gliding and powered flight. In retirement they spent many happy years at Bosham in Sussex – and were active in the community, founding the Bosham Forum and helping to run the village hall. Peter had an extensive home workshop and hoarded all sorts of odds and ends, but always seemed able to find just the right piece required for mending something. However, sailing was Peter's most beloved activity; he owned several sailing dinghies in succession and finally a 20ft day sailing keelboat. He also had a motorboat used for rescue duties and

to take their grandchildren and visitors for trips round the harbour for bird watching, picnics and swimming. He was Sailing Secretary at the Bosham Club, organising all the racing for many years, and became a Vice President there. Peter was always prepared to do the work required – not just sit around talking about it! In later years he was given honorary Life Membership in recognition of his service. He served on the committee of the Chichester Harbour Trust and was a very well liked and respected figure in the whole harbour sailing community.

In their very last years Peter and Jean were afflicted by illnesses and moved to Dorset to be nearer their children.

Peter is survived by his wife Jean, his four children: Anne, Brian, Caroline & Diana, ten grandchildren, and, so far, seven great-grandchildren.

*Jill Trubshawe (OB 1940–46 sister) and Diana Tilsley (daughter)*

