

BROMSGROVIANS

# connected



BROMSGROVE'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE ISSUE 2 2015/16



## Welcome from the Chairman

As I write, the curtain has come down on the Rugby World Cup. It's been an outstanding tournament drawing together players and fans from around the world through one common thread – a love of rugby. It occurred to me that the community of Old Bromsgrovians – with the common thread of an education in Worcestershire - is an even more diverse group with alumni in 2015 scattered all over the globe. Some return home, having completed their studies at Bromsgrove, with the School now attracting students from over 45 countries. Others have seized the opportunity to travel and pursue their careers on the international stage. In either case it's inspirational to hear how a Bromsgrove education empowers students to go on and really make their mark on the world. Enjoy reading about their exploits and make sure that you tell us about yours too.

**HANS ROSTRUP**  
CHAIRMAN



*Reunited: Old Bromsgrovians at the Pre-1960s Reunion enjoy a tour of the School with current pupils*

## The first word...

I count myself in nothing else so happy

As in a soul remembering my good friends.

(Richard II)

There's nothing more tiresome to a teenager than a Headmaster trying to tell them what will one day come to pass. The adolescent brain is hardwired for 'now' – the future is an afterthought. Promises that hard work pays off, bad habits become ingrained, digital indiscretions come back to haunt and broken hearts mend - all usually fall upon deaf ears. Accordingly, I try not to patronize our pupils by constantly predicting their future for them.

However, on one issue it's hard to bite my tongue. The friendships they form at Bromsgrove will sustain them for a lifetime and I unashamedly remind them of that at any opportunity.

At every reunion that we host, evidence abounds of the lasting influence of School friends. From those who left a mere five years before to those who recall life at Bromsgrove during the War, all are shaped by those fellows with whom they shared a class, a meal, a dorm, a triumph or a defeat. Whatever other relationships we form in life, our earliest and most formative are forged at School. Hence the great strength of our OB community.

**PETER CLAGUE**  
HEADMASTER

# Picture This...

A LOOK BACK AT THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15.



Pupils, Parents and Old Bromsgrovians joined together to celebrate the School's annual Commemoration Day. We were particularly delighted to welcome a group of former pupils from Wendron-Gordon who were celebrating their 20th anniversary.



The cast of LEAR Inc. performed a six-day run of the drama production at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2015. They were delighted to see a number of Parents, Old Bromsgrovians and Friends of the School in the audience.



A momentous occasion for the whole school occurred in March 2015 - the 1st XV won the NatWest Schools Cup at Twickenham, playing against Dulwich College in the final.



William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* was the School's major production of the year.



Remembrance Day 2014 was a poignant occasion this year, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of WWI.

CCF cadets planted a memorial garden near the Armoury to remember the thousands of soldiers killed in the Wars.



Fauré's *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine* as well as Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* were performed by the Choral Society.

Bromsgrove School continued the partnership with the Bromsgrove International Young Musicians' Competition (BIYMC), holding their four-day music competition in Routh Hall.



A Level, IB, BTEC and GCSE Pupils celebrated their superb exam results over the Summer. 85% A\*, A & B at A level, 39 point average for IB and 85% A\* to B at GCSE.



The dining room, originally opened in 1965 by The Queen Mother, has undergone a complete transformation over the last 12 months. The dining hall officially re-opened to hundreds of excited and hungry pupils and staff in September 2015.



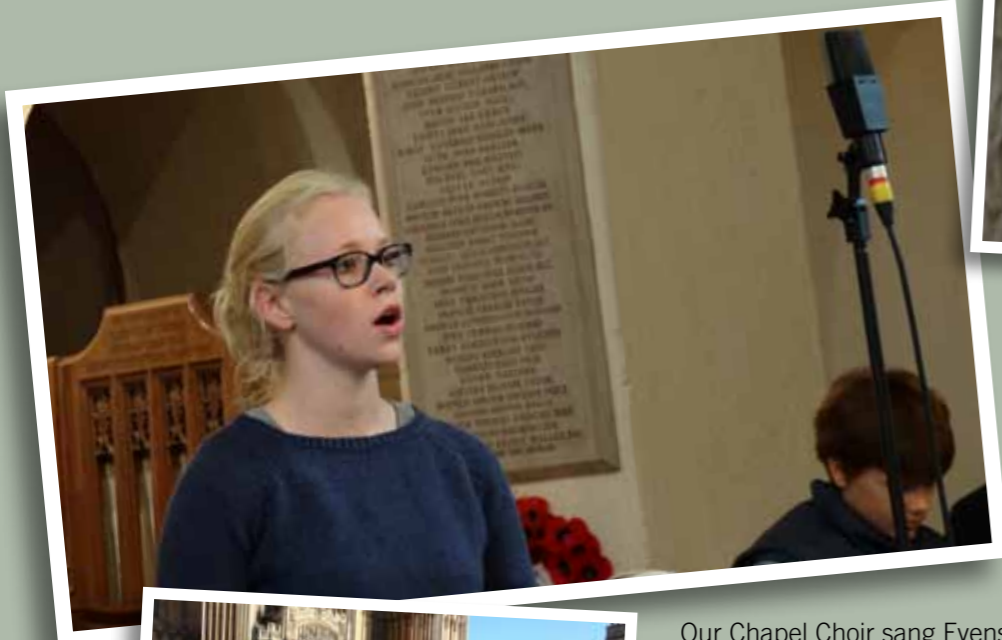
Hazeldene, the first of the girls' day Houses to undergo refurbishment over the summer of 2015, re-opened and was ready for business at the start of term in September.

Thomas Cookes, the oldest House on campus, is now undergoing its own extensive refurbishment works.



# Picture This...

EXTRA-CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014/15.



As Deputy Head (Co-Curricula), Paul Mullan is responsible for the wider variety of academic extension activities that occur at Bromsgrove School. Here, he gives you a run down from the 2014/15 academic year.



The CCF has a strength of 400 cadets, and we are proud of our partnership with two local high schools.



Through Community Action, pupils work in the local community, participating in daily activities at residential homes, charity shops, animal welfare charities and ICT help within the local area.



Thirty-four pupils have received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award since September, with a further eighty gaining Silver and 134 gaining Bronze.



Our Chapel Choir sang Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral and featured heavily in the commercial CD recording of *Advent to Christmas*. There were no fewer than 275 singers present on the recording from Year 2 to Upper Sixth.

“Extra-Curricular gives pupils a wide range of opportunities.”



The Fourth Form performed in the National Theatre Connections Festival, with an interpretation of *The Accordion Shop*.



A Bromsgrove School expedition party worked closely with the Good Hope orphanage and school in Arusha, Tanzania. The pupils raised over £1000 to help the school build a library.

Whilst there, Bromsgrove pupils spent a full day with the local community, painting three classrooms, planting trees around the grounds and speaking to the children.



Sixth Form teams reached the Regional Finals of the Debating Matters and European Youth Parliament competitions, whilst others made it to the Quarter-Finals of the English-Speaking Union Mace Competition and won the Michael Holt Debate.



Bromsgrove School is currently ranked 5th best independent school for sport and 2nd best co-educational school, awarded by School Sport Magazine.

The boys' athletics team are ranked in the top twelve schools in the country, the U18 basketball team were County Champions in 2014, the senior cricketers won the Chesterton Cup for the third year running, the golf team finished 10th in the National Schools' Championships, the U18 girls made it to the Indoor Hockey National Finals and the U18 netballers reached the Quarter-Finals of the Independent Schools' Competition.



# About You

FIND OUT WHAT OLD BROMSGROVIANS FROM YOUR ERA ARE DOING NOW.

## Elmshurst

**Philip Langford** and **Philip Hobson** (both 1947-1952) visited the School in the Summer term. Interestingly, they were born on the same day, joined School and were in Elmshurst at the same time and later went into the Law profession together. They have remained lifelong friends. During their visit to Bromsgrove, Mr Langford and Mr Hobson enjoyed a tour of the School with a current Elmshurst pupil and also met with the Deputy Headmaster, Philip Bowen. They later attended the History of the School presentation that evening, where they reminisced about their school days.



**Brian Scriven** (1948-1952) would like to connect with Bromsgrovians who share his ideas and values. Brian left the school in 1950 and says that Bromsgrove gave him a strong, modern and rational education. He particularly remembers the history teacher Mr W.G. Holmes.

In 2010 Brian wrote a book entitled *Buckley's Testament; What to believe when you stop believing in God* which explores instinctive morality. As a result of writing the book, Brian says that he lost religion but gained a faith - and he is sure that there are other Old Bromsgrovians who share his ideas. If you would like to get in touch, please email Brian at [fbscriven@gmail.com](mailto:fbscriven@gmail.com)



**Alex Cook** (1997-2001) was presented with a Bromsgrove School tour tie as a memento by the Singapore Select captain, after the School played against the team on a stop over ahead of their tour to Australia in July 2015. Unfortunately Alex was away on business when the School visited, and the tie was given to him after the Singaporean captain discovered that he was an Old Bromsgrovian himself.

Alex qualified to play international rugby for Singapore this year, and he has gained 2 caps (1 try) to date. He remembers his own rugby tour to Australia with Bromsgrove in 2000, and says that 15 years later it's nice to see history repeat itself.

**Philip Mennie** (1999-2005) visited Bromsgrove during the summer term with his wife and daughter to look around the School.



Since December 2014, **James Goodall** (2007-2014) has been training as a Charity Apprentice, alongside his degree. James is currently in Kisumu, Kenya working with street children orphaned by AIDS and malaria.



## Gordon

**Nevil Malin** (1948-1953) has continued to very generously donate his treasured books to the School Library for the last couple of years. During one of his book drop-offs, two of our pupils showed him around his old House, as well as some of the newer additions to Bromsgrove including the Sports Centre and the science labs.



## Hazeldene

**Charlie Clemmow** (1997-2004) visited the School with cameraman Ben Hoffman, talking about their media careers. As well as being a cameraman, Ben is a wildlife documentary maker and Charlie enjoys a successful stage and television career.



Mad Cap Theatre Productions, run by **Emma Hobday** (2006-2008) performed at the Artrix in Bromsgrove at the end of May and also enjoyed a short run of UK theatres with their show, *Postcards from the Seaside*. The part of Lester Duvall was played by Nick Baldock (the brother of current member of staff Kate Linehan, née Baldock), who himself worked at the School in 2007-2008. Nick used to direct Emma when she was at Bromsgrove so she is now enjoying the reversal of roles!



Congratulations to **Anna Perrott** (1998-2007) who recently informed us that she was nominated, and later chosen, as one of 'Tomorrows Travel Leaders Today 30 under 30'. Anna works as a Product & Commercial Manager for a cruise company.



## Housman Hall



Former pupils as well as former and current staff joined together to celebrate the opening of the **newly refurbished Housman Hall** and the two new residential wings. Guests were amazed by the transformation and delighted in being shown around by current pupils from the House.

**Eric Lai** (2001-2006) recently got in touch, as he was one of the first students to stay in Housman Hall in 2004 (called Perry Hall back then). He remembers with fond memories his Houseparents Mr and Mrs Hayward, especially how kind and supportive they were. Eric joined the House with nine other students as Lower Sixth from China and Hong Kong. It was the first time any of them had studied abroad.



**Tam Dinh** (2001-2006) reconnected with the School on a recent visit to the UK from his native Vietnam. Tam is keen to hear from other Vietnamese Old Bromsgrovians.



We recently discovered this feature in *Now* magazine, with **Ollie Frost** (2006-2008) as their resident expert sports nutritionist. Keep up the good work Ollie!



**Connie E** (2013-2015) took part in Convocation Day at Northeastern University, celebrating the start of the new academic year. Connie said that there would never be a prouder moment than holding her country's flag amongst the other 127 nations represented.



*Luke White (centre) with his former Bromsgrove team mates after winning the NatWest Schools Cup*

The School was delighted to hear that Harlequins have signed former 1st XV captain **Luke White** (2013-2015), who has joined their academy with immediate effect. The Telegraph newspaper recently interviewed Luke about his success in the NatWest Schools Cup and what he was looking forward to at Quins. You can read the full interview on The Telegraph or Bromsgrove School websites.

Luke is currently on dual registration with Dorking RFC for the season.

## Lupton

**Barrie Lloyd** (1945-1948) returned to the School in February 2015, along with his son, Tim, who had travelled from Cambridgeshire, for the 1XV match against Stamford in the 7th round of the NatWest Schools' Cup.

There was certain to be family rivalry on the touchline, as Tim is an Old Stamfordian and Barrie supported Bromsgrove.

Before the match began, Barrie and Tim enjoyed a tour of the sports facilities with Jenny Bossard (née Gricks, Walters 1972-1974) and they were thrilled to find three of the four Lloyd brothers' names on the honours boards in the Cricket Pavilion.



We were delighted to hear that Chairman of Governors and Old Bromsgrovian, **Stewart Towe CBE** (1965-1970) won the Ambassador of the Year Award at TheBusinessDesk.com West Midlands Business Masters Awards. The award is presented to an individual who has, beyond the call of duty, 'batted' for the region and in so doing helped to increase its attractiveness from which to do business.



**Paul Stanfield** (1981-1988) took part in the London Marathon in April 2015, raising money for the Primrose Hospice.

**Alex McIntosh** (1996-2004) kindly offered his expertise and advice to current pupils interested in a career in banking. Alex is currently Relationship Director at Barclays Personal and Corporate Banking.



Alex with Zia Leech, Head of Careers and UCAS

## Lyttelton

**Nishil Thakrar** (1997-2002) has launched a new men's clothing venture, Steel & Jelly, with a prominent spot within the Grand Central Shopping Centre, Birmingham. We wish Nishil the very best of luck and look forward to visiting the new shop soon!

**Sam Waltier** (2007-2012) made his debut performance in the England Students' squad. The team managed to edge out their opponents, Wales, taking the win by five tries to three. Assistant Coach, Ian Davies was particularly pleased with Sam's performance saying that he "kept the team moving throughout the match".

## Mary Windsor

**Ha Anh Vu** (2000-2002) met up with Rachel Scannell (Assistant Head) whilst she was in Ho Chi Minh City on business. Ha Anh is a successful model, author and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.



Ha Anh and her partner, Oly recently got engaged, and we offer our congratulations and best wishes to them for the future.

## Mary Windsor

**Katie Hile** (1998-2003) is working as Business Producer at the BBC World Service. During the summer she recorded an interview with the Prime Minister of Malta on Radio 4.

**Adriana Voloshchuk** (2001-2006) and her colleague Valeria Tkachenko interviewed international students about their views on a proposed student helpline. The initiative, to be run by the company, Ubiquitor, aims to help Russian speaking pupils with issues they might face when moving to the UK.



## Oakley

**Emily Horton** (1998-2001) recently got in touch to share an article she had written. Emily interviewed fellow Old Bromsgrovian Matt Mullan (School 1997-2005) for The Windsor magazine. Emily is the Editor at Sheengate Publishing. You can read the full interview online at [www.essentialsurrey.co.uk](http://www.essentialsurrey.co.uk)



## Oakley

Almost 100 guests enjoyed listening to Old Bromsgrovian **Theodora Dyakova** (2005-2007) at the Foundation Ladies' Lunch in April 2015.



Theodora came to Bromsgrove from Bulgaria via the HMC Projects Student Scholarship Scheme, which provides full funding for exceptional young people from Central and Eastern Europe to attend a British boarding school. In her second year, she became a Foundation Scholar.

Theodora recounted tales of her school days and thanked Bromsgrove for the opportunities it gave her.

It was a truly inspiring talk and we thank Theodora for taking the time out of her weekend to spend with us.



One of this year's leavers, **Isabella Richards** (2013-2015), shared some of her gap year photographs from her time in Australia.

The above photo shows Isabella proudly wearing her Bromsgrove 1st team kit in Uluru!



## School

**Simon Bucknall** (1990-1995) enthralled and entertained Fifth Form pupils with his public speaking workshop in Routh Hall at the beginning of September 2015.

**James Beddall** ran the London Marathon in April 2015, in memory of his father, Peter (1957-1960).



James raised over £3500 for the British Heart Foundation. He says that he desperately wanted to give something back to the incredible nurses and surgeons who not only afforded his family the opportunity to spend six important months with his dad after his initial heart attack, and then delivering the most awful news after Peter's 28-hour surgery. James says that the medical staff do not get the credit they deserve and this is why he chose the British Heart Foundation.



**Alex Rajkowski** (1993-1998) is now living in France and playing in a band called 'The Buskers 74'. Alex is donating the profits from his new single to the Forces. You can listen to the song on iTunes or on their YouTube channel 'The Buskers Morzine'.

**Matt Mullan** (School 1997-2005) was named in the BT Dream Team at the Aviva Premiership Rugby Awards in May 2015. More recently, Wasps RFC appointed Matt as a co-captain for the 2015/16 season. Congratulations Matt!



Credit: England RFU

## Thomas Cookes



We were thrilled to hear from **Ally Taft** (1988-1993) and partner **Glyn Harray** (Elmshurst 1987-1992) on the birth of their son, Edward Burchill Harray (Teddy), born 3rd July 2015. Ally says he is a proper Bromsgrovian baby, and with both of them being rugby players, the bets are on as to whether he will be a scrum-half (Ally) or a fly-half (Glyn)!

Glyn and Ally re-connected 20 years after leaving Bromsgrove at one of the School reunions and got together again at Commem 2012. Three years later they have a beautiful baby boy and are happily living just outside of Hereford.

## Thomas Cookes

**Olivia Safe** (1992-1994) performed with the Heritage Orchestra and conductor Jules Buckley for the Late Night at the Proms 2015. Olivia sang music from Vangelis and Orbital.

We also offer Olivia our heartiest congratulations on her engagement to partner Duncan Patrick.



**Claire McCahill** (1997-2002) took part in the Marathon des Sables in April 2015. Her 'jaunt' as Claire calls it, raised £6500 for Walking with the Wounded.

The race took place in the Moroccan Sahara over 7 days, with Claire running a total of 250km. There were 1400 runners in the group and everyone had to be self-sufficient carrying their own sleeping bag, food and first aid equipment.

During the 5th stage of the marathon, Claire recorded a sub 5 hour marathon, coming in as 9th woman and 171st overall for the stage, despite having to squeeze her blistered and battered feet into her shoes.

This is such an enormous achievement, and we congratulate Claire on her successful completion of the race.

## Walters

**Greg Simpson** (1999-2010) recently graduated with a 2.1 Masters in Chemistry from Newcastle University. On graduation day he proudly wore his OB tie. The silk ties are now available to purchase in the School Shop.



**Oliver Thomas** (2007-2012) returned to Bromsgrove to talk to pupils about life as a third year Medic. Oliver is currently studying Medicine at Peninsula Medical School.

The talks, organised by the Careers Department, provide invaluable 'insider' information for current students. If OBs or former/current parents would like to help out in other sectors, please get in touch.



*Oliver (centre) with two current Sixth Form pupils*



## Wendron / Wendron-Gordon

**Josh Gupta** (2010-2013) met up with **Ollie Strong** (2011-2013) at ATC Pirbright. Ollie passed out after completing his phase 1 training and he is now at Gibraltar Barracks to continue his phase 2 training in the Royal Engineers.



**Philip Rowell** (2006-2014) undertook his GAP Year at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. During his time with Disney, Philip attended classes held at the Disney University, where he learnt about Walt's dream and how the company strives for perfection. Now back in the UK, Philip has begun his course at the University of Leeds reading Economics and Geography.

## Staff News

**Miss Scannell** (Assistant Head) met up with **Mlle Emmanuelle Rochefort** in Ho Chi Minh City. Mlle Rochefort taught French at Bromsgrove School until 2006 and is now responsible for External Relations at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris.



## Wendron / Wendron-Gordon

A group of former pupils from Wendron-Gordon organised a special visit to the School on Commemoration Day (27th June 2015) to celebrate their 20th year of leaving Bromsgrove.

Organised by **Andrew Cowley** (1990-1995), the OBs even managed to visit their old House and find their former study and bedroom!



*Simon Moore, James Nailer, Johan Larson, Andrew Cowley, Mrs Swansborough, Hanish Malhotra, Anthony Sharman, James Thomas, Adam Sheppard and Edward Horner*

## Llanwrtyd Wells

Former pupils of Bromsgrove, who were exiled to **Llanwrtyd Wells** during WWII, returned to School in March 2015 for a special celebratory lunch.

Old Bromsgrovians, some of whom had not seen each other since their school days, reminisced over lunch in the Old Chapel. Photographs and record books were on display where guests were able to spot their own names and faces.

At the end of the day some of our guests kindly recorded their memories of Llanwrtyd Wells and Bromsgrove with the History Department and current pupils. These oral history recordings will form part of the School archive, which will enrich the teaching and learning of the School's history for generations to come.



*Re-creating their photograph 20 years later: OBs in Wendron-Gordon in 1995, and today in 2015*



*Old Bromsgrovian Leslie Francis (W 1939-1942) with Sixth Form pupil Ana Babic and Head of School Kate Edgington*



*Jenny Bossard, Andrew Campbell and Nikki Thorpe*

**Andrew Campbell** (W 1967-1972) and **Jenny Bossard** (néé Gricks, Ws 1972-1974) along with **Nikki Thorpe** (Archivist) represented the School in Llanwrtyd Wells for the poignant Remembrance Day Service on Sunday, 8th November 2015.

The School is proud of its strong links with Llanwrtyd Wells and we thank Andrew and Jenny for their support in honouring the fallen Old Bromsgrovian soldiers who are commemorated in the Welsh town.

## Cricket and Music at Hagley Hall

An Old Bromsgroviaan cricket team played against Lord Cobham's XI at Hagley Cricket Club, as part of the Foundation Charity Preview Day at Hagley Hall and Park in May 2015.

Despite early success from the OBs, Hagley posted an imposing 205 from their 20 overs. Julian and Peter took two wickets, but the find of the afternoon came when Richard Meese (S 1990-1995) offered himself up as a bowling option for the OB team. Richard promptly repaid all faith taking an impressive 3 wickets for 16 runs plus a full length dive ricochet onto the stumps for a run out.

In reply the OBs reached 167, a valiant effort with Ben Dudley (Ly 1995-2005), a top scorer of the day with 43.

The cricketers were joined by pupil musicians, who performed in various ensembles throughout the day around the park. Big Band entertained the players and spectators during their tea break with a substantial and really enjoyable selection of jazz music. On the Palladian Bridge overlooking the lake a huge variety of music was on offer: the Brass Group, Flute Group, Sax Ensemble and String Ensemble all performed throughout the afternoon with an exciting programme of beautiful music.



*Robert Gough (E 92-97) bowling for the Old Bromsgroviaans*



*Richard Meese (S 90-95) celebrating after taking three wickets against Hagley CC*



*OB Team: Back Row - Richard Gough, Robert Gough, Andrew Gough, Richard Meese, Richard Hare, Glyn Harray, Ben Dudley, Andrew Langlands. Front Row - Julian Court, Dave Fallows (Team Manager and Director of Cricket), Andrew Parffrey*

## A Lesson for OBs

School started early for some of our Old Bromsgroviaans in September, when they visited Bromsgrove for a meeting.

The OBs taking their 'exam resits' in class were:

- Patrick Firminger (Ly 1969-1977)
- Robert Biddle (G 1952-1956)
- William Caswell (E 1963-1968)
- David Cariss (E 1949-1953)
- Stephen Rhodes (M 1956-1960)
- Hugh Furber (E 1953-1957)
- Tim Powell (L 1952-1956)

*With thanks to Mark Gunton (Ws 1977-1982) for the photograph and words!*



*Patrick Firminger, Robert Biddle, William Caswell, David Cariss, Stephen Rhodes, Hugh Furber and Tim Powell*

## OB Netball

Congratulations to the OB Netball A and B sides who were victorious against the School in both their matches.



*The A Team: Helen Reilly nee Lambert, Hayley Rudd, Becky Strangward, Sarah Mitchell, Ellie Trow, Jenny Muddyman, Lydia Wolsey and Harriet Eales*



*The B Team: Jacqui Padmore, Becky Alton, Lou Walker, Celina Goodwin, Clare Wells, Cath Pullen and Denise Cresswell*



*Bromsgroviaan Club President Paddy Firminger and the Headmaster Peter Clague at the OB Dinner*

## President's Dinner

The Bromsgroviaan Club President's Dinner, hosted by Paddy Firminger (Lu 1943-1947) was held at the Bank House Hotel near Worcester in November 2014.

The Headmaster, Peter Clague, was the guest speaker; his speech can be found on the School's YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/bromsgroveschool](http://youtube.com/bromsgroveschool)

We were delighted to welcome Old Bromsgroviaans, their partners and guests to what was a very enjoyable evening, with many people commenting on the excellent venue.

## Pre-1960s Reunion

Over 85 Old Bromsgrovians returned to the School on Saturday, 12th September for a special gathering.

All of the attendees had left the School prior to 1960, and for some it had been 50 years since they had been back to Bromsgrove.

Guests were welcomed with a service in the Memorial Chapel, complete with Chapel Choir. The OBs also went on a tour of the School with current pupils, enjoyed reminiscing with their contemporaries over lunch and were thrilled with a rugby game - watching from the sidelines as Bromsgrove beat Warwick School 54-0.



*Fellow Gordon pupils Denise Hayes and Tony Hilton on their tour of the School*



*Outside Wendron-Gordon: Michael Baker with Harry Orme looking on*



*Hans Rostrup and Paddy Firminger looking through the archives in the Old Chapel*



*David Harrison and Paul Ashworth*



*Clive Gummow and John Rose in the Memorial Chapel*



*OBs on tour around the School with current pupils*

## 2005 Leavers' Reunion

The first 10-year Reunion was held at Bromsgrove School in September 2015, for Old Bromsgrovians who left the School in 2005. We were pleased to welcome almost 40 leavers for a tour of the School and lunch with the Headmaster and members of staff. Many were stunned and delighted by the developments that had taken place since leaving, and tales were regaled of their time at Bromsgrove over lunch.



*The Elmshurst cohort: Michael Cottrell, Will Thomas, James Fouracre, Mark Bagshaw, Mrs Pugh, Richard Levett and Andrew Bagshaw*



*OBs looking at their House photos in the Old Chapel*



*Kathryn Gardiner, Nikki Broadbridge, Lauren Chandler, Roxanne Saili and Sarah Todd*



*Richard Levett and Antonio Magro*



*Roxanne Saili, Lauren Chandler, Sarah Todd and James Fouracre reliving their schooldays!  
Photo Credit: Lauren Chandler*



*Dr Johns with pupils from his former House, Wendron-Gordon: Levon Balayan, Jack Connolly, Richard Hile, Ross Griffiths, Dr Johns, Sam Bishop, Nicholas Dallow, Ben Jones and David Mumford*



*Brothers Mark and Andrew Bagshaw, with Jack Connolly (centre)*



## Cookes House Reunion

Old Bromsgrovians returned to School in November 2015 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Cookes House.

Cookes House, led by Mr and Mrs Schilizzi, was only in being for 8 years, when in 1972 the House split into Lyttelton and Walters.

OBs and guests were welcomed with a Chapel Service, where memories came flooding back when the Chamber Choir sang 'Heaven's Declare' - the School Song from the 1960s and 1970s.

During tours of the current Thomas Cookes House, many OBs visited the original 18-bedder on the top floor (which some still believe is haunted) and recounted tales of their school days whilst looking around Cookes Room, their former library. Guests later sat down to lunch in the Hospitality Suite where the reminiscences continued.



Old Bromsgrovians and guests in attendance at the Cookes House Reunion



John Schilizzi, Clem Schilizzi and Penny Ribbeck (née Schilizzi)



Ian Sanders (61-66), the first Head of Cookes House



Old Bromsgrovians looking around the current study areas on the top floor of Thomas Cookes House



Peter Clague (Headmaster), Clem Schilizzi, David Rock-Evans, Kim Daniels, Jackie Daniels, Martin Smith, Jaqueline Adkins, John Adkins, Lucy Fisher, Ian Sanders, Sarndra Leversha-Clague



## Mr Bowen Retires

At the end of the Summer term, Mr Bowen retired after more than 34 years at Bromsgrove School (and not including the years before when he taught at the Prep School!!)

The Heads of School from 1981 - Present day were in attendance at a special event, held in the Hospitality Suite in May 2015. The main event however took place on Commemoration Day when OBs from across the generations came together and wished Mr Bowen a fond farewell.



Philip with Caroline Binham (a former Head of School)



Philip with Tom Horton and Harry Willetts



Mr Bowen at the end of his final call-over on Commemoration Day, 27th June 2015



Recent leavers, all of whom were Heads of School or deputies, returned to honour and celebrate Mr Bowen



Peter Clague (Headmaster), Sarndra Leversha-Clague, Philip Bowen, Jane Bowen

## Interview Evening

Old Bromsgrovians and parents returned to Bromsgrove in November to help current pupils with their interview skills.

The evening is invaluable in helping students prepare for university application - this is especially true of those applying to Oxford or Cambridge or those wishing to study Law, Engineering, Business, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science. The interviews are also intended to focus on the presentation skills needed for any job application or interview process.

If you would like to take part in this event in the future, please contact Zia Leech - email [zleech@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:zleech@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579679 ext 238.



*Professor Herbert (E 1954-1957) with two of our current students looking to study science-based subjects*



*Alastair Willcox (S 1993-1998) with a pupil interested in a future Law career*



## Could you be a Bromsgrove Alumni Ambassador?

The **Alumni Committee** wish to find OBs who are supporters of Bromsgrove and who would be willing to assist with keeping other former pupils connected to the School.

As our Alumni are now spread out all over the world and could be aged anywhere between 18 and 90, it is a huge task to remain relevant to such a diverse group.

The School and the Alumni Committee continue to encourage OBs to attend events (whether here or in their own countries) and with your help, we'd like to see this grow and develop. With our new database recently launched, we envisage creating a huge 'networking tool' for all OBs and Sixth Formers.

We realise that not everyone has time to commit to the responsibilities of being on a Committee, so we have come up with the idea of having **Alumni Committee Ambassadors**. The Ambassadors would assist the Committee by sharing their thoughts and suggestions on upcoming events or initiatives. They could also help with promoting particular events to their peers and/or fellow countrymen/women. Our Ambassadors would be welcome to attend or dial into the Committee meetings but would certainly not be expected to do so.

Each Ambassador will have their own idea about how they wish to fulfil their role and the Committee is quite open to suggestions.

If you would like to put your name forward, or know someone to recommend, please contact the Alumni Committee by writing to the School address or email us at [Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

## OB Merchandise

Is there any particular Old Bromsgrovian merchandise you would like to buy?

Last year the School introduced a range of new merchandise for OBs from silk ties to self-tie bow ties, umbrellas and enamel pin badges. New OB scarves are currently on order.

The Alumni Committee is currently investigating socks and blazers.

If there is anything specific that you would like to see in the School Shop which is not currently available, please let us know by posting your thoughts on our Old Bromsgrovian Facebook page, email us or write to us at the School address.





Showing off the special Housman Hall cufflinks



Deputy Head (Academic) Peter Ruben with some of our Hong Kong Old Bromsgrovians

## Hong Kong get-together

Whilst Rachel Scannell (Assistant Head) and Peter Ruben (Deputy Head Academic) were in **Hong Kong** for the Top Schools event, they were pleased to welcome Old Bromsgrovians for an informal get-together in Dickins Bar at The Excelsior Hotel.

It was a delight to see **Charles Tsai** (WG 1989-1994) who was one of the very first pupils to attend Bromsgrove from Hong Kong.

Two former students **Edmund To** (WG 99-04) and **Katy Chung** (MW 98-03) have set up a Bromsgrovian Hong Kong Facebook Group in the hope of facilitating further events and contact with OBs.

As a result of meeting with many former pupils in both Hong Kong and Vietnam, an idea has been formed about holding a South East Asia Reunion in the coming year. We'd like to hear your feedback on this, or any other ideas you might have, about connecting with our OBs overseas.



## #OBsInLondon

**Lisa Antonacci** (Housman Hall 2008-2011) recently shared this photograph with us on Facebook.

Lisa recently met up with OBs from 2010 - 2012 in the Aqua Kyoto restaurant in London.

From left to right is **Diana Tleuliyeva** (2009-2011), **Hossi Lo** (partner of Max Schwahn), **Maximillian Schwahn** (E 2008-2011), **Viktor Brandt** (E 2006-2011), **Dana Avramioti** (O 2009-2011), **Kamila Shogelbayeva** (O 2008-2010), **Lisa Antonacci** (HH 2008-2011) and **Nowrin Hossain** (HH 2010-2012).

If you have any photographs or news to share for future editions, please email, tweet or write to us at the School (contact details on the back page).

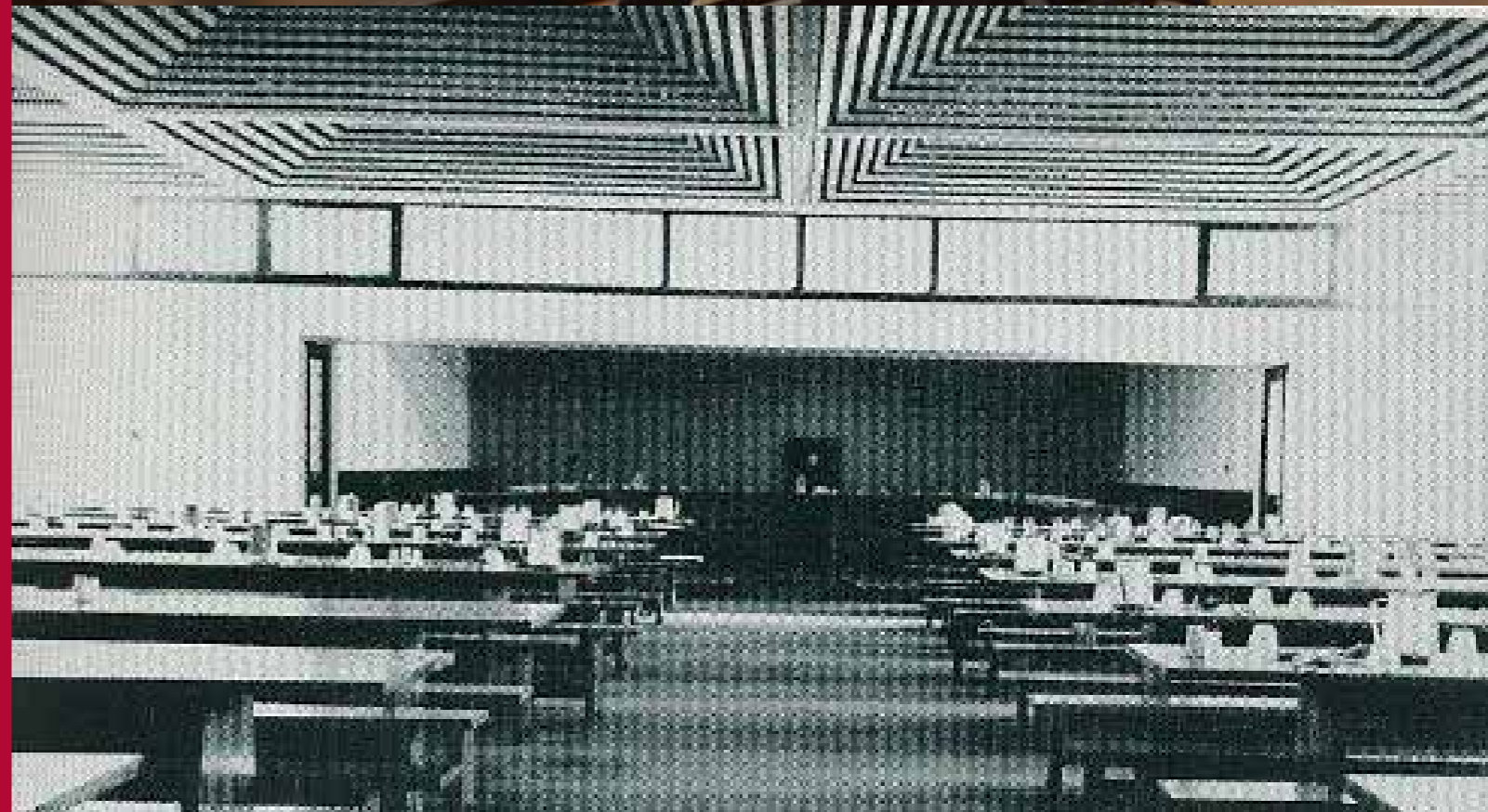
If you're on Twitter, why not tweet us @BromsSchool with your own hashtag #OBsIn...

## Spot the Difference!

The dining hall has been at the centre of School life since 1964. In the pictures below you can see the differences between when the dining hall was first opened by The Queen Mother in 1965, and again after its refurbishment in September 2015.

50 years has passed between the two photos. Note the spectacular vaulted ceiling which was later covered up for almost 40 years, until the recent building works allowed for it to be soundproofed and revealed once more.

Do you remember when the dining hall was first opened? Or do you have any food stories to tell from your own school days? Get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.



# Our News to You

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE BROMSGROVE ALUMNI OFFICE.

## Archivist joins the School



We're delighted to welcome **Archivist, Nikki Thorpe** to Bromsgrove. Nikki joins us from the Library of Birmingham where she worked as Collections Curator.

Nikki will be working closely with the Alumni Office on new exhibitions and displays for the Old Chapel, as well as cataloguing the existing archives which have been collected through the centuries.

If you have any stories or memorabilia which you would like to share with the School, you can contact Nikki by email: [NThorpe@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:NThorpe@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or by telephoning 01527 579679 ext 365.

## OB Music Group

An **Old Bromsgrovian Music Group** has recently been formed for any former pupils who would like to take part in singing and choral activities.

If you'd like to join in or be part of the congregation at any of their future events, please email the School's Director of Music, James McKelvey at [jmckelvey@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:jmckelvey@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone the Music School on 01527 579679 Ext 235/703.

The Music School would also like to inform you that copies of their **Advent to Christmas CD**, which was recorded in the Memorial Chapel last year, are still available to purchase for the festive season ahead. Priced at £10, orders can be taken by telephone or emailing [Music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:Music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

## Can you help with careers and uni visits?

A new initiative to help current pupils with their **UCAS applications** got off to a great start when recent OBs met up with current pupils at Warwick and Birmingham Universities.

OBs Charlotte Collie (Hz 08-13), Dan Garvie (E 09-14) and Celia Sun (MW 12-14), who are all studying at Warwick, were able to talk about their experiences of campus life and gave great advice to the potential applicants.

In Birmingham, Lewis Turner (Lu 03-14), Beth Luckman (Hz 98-14), Abbie-May Griffiths (Hz 09-14) and Jenny Moore (Hz 05-14) gave their time enthusiastically to answer questions, whilst showing the students around the university.

The pupils found the opportunity very valuable, hearing an insider's point of view from fellow Bromsgrovians and we are hoping to extend the idea to other universities.

If you'd like to help us with this initiative, please email us at [Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)



## The Class of 2015

We were delighted to welcome the **Class of 2015** officially as Old Bromsgrovians at the end of the Summer term.

We hope to see the 2015 Leavers at our OB events and wish them every success for the future.

## Staff Leavers

The following **academic staff** retired or left Bromsgrove for pastures new at the end of the Summer term. Many OBs will remember their teachers with great affection, therefore if you would like to send your best wishes to any of the former staff listed below, please contact us so we can pass on the message.

Philip Bowen (1981)  
Bill Caldwell (1990)  
Caroline Leather (1992)  
Rhys Watkins (2005)  
Laura McCutcheon (2006)  
Jo Spearing (2006)  
Iskra Peric-Crnko (2007)  
Jackie Comley (2008)  
Adele George (2009)  
Gareth George (2009)  
Stephen Phennah (2010)  
Fiona Hardy (2011)  
Jen Law (2011)  
Nathan phillips (2011)  
Samm Thorpe (2011)  
Shaun Ruwers (2012)  
Virang Dal (2013)  
Lauren Harrison (2013)  
Kirsty Rankin (2013)  
Paul Chatwin (2014)

## Bromsgrovian 2015

All 2015 leavers automatically receive a hard copy of **The Bromsgrovian**. There will be a small print run - if you do not have access to the internet in order to download a copy and you require a printed edition, please contact the Editor, Megan Griffiths: 01527 579679 or write to her at the School. All OBs who have previously requested a copy will receive one.

 FOUNDED 1553 **BROMSGROVE** FLAIR DISCIPLINE ACADEMIC RIGOUR  
OUTSTANDING EDUCATION FROM 2 TO 18. CO-EDUCATIONAL, BOARDING AND DAY.

Home OB Information News Forthcoming Events Bromsgrovian Club Awards The Alumni Committee History and Headmasters

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## Welcome to Bromsgrovians Connected

This site allows you to:

- Search for friends from the past.
- Find alumni in a particular region, country, or with similar interests.
- Network professionally.
- View information about forthcoming events.
- Read about past events and view photos on the Gallery.
- Check and update your own details.
- Post your own picture and caption.
- Get in touch with other alumni via the message board.

Please note that you will only see other Old Bromsgrovians' details if they have given permission for us to disclose them. Similarly, if you would like others to be able to see your details, you need to tick the box adjacent to each entry in order to disclose it.

If you have already registered with Bromsgrovians Connected, please enter your username and password in the Login Box above.

All details are held securely by Web-InTouch and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your details will not be passed to other organisations or used for any purpose other than promoting the welfare of The School. Please note that core data (which is in the public domain and consists of your name, date of birth, your year of admission, your house and your year of leaving) is automatically made available to other alumni.

## New Database Launched

Bromsgrove School implemented an online portal in 2007 called 'Bromsgrovians Connected' (which this magazine is actually named after), which was made available for all Old Bromsgrovians, Former Parents and Friends of the School, and since then membership of the site has more than doubled.

Since May 2015, the site has undergone a re-launch process and we are delighted to let our members know that it is now ready to use again.

We hope that it will be user-friendly and more comprehensive than before.

The site will allow you to update your own data and find friends. There is also a calendar to keep you updated on the latest Alumni events and general news and history about the School.

To try it out for yourself, please visit [www.bromsgrovians.com](http://www.bromsgrovians.com)

If you cannot remember your existing user details, please click on the 'Password Reminder' link on the homepage and follow the instructions.

Once you have logged in, please click 'Your Profile' at the top of the webpage. This will then allow you to view what information we have stored for you, and it will allow you to update any of the details should it be out of date. You can also choose, if you wish, to 'disclose' the data to all members so that they can search for and contact you directly.

However, please be assured that all details are held securely by InTouch Software and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Please note that core data (which is in the public domain and consists of your name, date of birth - if we have it, your start/end dates and your House) is automatically made available to alumni. Additional data is only searchable if you agree to disclose it yourself.

To search for friends and other OBs, click the 'Your Profile' link and then 'Find Friends' at the top. You can search by surname, year end, House or country.

The Alumni Committee hopes that you enjoy visiting the new look site. If you have any feedback or issues logging on, please contact us.

## 70 years ago...

70 years ago, Bromsgrove welcomed residents from Llanwrtyd Wells - the town the School called home during the Second World War.

In this photograph, the Headmaster D.J. Walters is shown with guests in front of Kytless.



# The Inside Story

AN INDEPTH LOOK AT WHAT OUR OLD BROMSGROVIANS HAVE ACHIEVED.

## Stephen Page

(Lupton 78-83) will become our Seventh annual lecture speaker in March 2016. We caught up with him ahead of the Foundation Lecture to find out more about his time at Bromsgrove and what he has learned in his career to date...



### What are your abiding memories of your school days?

My memories of Bromsgrove feel remarkably outdoor. The grounds of both the Junior and Senior School gave a great sense of escape and safety at the same time. When indoors some of the classrooms stick with me, especially Teddy Taylor's maths classroom which had a print of Picasso's Child with a Dove on the wall. I stared at it in every lesson until one day he asked the class what we thought of it. We discussed it and then moved back to maths, never mentioning it again.

I studied history and politics with Patrick Walsh-Atkins (Bolshi Walshy), an inspirational teacher who set me on my path towards studying history and being politically-engaged. My other inspiration was Paul Hands, a gentle but fiery man who taught English Literature and Drama, and directed the school plays. On a trip to see King Lear I sat next to him. He didn't return for the last act so I presumed he thought it was awful, but when I found him afterwards he said that he simply couldn't bear to witness the end of the play. I was very affected by the power of the play on him, an adult and my teacher. The seeds of my love of literature were in part sown by him.

### Thinking back, what was life like at Bromsgrove in the 70s and 80s?

As the son of a teacher and then Junior School headmaster, Jim Page, I spent most of my term-time life at School, so food played a major part. School dinners were distinct. Everyone knew what they didn't like - powdered scrambled egg, tapioca - but I have better memories of lasagne and chips, spotted dick and custard, chicken curry and various savoury pies.

I liked sport but was increasingly incompetent as I got older. Once I had a clash between playing in the County Youth Orchestra and a hockey match. The teacher told me that one day I would have to choose between music and hockey. I did.

### And after Bromsgrove?

I went on to study History at Bristol University, and also continued to play music in a rock band. On leaving University I moved to London with the band, a Sherpa, and a soon to be tarnished optimism about rock 'n' roll fame. Luckily we didn't live on our earnings through music and I got a job in a bookshop in Croydon to pay the bills, and soon realised my true vocation.

### So, your job in the bookshop effectively kick started your career in publishing?

I loved being surrounded by books but wasn't a born retailer, so made my way into publishing via jobs at Longman and Transworld. In 1994 I ended up at 4th Estate, an irreverent independent publisher, where I spent six wonderful years. In 2000 the business was bought by HarperCollins and, after 18 months there, I moved to be Chief Executive of Faber & Faber, perhaps the greatest

name in literary publishing other than Penguin, the publisher of great poets such as T.S. Eliot and Seamus Heaney, novelists such as Kazuo Ishiguro, William Golding and P.D. James, and dramatists including Alan Bennett, Tom Stoppard and Harold Pinter. I'm proud to lead a company with such a history, and to try to live up to a reputation that has a mythic quality. In some ways the defining moments of any career are the first steps - getting in - but without doubt the day that I walked into the Faber building to meet Seamus Heaney as the most senior writer, was a moment when I pinched myself and knew that something quite unimaginably fortunate had happened somewhere along the way.

### What advice would you give to young OBs starting out in their careers?

Simple, really. Be yourself, be open, take each step as it comes and don't think about money till you have real responsibilities. On leaving Bromsgrove, I had no idea what publishing was, what marketing was, nor what kind of life I wanted to lead. But I did know that to achieve anything you need to work hard, be useful and open-minded, and grab your chances with both hands when they come. That proved true in spades.



## Katy Chung

(Mary Windsor 98-03) is a practising barrister in Hong Kong. Here she tells us about her time at Bromsgrove.

### What do you remember about your time at Bromsgrove?

I have lots of fond memories. The majority of my teenager years were at Bromsgrove.

I remember getting bread and milk for the whole House, being on roster duty to give wake up calls for everyone in the House, the Lower Fourth Camp, the CCF, GCSE Drama, Horseriding on Wednesdays, community service at Chadsgrove School, my Art pieces in the Art Department and the sweet and sour ribs from the dining hall!

### What's your favourite memory of School?

It has to be the House Song Competition. I remember the whole House walking to Routh Hall at night to practice our singing. Even now, I still follow the competition on YouTube.

Another favourite memory is reading the scripts from my English Literature class. Each of us played a role and we acted it out. *The Inspector Calls* and *Of Mice and Men* are still my favourite plays today.

### And what did you do after leaving Bromsgrove?

I went to study Law at the University of Hong Kong. In my first year, I took part in a drama competition and won the Best Director Award. I also wrote and directed more than 10 theatre productions during my time there.

My first job was organising jewellery exhibitions in Malaysia and Barcelona, and I was a management trainee in a listed company. But the lure of Law was too much and I went to London to complete a diploma in that very subject - and a few years ago, I qualified as a practising barrister.

I currently undertake a variety of criminal, civil and family cases. Work is always exciting and I really enjoy what I do. I can find myself having a conference about child custody in the morning, another client being charged with burglary at lunch time and another client suffering from breaches of commercial contract in the afternoon. It is the diversity I enjoy.

### What advice would you give to current pupils at Bromsgrove?

Just like anything in life, when you are at School, you always dream of the day when you can fly the nest. But looking back, you just wish those days could be experienced again. My advice is to enjoy every minute, participate in as many activities as you can, make friends with people from different countries, try to understand the subject you have chosen and lastly, be grateful as a Bromsgrovian.

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN 2014/15.

## Nicholas Esson (S 64-69) d. 20th February 2015

*Eulogy - as read by John Williams at Nicholas Esson's memorial service*

We have all been touched by Nick's magnanimous spirit, his generous nature, and his 'get on with it' and 'have a go' approach to life. So with sadness but with great pride, I pay the tribute of us all to him. He enriched everyone who came into his life.

Nick was born on April 17th 1951 in Derna, Libya. His globetrotting exploring nature was launched from a very early age! He was son of Joan and Denis Esson and the second of four brothers. Denis was a Major in the Royal Engineers and later became a lecturer at the University of Glasgow. He was also a published author, and his book *Cromwell, The Curse of The Irish* must have instilled in Nick a fascination and interest in the publishing world.

Nick was educated at Ripley Court Prep School in Surrey, at Bromsgrove School in Worcestershire, and studied Sociology at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

It was at Bromsgrove that he and I met, and we became best friends as we moved through the academic years, sharing studies, classes, and sports teams – embarking on a friendship that lasted over 50 years.

At Bromsgrove his sharp wit and intelligence marked him out as a robust and quizzical student, and his sporting prowess and love of Rugby made him an exceptional wing forward for the 1st XV.

His Rugby skills continued to be utilized throughout his life - supporting his son Patrick at Amersham and Chiltern Rugby Club, right through from the minis to the 1st team squad. He also helped with coaching and refereeing for several years, and organized the Colts team with his typical gusto, and own brand of practical encouragement. His energetic mind and keen intellect

made him a pivotal part of the Bromsgrove School Debating team. In 1968 he and fellow Bromsgrovian Martin Bennett entered and won The Observer Schools' Mace competition, which was and still is, the annual debating tournament for secondary schools in England, Ireland Scotland and Wales.

He went to the National Finals in London and won the cup, outwitting Eton, Harrow and Marlborough in the process. Bromsgrove School was cock a hoop at his win. Yet he was modest and humble about the impressive victory. I never once heard him brag about anything. He wasn't that kind of person. Even then his infectious and fabulous laugh brushed off any moral high ground. But as many of you here will remember, it was very hard to win an argument with Nick - such was his mental tenacity. But it was always fun trying to do so!

He began his working life in 1972 as a sales representative with the publishing house Van Nostrand Reinhold. He proudly gave me one of the first books that he sold for the company. Titled *The Fast Men* - a book about speed bowling - Nick inscribed the inside cover to me. It reads. "Life, like a fast bowler, is fast and furious. All we need do is play up, and play the game". And this was indeed Nick's view on life. He was brave and always prepared to go for it - even if sometimes the bowling was a bit too quick for ones liking. Cricket remained a passion throughout his life.

Nick was also a great walker, especially around the Chilterns with his friend Howard Dury, and on the long distance trails led by David Webster. The Esson family will never forget their holidays in The Lake District, and their great achievement in completing the Coast to Coast walk - a journey of 192 miles.

In 1991 he co-founded UCL Press, which became an innovative academic publisher with a wide-ranging list.

However, his greatest success was founding Combined Academic Publishers in 1998 – representing and distributing Northern American University presses in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. What started in one room quickly developed into a lively business, with offices in Chesham and a loyal and enthusiastic staff. He sold the business to Julia Monk and David Pickering in 2012, but remained Chairman - still providing the company with his wisdom and experience.

Nick recently enrolled on a MA course at Birkbeck College studying Classical Civilization - throwing himself into seminar discussions with his usual enthusiasm, and often continuing the debate afterwards. He shared his love for ancient history with his daughter Elizabeth, who also studied Classics.

Friends will remember Nick for his shrewd knowledge of the publishing industry, but also for his ability to engage on any subject - from military history to progressive politics, to explaining the more subtle rules of cricket to someone who had never witnessed the game.

But Nick's greatest pride was in his family. It was at Unwin Hyman in 1987 that he met his wife Clare. Family was always his first interest, and to Clare, Elizabeth, and Patrick, he will be irreplaceable. He was proud of their every step, and he beamed when talking about them. Family was the centre of his life.

His warm nature emanated in everything he did. Everyone liked Nick, and he loved gatherings of people, where his humor was ever present.

He will leave a gap, one that will never get filled, but he left lots of fun and wonderful memories for us all to cherish. Nick loved the people that made his world special, and he left this world knowing that he was greatly loved.

We shall all miss him.

- John Williams

## Rev. Courtney Atkin (Academic Staff 59-64) d. 21st October 2015

Rev Atkin taught at Bromsgrove School, and in Cobham House, from 1959 until 1964. He died on 21st October ten days short of his 96th birthday.

A Service of Thanksgiving for a full life, well-lived, was held at the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury, Herefordshire on 30th October.

The family received wonderful letters from former colleagues and pupils of Bromsgrove School. It has meant so much.

- Hilary Atkinson

## John Couch (S 42-47) d. 14th November 2012

*(Editor's Note: We have only just been informed of Mr Couch's death)*

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of John Couch on 14th November, 2012. John was a prominent figure during his time at Bromsgrove and played scrum-half in the School XV team.

After leaving School he served in Cyprus during his National Service years and later became a successful businessman in Canada. John spent his later years doing what he loved best - hunting.

## Andrew Gillies (Ly 77-82) d. 22nd September 2015

Andrew Gillies, or Andy as he was known, passed away peacefully on 22nd September 2015. His funeral was held at Oxford Crematorium on 8th October, and afterwards at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel. Andy was a talented computer programmer and had a successful career as a consultant for various companies, most recently and most enjoyably at Taylor & Francis, an international academic publisher based in Oxfordshire.

Andy enjoyed many sporting successes, including road cycling with the Hounslow District Wheelers and rowing with Staines Boat Club.

After Andy was diagnosed with brain cancer, he went on many excursions with friends, and particularly enjoyed sailing holidays. He leaves behind his sister Catherine, his niece Emma, and father Christopher.

- Anna Malkin



## Khun Thiti Pawakranond (Chairman of BIST) d. 28th August 2015

It was with great sadness that the staff and Governors of Bromsgrove School learned of the passing of Khun Thiti, Chairman of Governors at Bromsgrove International School Thailand (BIST). We have known him as a man of great vision, educational passion and ready humour and hospitality; his loss is keenly felt.

Those who have visited Thailand over the years have always felt the warmth of Khun Thiti's welcome and been impressed by his energy and drive.

We send to his daughter, Garnjana (HH 2012-2014) and his immediate family, his fellow Governors and to the wider School community our heartfelt condolences.

- Peter Clague, Headmaster

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN 2014/15.

## A. Roger Peirson (W 59-64) d. 29th October 2015

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Roger Peirson at the age of sixty-nine. With his loving wife of forty-five years, always at his side, he lost his battle with cancer on October 29, 2015.

Roger bravely waged a fierce six week fight against cancer with the support of his family and friends and was immensely appreciative of everyone's kindness. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Cora; his son, Garnet Peirson (Mary-Ann); daughter, Samantha Willis (Chad); grandchildren, Dylen and Carson Willis; sister, Carrie Bromell (Martin) and his nephews. Roger is predeceased by his father and mother, Garnet and Barbara Peirson.

Roger was kind, dedicated, loving, brilliant and accomplished. He attended Bromsgrove School and completed Business Administration at the University of Birmingham before coming to Canada in 1969.

Roger enjoyed a successful career at Sears Canada as a Senior Executive for twenty-nine years. Roger had a rich, fulfilling life, enjoying travel, auto racing and reading. He was a staple in the Uxbridge community and served on the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Board.

Special thanks to Dr Solow at Markham Stouffville Hospital for his knowledge and understanding and to Southlake Cancer Care Center as well as Dr Jason Wong for opening their facility.

In memory of Roger, please consider a donation to the Cancer Research Society at [www.cancerresearchsociety.ca](http://www.cancerresearchsociety.ca)

For online condolences, please visit [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)

- Robert Carless

## OBs who also passed away in 2014/15:

Peter Arthur (W 42-47)  
d. 1st July 2012

*(Editor's Note: We have only just been informed of Mr Arthur's death)*

Guy Baker (S 57-62)  
d. 21st February 2015

Norman Cave-Browne-Cave (G 39-44)  
d. 12th November 2015

Anthony Arthur Cheston (W 46-51)  
d. 21st February 2015

Derek Coombs (Lu 45-48)  
d. 30th December 2014

Lady Joan Drury (Wife of Prof Sir Michael Drury) d. 8th October 2015

Ann Earle (Wife of Rev Nick Earle)  
d. 9th July 2015

Christopher Evans (House and Dates not known) d. 16th March 2015

Mike (Thomas) Evans (W 45-50)  
d. August 2014

Christopher Evans (G 53-57)  
d. March 2015

James Edward Grimditch (S 37-42)  
d. 25th January 2015

Myrtle Firminger (Former Governor)  
d. 19th November 2014

Michael Henry Hall (G 37-42)  
d. 4th August 2014

Patrick Howden (W 45-50)  
d. 24th January 2015

Roy Kneath (E 1935-1940)  
d. 5th July 2013  
*(Editor's Note: We have only just been informed of Mr Kneath's death)*

Peter Law (G 55-58)  
d. 19th March 2015

Alan Lee (House and Dates not known)  
d. 28th December 2014

Lindsay MacDonald (néé Macmaster)  
(Hz 85-90), d. 26th September 2015

David Norman MacOwan (Former Staff)  
d. September 2015

Albert Roy Merrington (W 43-48)  
d. 1st December 2014

Christopher Gresley Pearson (G 42-47)  
d. 30th March 2015

Bryan Parkes (G 48-53)  
d. July 2015

Roger Perry (S 36-41)  
d. March 2012

*(Editor's Note: We have only just been informed of Mr Perry's death)*

Theodore Pritchett (S 46-50)  
d. April 2015

John Nicks (W 35-40)  
d. 31st October 2014

Gerald Rhodes (W 34-39)  
deceased date not known

Dr Peter Rhodes (W 32-37)  
deceased date not known

Martin Roden (G 41-46)  
deceased date not known

Nevill Spencer (E 34)  
d. 13th February 2015

David Edward Vickers Toney (S 49-54)  
d. 12th October 2012

*(Editor's Note: We have only just been informed of Mr Toney's death)*

Peter Wild (E 44-49)  
d. August 2015





# Thank you!

## Foundation Charity Preview Day

Thank you to all of our families and friends of the School for attending the Foundation Charity Preview Day at Hagley Hall and Park.

Lord and Lady Cobham very generously allowed the School to host the event in the grounds of Hagley Hall, where guests were able to explore the grounds at their leisure and enjoy a sneak-peek into the park, which is not yet open to the public.



## Donor Tree

The Donor Tree, which can be found by the stairs leading up to the Hospitality Suite is our way of formally acknowledging and expressing our appreciation for your support. Donors giving £250 and over can have a bronze, silver or gold leaf engraved.

## Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society

The Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society acknowledges and thanks all those who have made a gift in their wills to Bromsgrove. Members are invited to an annual lunch and a new memory board listing those who have made bequests to the School over the years will soon be placed alongside the Donor Tree.

If anyone is interested in making a gift in their will to Bromsgrove, please contact the Foundation Office: [foundation@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:foundation@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579679.

## Annual Legacy Lunch

The annual Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society lunch took place in April 2015, and we were delighted to welcome some new faces, as well as longstanding members.



*Dick Noake (Chairman of the Foundation, E 59-64), Caroline Godsall, Geoff Godsall, Peter Clague (Headmaster), Nevil Malin (G 48-53), Clive Gummow (G 52-57)*



*John Cutler (S 56-61), Barbara Norman, Ann Taylor, John Taylor (W 55-60), Rachel Scannell (Assistant Head and Vice-Chair of the Foundation)*

## The Sixth Annual Foundation Lecture



*Sir Tim Rice, Geoff Strong (Governor), Sarndra Leversha-Clague, Peter Clague (Headmaster)*

Over 130 Old Bromsgrovians, Parents and Friends of the School attended the annual Foundation Lecture at St Paul's (The Actor's Church) in Covent Garden in November 2014. The School was delighted to welcome Sir Tim Rice as guest speaker.

Sir Tim is an Academy Award, Golden Globe Award, Tony Award and Grammy Award winning lyricist and librettist who is perhaps best known for his collaborations with Andrew Lloyd Webber. We also wish to thank Geoff Strong, Governor of Bromsgrove School for the connection to Sir Tim.



*Brian Naylor (G 43-47) and Garth Kenderdine-Davies (S 43-47)*



*James Heggett (Ly 1999-2008), Ruth Heggett, Lesley Brookes, Sarndra Leversha-Clague*

We are delighted to announce that the Seventh Annual Foundation Lecture will take place at The Lansdowne Club on Thursday, 10th March 2016, with guest speaker Stephen Page (Lu 78-83), Chief Executive of Faber & Faber.

You can read more about Stephen Page in our interview with him on page 18.



*Old Bromsgrovian Stephen Page: The 2016 Foundation Lecture Speaker*

If you would like to attend the next Foundation Lecture on 10th March 2016, please contact Megan Griffiths: [mgriffiths@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:mgriffiths@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579679 ext 366. Please include your connection to the School in your response, along with the name of your partner or guest.

## Mailing List

If you are not currently receiving invitations to our events, please contact us so that we can add you to the circulation list. Anyone with a connection to Bromsgrove is welcome to attend.

# Donor Roll

## THANKING OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 2014/15.

(GIFTS RECEIVED FROM SEPTEMBER 2014 - SEPTEMBER 2015)

### Cookes

David Baker (63-67)  
John Dunstall (63-68)  
Ian Gibson (66-71)

### Elmshurst

Julian Adams (83-89)  
Mark Chown (81-86)  
Hugh Furber (52-57)  
Justin Golby (85-89)  
David Hallchurch (42-47)  
Robert Jolly (60-66)  
John Kirkus (50-55)  
James Leek (57-62)  
Tim Mitchell (46-51)  
Antony Neales (48-53)  
Richard Noake (59-64,  
Foundation Chairman)  
Ian Routh (53-58)  
John Ruck (50-53)  
Simon Skelding (57-62)  
Richard Smith (72-77)  
Ben Turvill (93-00)  
Stuart Wadsworth (58-63)  
Alexander Walsh (94-99)  
Topper Webb (72-73)  
John Withers (51-56)

### Gordon

Mark Adams (72-77)  
Richard Brook (45-50)  
Paul Bryan (58)  
Jeremy Davis (46-54)  
Robert Dowler (57-62)  
Barry Dumughn (50-55)  
John Faull (46-51)  
Andrew Fryer (60-64)  
Clive Gummow (52-57)  
Sir Robert Hastie (43-51)  
John Illsley (62-67)  
Nevil Malin (48-53)  
Peter Mountford (54-59)  
Andrew Parffrey (68-73)  
Bryan Parkes (48-53)  
Raymond Sancroft-Baker (62-67)  
Tony Scott (52-57)  
Graham Sim (69-74)  
Anthony Spackman (44-49)  
John Thorpe (52-57)  
John Vine (51-55)  
Emory Winship (71-72)

### Hazeldene

Joanne Gilfillan (87-92)  
Caroline Merritt (89-94)  
Amy Morgan (98-03)  
Lucy Walmsley (89-98)  
Rebecca Zakrzewski (91-01)

### Lupton

Richard Astbury (55-58)  
David Baines (deceased, 43-49)  
Richard Brookes (61-65,  
School Governor)  
Peter Byng (60-64)  
Kim Daniels (60-65)  
Guy Escolme (81-86)  
Mark Escolme (80-86)  
Carlton Douglas (83-88)  
Francis Dunne (61-66)  
Paddy Firminger (42-47)  
Kelvin Morris (76-81)  
John Pratelli (59-64)  
John Steveni (75-80)  
Eric Walker (56-59)  
Gareth Walters (70-81)

### Lyttelton

John Boardman (57-63)  
Drew Bradman (98-03)  
Bill Byrne (78)  
Ian Elliot (74-79)  
Roger Harrison (76-81)  
Rufus James-Moore (53-58)  
Siward James-Moore (49-54)  
Alex McIntosh (96-04)  
Andrew Muir (64-74)  
David Reeve (50-54)  
R Shakespear (59-64)  
Stewart Towe CBE (65-70,  
Chairman of Governors)  
David Walters (81-86)  
Adrian Yates (73-78)

### Mary Windsor

Ayesha Bell-Paris (99-06)  
Debbie Dawes (83-89)  
Caroline Logan (91-96)  
Caroline Moore (87-98)  
Victoria Underwood (82-87)

### Oakley

Samantha Evans (89-94)

### School

J Alexander (53-58)  
Julian Barnes (77-82)  
Simon Bucknall (90-95)  
David Buller (48-53)  
Andrew Clark (47-52)  
Thomas Ellis (87-92)  
William Friel (62-67)  
John Gardner (40-44)  
Charles Grundy (65-70)  
Michael Hales (47-52)  
Richard Hemingway(57-62)  
David Higgs (53-57)  
Ian Hodge (56-61)  
Anthony Horton (55-59)  
J Roy Hughes (45-50)  
Benjamin Kemsley (94-99)  
Colin Kendon (76-81)  
David Moore (66-71)  
Rowland Morgan (53-58)  
Matt Neal (78-84)  
Alan Powell (48-53)  
Christopher Price (39-44)  
David Pulham (58-63)  
Richard Pyatt (72-74)  
John Pyke (53-58)  
David Roberts (53-58)  
John Say (39-43)  
Paul Snape (58-62)  
William Stallard (51-56)  
Gregory Watkins (72-76)

### Thomas Cookes

Olivia Knight-Adams (91-94)  
Suzanne Middleton (95-00)  
Claire Pottinger (81-89)

### Walters

Richard Gard (76-81)  
Alex Hadley (96-98)  
Digby, Lord Jones of  
Birmingham Kt. (69-74)  
David Kilburn (73-78)  
Matthew Taylor (68-73)  
Stephen Williams (68-73)  
Adam Wood (75-80)

### Wendron / Wendron-Gordon

Sir David Arculus (59-64)  
Andrew Broadbent (63-67)  
Tony Collett (55-60)  
Ralph Duncan (46-51)  
Thomas Evans (45-50)  
Neil Gaylor (58-64)  
Ben Key (79-84)  
Jeff Lomax (49-54)  
DSE Miller (68-73)  
James Nailer (90-95)  
Will Packwood (07-11)  
Tim Ridge (62-67)  
Tim Roberts (58-63)  
Philip Root (65-69)  
John Taylor (55-60)

### Friends of the School

Acorn Arable Ltd  
Old Bromsgrovian Lodge  
Lord Cobham  
Sally Cross  
Chris Edwards  
Martin Greenstreet  
Alastair Jones  
Cyrille Regus MBE  
James Sommerville  
Michael Whitehead

### Parents

Mr Balin  
Mr and Mrs Ball  
Mr and Mrs Bannister  
Mr and Mrs Bentley  
Mr and Mrs Bloor  
Mr Blunt  
Mr and Mrs Bors  
Mr Coffee and Ms Grimmett  
Mr and Mrs Clegg  
Mr and Mrs Collie  
Mr and Mrs Cox  
Mr Fidoe  
Dr and Mrs Gredler  
Mr and Mrs Gubern  
Mrs Gurung  
Mr and Mrs Haynes  
Mr Hunt  
Mr Hurley  
Mr and Dr King  
Mr and Mrs Klitz  
Mr Koller and Dr Heidland  
Mr and Mrs Langford  
Mr Lawrence and Ms Hughes  
Mr and Mrs Lloyd  
Mr and Mrs Maumi  
Mr May

### Parents (cont.)

Ms Pang  
Mrs Peel  
Mr Pun  
Mr and Mrs Roberts  
Mr and Mrs Roosenboom  
Professor and Mrs Schmermund  
Ms Stevenson  
Mr Tong  
Mr Westman  
Mr and Mrs Weston Smith  
Mrs Wilson  
Mr and Mrs Yuan

# Events

WHAT'S ON AT BROMSGROVE DURING 2015/16 AND BEYOND.

## December 2015

### **Festive Ladies' Lunch**

Saturday 12th December  
Venue: Hospitality Suite,  
Bromsgrove School  
Guest Speaker: Sally-Ann Hales QC  
Time: 12noon - 2.30pm  
Places: £15 per person

## February 2016

### **Donors' Lunch**

Thursday 4th February  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Time: 12noon – 2.30pm  
Donors from the last academic year are invited to a lunch at Bromsgrove School. All eligible Old Bromsgrovians, Parents and Friends of the School will be sent invitations in the Lent Term.

### **Bromsgrove Futures & OB Networking**

Date TBC  
Time: 6.30pm  
In conjunction with the careers department, we are inviting OB volunteers to 'speed network' with current students about their profession. We envisage the evening starting at 6.30pm with refreshments and the opportunity for OBs to network. Students will arrive at 7pm, and there will be timed slots for students to circulate around the rooms. It maybe that an OB links up with others in that profession, or you may be happy to chat with a group as an individual.

If we are inundated with offers of help, we may offer an additional or more specialised event, focusing on different sectors.

## March 2016

### **The Seventh Annual Foundation Lecture**

Thursday 10th March  
Venue: The Lansdowne Club, Mayfair  
Guest Speaker: Stephen Page (OB and Chief Executive of Faber & Faber)  
Time: 7.00pm-9.30pm

### **Mothering Sunday Service**

Sunday 6th March  
Led by Reverend Paul Hedwoth,  
School Chaplain  
Venue: Memorial Chapel  
All welcome

### **Pop & Jazz**

Tuesday 15th March  
Venue: Routh Hall  
Time: 7.30pm  
For bookings, please contact  
music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk  
or telephone 01527 579679 ext 235

## April 2016

### **Ladies' Lunch**

Date TBC  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Time: 12noon - 2.30pm  
Places: £15 per person

### **The Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society Lunch**

Thursday 21st April  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Time: 12noon – 2.30pm  
Members of The Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society are invited to an annual lunch at Bromsgrove School. All eligible Old Bromsgrovians will be sent invitations in the Lent Term.

### **Call My Wine Bluff**

Saturday 23rd April  
Venue: Dining Hall, Bromsgrove School  
Places: £TBC

## June 2016

### **Commemoration Concert**

Date TBC  
Venue: Routh Hall  
Time: 7pm  
For bookings, please contact  
music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk  
or telephone 01527 579679 ext 235

### **Commemoration Day**

Saturday 2nd July  
Old Bromsgrovians, families and their guests are warmly invited to the OB Marquee on Lower Charford between 1pm and 5pm.

## September 2016

### **1960-1969 Leavers' Reunion**

Saturday 10th September  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Invitations for eligible OBs will be sent out in early Summer Term.

### **2006 Leavers' Reunion**

Saturday 1st October  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Invitations for eligible OBs will be sent out in early Summer Term.

To find out more about any of these events, or if you have suggestions of your own, please email us at:

Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Telephone Jenny and Megan on  
01527 579679 ext 357/366

Or contact us the good old-fashioned way:

Bromsgrove School  
Worcester Road  
Bromsgrove  
Worcestershire  
B61 7DU

