



*School staff commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Preparatory School with a cycle ride from Llanwrtyd Wells*

## The first word...

### 'Riding From the Past'

Born in harder times, a much more ebullient Bromsgrove Preparatory School celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. Founded during the Second World War, its birthplace was not the modern, sprawling campus we occupy today. Instead, it commenced in a small cluster of buildings in the remote Welsh village of Llanwrtyd Wells, to which the School had been evacuated when the War Department commandeered Bromsgrove School in 1939. Families were relieved that their sons were safer from the war in this remote location, and soon asked the Headmaster to extend the provision to younger children. So, the Prep School was born.

OBs who were amongst those pioneering pupils recall lean times in those early days, with rationing and limited resources. They tell of classes held in damp and drafty out-buildings and bracing runs across the steep Welsh peaks and valleys. Yet, most also speak with great warmth of the camaraderie that is born out of adversity. Perhaps there are lessons there for today's pupils, as together they face the challenges and restrictions of the current COVID-19 pandemic?

A proud lesson too, from 14 members of today's staff, drawn from across all sectors of the School. In September, this hardy group of teachers and support staff commemorated the Preparatory School's birthday by cycling from Llanwrtyd Wells to Bromsgrove on a gloriously autumnal Sunday.

Their 90-mile journey was a marvellous celebration of the School's eighty successful years, and a modern-day example of Bromsgrovian comradeship. Not to mention a fine example to our pupils that the restrictions under which we all labour at present need not rob us of all initiative, enjoyment and personal pursuits. They are to be commended for honouring the Preparatory School's foundation in such an inspired and spirited way.

PETER CLAGUE  
HEADMASTER

## Welcome from the Editor

When the last edition of *Bromsgrovians Connected* hit doormats, we could not have imagined what was heading our way in 2020. Despite the global pandemic and the ensuing lockdown preventing us from participating in the usual social activities, I was delighted to receive OB news and stories from around the world. From OB nurses, paramedics, doctors and allied health professionals working throughout COVID-19 in every corner of the globe to many others offering their support to pupils virtually during the enforced School closure, each and every one of you has done their bit.

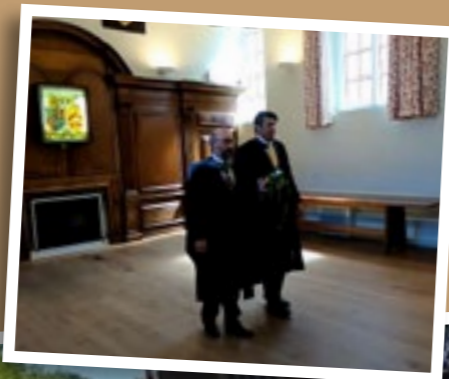
It is clear that the Bromsgrovian spirit is as bright as ever, and long may it continue, wherever you are in the world.

Enjoy reading your alumni magazine.

Megan Griffiths  
Editor

# Picture This...

A LOOK BACK AT THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20.



#CLAPFOR  
OURCARERS  
Join the Bromsgrovian community in  
thanking the NHS  
and all key workers  
every Thursday evening at 8pm

Our boarders at School, and many more Bromsgrovians at home, took part in the weekly 'Clap for Carers' on Thursday evenings during the National lockdown.

Over the Easter break, the Headmaster, our remaining boarders and the residential staff looking after them constructed over 1000 face shields, which were then donated to local hospitals and healthcare facilities.

It was not the way we wanted the academic year to end, but our Prep and Pre-Prep Survivors, as well as the rest of the Class of 2020, were welcomed into the Old Bromsgrovian community over the summer, marking the end of their school days at Bromsgrove. We were still able to carry out some of the usual end of term traditions, in a socially distanced way, including the laying of the wreath in Cookes Room, the lowering of the School flag and an online Upper Sixth valette.

Over February half-term, through to Easter and during the Summer Term of lockdown, a number of boarders were unable to go home and were looked after by our team of residential staff. They were kept busy with online lessons, weekend activities and games.

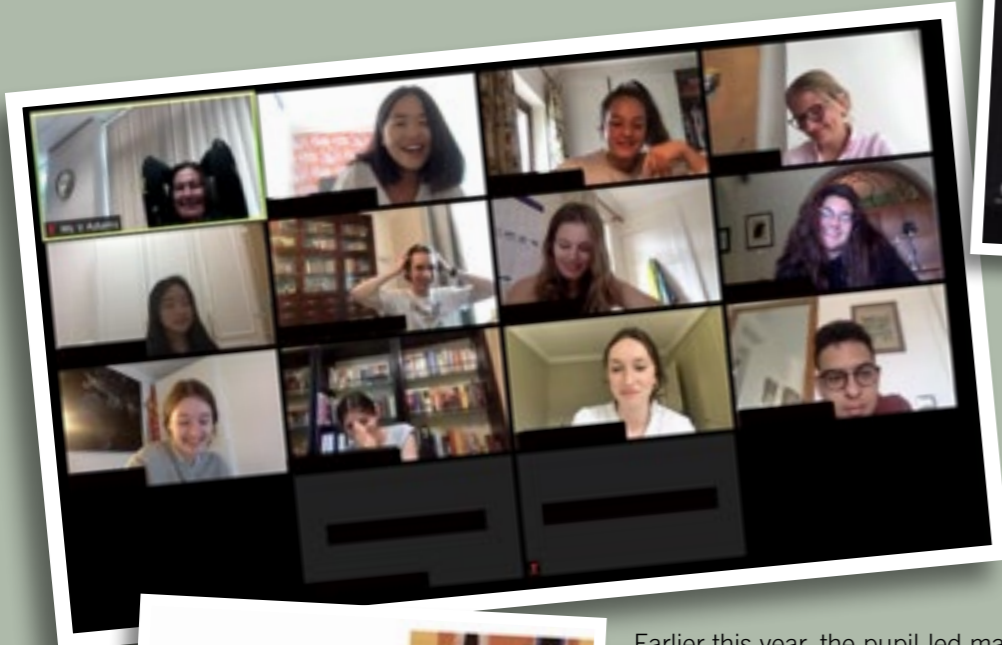


Our brand new girls' day house, Otilie Hild, was completed in 2020. The House is named after the founder of Otilie Hild School, now known as Bromsgrove Pre-Preparatory and Nursery School.



# Picture This...

EXTRA-CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019/20.



When the School closed in March, pupils and staff successfully moved over to on-line learning via Zoom. The Pre-Prep School used Seesaw.



Music was ever present, even in the Summer Term whilst our Bromsgrovians were at home. The Music Department put on weekly online concerts for pupils across the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools.



In early March, Lupton House emerged as victors for 'Best Play' in Senior House Drama with their take on *The History Boys*.



Earlier this year, the pupil-led magazine, Two Zero One, was entered into the Shine School Media Awards 2020. In June, the results were announced in an online ceremony.

The Bromsgrove team swept the board with a number of awards for Best Front Cover, Best Overall Content, Editor of the Year and Best Magazine. The team also received highly commended awards for Best Illustration and Artwork, Best Print and Design and Best Cartoon.

When Old Bromsgrovian and Foundation Trustee Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham heard that some of our boarders were unable to go home over February half term, he invited six of them to spend the day with him at the House of Lords. The pupils were allowed to sit on the famous red benches of the Lords and stood at the same despatch box where Winston Churchill made his famous war-time speeches. Lord Jones then led the pupils in to the House of Commons chamber and explained to the pupils how our democracy works.



January 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the move from Otilie Hild School to Bromsgrove Pre-Prep on its present site at Avoncroft House.



“Despite the enforced School closure due to COVID-19, a total of 826 fixtures were played in 2019/20.”



The School's Fifth Annual Research Competition was hosted by Master of Scholars, Dr Rimmer.

Six Senior School teams entered the competition, along with, for the first time, a Prep School team. They were charged with explaining how future historians would view our time by answering the prompt: what era are we living in today?



The 1st Netball Team were again crowned National Champions in the Independent Schools Cup. Our cricketers were also named as National Champions after winning by five runs against St Bede's.

Despite the enforced School closure due to COVID-19, a total of 826 fixtures were played in 2019/20 across boys' and girls' sport.



Head Groundsman, Richard Hare, and the rest of the Grounds & Gardening team, were nominated as a Wildlife Hero by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

In the last five years, the School has planted an orchard of fifty different fruit trees (all midlands-based varieties), introduced several wildlife meadows across all the School sites, planted large numbers of trees and hedges, left manicured lawns for wildlife and introduced a bee-keeping club with a beehive on site. We are also in the process of building a wildlife-friendly area, which includes a wildlife-friendly pond.



In January, Isata Kanneh-Mason led a piano masterclass for three of our students in front of a small audience. Each pianist responded brilliantly to the excellent advice.

# About You

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

## Elmshurst

We were delighted to welcome **Karim Haji** (1987-1992) who visited the School with his wife and two children. He is currently Head of Financial Services for KPMG in London.



## Gordon

**Alan Granville Wright** (1934-1937) celebrated his 100th birthday on 18th August 2020.

He now lives in a Royal British Legion Home and celebrated his birthday with the residents, staff and some of his family, albeit with social distancing still in place.



## Hazeldene

**Cath Freer** (née Hancox, 1991-2000) has written a positive blog about her cancer experience and asked us to share it with you. Her aim is to promote hope, positivity and perhaps give some a little more strength.

Visit: <https://cath462.wixsite.com/cancerundercovid>

Years 7 and 8 were treated to a fascinating talk by the hugely talented **Sophie Spurgin** (2002-2010). Sophie began her further art education in Bournemouth, where she learnt multiple art and textiles skills, which equipped her amply, for her future art career. She became a textiles breakdown artist, working for film, TV and theatre.



Congratulations to **Candy Lockett** (2012-2017) who has won the Women's Weight Throw at the Conference Carolinas Indoor Track and Field Championships and also recorded a new personal best.



## Housman Hall

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, **Kiren Doyle** (2004-2019) and **Hannah Brock** (2017-2019) surprised Mrs Ashcroft in the Futures department. It was lovely to catch up and hear how they have been getting on since leaving the School in 2019.



Congratulations to **Momo Watanabe** (2013-2015) who has graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in London and is back in her home country of Japan to study for her licence to practise there.

Momo is now advising one of our current pupils, also from Japan, who wishes to study at RVC in the near future.

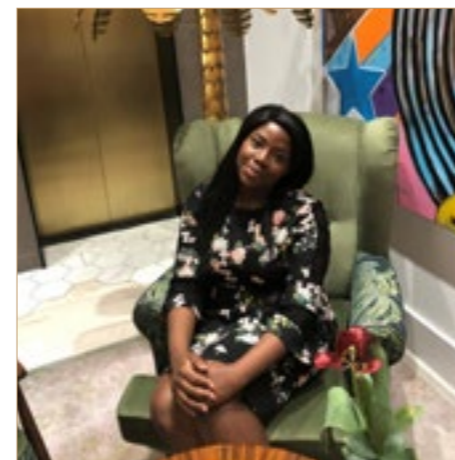


**Anya Butler** (2010-2019) visited the English Department to share some exciting news: the BBC have commissioned her to create a film accompanying her winning Housman Verse poem, to be broadcast later in the year.



## Housman Hall

**Funbi Akinsanya** (2015-2017) has been nominated as a Top 100 African and African Caribbean Future Leader. The magazine, known as Future Leaders, offers nominees mentorship opportunities to further their leadership qualities. The magazine aims to highlight outstanding African and African Caribbean Students who are currently studying in top academic institutions around the UK, with the purpose of then investing in their career prospects.



## Lupton

We are incredibly proud of our OBs doing their bit during the pandemic. **Nick Daniels** (1965-1970) has been using his 3D printer, despite limited funds, to produce some of the parts for face shields.

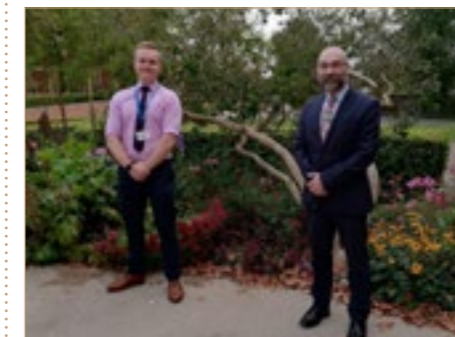


Congratulations to **Greg Smith** (1992-1997) on being elected as MP for Buckingham in the General Election.



During lockdown, **Jean-Marc Knoll** (1987-1992) ran a marathon in his house in Madrid. He ran the distance – 9.65m – between his window and washing machine 4,373 times to complete the length of a full marathon, just over 42 kilometres. He raised more than £3,000 for charity, with the monies to be split equally between NHS Charities Together and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

**Fraser Foster** (Lupton 2005-2016) pictured with his former Houseparent, Mr McClure. Fraser will be supporting students who want a career in construction management through the graduate programme at Balfour Beatty.



## Lyttelton

Congratulations to **Justin Clegg** (2004-2015) on his two-year contract extension at Worcester Warriors. Justin joined the academy for the 2016-17 season and was promoted to the senior squad two years later. Despite a stress fracture of the back, he has made six senior appearances to date, including his first start in the European Challenge Cup victory over Enisei-STM. He has also represented England at U17 and U18, and was part of the U20s side that won the Six Nations in 2017 and reached the final of the World Rugby Junior Championship.

Photo Credit: Ryan Hiscott/JMP



**Ollie Lawrence** (2016-2018) has also had his contract extended at Worcester Warriors. Over the last two seasons, Ollie has continued to win rave reviews and had established himself in Premiership side before lockdown caused matches to cease.

Most recently, Ollie made his England debut in the Six Nations match against Italy.

Photo Credit: Worcester Warriors

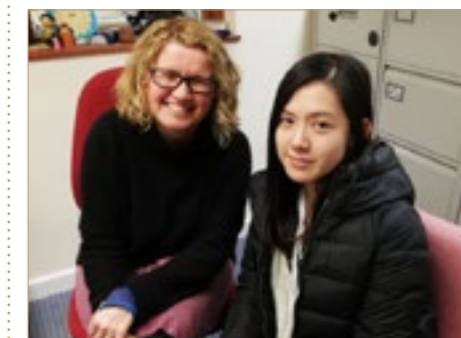


## Mary Windsor

**Josephine Nip** (2000-2004) and her family visited the School in December 2019. They live in Hong Kong, where Josephine is a full time mum to a 5 and 3 year old.



**Emily Lou** (2014-2019) returned to School and caught up with Mrs Ashcroft (Careers department) about life at Central St Martin's.



Thank you also to **Katie Palmer-Reid** (Mary Windsor 2011-2018) who returned to the School to speak to students about what it is like as a first year Law student.

## Oakley

Congratulations to **Emilie Birks** (2001-2006) who has been announced as a finalist in the Media category for the Women of the Future Programme Awards 2020.

Emilie has over thirteen years of marketing experience, with UK, international and global companies. During this time, she has developed her skills and competencies in all the major areas of marketing strategy, planning and implementation. She is currently heading up the Marketing Channel Strategy in Europe for Yamaha Music Europe GmbH, as well as sitting on the Global Brand team at Yamaha Corporation in Japan.



**Lidia Pozhidaeva** (2011-2017) has recently collaborated with an online school to produce a course on how to get into top UK universities. She has shared her knowledge of application processes for undergraduate and graduate courses.

Earlier this year, Lidia successfully graduated from KCL and started her studies at Imperial College Business School. She has also just had her first research article published by Nature Scientific Reports.

Research Article: [www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-72016-4](http://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-72016-4)

Online course: <https://london-inn-school.thinkific.com/collections>



## School

Do you remember **Brian Glover** (1943-1948)? His son has contacted us to see if anyone has any anecdotes or memories they would like to share.

Brian was particularly good at sport and was captain of the rugby team. When he left the School, he played rugby for Moseley 1sts and hockey at Bromsgrove HC. He sadly passed away in 1965 aged only 35 and so his son has very little information on his time at the School. Happily, we have been able to find documentation in the archives to send on to him.

If you are able to help with any memories or anecdotes about Brian Glover whilst at School or afterwards, please contact the Archivist, Nikki Thorpe on 01527 579679 ext 365.

Well done to **Thomas Muir** (2012-2017) who was part of the chorus for CBSO's performance of Mahler's 8th Symphony at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham.

## Walters

**Mark Gunton** (1977-1982) organised the first - probably ever in their history - 'socially distanced' OB Lodge meeting in the Old Chapel. He says that the buildings and grounds looked wonderful and were a tonic to all during these troubled times.



**William Bedford Russell** (2006-2013) performed in *George's Marvellous Medicine* at the Blue Orange Theatre in Birmingham over Christmas 2019. Those who remember William from their School days will know that he was always performing in Bromsgrove's own productions, so we are thrilled to see he has carried on his acting.



## Wendron

**Bud Gemmell** (1965-1971) has recently been in touch with his memories of the Hong Kong Flu pandemic of 1968/69, whilst he was still at School.

*"The School was badly affected, with fewer than 100 boys up and about at one point. Most of the others had gone home. There was talk of the School closing and the rest of us getting an early end of term. This did not happen and we carried on as best we could, having lessons with only a handful of boys and very little by way of games and other activities."*

*"There was a silver lining, however. I got my first paid gig as a drummer on New Year's Eve in a hotel in Shrewsbury, aged 16. Because of the flu pandemic, the only musicians available for the cabaret were me and a pianist!"*



Two generations of Old Bromsgrovians have unknowingly been working alongside each other for almost three years. **Hamish Docherty** (Lyttelton 2007-2012) is a Senior Consultant for strategic communications firm Teneo, and has worked as a communications adviser to **Humphrey Cobbald** (Wendron 1980-1985), CEO of PureGym, since 2016.

It was only when the two were discussing an interview opportunity with Humphrey to publicise a new gym in Bromsgrove that the penny dropped! Humphrey has been CEO of PureGym, the UK's largest gym chain, since 2015. Hamish left the school in 2012 and went on to study International Relations & Modern History at the University of St Andrews. He joined Teneo's grad scheme in 2016 where one of his very first clients was PureGym.

Humphrey appeared on *BBC Question Time* in March 2020 to discuss the impact of COVID-19.

You can read our 'Then and Now' interview with Humphrey overleaf.

## Wendron-Gordon

**Charles Tsai** (1989-1994) and his wife, **Dr Catherine Chu**, Executive Director of Mission Hills were welcomed to Bromsgrove School in January 2020.

After a tour of the Prep and Senior Schools, Charles and Catherine were invited to look through the Archives, with particular reference to photographs from Charles' time at Bromsgrove. He then recorded his own reminiscences on film. A visit to Wendron-Gordon brought back many memories, including roll call in the common room and a peak into his old dorm.



Mr Bell (former Houseparent of WG, now of Walters) received a surprise visit from **Anton Larin** (2009-2015) – he says that even Mr Bell's change of House can't keep the WGs away!



Congratulations to **Beck Cutting** (2008-2017) who has been promoted to the senior squad at Worcester Warriors for the 2020/21 season. He has already made seven senior appearances since joining the Senior Academy, four of them this season including the Premiership Rugby Cup matches against Leicester Tigers and Exeter Chiefs. He is about to start the final year of a degree in Sport and Social Sciences at Bath University.

Photo Credit: Worcester Warriors



## Llanwrtyd Wells

Due to the circuit-breaker lockdown imposed in Wales over the half-term break, Nikki and Megan from the Bromsgrovian Office were unable to represent the School in the usual way at Llanwrtyd Wells for Remembrance Sunday. They did, however, send a wreath, which was laid by Old Bromsgrovian **Christopher Price**, in the town's War Memorial.



## Staff News

Congratulations to **Steve Taylor** who has given 50 years of service to Bromsgrove School.

Steve was 16 when he first started working at Bromsgrove on 1st August 1970, as the caretaker's assistant and was appointed by Capt. P Cavell, the Bursar at the time.

He has served under six Bursars, Captain Cavell, Major Glissen, Colonel Spencer, Group Captain John Rogers, Anthony Siddall and Lesley Brookes, and five Headmasters, Lionel Carey, Nick Earle, Tim Taylor, Chris Edwards and Peter Clague.

In the early days, one of Steve's jobs used to be to arrive at work early in order to lay fires in the offices so that it would be warm for the staff when they arrived for work.

He went on to work in the maintenance department as a labourer and has worked for the last six-and-a-half years with the grounds team.



## 91 Years' Service

We know that many Old Bromsgrovians remember their teachers and House staff with great fondness and often keep in touch with them through the years.

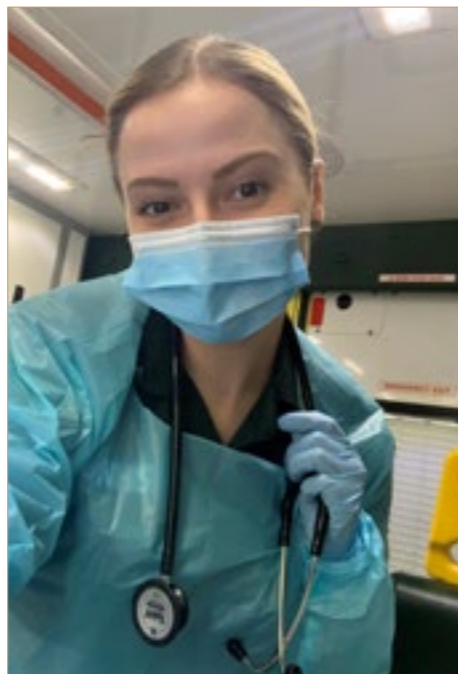
At the end of the Summer Term, we bade a fond farewell to Steve Challoner (Director of Staffing), Christine Fletcher (Housemother of Mary Windsor) and Dr Margaret Werrett (Senior Mistress) who have a collective 91 years' service to the School.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we weren't able to pay tribute to them in the usual way at Commemoration Day this year, so we put together some video montages from their time at Bromsgrove. You can watch these on our YouTube Channel: [bit.ly/bsstaff20](https://bit.ly/bsstaff20)



# Life on the Frontline

After leaving Bromsgrove, **Rosie Thompson** (Oakley 2010-2015) moved to London and qualified as a Paramedic with the London Ambulance Service. She has been working on the front line for three years and has spent the last seven months fighting the coronavirus in Central London. Her journey was documented by the BBC One show, *Ambulance*. You can catch up with the show on BBC iPlayer (Rosie's episode was broadcast on 21st October 2020).



She has also recently been interviewed for 'The Notable Blog', run by fellow OB Ellie Birch (Oakley 2008-2017), who has kindly agreed for us to reproduce part of Rosie's interview here. You can read the full version at <https://thenotable.blog/> or follow them on Instagram @thenotableblog

## Here is Rosie's story:

Life on the NHS front line in Central London is incredibly stressful, heart-wrenching, harrowing and mentally as well as physically extremely challenging. In saying that, it is also beautiful. It is moving and is full of wonderful opportunities. You never know what each hour of every day will hold. One day you could be delivering twins and helping somebody who is sleeping rough into accommodation. That feeling is truly invaluable! I like to think of these deeds as 'earning my place in heaven'. These are the jobs that make the tough moments worth it. The next day you could be dealing with a multiple casualty RTC (road traffic collision) or, even worse, a cardiac arrest. No matter how many arrests we go to on the frontline, they never get any easier. But there is something so special about being able to be that small ray of sunshine in people's darkest moments. If you can make somebody's day just that tiny bit better, you know you have succeeded.

I have always had an in-depth desire to want to help people and be there for others. I think being a healthcare practitioner that is a quality you must possess. In the words of Adam Kay (the author of *This is Going to Hurt*) '...a great practitioner must have a huge heart and a distended aorta through which pumps a vast lake of compassion and human kindness.'



Photo Credit: Sunday Times/BBC

**Christiana Burt** (Hazeldene 1991-1996) has been a Consultant Anaesthetist at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge since 2012. Royal Papworth is the UK's leading hospital for medical and surgical treatment of heart and lung conditions in adults. Christi featured in an episode of BBC Two's *Surgeons: At the Edge of Life*. The series was filmed pre-COVID, and she happened to be on call on the day that a double lung transplant came up, which was included in the programme.

## Christi spoke to us about her role and the recent challenges that COVID-19 has brought to a hospital setting:

A consultant anaesthetist is a doctor who undergoes core general medical training and then subspecialises in anaesthetics. The total time taken to complete training up to consultant level after finishing medical school is a minimum of eight years, with the average being ten years.



We cover a range of roles within hospitals from giving general anaesthetics or sedation for operations to running the intensive care unit. An anaesthetist who specialises in cardiothoracics also undergoes additional training to be able to use and interpret transoesophageal echocardiography predominantly for use during and sometimes after heart operations.

During the first wave of COVID-19, we were mostly doing intensive care work as all 'elective' work within the hospital stopped in order to make room for all of the patients we received. At Royal Papworth, we also perform advanced techniques of mechanical support for the heart and lungs including ECMO (extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation) so during the pandemic, we were doing a lot of that! My job involves a lot of teamwork, it is very sociable, sometimes very hard work but mostly extremely rewarding.

# Then & Now...



**Humphrey Cobbold** (Wendron 1977-1982), Chief Executive Officer at PureGym, the UK's largest gym operator, looks back on his time at Bromsgrove School...

*"A large part of my job is about leadership... a skill that I learnt a lot about at Bromsgrove."*

## Which route did you take after leaving Bromsgrove?

Immediately after leaving Bromsgrove, I jumped on a plane to New Zealand to become a gap year teacher. It was a tremendous year of experiences and taught me the importance of taking opportunities when they come, even if they are a bit bold!

I then went on to study Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, thinking I wanted to become a nuclear physicist, before eventually joining the management consulting firm, McKinsey – and so begun my career in business.

I spent over fifteen years with McKinsey, which allowed me to travel the world, and understand an array of companies and leaders.

Despite this amazing experience, leaving McKinsey was one of the best decisions I made, as it opened up a whole new landscape of opportunities to actually lead businesses, rather than just advise them.

## What do you love about your job?

What I love most about being a CEO is having the chance to build and create something new. A lot of what I do is designing plans and then configuring and inspiring the best team to execute them. In my role as CEO at PureGym, and before that Wiggle (the online sports retailer), I've been able to help grow businesses to become the leading players in their respective fields.

Ultimately, a large part of my job is about leadership and managing teams. I enjoy the cut and thrust of leadership – a skill that I learnt a lot about at Bromsgrove. Importantly, I have had to learn about leading and supporting teams, through both the good times, and the bad.

## Do you have any advice or tips for current pupils?

The great American golfer, Arnold Palmer, once said: "The harder I work, the luckier I get". Whilst the essence of this is true, for pupils looking at life beyond Bromsgrove, I'd add the

importance of taking advantage of any opportunities that present themselves.

I believe that young people should spend the first 5-10 years of their post-school lives assembling a 'mosaic' of experiences, building a combination of skills. Breadth is more important than depth. In fact, it is the key to building a solid foundation from which to build a multi-faceted career.

Therefore, at University, or wherever you decide to go after Bromsgrove, do what you find interesting and are passionate about. These experiences will make you a better, more well-rounded and capable person, providing a variety of potential career options. In the end, experience is everything. Your career will naturally come later.



Humphrey as Captain of the Hockey 1st team (front row middle)

## Sports News

### OB Netball

It has been an unusual year for the Old Bromsgrovians Netball Club, as it has for everyone. From a netball perspective, we are used to meeting up at least once a week for training and competing regularly in two local leagues, Worcester City Netball League and Redditch Netball League, which were unfortunately cancelled in March 2020 as part of national lockdown. It has been unusual not to see our netball family regularly and we can't wait to get back on the court!

However, the club has continued to keep in touch with one another remotely, including a Zoom quiz and catch up meeting. We've also continued to focus on our return to netball, starting to put in place COVID compliant procedures and investing in new training kit, which we look forward to putting to good use in the near future.

Whilst there is of course little to report for the majority of 2020 in terms of netball, the club were delighted to finish top of the league in the Redditch winter league 2019/2020 and securing promotion when the league resumes. At the start of the year, we also managed to organise a great day out to watch netball at the highest level at Superleague Sunday. We've also welcomed a few new babies into the OB family, who we are hoping to turn into netballers when the time comes.

The most important thing is that we all remain fit and healthy, and we hope that everyone in the wider OB family is keeping safe and well.

If anyone is interested in joining the OB netball team or finding out more, then please get in contact with us via Facebook "OB Netball (Bromsgrove)".

Becky Alton and the OB Netball Team



### OB Golf

Hopefully, there will never be a year like 2020 again!

It started off with the late cancellation in March of the OBs vs. School, due to the coronavirus outbreak and Government restrictions just coming into force.

Cancelled matches continued right through the summer, as having all the fixtures arranged well in advance, it was a case of 'when' to cancel, instead of 'if'. Therefore, we were not able to play the Grafton Morrish Qualifiers at Olton in May and our own OB day at Edgbaston, in June the Midland Public Schools' match at Little Aston was cancelled, as was our OB invitation day at Ombersley in August. In October, the Welsh Public Schools' Edward Harris Cup at Porthcawl was also off, which in fact very nearly made it.

However, the token October OB meeting still took place, albeit under all sorts of restrictions, but with only about nine of our stalwarts down to play.

One major point to note is that there is now an agreement in place that the School is to incorporate the Bromsgrovian Club, including its assets. The OB Golf Secretary had, shortly before lockdown, a convivial meeting with both the Bursar and Assistant Head, where they undertook to continue to assist with the funding of OB Golf, as appropriate, similar to how the Bromsgrovian Club has done previously. There was a hint that this may well be more conducive than before and the School are keen to continue to work closely with Old Bromsgrovians Golf Society.

Here's hoping 2021 will see things back to normal, if ever anything can be called normal after COVID-19!

Anthony Webb (Lyttelton 1955-1959)  
Hon. Secretary for OB Golf

### OBEC

OBEC continues to maintain a strong tradition of dragging Old Bromsgrovians, their partners and friends (some now permanent OBEC members) up hills predominantly in Snowdonia (but other mountains are also available!) Despite the pandemic, the club has met in numbers from pairs to a dozen across the UK.

For the annual AGM in September 2019 - based at the Tyn Y Coed Hotel in Capel Curig - the weather was atrocious but groups still made it to the summits of Snowdon and Moel Siabod, and walked down the river path to Betws y Coed.

In November 2019, Helen Rowberry organised a highly successful winter walking weekend staying in a rustic cottage known as 'Beudy Mawr' in the Llanberris Pass near to Snowdon. The timing of the weekend was superb as there was enough snow on the ground to make the conditions challenging but not dangerous. A mixed ability group had great fun in the cold by day and sat by an open fire at night.

Pushing the winter theme in March 2020, Jon Badger and Tom Thompson endured snow storms and sunshine in the Cairngorms around Aviemore. It is a long drive but for some excellent winter mountaineering experience, it is unbeatable in the UK.

Inevitably, our spring meet staying in the cottage in the Llanberris Pass was cancelled. This was a great shame as it is usually very well attended, sponsored by excellent weather and we enjoy outside dining with some excellent socialising. A date has been booked for May 2021.

And so it followed that the September 2020 AGM was cancelled. However the Tyn Y Coed Hotel were able to host a few guests (such as Robin Smith, Phil Gibbs, Tony Blacker and Mark Gunton) with appropriate social distancing (including camper vans and some dedicated few visiting only for the day) an event of sorts was achieved.



New members are very much welcome and encouraged - you only need some appropriate hill walking equipment and a sense of fun. Please look us up on Facebook (search for OBEC) or visit [www.facebook.com/groups/5287969489](http://www.facebook.com/groups/5287969489)

Jon Badger (Walters 1985-1990)  
Secretary of OBEC

## Wedding Bells

Congratulations to the following Old Bromsgrovians who were married this year. Do let us know if you'd like to feature in the next issue.

**Alexander Wheelock-Lines** (Lyttelton 1996-2006) married Veronique Elizabeth Merriam Barbosa on 21st September 2019 in Sintra, Portugal. They married on their 10 year anniversary. Alexander and Veronique currently live in London together with their small dog, Soda. OBs in attendance included Avnish Kalra (Lyttelton 2001-2006 and Alexander Fletcher (Wendron-Gordon 2001-2006).



Congratulations to **Mason Loades** (Lupton 1989-1997) who married **Kathy Gilburn** (Hazeldene 1992-1997) at the Edgbaston Old Church on 12th October 2019, with the reception at the adjoining Golf Club. They honeymooned in Mauritius.

OBs who were in attendance included Matthew Bailey (Chief Usher, Lyttelton 1989-1997) and his wife, Elisa McAlindon (1992-1997 Bridesmaid, who read 13 1 Corinthians), Mason's brother, Spencer Loades (Usher, Elmshurst 1986-1990) and sister Claudia Roberts (Oakley 1987-1992), Nick Allman (Lyttelton, who read 11 Isaiah), Adam Jones (Lyttelton) and his wife Harriet Jones (née Soper, Bridesmaid), Nick Grove (Lyttelton) and his wife, Sarah Grove, Robert Gough (Elmshurst), James Wilson (Lupton), James Clement (Lyttelton), Sally Wright (Hazeldene) - all at School with Mason from 1992-1997, Mark Gunton (Walters 1977-1982) and Helen Gunton (née Brooks, Mary Windsor 1981-1983).



**Would you like your wedding featured in the next issue?**

Contact the Bromsgrovian Office  
[oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)  
or Tweet us @OldBromsgrovian







### Bromsgrovians in Property

Old Bromsgrovians **Jess Williams** (née Kingston, Thomas Cookes 2004-2009), **Richard Brookes** (Lupton 1961-1965) and **James Brookes** (Wendron-Gordon 1991-1996) hosted a Bromsgrovians in Property event for current pupils and parents in the Hospitality Suite.

Each contributor discussed their area of expertise in the sector, followed by a Q&A session.

The Futures Department hopes to facilitate more of these sessions with OBs and pupils, either in person (if restrictions allow) or online, so if you

would like to get involved, please contact Zia Leech, Head of Futures: zleech@bromsgrove-school.co.uk



### Lifelong Friendships

**Rob Mitchell** and **Amyr Hajj** (Wendron-Gordon/School House and Elmshurst respectively, 1989-1994) were best friends at School and, despite living at opposite ends of the UK now, still catch up as much as they can. Amyr is a consultant surgeon in London, and Rob works for the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency in Edinburgh.



**Alexa Downs** (née Guy, Thomas Cookes) and **Sharon Lewis** (née Davies, Hazeldene and a former Prep School academic member of staff) met at Bromsgrove and are still in touch today.



### Sporting Connections

Well done to Bromsgrove Hockey Club Ladies' 1st Team who are celebrating promotion for the second consecutive season in the Midlands Feeder West hockey league. The team includes a number of Old Bromsgrovians: **Anna Perrott** (Hazeldene 1998-2007), **Lily Alsop** (Thomas Cookes 2004-2013), **Victoria Burton** (Thomas Cookes 2009-2011) and **Heather Nunnerley** (Thomas Cookes 1994-1999).

The team finished fourteen points clear of their nearest rivals when the season finished with one game unplayed at the end of March. Bromsgrove striker, Anna Perrott, ended the season as the highest goalscorer in all midlands leagues with 20 goals.

As a result of their success, Bromsgrove are looking forward to playing in Midlands Division 2 next season for the first time in the club's history.



### The Bridge Programme

Thank you to all our OBs who helped with our online programme for Upper Sixth pupils, designed and implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Frederica Robbins** (Thomas Cookes 2008-2015) led the very first OB panel session on LinkedIn and how to make your profile pop. **Adam Robertson** (Lyttelton 2001-2013) and **Polly Fletcher** (Oakley 2006-2012) led on 'Living the City Life' - both studied, set up businesses and live in London. Adam held a further session on entrepreneurial skills.

**Ella Cardinali** (Oakley 2004-2015) and **Josh King** (School 2006-2013) spoke on the importance of giving. They both spent time volunteering through gap placements. Ella's experience with ICS (International Citizen Service) gave her the opportunity to present to the UN in New York. Josh spent time at Bromsgrove School Thailand and volunteered in Nepal through ICS.

**Charlotte Campbell** (Oakley 2004-2018), **Andreaa Mihaescu** (Oakley 2013-2017), **Alex Nisbet** (Lyttelton 2005-2016) and **Ed Drayson** (School 2008-2017) discussed degree courses in Business, Management, Finance, Economics and Accounting.

**Sasha Johnston** (Hazeldene 2006-2017), **Freddie Owen** (Lupton 2014-2018) and **Alex San** (School 2012-2017) spoke about universities in the South West.

**Will Nadin** (Lupton 2011-2018), **Ed Mooney** (School 2011-2018), **Oscar Chou** (Wendron-Gordon 2015-2017) and **Dominic Gardner** (Lupton 2004-2018) discussed what to expect and how to prepare for studying a science degree.

**Alex Moore** (Walters 2007-2014) held 'Parliamentary Question Time' for his session. He explained the basics of British politics, gave an overview of how a general election works and spoke about the current parliamentary stand on Covid-19.



**Haris Nazir** (Lyttelton 2017-2019) discussed how technology is playing a part in the fight against COVID-19. Haris' takeaway message was that 'this may look like a time of recession, but I believe some of the biggest innovations of the century will come out of this outbreak, and everyday people are working on fighting this virus. It truly is a really interesting time.'

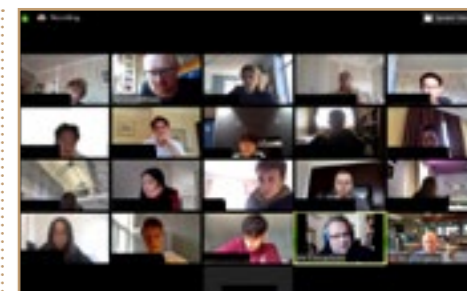
**Abbah Abbah** (Housman Hall 2015-2017), **Harriet Goucher** (Hazeldene 2011-2016) and **Paolo Romanengo** (Housman Hall 2017-2019) discussed degree courses in Law, Politics and Psychology.

**Alex Evans** (Oakley 2007-2016) worked with our Design Technology students to create innovative pieces of technology that might help someone through a pandemic. In addition, Alex, along with **Mike Matthews** (Lupton 2012-2016), and **Paige Maddox** (Thomas Cookes 2008-2016) spoke about studying design-related courses at university.

**Jonathan Finn** (Lupton 1978-1983) is a Teaching Fellow at Aston Law School. He kindly led a session on Indirect Discrimination in Employment Law - usually a first year seminar for Law students.

**James Fouracre** (Elmshurst 2004-2005) focussed on why 'knowing your brand' is key for career success.

**Andrii Iermolaev** (Wendron-Gordon 2015-2019) is currently studying at Cornell University, USA and kindly took time out of his schedule to speak about Computer Science.



**Laura Brunning** (Mary Windsor 2000-2008) and **Jacob Matthews** (Walters 2011-2016) discussed what it is like to study a sports-related degree.

**James Prince** (Lupton 2009-2017) and **Kara Doyle** (Hazeldene 2001-2017) spoke about their experience of studying Real Estate and Geography at university.

Finally, **Hannah Brock** (Housman Hall 2017-2019), **Emily Coleman** (Hazeldene 2012-2017) and **Erica Halley** (Oakley 2013-2015) talked about what it is like to be a student at the universities of Manchester, Leeds and Nottingham.

If you are happy to be considered for any similar sessions that the School might run online for its current students, please email the Bromsgrovian Office with details of your subject matter and university course/job sector. Email us at [oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

# VE Day 75th Anniversary

The 8th May 2020 marked 75 years since the end of WWII in Europe. Although we were not able to meet as a School and local community to mark the occasion and pay tribute to the Old Bromsgrovians who had died during the War, we reached out to our School community to discover their families' memories of that time and to current pupils to share their experiences of marking this occasion, many of whom decided to commemorate the day at home. Back at Bromsgrove, a street party was put on for the children of our key workers in the grounds of the Prep School. Captain Farnes asked his Upper Fourth Cadets to design a piece of work to display on VE Day, and he received some very impressive entries, including these two pieces of written work by pupil Harrison Brown.

## A Toddlers View: It was so bright

Having been born in December 1943, my Grandma didn't realise she remembered VE Day until she was much older and she asked her mum about an overwhelming memory she had of lots of lights, some brighter than others, some that looked like two eyes and some that were fire. It would appear that she had been taken up to the top of the road they lived on in Harborne on the evening of VE Day and it was all the lights that she saw. Having spent the first eighteen months of her life with blackouts and war time, life suddenly seemed so bright with the lights on in houses and the street lights lit up - and the two eyes coming towards her were buses and cars. As they looked right from the top of their road there was a huge bonfire at the top of Barnes Hill.

## A Soldier's Day

I spoke to Arthur Kennedy, my grandparents' neighbour who is now 95, about his experience of VE Day - this is his story:

Arthur, who was 21 at the time, was based in the Midlands with his regiment, the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. About a week before VE Day, his battalion were informed they were being relocated to Nottingham, and they were to prepare to be shipped out to the Far East. A day before he was due to leave for the Philippines, Arthur and another NCO were sent to a Tech School close to where they were based in Nottingham and told they were being kept behind in England.



As the only two remaining NCOs in that regiment, they were needed as instructors, for many other NCOs had to pass a test to uphold their current army rank. This meant Arthur was luckily enough to be at home and with his family on VE day. He said he couldn't really remember much about the day itself, as it was all blurred together as a mixture of celebration, uncertainty and nerves as there was still a war going on - one that he nearly had to fight in and had already lost many friends and family to.

## - Harrison Brown (Current Pupil)

The Bromsgrovian 1945 mentions a Thanksgiving service in the Memorial Chapel and a two-day holiday for the boys, in line with the National Holiday. We heard from Old Bromsgrovians who were at Bromsgrove School, at other schools and at home at the time, as to what VE Day meant for them.

**Philip Hill** shared his memory of the day at Bromsgrove School: "I remember it being a nice morning and admiring the trees walking across the Green from Gordon House to the Chapel for the service, always looking their best in early May. And of course, that we were now free of war."

**Sir Robert Hastie** recalled that the Prep School was not allowed home for VE Day, "On May 8th 1945 I was at the Prep School, not long returned from Llanwrtyd Wells where I joined in 1943. We had all been excitedly following the news and when the great day dawned a holiday was declared. We were given the day off and were taken by bus to Malvern where we had a very enjoyable day."

**John Gittins** recalled being at another school in Worcester at the time: "We were sent back to classes - high tea - small break - evening prep, then to the dormitories. We were however given the day off the next day which included a service at the cathedral."

**Peter Valder** also referred to Prep School experiences: "Alas, I was still at prep school on VE day, and as it came upon us unexpectedly, I don't think anything happened, except that we were given a day off. The anniversary in 1946 meant more, in that we had a day when we were allowed to go home, which had far more impact."

**Michael Roberts** told us of his memory of the Chapel Service and Headmaster, David Walters' address: "Once we had attended Chapel where DJW announced the good and tremendous news, I was fourteen and I imagined that there would be no more addresses by Walters informing the congregation at daily Chapel that yet another OB had been killed. In his statement a two-day holiday was announced commencing straight away. So a quick walk to the bus stop... I was on my way with one or two local boys, excited yes as people were joyous, full of smiles and laughing."

The build up to the end of the war was remembered by **David Idwal Jones**: "Not quite VE Day (9 months before) but I have a distinct memory of my Mother sending me across the lawn to give my Grandmother the message "The Allies have taken Paris", I had no idea what my message meant!"

**Mike Perkins** was the first in his household to hear the news and recalls, "I was fiddling with the dial on our Radio when at about 3pm on the fateful day I picked up a scratchy broadcast which seemed to be saying that the War in Europe was over. I told my parents but they said I must have got it wrong. Nevertheless, I rushed out into the High Street yelling the 'news'."

The end of the blackout was a common theme in the memories sent in by Old Bromsgrovians. **Tim Powell** recalled spending VE Day with parents at his grandmother's house in Leamington Spa, "The Jephson Gardens were all lit up in the evening. It was the first time that I saw floodlights on that evening as everything was blacked out prior to then."

**Philip Hill** commented on what his School experience of the end of blackout meant for him: "I do recall I had been doing a blackout check after dark, making sure there were no lights showing."

Bonfires and street parties were also recalled. **John Hitchon** wrote, "Although I was only three and a half on VE Day, I remember it well. After years of blackout, the street went wild with excitement and lit a huge bonfire in the middle of the road. The heat was so fierce that I vividly remember the paint on the nearest house to the bonfire being blistered."

**Bob Cook** recalled, "My memory of the day before VE Day was seeing the enormous bonfire that had been erected on the Clent Hills. Even before its ignition, the pyramidal construction was an awe-inspiring sight. As a 15-year-old, my abiding memory of VE night was of the fierce heat of the fire and its unforgettable sound, light and smell; a beacon of wood and tar. The atmosphere of jubilation was tempered by the worry that we still had to win the war in Japan."

Some OBs were in different parts of the country. **Glen Smith** shared his memory of VE Day in London: "On VE Day they drove the family car, a Ford Prefect, to the London Embankment, at the time I was seven. Having parked there we made our way through to Trafalgar Square, I was hoisted by members of the crowd up onto the back of one of the lions, from where I had an incredible view of the crowds of people celebrating."

**Peter Hales** shared his VE Day memory spent in Wales: "I was at home in Llangynidr. My parents had arranged to meet in the local Pub. Many American troops were there and they invited many back to our house for lunch. They were very grateful and wished to buy many drinks. I cycled home but then went to bed. I still remember the room circulating."

**Harry Shirley's** rather sobering account of his train journey on VE Day from Bromsgrove School to Rugby via Coventry gave an insight into the devastation of the bomb damage: "The Chapel Service was the only celebration at Bromsgrove but we were all excited at the thought of going home to celebrate. My Father was an officer in the RAF and, unfortunately, my home at that time was in Inverness. Luckily, I had made friends with John M. B. Cawood, whose Father was also in the Services. John kindly invited me to come with him to his home in Rugby. We caught the train from Bromsgrove to Birmingham and from there to Rugby. The train stopped for a few minutes at Coventry so I jumped off to have a look at the result of the "Blitz". The Station Building no longer existed. There were no buildings to be seen for hundreds of yards except for the remains of a couple of the Coventry Cathedral walls. I was absolutely shattered. I had seen the results of raids on Birmingham, and Glasgow and other towns but nothing like that. It is a memory that has stayed in my mind."

**Andrew Clark** described his memories as "not a 'bundle of fun' as his family were separated due to the war: "Family-wise, my elder brother, DJR Clark was already at Bromsgrove and my father, a GP, was still serving with the RAMC in Hamburg. Mother was working as an eye specialist with Coventry and North Warwick Eye Department and my sister was with an aunt in Berkhamstead."

Experiences from other parts of the world and how the war in the East was not yet over until August 1945 were also mentioned by several OBs.

One OB, **James Whittaker**, shared his family's experience of the War carrying on: "Whilst the U.K. celebrated VE Day on 8th May 1945, the war continued in the Far East. My mother, aged 22, and both her parents were interned by the Japanese in Stanley Camp, Hong Kong. My father, as a serving officer, was a POW imprisoned in a separate camp. They all survived until their freedom in August 1945."

**Hugh Furber** recalls, "I was a child of four and a half at the time and I have no memories of VE Day. However, I do have memories of VJ day on August 15th. This date is often overlooked as was the 14th Army (the forgotten army) in which Capt. Tom Moore served. For the first time, I was taken on holiday that August to Llanfairfechan by the sea. I remember the Union Flags and bunting. I had my first experience of a beach and a strong memory of a man walking out of the sea in his bathing trunks and having only one arm."

Thanks to the many Old Bromsgrovians who shared their VE Day memories and family experiences with us and to the members of CCF and other students who took time to commemorate the day with their thoughtful pieces of work. Old Bromsgrovian **Emrys Evans** completed our week long tweeting of memories, and his final statement sums up the feelings of many that were shared with us:

"Street parties were a big thing along with bonfires. It is a long time ago but the relief at war's end was genuine."

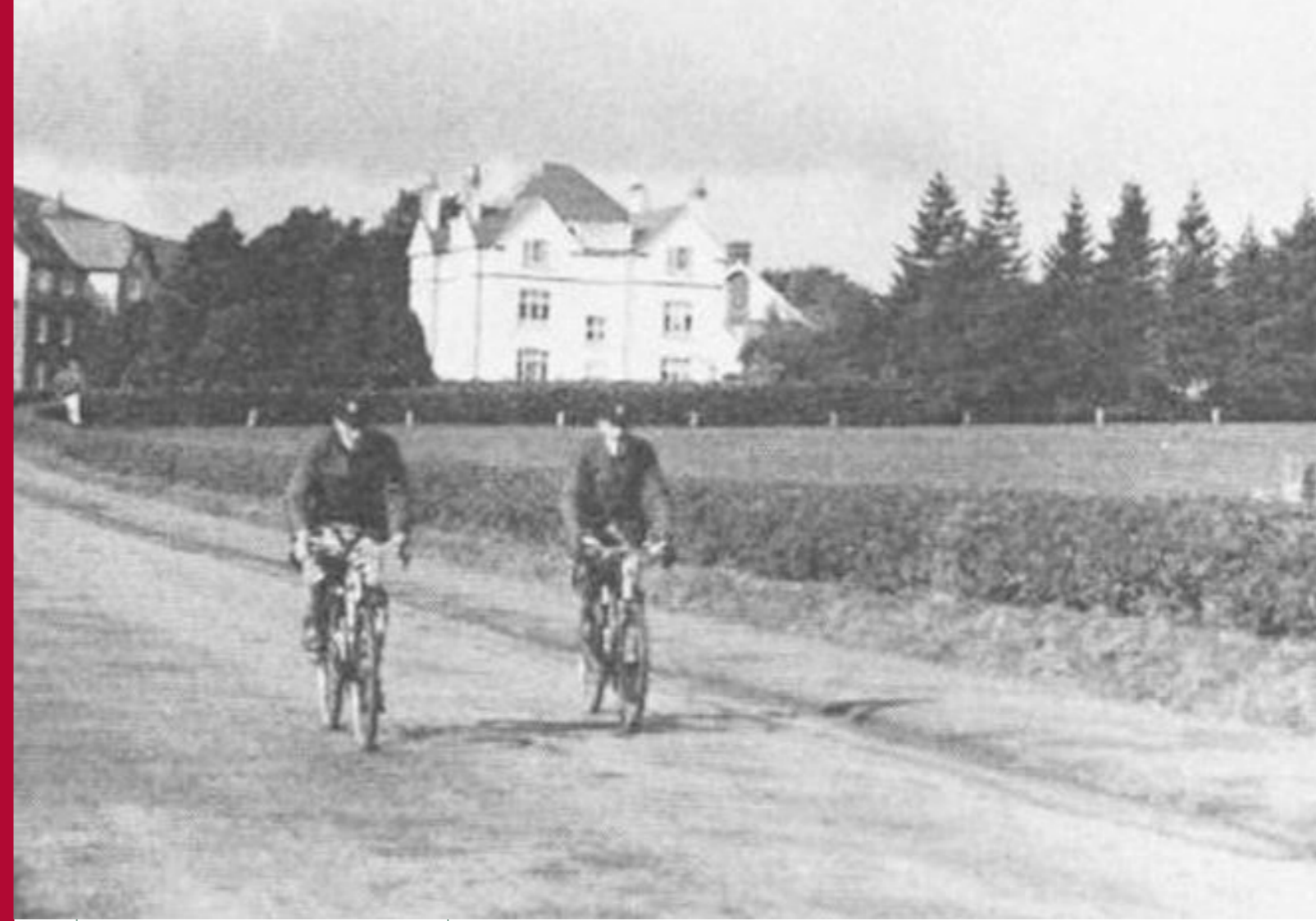
# Commemorative Cycle Ride

We were not able to hold our planned celebrations in Llanwrtyd Wells due to the COVID-19 restrictions, but some of our staff members dusted off their cycling helmets and set off for a ride with a difference.

Their aim was to cycle from Llanwrtyd Wells to Bromsgrove School to remember the time that we spent in the small Welsh town when the School was evacuated in WW2 and to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Preparatory School.

Fourteen cyclists took on the challenge, and four of those – Mr Riley, Mr Felton, Mr Holdsworth, and Mr Brinkley from Winterfold, decided to complete the 180-mile round trip.

Thank you to Mr Jones, Head of Boys' PE and Games at Bromsgrove Preparatory School for organising the event, and well done to all the cyclists who took part.



**SCOUTS**

It is always a source of satisfaction to see the Scout training justifying itself outside the Movement. The Scout has always made a point of good camping, and the success of the Forestry camp was largely due to the skilled work and organisation provided by members of our Crew and Troop. It was well worth giving up our summer camp in order to provide such help.

Since the Summer Term we have temporarily lost the invaluable help of Mr. Darby and Mr. Hornsey, but we are carrying on and relying more than ever on the Patrol Leaders. We have welcomed several recruits from the Junior School this Term, and so far have been largely concerned with Test work.

Every meeting except two this term has been in uniform - a sound scheme although a little draughty at times. To celebrate this we have now acquired Welsh Dragons which we hope to take back to Bromsgrove with us.

On Armistice Sunday we had a Scouts' Own in H.A. arranged by the P.L.s

Several of our Troop had a shot at Pathfinder Badge with Mr. Rhy. Davis but were referred back for further exploration as he expects a rather high standard in practical knowledge of the countryside than was expected.

We finished up the term with a Treasure Hunt and awarding of the Patrol Shields. The Otters won this from the Ravens by a shot head - their first trophy.

At the end of term, Last Term's Campers presented Mr & Mrs Davis with a Christmas present at Pen, Court, Uchaff.

Badges  
 Preece 2'0.  
 Preece Mrs. Iok



PL L.A.D. Harrod  
 Sec H.G. Burridge

no Smallwood  
 Harold B.F.D.

Hayler



PL J. Allen  
 Sec E. Bleischer

Albery

Turner

Goffitt

Went

Rees

Christmas  
 Term  
 1940



PL J. Bylands  
 Sec P.S. Jones

Kyle

Homes

P.J. Whitehouse

Hall

GSM  
 SM  
 ASM  
 HonSM

R. Morse



PL W.A. Thorne  
 Sec J.R.D. Spence

J. Thompson  
 R.F.V. Winship

Smith

Hicks

Gregory

# Our News to You

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE BROMSGROVIAN OFFICE.



## National Archives

We were delighted to welcome **Mike Rogers**, Sector Development Manager (Transport & Schools) from the National Archives for a sneak peek tour of our new Archive and Heritage Centre before it opened in the summer.

Mike was delighted with how the building looks and we cannot wait to show everyone more when Government restrictions allow.



## Class of 2020

A warm welcome to our most recent leavers, the **Class of 2020**, who we look forward to welcoming to OB events in the near future.

Usually, the Headmaster hands out an OB tie or label pin to each U6 leaver in a special ceremony during their final Routh Assembly, but with the enforced School closure, these items were posted to each Upper Sixth pupil instead.



## School Badge

Does anyone recognise this School badge?

We have received a request from a family in Australia who are trying to trace where one of their relatives was before coming to Bromsgrove School.

If you are able to help identify the School badge, please email our Archivist, Nikki Thorpe: [nthorpe@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:nthorpe@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)



## Graduation News

Happy Graduation to all our OBs who received their degree classification results over the Summer.

Do let us know what you are up to now, so we can include your news in the next Alumni magazine.

## Future Frontiers

**Katie Leather** (Prep School & Oakley 2003-2014) is a Programme Manager for Future Frontiers, a charity that works with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to transform their relationship with learning by supporting them with the guidance and networks they need to make clear connections between their aspirations and education.

Katie is asking for a few minutes of your time, and her message is below:

"We are always looking to expand our network of professionals, in any industry, and are building a bank of these contacts. Being part of this network is an opt-in process which you can sign up to here and, if you do, coaches on our programme will be able to contact you should they have a pupil who wants to find out more about your job."

"The pupils prepare questions with their coach in advance of the conversation, which would take place over 10-20 minutes in their final Future Frontiers session. It can take place in person or, more often, via a phone or video call and usually at some time between 12:00 and 15:00 on a weekday."

You can help out by:

1. Joining Future Frontiers' professional expert bank - [www.futurefrontiers.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.futurefrontiers.org.uk/get-involved)
2. Circulating the opportunity amongst your networks.

## #ThrowbackThursday

If you happen to be a regular follower of our social media accounts, you will probably know that we often post images for 'Throwback Thursday'. TBT, as it is often referred to, is an internet trend where users post nostalgic photos from various eras.

If you have any archive images or anecdotes relating to the School that we can use online, we'd love to hear from you - please email [Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) with the photograph, the year and a brief description.

## Vision 2020

Thank you to everyone who offered their support to the Prep School at the Vision 2020 careers event in February. The pupils gained lots from talking to OBs, parents and guests about their careers and it made them think about job sectors that they might not have considered before.



## School Shop

Who remembers the School Shop (or 'Binger' as it was known to some) during their time at Bromsgrove?

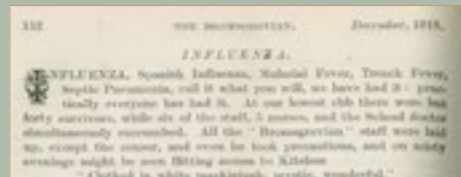


Our newly refurbished and expanded shop was opened during the Michaelmas Term.



## From the Archives...

What has been a challenging time from March to September of this last academic year has also presented opportunities in the world of School Archives, giving us time to reflect on past challenges in the School's history and the wider world. Obvious parallels with the Spanish Flu of 1918 and other serious influenza cases have been drawn and we were able to read how these illnesses caused disruption at School in the Bromsgrovian and Junior Bromsgrovian.



They provided inspiration to our students to reflect on their own experiences of a pandemic and see the importance of documenting their experiences for the School Archive for the future. From Liza Vasilyeva we had a poem about her uncertainty of the decision to leave Bromsgrove to go home during the pandemic. Her opening lines are a powerful reminder of the personal impact of the global incident.

*"Leaving Bromsgrove*

*the Spaniards announce their departure;  
Monday.*

*the air's taste sours*

*the prospect of change is painfully real."*

Further extracts of the poem can be read in the Bromsgrovian 2020.

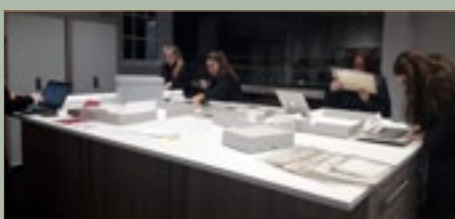
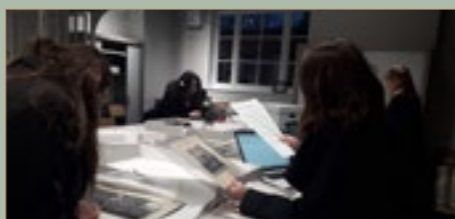
Interviews with boarding house staff and students are also part of our documenting of this period of time and will become part of our oral history archive.



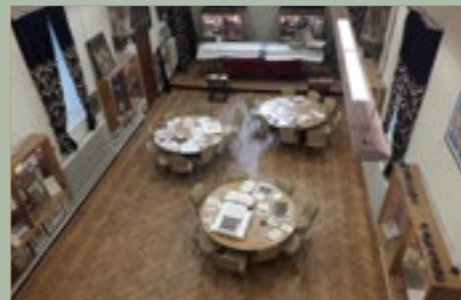
The Michaelmas and Lent Terms were spent in the preparation and move of archives from the Old Chapel to our new bespoke Archive and Heritage Centre in Big School.



Archive Club Students provided invaluable support with repackaging, organising and catalogue listing of the archives, finding new homes for items that previously had lived on dusty shelves and in cabinets. While there is still many more archives to list and catalogue, the students have made a great contribution to this and particularly Upper Sixth student, Ellen Kitchen who won the Bromsgrove Service award for her work in archive club over three years, much of it spent repackaging and listing items on the catalogue.



November 2019 was an excitingly busy month for us with the movement of our newly conserved Antarctic sledge to its bespoke cabinet in the heritage centre, our annual visit to Llanwrtyd Wells to remember the School's evacuation there in WW2 and the launch of Philip Bowen's book, *Bromsgrove School at War and in Wales 1939-1945*, with the accompanying archive exhibition, as well as, of course, the Year 8 and Lower Fourth workshops on Bromsgrove School WW1 archives for the now annual creative writing competition.



Archive Club students also curated an exhibition in the Headmaster's Dining Room on the 'Roaring 20s' as they uncovered from the archive, menus, theatre programmes, uniform, sports medals and even photographs of students to show how Bromsgrove School looked a hundred years ago.

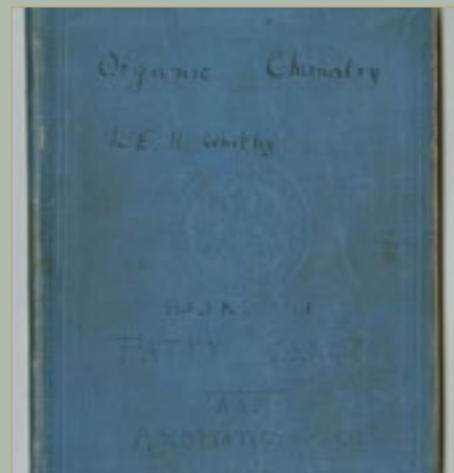


As always, what the exhibition demonstrated was the richness of material that the School Archive has and what a debt we owe to the donors and keepers of this material over hundreds of years. It is wonderful that we now have the Heritage Centre to display many of these items and show the development of Bromsgrove School across so many generations.



We have had some fantastic and timely donations from OBs, their families and former staff this year. Our Ottilie Hild Pre-Prep Collection has been added to by items donated by Mrs Sue Pickering, former Headmistress of Ottilie Hild and Bromsgrove Pre-Prep, enabling us to put another exhibition in the Headmaster's Dining Room to mark the opening of the new Day Girls' House at Bromsgrove, named after the Pre-Prep founder, this September.

We were delighted to receive a copy of the exhibition book about Old Bromsgrovian Sir Lionel Whitby who fought in WW1, had a leg amputated after injury and went on to form the Army Blood Transfusion Unit for WW2. An exhibition of his life was at Downing College, Cambridge earlier in the year and his grandson kindly sent us a copy of the accompanying book. We are so pleased to be back in touch with Whitby's family and will be sharing our archives relating to Lionel with them and in our heritage centre. We do have Lionel's Organic Chemistry note-book from 1911.



Our Digitisation programme has proved its worth this year, providing material to work on remotely so we can continue to respond to enquiries about the collections and commemorate important events such as VE Day 80 years ago, the much missed 2020 Commemoration Day and the anniversary of the opening of Bromsgrove Prep School in Llanwrtyd Wells eighty years ago, using our School records. The programme of digitisation will continue so we can preserve our most vulnerable records and so we can provide greater access to our archive collections to our whole School community. All of our digitised material will in time be online through Bromsgrovians Connected site, using the OB login. We are interested to find out if there are particular items OBs would like us to digitise for their own memories and research so please do let us know.

Nikki Thorpe  
School Archivist  
Tel: 01527 579679 ext 365  
nthorpe@bromsgrove-school.co.uk



With apologies to **Dr Mervyn Bramley OBE** (Wendron 1959-1964) for incorrectly listing his title and not including his Boarding House in last year's article.

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2019/20.

**Revd. J Michael Brierley**  
(School 1946-1949)  
d. 18th October 2019

Ordained Deacon – Trinity Sunday 1960

Priested – Trinity Sunday 1961

Both at Worcester Cathedral

Rev. Brierley ministered in four very different parishes in the Worcester Diocese and helped wherever he could, even through retirement. One of his interests was Church music and he wrote several new hymn tunes and anthems in the late 1950s and early 1960s. One such tune was Camberwell At the Name of Jesus, which became well known throughout the world. He achieved a BD (Bachelor of Divinity) in August 1970.

He leaves Ann to whom he was married for almost 60 years, sons John and Paul, six Grandchildren and seven Great Grandchildren.

- John Brierley (son)

**Colin Broomfield**  
(School 1974-1984)  
d. 1st February 2020

Colin James Bowen Broomfield died peacefully at home on 1st February 2020, aged 52. Fruit farmer and owner of Broomfield's Holt Heath. Adored by his family. The world is a poorer place as a result of his untimely death. He lived respected and died regretted.

A brilliant orator and a charismatic, kind and loving man who endeared himself to everyone.

**Andrew Cox**  
(School 1960-1966)  
d. 13th March 2020

Andrew was born in Evesham, and he and his brothers boarded at Hillstone Preparatory School in Great Malvern. In 1960 he came to Bromsgrove School and it was here that the seeds of the future extraordinary adventurer, keen sportsman and passionate Geographer were sown.

He enjoyed sport, music and drama, often taking to the stage to perform solos and lead dramatic roles. His abiding love of mountains and travel began at Bromsgrove where he was a founding member of the School's Expedition Club. He attended undergraduate lectures in the Sixth Form, enjoying lectures in Practical Geology at Aston University twice a week. Andrew was Head Boy and on his final day at school he was presented to the visiting Queen Mother, having been made a Queen's Scout.

In the summer of 1966, he went as a Volunteer Service Overseas student to teach English and Geography at Abeokuta Boys Grammar School in Nigeria. At the end of the first term he set off with two other volunteers, hitching lifts from lorries and finally reaching Timbuktu on New Year's Day 1967. During the course of the next two terms he also helped at weekends doing odd jobs at a nearby Leprosy Settlement, joining the patients for their Sunday services. The joy and enthusiasm of the patients as they sang was so wonderful that Andrew said it was something he would never forget. At every opportunity while in Nigeria he grabbed the chance to make journeys on his trusty Honda 50 motorbike. By June, the Biafran War had broken out and he was evacuated, along with other volunteers, because the forces from the east were rapidly advancing on Lagos.

On his return from Africa, he attended Aberdeen University. Most weekends were spent climbing in the Cairngorms, the Glen Nevis Range and in Sutherland; before he graduated, he had bagged fifty Munros. During university vacations, he worked as a volunteer with the National Trust, repairing the rooves of crofts on Fair Isle. He also worked with the International Voluntary Service constructing roads in the Atlas Mountains and in his last summer he spent two months in Israel working in a number of Kibbutzim.

After graduation, completed his Postgraduate Teacher Training and was awarded his Winter Mountain Leadership Certificate after intensive training in the Cairngorms.

Andrew taught at Repton School from 1976-2006. It was a job which he loved, becoming Head of Geography and later a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. His belief that classroom geography is greatly enhanced by field trips meant that generations of pupils benefited from his many overseas as well as local places of interest. He took field trips to Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, the USA and China. When granted a sabbatical by the Governors in 1989, he travelled overland from Kigali to Cape Town. He also organised major school expeditions to Tanzania, Morocco, the Indian Himalayas and the Peruvian Andes.

A great sports enthusiast, he coached cricket, hockey and rugby. He was also very involved in the CCF, attending fifty army camps and organised many long-distance walks including the Coast to Coast and the West Highland Way.

He and Joan headed to North Berwick, just round the coast from Edinburgh. Travels continued to New Zealand, South Africa, the Baltic, Iceland as well as many walking holidays in the Alps and the Inner and Outer Hebrides.

Andrew held a sincere and active Christian faith. He was very involved in the life of St Andrew's Blackadder church as well as the wider community of North Berwick. He led heartily from the back in two local

choirs with his not insignificant bass voice. In the garden, he strove prodigiously for the perfect lawn, but generally threw this obsession out of the window if it meant getting out the cricket stumps.

He loved the role of grandfather to his four precious grandchildren, supporting them from the touchline or the boundary.

Sustained by his faith, he died peacefully in his local Cottage Hospital on Friday, 13th March 2020, a day described in The Times as 'The Day Sport Fell Silent'. Andrew was, as ever, the meticulous timekeeper.

- Joan Cox (wife) and daughters, Emma and Jennie.

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2019/20.

**Ian Grant Fraser**  
(Gordon 1953-1956)  
d. 28th January 2019



On 28th January 2019, Ian Grant Fraser (class of 1956) went to be with the Lord. Not a perfect man, but a great man. His character, manners, sense of decency were founded in a strong Christian faith and moulded by a bygone era swept away by the two devastating and unnecessary World Wars. He trusted in a man's word and a handshake was all that was required.

Educated at Bromsgrove, he loved his school days excelling at sport, and singing. He remained an extremely proud Old Boy and could not be more impressed with how the school has grown and developed over the last sixty odd years. He formed strong friendships at school that lasted his lifetime, and took pleasure in the success of others. Sent out to the colonies at 18, he arrived in South Africa on the 28 February 1957 aboard the Stirling Castle. The news of his father's passing, just weeks after he had arrived in Cape Town was a shattering blow. Very active in United Party Youth with Sir de Villiers Graaf, all things community were my father's point of interest. A passionate climber, dad loved God's creation and in South Africa his Scottish highland roots enjoyed it in full measure. His greatest passion was music, in particular oratorio, and

became one of the top soloists in Cape Town during the 1960's. As a member of "The Companions" he featured regularly on radio singing the backing to commercials. He remained a member of the excellent 'Cape Town Philharmonic Choir' to his dying day - Handel's unsurpassed 'Messiah' being his most beloved work to perform.

Without a tertiary education, my father achieved a great deal in business before his unexpected retrenchment in 1984, which hit the family hard. Prior to that, he excelled as right hand man, and was intimately involved in establishing several of the premier coastal town developments in South Africa. He ended up as a director of some 20 companies / sub companies, dealings with the full spectrum of society from cabinet ministers and movie stars, to industry leaders, and many humble but comparatively regal co-workers. It came with the associated stresses and frequent gymnastics required to hold onto ones integrity, 1 Corinthians 15:33 ESV.

My father dodged more than one near miss; the most notable of which was when he was sent to Ex Mouth to 'escape' the blitz in Birmingham. The reprisal attack for the bombing of Cologne Cathedral targeted Exeter cathedral. The result was that a bomb literally went through the roof of the house they were staying in but did not explode. In a crisis, when you just could not take another step; dad would step in - calm, considered, consistent, and persistent. His persistence made him brilliant with Details and fact finding, not even the most slothful and reclusive civil servant could hide from his inquiries for long. My dad was late for EVERYTHING, except for heaven.

He LOVED to laugh and remained a relationship healer all of his life. Dad's greatest loss and sadness was losing his marriage. The week before his operation he expressed at pains how much he loved his grandchildren: "I so want to see them grow older, I haven't had enough of them..." (looking forlornly

after the briefest of pauses, continued) one never does". He never gave up hope, never gave in to despair, he held to the faith right to the very end. My Mom remained the love of his life; my sister the apple of his eye.



The three operations in as many years took their toll and he became very frail following the second aneurism operation. Paralysed suddenly two weeks to the day before his passing, the future did not look promising but he remained resolved to fight to recover and stay with us and we had some wonderful moments. He took the grim diagnosis of his condition with utter dignity and resolve. He fought to the end, receiving his last rights' three times. For us it makes this great sad loss a celebration and less woeful because we know Jesus received him with open arms and he had nothing to fear. Renewed, restored, perfect with his angelic voice. He is survived by a son, daughter-in-law, daughter, and five beautiful grandchildren. One of the last pleasures he enjoyed in hospital was a good shave. I was five minutes late for his passing.

- Rowen Fraser

**Bernard Hall-Mancey**  
(Former Academic Staff)  
d. 2nd April 2020



Bernard was born in September 1942, and his formative years were spent at Early Grammar School, near Reading, and it was while at sixth form that his love of music developed fully. He went on to graduate from the Royal College of Music as an Associate with an ARCM diploma, as well as holding the GRSM qualification. This provided Bernard with a high level honours degree in music and he also graduated to be an Associate of the Royal College of Organists. During weekends, he would travel back from London to Reading to support local music organisations and in his final year, he took up the temporary post of choir master and organist for Trinity Methodist Church.

After attaining his degree, Bernard went on to Birmingham University where he gained his DipEd teaching qualification. His first job as a music teacher was at Fitzharrys School in Abingdon in 1965. The following year, he moved to Abingdon School where he created the junior choral society and brought them up to a particularly high standard. He also ran the senior orchestra and as the school was linked with St Helen's church, Bernard was also the choir master and organist at the church. In 1968, a service with Bernard conducting was broadcast from St Helen's on Radio 4. Using his considerable music talents, he formed the Corallian Singers group which received rave reviews. It is also worthy of note that during this period Bernard had two major operations on his knee, resulting in months of considerable pain. This would normally be hard enough to bear, but one can only imagine how painful it must have been for him as an organist.

In 1972, Bernard took up the post of Director of Music at Hinchbrook School. It was during this time that he also received tuition in conducting from Sir Adrian Boult, whom he had met during his studies at the RCM, which would hold him in good stead throughout his life. He used his skills to conduct the Huntingdonshire Choral Society and Orchestra, as well as serving as a committee member on the Huntingdonshire Music Society. A particular high note in 1973 was Bernard's appearance as the conductor and choir master of the first trial of a new format for the TV programme, *Songs of Praise*, from Godmanchester. Bernard ensured that the trial was a success, which led to it being commissioned in full by the BBC to be presented in the programme format we know today.

In 1975, Bernard moved to Bromsgrove School as Director of Music. Bernard created opportunities for all pupils and parents to sing in choral works in a very 'inclusive' School society, open to all. He often spoke about pupils he met later in life who said the experience of being able to take part in singing sparked a love of music in them and in some cases caused their lives to go in a different direction.

During this period, he was also the conductor of the Brierley Hill Choral Society and many members remember him as a clear and courteous conductor with plenty of anecdotes to keep the musicians focused and 'on message'.

During summer holidays, he was an examiner for the Associated Board. Following his departure from Bromsgrove in 1987, Bernard became a full-time examiner. He relished his trips abroad, not only helping thousands of children to develop their music skills and qualifications but making friends wherever he went. Many remember him as cutting a very distinguished figure with smart jet black hair and neat beard. Eventually he became a co-ordinator for the Board and, before retiring, was involved in training ABRSM examiners as part of a scheme that ran in the 1990s. He would spend many hours regaling all of his hilarious stories and experiences whilst working overseas.

Bernard gained a great deal of satisfaction in giving back through the generosity of his time, experience and knowledge. In later years, he gave freely of his time to help at Bromsgrove School. He adjudicated brilliantly for numerous music competitions and accompanied staff and students on many cathedral trips with the Chapel Choir. Bernard was also hugely supportive of the orchestral and chamber concerts. Many of the students appreciated being able to seek his advice and thoughts at the end of these concerts and trips.

Bernard also remained actively engaged in music within his local community and was committed to helping musical youngsters. He was a very enthusiastic supporter of the orchestra at St John's Church in Bromsgrove and joined their organising committee as a valued and hugely knowledgeable contributor. He also assisted the David Morgan Trust, a body set up to help young musicians in the Bromsgrove and Worcester area and he was also the secretary, right up until his untimely passing, of Bromsgrove Concerts.

His love of music has inspired the many thousands of students he has taught over his lifetime. He was a fanatical fan of Edward Elgar and took great solace from listening to his music.

Above all, Bernard was one of the kindest and most generous people you could wish to meet. He got along with everyone, no matter their station in life, and had the ability to light up a room with his wit and anecdotes, often accompanied by hilarious impressions. He was adored and loved by his daughters Susan and Gillian, their husbands Elliot and Mark, his wider family and especially his grandchildren - Tom, Eleanor, Edward, Robyn and George - his wide circle of friends and numerous past students, many of whom had stayed in touch with Bernard some 40 years after being taught by him. He is very much missed by all who knew him and the world has lost a true gentleman.

- Elliot Rose (son-in-law)



# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2019/20.

## The Revd Peter Hammersley (Wendron 1949-1954) d. 9th June 2020

*Reproduced from an article published in the Church Times, written by The Revd John Watkins.*

The Revd Peter Angus Ragsdale Hammersley died at home in Tarrington, Herefordshire, on 9 June, aged 84. With him were his wife, Peggy, and their two sons, Andy and Nick.

Peter was part of a Worcestershire family that had founded E. R. Hammersley, a successful firm of men's clothing manufacturers. From Bromsgrove School, he gained a place at Jesus College, Oxford, to read Classics. It was not for any lack of academic ability that his time at Oxford was curtailed, but it became clear to him and to everybody else that he wasn't actually doing much work, and so he undertook National Service. He trained for a commission at Eton Hall, joined the Worcester-shire Regiment, went on second-ment to Africa, and then finished his time in the forces with the SAS.

It was possibly his easy way with people rather than being part of a fighting force which accounted for his success. In his self-deprecating way, Peter told the story of how, after parachute drops, his task was to gather up the troops and lead them forth. This it seems did not always work particularly well and even-tu-ally it was the sergeant who advised him: "When you land, sir, stay right where you are, and we'll come and find you."

At the end of his commission, Peter chose not to join the family clothing firm, but moved, with Peggy, to Zambia, where he took up a senior job in a textile firm. It was during his time in Africa, in par-ticular in Ndola Cathedral, where he led some services, that his sense of vocation bubbled up; he had spoken lightly of ordination before joining the army. Peter described how he tired of balance sheets and "the bottom line", and came to see with a new clarity that what really mattered were the people in the whole opera-tion, all those around him.

Before he could take up a place at Lincoln Theological College, he struggled to be taken seriously by ACCM; he was appalled by how many obstacles seemed to be put in the way of an applicant from Africa. Eventually, he arrived at a selection conference and, before registering, he went to gather himself together at the local hostelry. He fell into con-versation with another customer; only later did he discover that his drinking companion was one of the selectors. On hearing this story, none of us were surprised that it all worked out so well. Spending only a short time with Peter could seriously affect one's thoughts.

His ministry began in Stafford, before he took up a post in working-class parish in West Bromwich. From there, in 1988, he became Vicar of Streetly, not too far away, but a rather stark contrast. He also served as Rural Dean of Walsall. Among his experiences was becom-ing the training incumbent to a certain Giles Fraser. Peter, it seems, was carefully selected, prepared, and warned by the College Principal. The biggest challenge, reportedly, was not to educate his curate with regard to doctrine, but to give him serious advice on matters more sartorial.

The last six years of Peter's licensed ministry were in group of rural parishes in Herefordshire, where he was an assistant curate in the Ledbury Team Ministry. This was an entirely deliberate move to remain in parish ministry; he could have easily followed a more glitter-ing path, but he was never in any doubt about what mattered to him, those around him.

There would be very few who would not find his services deeply moving: there were no wasted words, and it all added together to finish up much more than the sum of its parts. He never used notes when preaching; he might have tried to give the impression that he had come up with his words while walk-ing up the church path, but his congregations came to know that it would all have been well thought out in the gardening moments. Gardening was the great relaxation, along with Mahler, family, friends, and his study of the Peninsular Wars.

Peter had an extraordinary ability to make all the people he met feel special. He energised a parish in such a way that people wanted to make their contribution, whether that was to arrange flowers, look after the church accounts, or offer themselves for ordination.

In Tarrington, the village where he and Peggy had lived for 20 years, there were few who didn't know him. He moved so easily among people from diverse backgrounds that all those who met him, church-goers or not, would feel that they had a unique connection.

Peter had been receiving treatment for myeloma for some several years. Each time it looked as if the treatment choices had come to an end, there would be just one last thing available, and he would have a year or two more.

The service at the Hereford Crematorium was conducted by his friend, Prebendary Nicola Seabright. She reflected on how Peter saw in all people the image of the God who had created him. The assistant cur-ate referred to Peter's firm belief in the ministry of humour. Having asked Peter for advice on projector screens in church, and the current guidance involving the use of these, not hymn books or service sheets, and a screen over the coffin, the curate pronounced Peter's response: "Not over my dead body."

- The Revd John Watkins

## Colin Rawson Hill (Gordon 1956-1962) d. 3rd June 2020

Colin sadly passed away after a short stay in hospital. He had recently moved to Sunrise care home in Shirley as the Alzheimer's he'd been suffering from for the last ten years progressed. Until then he had been living independently in Broadway thanks to enormous family support.

In 1952, aged 8, he couldn't wait to join his two older brothers, Norman and Keith, at Bromsgrove. First at the old Prep School (Oakley) then moving up to the Senior School. He became a school monitor and head of Gordon House. He captained the Hockey 1st X1, played Rugby for the 1st XV and captained the 2nd X1 Cricket. On leaving school he studied horticulture at Pershore College.

In 1967 he joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish as an advisor. This took him to Taunton where he played for the 1st XV at Taunton Rugby Club. He moved to Sleaford, then Luddington. He was a founder member of Spartans RUFC in Sutton Coldfield, which was formed originally from Old Bromsgrovians.

In 1977, he opened Hill's Nurseries in Wickhamford near Broadway which he ran until his retirement. Colin was Chairman of the Wickhamford Gardening Club for many years. The Gardening Society was a big part of his life and he was a respected member until only a few months ago.

Despite being very popular with the opposite sex, he remained a bachelor. He was much loved and will be greatly missed by his two brothers, all their families and his many friends.

- Keith Hill

## Joanna Keeble d. 21st March 2020

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Joanna Keeble, wife of the late Hugh Keeble (Housemaster of Abernant during the School's time in Llanwrtyd Wells and of Gordon House back at Bromsgrove). Joanna passed away peacefully at home on 21st March 2020 aged 100.

## Dr Jeffrey Lewins (Former Governor) d. 23rd August 2019

Dr Jeffery Lewins (1985), died on Friday, 23rd August 2019 in hospital. He had been ill for some time, but he suffered a stroke on Wednesday from which he did not recover.

Jeffery joined Magdalene after a distinguished career in the University of London. After Sandhurst (where he was awarded the Gold Medal), he held a commission in the Royal Engineers, serving in Korea, Germany and Scotland. While in the army, he studied Mechanical Science at Cambridge and then gained his PhD in Nuclear Engineering at MIT. Later he gained a further PhD from Cambridge and a London DSc (Eng). His work was in the application and interpretation of mathematical methods to nuclear power problems and he published many books and articles in this field, becoming editor of several prestigious academic series and serving as President of the Institute of Nuclear Engineers.

After leaving the military, he took up a post as the first Warden of Hughes Parry Hall and as a lecturer in the University of London in 1968. Jeffery joined Magdalene College and took on many roles within the College including a memorable stint as Praelector. After retirement, he became a Life Fellow.

- Compiled and published by Magdalene College, Cambridge

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2019/20.

**Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith**  
(School 1964-1968)  
d. 8th August 2020

*Reprinted from the Wye & Usk Foundation website, as requested by the Marsh-Smith family.*

Stephen leaves a long-lasting legacy to the Wye & Usk Foundation as well as to the rivers trust and environmental movement. In 1995, it was he, along with other river Wye owners, who came together to take on the problems facing the rivers and specifically, their Atlantic salmon, giving up a successful dentistry career in the process. It was his determination, ambition, innovation and relentless energy that was essential in Stephen signing the agreement to buy off the estuary nets in 2000, setting up our organisation and for driving improvements for rivers and fish. His ethos of getting things done will always be the basis of how the Wye & Usk Foundation operates.

In 2011, Stephen was awarded an OBE for services to the environment and conservation of the Wye and Usk. Five years later, he stepped down as our Chief Executive to become the head of Afonydd Cymru, the umbrella organisation for Welsh rivers trusts. However, he still retained an important role as Advisory Director, representing the Wye & Usk Foundation at ministerial level and guiding its staff and trustees with his wealth of experience and expertise.

An avid salmon angler, Stephen lived life to the full. In his youth, he was a member of the England international fly fishing team, although he always gave the impression he would have much preferred to represent Wales.

His immense presence will be very much missed by all those who knew and worked with him. To many, it will be of no surprise to hear that up until a couple of days before his death, Stephen was still working from his hospital bed, designing fish passes and writing his monthly salmon fishing report. If any testament to his dedication to the rivers was needed, this was it.

**Dick Noake**  
(Elmshurst 1959-1964,  
Former Governor and  
Foundation Trustee)  
d. 21st April 2020



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Dick Noake (Elmshurst 1959-1964, Former Governor and Foundation Trustee) during lockdown on 21st April 2020. We take some comfort knowing that he was with his wife, Helen and children, James and Rebecca, at home.

Dick left the School in the same year (1964) that R.G. Routh (former Headmaster) died. Routh was the true embodiment of a Bromsgrovian – loyal, disciplined and faithful to the School, and a visionary for the future. The same can be said for Dick, one of our most loyal and devoted OBs – as School boy, parent, Governor, Trustee and latterly as Chairman of our own Foundation, his commitment to Bromsgrove was unparalleled.

He was an Endowment Trustee, joining in 1996, and when the School was incorporated as a limited company in June 2003, Dick came on board as one of our original Governors. He retired from the Board in 2015 after 21 years' service to the School. As Chairman of the Foundation, he drove forward events, regularly hosting the popular Foundation Lecture at his club in London, and was an early pioneer of the life-changing bursaries scheme for children who would ordinarily not be able to attend the School. When he resigned as Foundation Chairman in 2016, the trustees lost a true leader and friend.

As a School boy, Dick was captain of swimming, a member of the water polo and 1st VIII shooting teams, Hon. Sec of the Golf Club and VP of the Debating Society, 1963 and 1964. He was a member of the Choir throughout his career at Bromsgrove, made it to the rank of Corporal in the CCF and, upon leaving the School, received an English Speaking Union Scholarship to America. Dick was House Monitor in his beloved Elmshurst and received the Milliken-Smith Cup. The Drama Review of 1964, his final year, talks of the "Dick Noake Combo", a group of three students who made popular appearances on stage to, we are sure, rapturous applause.

The Executive team know that they echo the sentiments of all in the School family, past and present, in expressing their deep sadness at the loss of a great servant to the School, who supported our every endeavour with wisdom, passion and endearing humility.

**Alfred Norman Piddock**  
(Wendron 1930-1934)  
d. 5th December 2019

Probably one of Bromsgrove's older alumni, Norman died at the age of 103, having led a very full and, indeed, fulfilled life.

Norman was born on 28th August 1916 in Kingswinford, where he grew up with his mother, father and two older brothers, Geoffrey and Hurley. The Piddocks were already a well-established family in the village, having both a clothing shop and manufacturing facility there.

In 1930, he followed his brothers to Bromsgrove School, where his musical talents developed, often playing the piano in concerts together with his brother, Hurley. He was also a keen athlete and enjoyed his initial taste of military matters in the school cadet force.

On leaving Bromsgrove, he went to the School of Dress Design in Handsworth in preparation for starting work in the family clothing business. However, his career in the family firm was soon interrupted by the outbreak of war.

He joined the army, serving in the Royal Artillery from 1940. When the army first got the idea of putting aeroplanes up (Air Observation Posts) to see where the artillery shells were landing, he was one of the first to volunteer. This was not a job for the faint-hearted, as attrition rates were high, often as a result of friendly fire. He landed in Normandy on D-Day plus 3 and went on through Belgium and Holland, eventually reaching Kiel in Germany.

On returning home, he had to work hard to re-establish the family business, which had ceased to trade during the war, and to re-connect with the work force which had been decimated by the demands of munitions factories and other wartime activities, but, with his customary determination, this was achieved.

In 1949, Norman married his wife, Dorothy, thereby also acquiring two young step-children whom he always treated as his own. He and Dorothy went on to have a further four children.

Norman worked hard to support to support the family. He expanded the factory in Wordsley. Over the years, fashion knitwear gave way to school knitwear, Bromsgrove being amongst his customers.

He loved his work, but nevertheless still found time to spend hours with the other love of his life – his magnificent garden. He was also a keen long-term supporter of the Brierley Hill Concert Society, Wordsley Community Centre, the Dudley Piano Festival and the Church.

He finally retired in 1995 aged 79! He and Dorothy went on to pass many milestones and had been together for 66 years when she died in in 2015. Her death in 2015 came as a serious blow to him, but he remained determined to stay in the family home they had created together.

His death marked the end of the Piddock presence in Kingswinford and he will be greatly missed.

- Anthony Hopkins (brother)

**Peter Simpkins**  
(School 1953-1956)  
d. 15th September 2019

Peter Simpkins died at Beaconsfield Tower Nursing Home, Ramsey, in his 87th year. He passed away after a long illness borne with exceptional courage and dignity.

Elder son of the late Mr and Mrs F.D Simpkins, J P S Breweries Ltd, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire. Former husband and friend to Jo. Loving father to Guy and his partner Debbie, daughter Zelda and her husband Stewart. Proud grandfather of Spencer, Luke and Samuel Footer.

With gratitude to the Health Service of the Isle of Man, in particular the staff of Beaconsfield Tower Nursing Home, Ramsey, who gave unstinting care to Peter during his last years. The Funeral Service was held on Friday, 27th September 2019 at Jurby Parish Church, followed by cremation at Douglas Borough Crematorium.

- Published in Isle of Man Today on 19/09/2019 and sent in by his daughter

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2019/20.

**John Thomas**  
(Former Groundsman)  
d. 17th May 2020



We are sad to report the death of John Thomas who was Head Groundsman at the Preparatory School for twenty years before his retirement in 2007. Often to be seen chatting to pupils, parents and staff his practical skills and willingness to help were much appreciated by all. Coming from a family of nine his early years were spent working on a farm in Welshpool and when the family moved to the Midlands John's successful application to join the School's ground staff led to him being based at the Prep School.

In retirement kidney failure complications and dialysis three times a week severely restricted his life but he remained cheerful and positive to the end. His funeral was held in Westall Park, a natural burial site set amid the trees, where a small gathering of friends and family paid tribute to a friendly and outgoing man. Jim Page (Headmaster of the Prep School 1982-1989) represented the School.

- Jim Page

Old Bromsgrovians who also died in 2019/20:

Mike Buswell (School 1950-1955)  
d. 1st May 2020

Janet Cerrone (Former Staff 1974-2004 –  
Housekeeping Department)  
d. 4th April 2020

Brian Cox (Elmshurst 1942-1944)  
d. 24th November 2019

Nick Franklin (Wendron 1962-1966)  
d. 16th August 2020

Andrew Gotla (School 1958-1963)  
d. April 2019

John Holyoak (School 1937-1940)  
d. 19 February 2020

W.B. Lancaster (Former Academic Staff)  
d. March 2020

James Leek (Elmshurst 1957-1962)  
d. 6 April 2020

Dr Jo May (née Ogston,  
Academic Staff 2008-2016)  
d. November 2019

Julie Mihailovic (Catering Department)

Tolu Mumuni (Lupton 1980-1981)  
d. 9 February 2020

David Paul (Gordon 1938-1942)  
d. 18 May 2020

Anthony Walters (School 1952-1955)  
d. 5 March 2020



# The Foundation

THANKING OUR DONORS, LEGACY MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS.

## Appreciation Lunch

Unfortunately, due to the School closure imposed by the Government, we were unable to hold our annual Appreciation Lunch during the 2019/20 academic year. We hope to be able to welcome back our donors and legacy society members next year if COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed.

Would you like to know more about the Foundation?

Email:  
foundation@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Post: Bromsgrove School Foundation,  
Worcester Road, Bromsgrove,  
Worcestershire, B61 7DU

## 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 legacy board listing those who have made bequests over the years will be erected around the School.

If anyone is interested in making a gift in their will to Bromsgrove, please contact the Foundation Office:  
foundation@bromsgrove-school.co.uk or telephone 01527 579679 ext 366.



## An opportunity to own a limited edition print of the historic quarter of Bromsgrove School

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a limited edition print so far. If you haven't managed to get your hands on one yet, there is still some time - do not miss out on your opportunity to own one of these stunning prints depicting the historic quarter of Bromsgrove School (painted in 1884).

Beautifully capturing the scene of 135 years ago, this one-off print is from an original painting by the Birmingham artist Walter Reeves - depicting Hazeldene and Cookes House (the then Headmaster's house), Big School and the old School Chapel (once the drama studio).

With the original painting having recently been donated back to the School after an absence of nearly fifty years, the Foundation has commissioned 500 high-quality prints - and this is your opportunity to own a rare souvenir of your time at Bromsgrove.

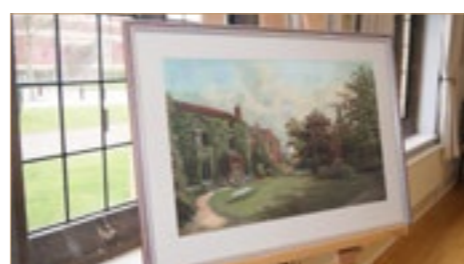
Perhaps your nostalgia will be stirred by your memories of time spent at School, Cookes or Hazeldene Houses? Or for those whose love of art, drama and the humanities/literature was kindled in one of the buildings shown?

Or maybe you are one of the School's eldermen who is able to recall running along the famous tunnel that lies out of sight, underneath the centre of the scene whose origin and reason for construction dates from the time the painting was commissioned.

By claiming one of just 500 available, you will not only have your own special memento of Bromsgrove School, but you will be making a most worthwhile contribution to the Foundation. Since its inception in 2007, the Bromsgrove Foundation's foremost objective is to provide life-changing bursaries to current and future pupils who are in need and determined to succeed against all odds.

Each limited edition print is numbered and signed by Headmaster, Peter Clague and accompanied by a history of the buildings by former Deputy Headmaster, Philip Bowen. For those who are keen to have the very first print (1/500), there will be an opportunity to bid for it in an online auction later in the year.

By visiting our online shop at [www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/categories](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/categories), you can purchase your print at a modest £135 for a mounted but unframed edition, or £185 for a mounted and framed print (plus p&p or free collection from the School).



All funds raised from the sale of these prints will be donated to Bromsgrove School Foundation to provide life-changing bursaries to those who would not otherwise afford to come to the School.

Once your order has been received, we will contact you to confirm the method of delivery (courier or collection from School) and let you know when it is ready. But be quick - once the 500th print has been sold, there will be no more.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for a most worthy cause.

# Donor Roll

THANKING OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 2019/20.

(GIFTS RECEIVED FROM SEPTEMBER 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2020)

## Cookes

John Adkins (1959-1966)  
Julian Blount (1964-1969)  
John Butler (1971-1974)  
Ian Clements (1964-1969)  
Nigel Clements (1964-1969)  
Kim Daniels (1960-1965)  
Philip Dawson (1962-1969)  
Gareth Doyle (1963-1968)  
Matthew Horton (1962-1967)  
Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham (1969-1974)  
Alex Kay (1967-1970)  
John Moody (1963-1968)  
Paul Ormerod (1964-1969)  
Clive Parkes (1966-1971)  
Nick Pearson (1971-1975)  
Adrian Powell (1967-1972)  
Ian Sanders (1961-1966)  
Nigel Sherwood (1966-1970)  
Martin Smith (1961-1965)  
Charles Sowden (1962-1967)  
Matthew Taylor (1968-1973, Chairman of the Foundation)  
Ian Yates (1966-1969)

## Elmshurst

Andrew Bagshaw (2000-2005)  
Andy Beadsworth (1979-1985)  
Sandy Blair (1959-1963)  
David Cory (1957-1962)  
Bernd Dittmann (1997-1999)  
Adrian Drewry (1980-1985)  
Jonny Ellis (1988-1993)  
Hugh Furber (1952-1957)  
Richard Grindal (1959-1964)  
Philip Hall (1972-1977)  
Philip Hobson (1948-1952)  
Michael Jones (1970-1975)  
Victor Matts (1963-1973)  
Rob Marshall (1986-1991)  
Nick Pearson (1971-1975)  
Greville Rossiter (1961-1966)  
John Ruck (1950-1953)  
Philip Shaw (1963-1969)  
Chris Warfield (1975-1980)  
Topper Webb (1972-1973)

## Gordon

Colin Butterworth (1962-1965)  
Robert Collins (1962-1967)  
Edward Dowler (1960-1965)  
Barry Dumughn (1950-1955)  
Gordon Harvey (1957-1961)  
Keith Hill (1954-1959)  
Jeremy Hilton (1950-1955)  
Clive Gummow (1952-1957)  
John Illsley (1963-1967)  
Julian Jenkins (1966-1971)  
Steven Jordan (1964-1969)

## Gordon

William Jordan (1966-1972)  
Stefan Law (1960-1964)  
Nevil Malin (1948-1953)  
Hugh Mason (1960-1966)  
Christopher Noble (1964-1969)  
John Palmer (1965-1970)  
Graham Sim (1969-1974)  
Charles Sowden (1962-1967)  
Tony Spackman (1944-1949)  
John Vine (1945-1955)

## Hazeldene

Emily Coleman (2012-2017)  
Kara Doyle (2001-2017)  
Lucia Evans (2017-2019)  
Harriet Goucher (2011-2016)  
Sasha Johnston (2006-2017)  
Claire Lawson (1990-1995)  
Sophie Spurgin (2002-2010)

## Housman Hall

Abbah Abbah (2015-2017)  
Hannah Brock (2017-2019)  
Haotian Cui (2015-2017)  
Robyn Davies (2016-2018)  
Paolo Romanengo (2017-2019)

## Lupton

John Barnes (1966-1971)  
Will Bolton (2000-2010)  
Richard Brookes (1961-1965)  
Kim Daniels (1960-1965)  
Frank Dunne (1960-1965)  
David Dutton (1956-1961)  
Simon Edwards (1980)  
Jonathan Finn (1978-1983)  
Paddy Firminger (1943-1947)  
Fraser Foster (2005-2016)  
Dominic Gardner (2004-2018)  
David Hawkins (1951-1959)  
Jonathan Hill (1982-1992)  
Rufus James-Moore (1953-1958)  
Jeff Jones (1959-1964)  
Ian King (1952-1956)  
Caroline Lynch (1976-1981)  
James Prince (2009-2017)  
Mike Matthews (2012-2016)  
Kelvin Morris (1976-1981)  
Will Nadin (2011-2018)  
Felicity Melley (1977-1979)  
John Mountford (1959-1964)  
Freddie Owen (2014-2018)  
Simon Pancheri (1959-1963)  
Christopher Porter (1958-1963)  
Philip Powell (1962-1967)  
David Reeve (1950-1954)  
John Steveni (1975-1980)  
Stewart Towe CBE DL (1965-1970, Foundation Trustee, President of the School)

## Lupton

David Walters 1981-1986, School Governor)  
Matthew Watson (1981-1986)  
Peter West (1965-1972)  
Hugh Westlake (2002-2010)

## Lyttelton

John Butler (1971-1974)  
Mark Davey (1974-1979)  
Hamish Docherty (2005-2012)  
William Downing (1993-1998)  
Paul Duffy (1983-1988)  
Nick Grove (1992-1997)  
Will Lockhart (2005-2016)  
Mark Merten-Jones (1978-1983)  
R. Gareth Morgan (1953-1958)  
Haris Nazir (2017-2019)  
Richard Neale (1959-1962)  
Alex Nisbet (2005-2016)  
Adam Robertson (2001-2013)  
Michael Sneath (1982-1987)

## Mary Windsor

Laura Brunning (2000-2008)  
Fiona Bryce-Johnston (1981-1983)  
Meera Bushell (1976-1986)  
Sally Horton (1990-1995)  
Sharon Jones (1978-1986)  
Katie Palmer-Reid (2011-2018)  
Nikki Pinder (1982-1987)  
Victoria Underwood (1982-1987)

## Oakley

Emilie Birks (2001-2006)  
Charlotte Campbell (2004-2018)  
Ella Cardinali (2004-2015)  
Emily Douglas-Osborn (2004-2009)  
Alex Evans (2007-2016)  
Polly Fletcher (2006-2012)  
Erica Halley (2013-2015)  
Andreea Mihaescu (2013-2017)  
Violetta Onishchenko (2002-2007)  
Claudia Roberts (1987-1992)  
Ellie Robinson (2015-2017)

## School

Charles Bowen (1963-1968)  
Robert Brownsdon (1963-1968)  
Miles Burke (2001-2015)  
Andrew Clark (1947-1952)  
John Cutler (1956-1961)  
Ed Drayson (2008-2017)  
Rhoderick Drury (1958-1966)  
David Evans (1955-1960)  
Nicholas Evans (1963-1968)  
Tony Feek (1977-1982)  
Tony Friel (1962-1967)  
James Garrett (1970-1974)  
Geoff Godsall (1956-1959)

# Donor Roll

THANKING OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 2019/20.

(GIFTS RECEIVED FROM SEPTEMBER 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2020)

## School

Andrew Goodrick-Clarke (1952-1957)  
Myles Griffiths (1957-1961)  
Bill Harvey (1956-1960)  
Matthew Horton (1962-1967)  
Tony Horton (1955-1957)  
Martin Hoskins (1962-1967)  
J. Roy Hughes (1945-1950)  
Gordon Irving (1967-1972)  
Tom Jude (1997-2004)  
James King (1985-1990)  
Josh King (2006-2013)  
Grayson Leversha (2014-2019)  
Stephen Marsh-Smith (1964-1968)  
John Massey (1962-1967)  
Ed Mooney (2011-2018)  
Richard Neale (1959-1962)  
Chris Parker (1985-1990)  
Christopher Price (1939-1944)  
David Roberts (1953-1958)  
David Rowlands (1966-1972)  
Alex San (2012-2017)  
Michael Stirk (1960-1964)  
Duncan Walsh Atkins (1987-1992)  
Alastair Willcox (1991-1998)  
Robert Williams (1963-1968)

## Thomas Cookes

Cathryn Bloomfield (née Winnett, 1997-2007)  
Alexa Downs (1992-1995)  
Paige Maddox (2008-2016)  
Jodie Poole (2004-2009)  
Frederica Robbins (2008-2015)  
Samantha Smith (2007-2011)  
Ally Taft (1988-1993)  
Alice Walters (2004-2009)  
Jessica Williams (née Kingston, 2004-2009)

## Walters

Tim Boffey (1971-1981)  
Kieran Brinn (2004-2019)  
Tom Dyson (1998-2003)  
Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham (1969-1974)  
Jacob Matthews (2011-2016)  
Alex Moore (2007-2014)  
Adrian Powell (1967-1972)  
Luke Simonds (2003-2008)  
Aden Symonds (1997-2011)  
Matthew Taylor (1968-1973, Chairman of the Foundation)  
Richard Windmill (1980-1985)

## Wendron / Wendron-Gordon

James Aktas (1997-2002)  
Michael Beard (1960-1964)  
James Brookes (1991-1996)  
Oscar Chou (2015-2017)  
David Cure (1959-1971)  
Rodney Embley (1953-1958)  
Adam Foster (2009-2014)  
John Gittins (1944-1948)  
David Harrison (1947-1950)  
Ashley Hutton (1967-1970)  
Andrii Iermolaev (2015-2019)  
Freddie Kirk Patrick (2012)  
Justin Landon (1982-1987)  
David Laver (1962-1967)  
Jeff Lomax (1949-1954)  
Greg Morrall (1987-1992)  
Mark Perrins (1968-1973)  
Alan Ross (1979-1989)  
John Scotton (1960-1965)  
Adam Sheppard (1988-1995)  
Roy Smith (1953-1957)  
Charles Travis (1969-1975)  
Martin Trott (1972-1977)

## Day Boy (no House listed)

Kenneth Barton (1921-1929)

## Friends of the School

Old Bromsgrovia Lodge  
Jane Ainsworth  
Brian Allen  
Marion Astill  
Mark Atkins  
Mark Ballard  
Mrs Barber-Fray  
Fran Bateman  
Carole Bayliss  
Ciara Bird  
Ian Black  
Kirsten Blackford  
Michelle Bickerton  
Philip Bowen  
Richard Bromwich  
Lesley Brookes  
Alison Buckley  
Karl Burkes  
Charles Cameron  
Stephen Challoner  
Shirley Cheevers  
Peter Clague  
Neil Collett  
Vicki Conway  
Richard Cook  
Dan Corcoran  
James Cosh  
Venetia Cosier  
Jo Courtney  
Julie Cross

## Friends of the School

Andrea Davis  
Andrew Davis  
Emily Davis  
Mandeep Deo  
Jacqui Deval-Reed  
Lucy Dorrien-Smith  
Annika Eaton  
Chris Edwards  
George Elliott  
Mr and Mrs Embley  
Collette Evans  
Gwyn Evans  
Sheila G. Farrell  
Rob Faulkner  
Anthony Finn  
Susan Fletcher  
Louise Fountain  
Andrea Gait  
Rebecca Goodwin  
Nick Grey  
Kim Hands  
Martin Hare  
Harrison Clark Rickerbys  
Carole Heath  
Charles Helle  
John Hever  
Kate Hewitt  
Joanne Horridge  
C. Howdell  
Frances Howell  
Mehroze Jamil  
Helen Jones  
Kelly Kenward  
Anthony King  
Christopher Knowles  
Tim Langlois  
Sue Lee-Smith  
Zia Leech  
Jane Lodge  
Saskia Mackenzie  
Peter May  
Geraldine McLean  
Michael Measey  
Philip Molloy  
Nick Moore  
Charlotte Neale  
Bev Needham  
Martyn Parsons  
Andrew Perkins  
Pauline Perry  
Anne Peters  
Anne Phillips  
Elizabeth Pittaway  
Margaret Purdy  
Caleb Reed  
Philippa Richardson  
John Rogers  
Rachel Scannell

## Friends of the School

Bonnie Siviter  
Denise Smith  
Kathryn Smith  
Michelle Smith  
James Sommerville  
Anna Sutherland  
J. D. Symonds  
Ann Taylor  
Tim Taylor  
Maria Travell  
Serena Trowbridge  
Ian Walters  
Robert Warner  
Alison Webb  
Rachael Whitbread  
Richard Widdop  
Jonathan Williams  
Gareth Young

## Parents

Anjali Agrawal  
Brian and Judith Alcock  
Ruth Al-Nakeeb  
Brad Ashton  
David Atkinson  
Chris and Justine Batham-Read  
Penelope Belcuore  
Lizzy Bernthal  
Sally Beswick  
Vishal Bhardwaj  
Emma Bond  
Neil Booth  
Jim Bridgman  
Andrew Bull  
Clive Bullock  
Lisa Callaghan  
Cormac Campbell  
Karen Clegg  
Lisa Costello  
Mrs V. A. Cottman  
Richard Cox  
Jeff Doak  
Jane Edgington  
Richard and Claire Evans  
Trudi Faulkner Petrova  
Andrew Foster  
Kate Gallimore  
Adrian Hall  
Robert and Ruth Heggett  
Tim Holder  
Jo Horridge  
Michelle Humphries  
Kate Ison  
Rachel Jeynes  
Mark and Claire Jones  
Nicola Kavanagh  
Barbara King  
Steve and Louise Kingston

## Parents

Vicki Kitchen  
Howard Kordansky  
Caroline Leather  
Darren Lloyd  
Jane Lodge (Foundation Trustee)  
Michael Luckman (Foundation Trustee)  
Peter McCullagh  
Joanne Miners  
David and Nenita Mogg  
Alan Nolan  
Sarah Phillips-Dines  
Anne-Louise Pridden  
Ian Prust  
David Robertson  
Jonathan and Morag Ross  
Jenni Schutt  
Judith Shah  
Michelle Stafford  
Sharon Stirling  
Angela Strangward  
Ian Stringer (School Governor)  
Sharon Symonds  
Axine Taylor  
Mervin To  
Philippa Turner  
Catharine Walker  
Ian Walter  
Jayne Wisniewski  
Michael and Kate Wormington

# Events

## WHAT'S ON AT BROMSGROVE DURING 2021 AND BEYOND.

Whilst we hope that we will be able to hold alumni events in 2021, due to current Government restrictions, it is impossible to say if and when these will be lifted in the near future.

### May 2021

#### Appreciation Lunch

Monday, 17th May 2021  
Donors from the current and last academic year and members of the Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society are invited to a special lunch with the Headmaster. All eligible Old Bromsgrovians, parents and friends of the School will be sent invitations in the Lent Term.

### July 2021

#### Upper Sixth Class of 2020 Dinner

Friday, 2nd July 2021  
As we were unable to properly say goodbye to our Upper Sixth Class of 2020 leavers, we intend to host a dinner at the School on the evening before Commemoration Day. Further details will be communicated during the Lent Term.

#### Commemoration Day

Saturday, 3rd July 2021  
Old Bromsgrovians, families and their guests are warmly invited to the OB Marquee on Lower Charford between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Invitations will be emailed in the Summer Term and OBs are encouraged to sign up to register their attendance.

### September 2021

#### 2000-2009 Leavers' Reunion

Saturday, 11th September 2021  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm  
If you left School between 2000 and 2009, this reunion is not to be missed. Invitations for eligible OBs will be sent out at the beginning of the Summer Term.

### On-going

#### Bromsgrove Futures & OB Networking

In conjunction with the careers department, we are looking for Old Bromsgrovians who would be willing to undertake mock interviews with current pupils, typically the type of interviews you would have for university entrance or a leavers' work programme. In addition, the Bromsgrove Futures department are always looking for guest speakers to give a presentation or advice to small groups of current pupils.

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

Tel: +44(0) 1527 579679 ext 357/366

Or contact us the good old-fashioned way:  
Bromsgrove School | Worcester Road  
Bromsgrove | Worcestershire | B61 7DU

Box Office:  
bromsgrove-school.co.uk/whats-on

Online Alumni Events Diary:  
bromsgrove-school.co.uk/alumni-events

# Update Form

NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR DETAILS BY COMPLETING THIS FORM.

Please detach and complete this form in CAPITALS. Further details of how to return the form can be found overleaf.

## Personal Details

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Honours (e.g. CBE, FRS): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname on Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## School Details

Senior School House: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparatory School House: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional House? \_\_\_\_\_

Start Year (YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ End Year (YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ *(If you started in Pre-Prep or Prep, you can begin with this date)*

## Contact Details

Home or Correspondence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

County/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode/Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have your own website, please specify it here: www. \_\_\_\_\_

Twitter Username: @ \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook Profile: \_\_\_\_\_

LinkedIn: \_\_\_\_\_ Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_

## Professional Membership

I am a Non-executive Board Member: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of a livery company: \_\_\_\_\_

Other details you wish to share: \_\_\_\_\_



## Higher Education

1. Degree Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Type (BA, BSc etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

College (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle: Undergraduate / Postgraduate / Further

2. Degree Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Type (BA, BSc etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

College (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle: Undergraduate / Postgraduate / Further

3. Degree Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Type (BA, BSc etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

College (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle: Undergraduate / Postgraduate / Further

## Occupation Details

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Industry: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Events and Communications

Where provided, we will use your email (and occasionally postal address), as given by you, to send you news, invitations and information we believe to be of importance to our Alumni. You can opt-in or out of communications yourself by logging on to [www.bromsgrovians.com](http://www.bromsgrovians.com). To view a copy of our Alumni Privacy Notice, please visit [www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/PrivacyPolicy](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/PrivacyPolicy)

## How you can help

There are many ways in which you can help the Alumni Office and School. Please tick the box where relevant.

I can offer careers advice or insight into university courses

I am happy to offer my services as a speaker on my chosen career/university subject

I can suggest work placement or recruitment opportunities

You can pass my contact details and occupation to the School Careers Department

I would like information about leaving a legacy

I have pledged a legacy to the School

Data Protection Statement: All data is held securely and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Your details will not be passed to external 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/s, your year of admission, your House, your year of leaving and a photo, if you have uploaded one, is automatically made available to other alumni on the OB database. You can change any of these settings at any time to make your data visible or not visible to other alumni - just visit [www.bromsgrovians.com](http://www.bromsgrovians.com)

**Please detach and complete this form in CAPITALS, and then post it to:**

Bromsgrovian Office, Bromsgrove School, Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B61 7DU.

Or email: [oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

If you require more than one form, you can download additional copies from [www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/bromsgrove-alumni](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/bromsgrove-alumni)

You can also update your own details instantly by logging on to [www.bromsgrovians.com](http://www.bromsgrovians.com)