

BROMSGROVIANS

connected

BROMSGROVE'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE ISSUE 10 2023/24

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ISSUE



Old Bromsgrovians from far and wide return for Commemoration Day - in 2023, we welcomed back a large cohort from Germany.

The first word...

It is hard to believe that, just over a year ago, we had yet to become part of the Bromsgrove School family, but it is now such a large part of our lives and it is also home. We have been made to feel extremely welcome and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all aspects of School, the place and the people. We are so fortunate to have such impressive facilities here; the place is busy with an enviable wealth of opportunities and activities, and there is a real warmth which extends across the community. However, the biggest strength of the School is its people, staff and pupils, who work together so positively.

On the pages which follow, you can read about some of the highlights from the last year at School, particularly in relation to Old Bromsgrovians here and across the world. I hope that Bromsgrove is a School we never leave. Your time as pupils here may come to an end but the connection that OBs have with Bromsgrove should last a lifetime. My wife, Gill and I have thoroughly enjoyed attending OB events and welcoming former pupils back to School.

If you have not returned to see us for some time, please do consider doing so because we would be delighted to show you around, to enable you to see the spaces in which you spent your school days, but also to see the latest generation of Bromsgrovians working and learning together. I hope your visit will stir up happy memories of times when you were enjoying life here in the same way, and please do visit with OB friends with whom you have remained in contact. We hope to see you again soon.

MICHAEL PUNT
HEADMASTER

Welcome from the Editor

We are thrilled to present to you the milestone tenth edition of 'Bromsgrovians Connected', a testament to the enduring spirit of our cherished Bromsgrovia community. Over the years, this publication has served as a bridge connecting the past, present, and future of our prestigious institution, and this edition is no exception.

One of the heartwarming highlights is the stories we receive from Old Bromsgrovians. Our alumni have traversed the globe, rekindling connections and reminiscing about their days at Bromsgrove. We are always delighted to see the far-reaching impact of a Bromsgrovia education.

We proudly share the achievements of our alumni in this edition. Many of you have walked across the stage to receive well-deserved degrees, and some have found love and happiness in marriage.

As we celebrate the tenth issue, we are reminded that this magazine is not just a publication but a living testament to the legacy of our School and the extraordinary journeys of its alumni.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the pages of this edition, reconnect with old friends, and discover the stories that bind us all as Bromsgrovians. Here's to another decade of shared memories and accomplishments.

Enjoy reading your alumni magazine.

Megan Griffiths
Editor



Picture This...

A LOOK BACK AT THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23.



All sections of Bromsgrove School were inspected by a team of ISI inspectors in early June and the School is now thrilled to announce that Bromsgrove Senior, Bromsgrove Preparatory and Bromsgrove Pre-Preparatory Schools have all been judged as double 'Excellent' by the Independent School Inspectorate. This is the highest possible grading.

The team of inspectors found that on the quality measures they judge – the quality of pupils' academic and other achievements, and the quality of pupils' personal development – the Schools scored 'Excellent' ratings.



Senior School



International Baccalaureate students achieved excellent results. Bromsgrove School's IB average is 38.0 points with the UK average at 34.67 and we surpass the global average of 30.24 points. One boarder scored a spectacular and much coveted top score of 45 points – one of only twenty-five students in the UK. A third of the total cohort gained 40 or more points (equivalent to 4 A*s at A level).

A level and BTEC results saw all students passing their A Levels with an A* - C rate at 90% was amongst the very highest proportion that we have ever seen at Bromsgrove. Three quarters of all grades awarded were A* to B.

Prep School



When combined, this Upper Sixth cohort of 210 student leavers took 681 'main' subject qualifications - almost a quarter of all qualifications were graded A* or equivalent and over half achieved at least an A grade. These fantastic results enabled 90% of our Upper Sixth leavers to go on to their chosen university, mostly in the UK but also to some prestigious institutions abroad. Students have accepted places at every single one of the twenty-four Russell Group universities. When including international universities, we have had offers from 11 of the World Top 50 universities, and 5 of the World Top 10. 11% of students are going to World Top 50 universities, with highlights including students heading to Columbia University (Ivy League), Toronto, McGill, Oxford and Cambridge, LSE, Imperial and UCL.

Pre-Prep



Picture This...

EXTRA-CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022/23.



Eighteen pupils from our Preparatory and Senior Schools were joined by Bromsgrove Astronomical Society members to celebrate 'International Observe the Moon Night' at the Matthew Taylor Observatory on the Prep School site. Another highlight of our outreach and engagement activities, we were delighted to invite pupils and staff from our Pre-Preparatory School to visit the Observatory for an introductory talk about constellations.

The 2022/23 Heads of School, Thando Best and Jess Whitlock, worked incredibly hard to launch their initiative, Bring Your Whole Self to Bromsgrove (BYWSTB). What started as a conversation during Lockdown has developed into an incredible project that aims to encourage everyone to feel at home whilst at School.



The annual House Bake-off competition was held in the last week of the Summer Term with the theme of 'Re-creation or Recreation'. Some Houses concentrated on one or the other, whilst others combined the two ideas, including the winners who were Housman Hall. Their cake demonstrated both the making of a snowman and the problem of global warming and the need to look after the creation.



"This year's Young Enterprise team has achieved remarkable success, making them the most accomplished team in the School's history."



The Senior and Prep Eco-Committees have been very active this year promoting the sustainability message across the School. This focus of the Bromsgrove's development strategy was to increase awareness of environmental sustainability and to develop short and long-term plans to reduce our carbon footprint.



A special time capsule, created for the Platinum Jubilee year, was buried in the School grounds by Mr Punt, Mr Marie and the Heads of School at the start of the Michaelmas Term. The capsule contains copies of pupils' work and photographs, as well as information pertaining to Her Late Majesty The Queen's death.



The Young Enterprise team, Monito, were crowned UK Company of the Year at the 2023 Company of the Year Final and they had the privilege of representing the UK at the impressive European Finals held in Istanbul in July. It was in Istanbul that one of Monito's Managing Directors, Owais Iqbal, received the JA Alumni Europe Leadership Award.

The group has taken part in practical activities such as tree planting, planting sunflowers and re-establishing Crocus Walk with a new supply of bulbs. We are also working on a sustainability walk around our amazing grounds and we are particularly looking forward to working with the Grounds staff and Worcestershire Wildlife trust on this project.



The Michaelmas Term started with a glorious influx of Cadets into the CCF, not only new Upper Fourth recruits, but many of our older cadets choosing to stay with us. As the dust settled, we discovered that we were the second biggest CCF across the UK.



Leading up to this outstanding accomplishment, the students gathered several awards, including the Creativity Award at the Herefordshire & Worcestershire County Final, as well as the Best Company titles at both the County and West Midlands Area competitions. These awards are a testament to their exceptional abilities and dedication.



In Bromsgrove Service, It has been wonderful to resume our twice-weekly visits to local residential homes – including adding some new venues to our schedule. From their Dementia Friends training in September, the students learned how to support those living with dementia, showing kindness and empathy to everyone they encountered.

A new and exciting activity this year has been our Science Outreach group who have been partnering with students from Chadsgrove School to teach them about science; from colour changing indicators to dissections.

About You

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

Elmshurst

Memories from **Philip Hobson** MA Oxon (1948-1952):

Bromsgrove School was quite a tough place in my day - 1948-1952. I was deputed to complain to the Housemaster, Tubby Mitchell. His attitude was "Well Hobson, life is unfair, you'd better get used to it!" But despite what I say, in general, I had a wonderful time at Bromsgrove, especially when I began to win a few things (colours, prizes etc) and, in particular, entrance to Hertford College, Oxford, after a recommendation from my form master, known because of his sometimes rather be dragged appearance. My entrance papers had been lost (I suspect because they were so pathetic). Anyway, somehow, I scraped in - and ended up with a fairly creditable Upper Second - they weren't known as that in my day, but I asked my tutor, Cecil Fifoot (the co-author of the leading book on Contract Law) and he told me my marks.

From there, again, I somehow scraped a scholarship, actually just a Grant, from the British Council, to go to Brussels University. There I had a marvellous time - set my own curriculum with a leading Professor on International Law, and had enough cash to pay for my dear mother to pop over from Birmingham, by air to Antwerp. After all the news of Belgium in WWI, she had always wanted to visit Belgium. So, all in all, I've had a pretty good life and time.



At the end of the Michaelmas Term 2022, we welcomed **His Honour Judge Richard Foster** (1967-1972, Foundation Trustee) as guest speaker who spoke about his legal career, from qualifying as a solicitor to sitting at some of the highest courts in the land. It provided a fascinating and thought-provoking insight into the judicial system.

Paul Higham (1964-1969) and his wife, Sarah, visited us at the beginning of October. They particularly enjoyed looking around the Cricket Pavilion and commented on how much of the 'old' version of the School has remained unchanged.



Donald Cheung (Elmshurst 2004-2009) visited his old House, Elmshurst. Mrs Pugh was delighted to welcome him and meet his family.



Paul Gabard (Elmshurst 2018-2020) with his younger brother, Louis, pictured at Commemoration Day this year.

Matt Goodwin (2013-2020) has recently begun a new job in the US working as a mud plant operator with the oil company SLB. His job involves building batches of mud specific to the requirements of the drilling rig that they are attached to. To build the mud, they have a series of roughly 365 barrel mixing pits that are used to build the three types of mud that the rig could need, which are brine, water based mud (WBM) and mineral oil based mud (OBM). Each type of mud has a plethora of different chemicals that are added that change the viscosity, lubrication and weight properties of the mud, depending on what the rig calls for. In oil drilling operations, mud is used to cool the drill bit, pick up any debris in the hole and bring it to surface and also provide a pressure balance against natural gas that would otherwise escape out of the well. Due to the location of the work, Matt is on a shift basis of two weeks on, two weeks off; during his two weeks on, he works on a man-made island in the Beaufort Sea, known as Spy island.



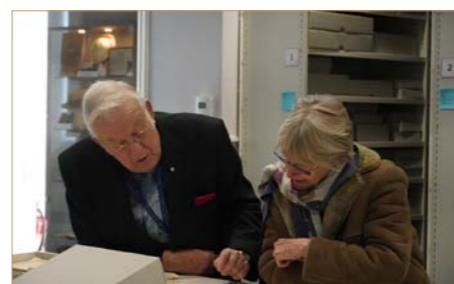
Members of the Old Bromsgrovia Lodge visited the Loyal Wye Lodge in Llanwrtyd Wells, continuing a relationship that began during the WW2 School exile to that locality. Pictured L-R are **Jonti Marks** (Academic Staff 1998-2013), **Colin Bradley** of Loyal Wye, **Christopher Price** (School 1939-1944) and **James Boffey** (Gordon 1977-1984). Colin and Christopher have been friends for in excess of sixty years.



Gordon

In May 2023, **Nevil Malin** (1949-1953) had the honour of being a guest of His Majesty The King at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, held to celebrate the Coronation. And yes, his morning suit was enhanced by an Old Bromsgrovia tie!

We welcomed back **John Thorpe** (1952-1957) along with his daughter and wife. Following a tour of John's former Boarding House (now known as Wendron-Gordon), the Thorpe family were delighted to visit the Heritage Centre where archives from the 1950s were laid out. It was wonderful to hear some of the stories that came flooding back when a face was spotted in the Whole School photograph, or a name was seen in the Bromsgrovia magazine.



Hazeldene

Sophie Munslow (1992-2001) bumped into Mr McClure at our Bromsgrove Prep open morning, and enjoyed reminiscing about Latin lessons.



2023 leavers **Gaby Breithupt**, **Izzy Rusling** and **Sophie Spittle** returned to visit their old House - they caught up with Houseparent, Alex Linehan and Housekeeper, Zoe Paling. Gaby and Izzy are taking a gap year whilst Sophie heads off to Nottingham University.



Over the summer, **Nell Stone** (2007-2022) and her brother, Archie (Upper Sixth) volunteered at the International Blind Games in Birmingham. They were helping with the blind judo, a qualifying event for the Paralympic Games next year.



Housman Hall

It was lovely to hear from the **Derriey family** recently - **Leon** (2012-2014) is a successful freelance film producer working mainly in New York and New Mexico, whilst his sister, **Alia** (a boarder from Mary Windsor 2012-2019) graduated from Barnard - Columbia University in May 2023 Phi Beta Kappa, which is the top 1% of graduates. Alia now works for the publisher, Simon & Schuster in New York, reviewing new book submissions.

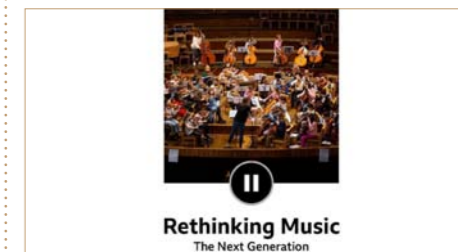


Niklas Sturz returned to Housman Hall over the Easter break to meet up with old friends. Mr Prouse presented Niklas with his OB tie, which he said he will wear with pride.



Lupton

Soweto Kinch (1991-1996) has a new three-part series on BBC Radio 4 called 'Rethinking Music'. He looks at music education across the UK and assesses how cutbacks and policy changes over the years are playing out. Reflecting on his own route to music, Soweto asks what music education could look like, and how much it matters if we don't get it right. Contributors include Nicola Benedetti, Anna Meredith, Nubya Garcia, Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, Jamie Njoku-Goodwin and a range of music professionals and providers across the UK.



Captain Chris Bailey (2004-2009, middle of photograph in yellow) took part in 'The Great Pacific Race'. With a distance of 2,400 nautical miles, the race is one of the toughest races on Earth. Teams made up of 3 or 4 crew, all competing in identical boats, was entirely self supported and unassisted from the start gun in Monterey Bay until the finishing line in Hawaii.

Chris and his team raised money for three charities - Young Minds, Give them a sporting chance and St Michael's Hospice, Hereford.



Lupton

Jamie Cox (2009-2020) has just graduated from University of Birmingham with a First in BSc Geography. He now goes on to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDipEd) and Teacher Training course for secondary school geography this year with the King Edwards Consortium. Jamie has also developed a private tutoring company for GCSE and A-Level students in Geography, Business Studies and Chemistry, and works as an examiner for Geography GCSE.



Lyttelton

Joe Phillips (2013-2015) appeared on the latest series of The Apprentice on BBC One. As Project Manager in episode one, Joe led his team to victory - if you missed it, you can catch up on BBC iPlayer.

Joe has dyslexia and he was always slightly worried this was going to hold him back from achieving what he wanted. Starting with £250 in his pocket, he set up a small business at university selling branded goods to the campus shop and societies. Off the back of that, Joe now runs a lip care company selling products to hundreds of retailers in the UK and South Africa.

Joe returned to School last term to talk to Lower Sixth students during Lecture Week on life after Bromsgrove, The Apprentice and the world of business. You can read more about Joe in our 'Inside Story' feature.



Congratulations to **Ollie Lawrence** (2016-2018) who was named Premiership player of the season after a standout campaign for Bath.

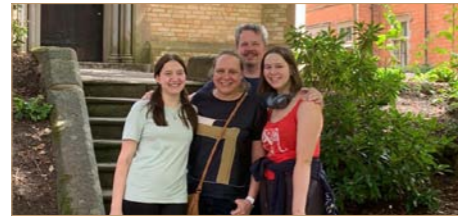
Ollie won four of his eleven caps for England during this year's Six Nations and scored five tries in total for Bath across twelve league appearances.



Photo Credit: Bath Rugby

Mary Windsor

We are always delighted to welcome OBs who might not have returned to the School since they've left. It was lovely to see **Nicole Wellemin** (1992-1997) back at Bromsgrove as she wanted to show her family around.



Oakley

Mrs Adams was so happy to see her former Head of House **Daisy Wen** (2015-2022) along with **Joelle Booth** (2017-2022), **Joelle Koh** (2018-2022) and **Chantal Wong** (2017-2022) as they all neared the end of their first year of University. They are happy in the chosen fields and the whole House was delighted to see them.



Ellie Anderson (2020-2022) and **Charis Pavely** (2019-2022) were selected for the England Women's Cricket First U19 World Cup Squad. A squad of England's top 15 young players flew out to South Africa, with sixteen nations competing. Ellie (selected for the Southern Brave cricket team) and Charis (selected for the Birmingham Phoenix cricket squad) were also both recently playing in The Hundred tournament.

Photo Credit: Worcestershire Cricket

Also in sport, **Alanna Pullen** (2018-2023) was selected for the U21 England side at the Netball Europe Competition in October.



School

We were delighted to welcome **Jim and Frances Page** to Bromsgrove at the start of the Lent Term. Jim is an Old Bromsgrovian (1945-1949) and former Headmaster of the Junior School (now known as Bromsgrove Preparatory School). It was lovely to reminisce and hear their stories after such a long association with the School.



Philip Bowen, former Deputy Head of Bromsgrove School, was recently at Worcester Art Gallery and Museum. He came across some information on a future exhibition about Old Bromsgrovian **Peter Collins**.

Peter Collins was in School House from 1943-1946. He started his career as a racing driver in 1949, impressing in F3 races, and finishing third in the 1951 Autosport National F3 Championship. He was killed in the 1958 German Grand Prix, just weeks after winning the RAC British Grand Prix.

His obituary in the Bromsgrovian reads, "He will be remembered by his contemporaries for his cheerful friendliness and generosity, and his irrepressible spirits. From the beginning it was obvious that his talents and interests lay in the business of motors and motoring, and it was not long before he began to make a name for himself as a racing driver."



It was Commemoration Day 1977 when brothers, **John** and **James Garrett** were last at Bromsgrove School together. Their father, **Chris Garrett** (School House), was a pupil between 1948-1951. He studied Physics, Chemistry and Biology, getting As in all three subjects - just as well as he was intent on studying medicine - like his paternal grandfather.

He later sent his two eldest children, James and John (again in School House) to Bromsgrove, both attending the Junior and Senior Schools in the 1960s and '70s.

Their father sadly died on 28th December 2022, and James, John and Liz (their sister) have been trying to find good homes for the mountain of memorabilia he left behind. Our Archivist, Nikki Thorpe, was pleased to receive some items for the Heritage Centre when they visited in person.



Wendron-Gordon

Narcis Badea (2009-2015) and his family joined us over the summer holidays for a tour of the School. It was Narcis' first time back since leaving Bromsgrove.



We also welcomed back **Milton Lau** and **Justin Chung** (2015 leavers), pictured with their former Houseparent, Mr Bell. Milton is now a designer and Justin is training to be a chef after a career in finance.



The Headmaster, Mr Punt, along with Mr Ruben and Miss Scannell, met up with **Richie Chang** (2015-2018) at his offices in Hong Kong.



Just before the start of the new academic year, Mr Wilkins welcomed back two of our 2021 leavers, **Marion Skurtu** and **Alex Moskalevskyi**. They enjoyed reminiscing with their Housemaster and also met up with Mr Matthews in Humanities.



Paul Ribka and **Ruben Hoffman** returned to Bromsgrove after 24 years. They enjoyed a visit to the Heritage Centre and a tour of the School before returning to their former House, Wendron-Gordon. There was even a surprise visit from Mr and Mrs Langlands, their Houseparents during the 1990s.



Staff News

At the end of the Summer Term, we sent our best wishes to the following staff members who left the School:

Antonio Alcoholado Feltstrom
Sophie Burke
David Corns
Charlotte Cunningham
Mariona Angala Escude
Josh Gothorp
Grace Hanson
Hannah Harte
Josh Huckle
Sharon Symonds
Jon Wingfield

We also bade a fond farewell to **Marion Astill**, Housemother of Mary Windsor, who retired after twenty-five years at Bromsgrove.

It was all change in some of the Houses too - Mr Wilkins stepped down as Houseparent of Wendron-Gordon, Mrs Helmore stepped down as Houseparent of Mary Windsor and Mr Clinton stepped down as Houseparent of School House. However, all three are still teaching at Bromsgrove.

Chris Edwards (Headmaster 2004-2014) met up with **Lee Falconer** (Academic staff 2007-2013) whilst in Thailand for the FOBISIA Conference. The conference is held annually and provides an opportunity for Heads and senior leaders from member schools to share best practice and engage with leading educational thinkers.



Staff News

We bade a fond farewell to a much-loved colleague and stalwart of Bromsgrove School, **Steve Taylor**, who has retired after an incredible 53 years. During his time with us, Steve has worked with six Headmasters - Mr Carey, Reverend Earle, Mr Taylor, Mr Edwards, Mr Clague and Mr Punt.

His stories about the early days at Bromsgrove are fascinating and give a great insight into the history of the School. Steve's first job every morning was to go to the Coal Shed by Lupton House and collect big buckets of coal. He then went to the Headmaster's house, all of the offices and to the Common Room to make up the fires. He then had to go to the old boiler house and stoke the boiler.

Steve can create a wonderful image of those old School days. Pupils playing fives, pupils swimming in the outdoor pool, even teachers cutting the grass. No marquees at Commemoration but he had to polish all the floors and make sure the gardens looked pristine and perfect. Speeches were on Routh Green and he had to climb on to the top of Routh Hall to put speakers up.

Steve's claim to fame is that he discovered Scott's expedition sledge, now pride of place in the Heritage Centre. He knew that there was an old sledge stored on a rack in the armoury, he had seen it many times and when he read an article in the newspaper about Scott's expedition, he told the Bursar.

Estates to the Grounds department, he took a lot of pride in the gardens he looked after. His absolute dedication and commitment to the School is an example to us all.

On behalf of the Governors, the Headmaster and all of our staff, present and past, we want to say a huge thank you to Steve for all that he has done for the School over these 53 years. He is a true Bromsgrovian. We wish him a long and happy retirement.



IB Tutor

Two OBs who graduated in 2020 have created a tutoring platform which focuses on the International Baccalaureate. Their platform is called IB Doctor and enables students to filter through the database (consisting of past IB students) and purchase a bundle of lessons with a tutor of their choosing.

Nic Bamberger (Housman Hall) and **Ben Sugarman** (Webber) came up with this idea as they both studied the IB, and they also understand how expensive life as a university student can be. They would, therefore, like to offer university students the opportunity to earn money whilst gaining valuable work experience.

Currently, they are working on expanding their tutor base by contacting and recruiting past IB students.

If you are interested in learning more, or joining the team, please visit ib-doctor.com



Gold Awards

Congratulations to a large cohort of Old Bromsgrovians who received their Gold DofE awards at Buckingham Palace in May 2023. This was such a prestigious occasion, so soon after the Coronation of King Charles III and everyone should be very proud of their achievements.

Those in attendance at the Palace included:

Shams Ali Baig
Alice Anderson
Harrison Brown
James Cameron
Olivia Chester
Polly Dakin
Maxim Edger
Esme Elwell-Thomas
Philippa Fleming
Daniel Goodwin
Oscar Gurung
Charlotte Holden
Sungyoon Hong
Isabelle Jones
Ash Kandola
Natasha Malam
Emily Miskin
Harrison Philpott
Hannah Sahota
Anya Sanikop
Henry Scott
Stuart Shannon
Verity Slater
Prabheet Sondhi
Fenella Stone
Arjai Sunner
Edwin Wagstaff
Guy Wagstaff
Agatha Warner
Luke Wilkinson
Elliot Willetts



Llanwrtyd Wells

On Sunday, 12th November, **Megan Griffiths** and **Nikki Thorpe** from the Bromsgrovian Office represented the School at Llanwrtyd Wells for Remembrance Sunday. A wreath was laid by **Christopher Price** (School 1939-1944), himself a pupil at Bromsgrove School in Wales, in honour of the Old Bromsgrovians lost in the war. The names of the fallen were also read out during a service at St James' Church.



Bromsgrove Mission Hills

Michael Punt (Headmaster), **Rachel Scannell** (Assistant Head) and **Michael Luckman** (Chairman of Governors) visited Bromsgrove Mission Hills in October.

During the visit, they were welcomed to the Prep and Senior schools, and Pre-School classes, to observe the curriculum and meet staff at BMH.



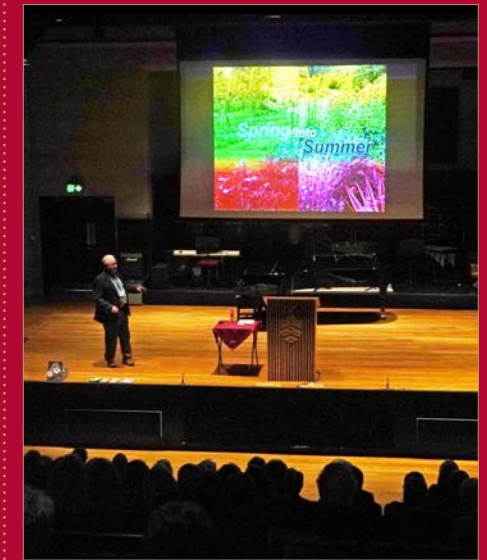
Horticultural Talk

A fabulous evening was had in Routh Hall with Old Bromsgrovian **John Massey** MBE VMH (School 1962-1967) who brought his knowledge and wit to the Routh Hall stage for a talk on 'Gardening through Spring and Summer'. The audience enjoyed the occasional reminiscences about his school days, coupled with his unrivalled knowledge of plant life.

We are very grateful to all Old Bromsgrovians, parents and friends of the School who purchased tickets - the proceeds will go towards the Foundation's Life-Changing Bursaries scheme.



John (right) pictured with fellow OB Philip Powell who read a poem at the end of the evening



A.E. Housman's Birthday

The Housman Society gathered at the **A.E. Housman** statue in Bromsgrove to commemorate the anniversary of AEH's birthday.

Later, we were honoured to welcome members of the society for a special lunch at School.

A.E. Housman was born near Bromsgrove in Worcestershire in 1859. The eldest of seven children, he entered Bromsgrove School as a "foundation scholar" at the age of eleven. He was inquisitive, quiet and studious – with a passion for learning Greek and Latin. He also wrote poetry, for which he won several school prizes. His aptitude and industry, as well as regular tutorials in classics from a demanding but supportive Headmaster, won him

a scholarship to St John's College, Oxford. He arrived there in 1877, to read Classics in the prestigious Honour School of Mods and Greats. After completing the first two years of study, which focus on Latin and Greek, he gained First Class Honours in the Classical Moderations examination. The second half of the course focused on classical philosophers and political thinkers, which didn't interest Housman. He may not have read enough or studied enough, and he may have been somewhat arrogant, but whatever the reasons he failed the Literae Humaniores Final examination and left Oxford without a degree. He returned to Bromsgrove and taught for a brief time at his old School.

(With thanks to the Housman Society website for the biographical information on AEH)



Sports News

OB Golf

Old Bromsgrovians Golf have had another good and interesting year. We do run and organise matches completely independently of the School, but for the last few years, we have had grateful support from the Bromsgrovian Office. This has been particularly welcomed as the cost of playing the more prestigious courses has escalated.

The first event of the year in late March was the match v School at Blackwell. The result was again a draw so the Webb Cavill Cup was retained by the School who had extremely good golfers. We also had the pleasure of welcoming the new Headmaster, Michael Punt, to the dinner after the match.

Alex McIntosh, as Grafton Morrish Captain, put out a good, young team but they failed to qualify for the tough Public Schools' scratch competition. Having gained the experience, they are ready to try again next year.

Our OB meeting at Ladbrook Park Golf Club in mid May was played in glorious weather, and the 'Tony Hilton Cup' was won by Ryan Cleary, and the 'Harry Clayton Goblets' by Mark Blake and Sam Bellamy.

We had a good team for the Midland Public Schools Old Boys at Little Aston played in lovely June sunshine - we were even treated to a welcome Pimms before Lunch. Bromsgrove thought they had won the M. K. Foster Challenge Cup at one stage but were then officially declared second after a handicap recount. So near once again!

There was a very good turnout at Ombersley for our invitational event at which we welcomed Catherine and Andrew Maund. The Ombersley Shield was won by Sam Bellamy and his guest, with Keith Hill and his guest.

Ian Powell organised a complete trip for the Welsh Public Schools Edward Harris Cup at Royal Porthcawl. Staying away for a couple of nights and playing a separate course to complete the tour. In spite of having a strong team, Bromsgrove came in a veritable fifth with the winner being Dean Close.

Our final event of the year was the OB Meeting at Blackwell. As the weather forecast was so awful for the afternoon 18 holes this was reduced to just 9



Ryan Cleary (Elmshurst 2001-2008) and Alex McIntosh (Lupton 1996-2004) were awarded with the 'Best Pair Score' at the Welsh Public Schools' Competition



Ombersley Invitational - Robin Glover, Guest Richard Leslie, Guest John McDermott, Anthony Webb

holes, but the weather outdid us and started pouring with rain just after lunch. Nevertheless, the 'Graham Fowler Cup' was won by David Frank Carter, The 'Millennium Denis Hayes Salver' by Catherine Maund, and the 'Bayliss -Orme Seniors Salver' by David Carter. It was good to see David back after many years, and to welcome Catherine Maund into the Society.

At the AGM, Anthony Webb, Hon. Secretary for some thirty years, retired, and Mark Blake was duly appointed to the role. Adrian Powell stood down having been Treasurer since Graham Bayliss retired in 2009, and Ian Powell was appointed Treasurer in his place. A new, enthusiastic regime all round.

For 2024, the Golf Society is introducing The Charles Stanley Summer Eclectic, kindly sponsored by the Charles Stanley Group. There are six dates across the summer, and we hope to see more male and female golfers join us.



Catherine Maund on the first tee

Tee times from 2.30-4.00pm, three courses two rounds at each but you only need to play one round at each to join in. A bargain too at £20 a round - find out more on the poster opposite, or email the new Hon. Secretary, Mark Blake.

All from me after many years
- Anthony Webb

New Contact: Mark Blake, Hon Sec
e-mail: markb717@outlook.com

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE OLD BROMSGROVIAN GOLF SOCIETY?

The Old Bromsgrovian Golf Society is looking for male and female golfers to represent the School in matches throughout the year and join in with new fixtures - if you are interested, please contact Mark Blake (details below)

For 2024, the Golf Society is introducing a new mini tournament -
The Charles Stanley Summer Eclectic
With kind sponsorship by the Charles Stanley Group

15th May 2024: Edgbaston Golf Club

28th May 2024: Olton Golf Club

11th June 2024: Edgbaston Golf Club

27th June 2024: Maxstoke Park Golf Club

9th July 2024: Maxstoke Park Golf Club

23rd July 2024: Olton Golf Club

Tee times 2.30pm-4.00pm - £20 per round

(three courses, two rounds at each but you only need to play one round at each to join in)

For further information, please email **Mark Blake**
markb717@outlook.com

Sports News

OB Cricket

2023 saw the rebirth of The Martlets – Old Bromsgrovian Cricket Club following a session of strategic planning in The Swan at Chaddesley Corbett.

As a starting point, we decided to arrange a Martlets Day on 7th July, the first Friday after Commem. The format was planned as a limited overs game between two teams of Old Bromsgrovians on Charford, and with the support of the School, we sent out an appeal for players through the Bromsgrovian Office. We received some very moving messages of support from former Martlets who had played over the second half of the last century, and with some persuasion and arm bending, were able to assemble twenty-two players for the comeback game for 30 overs each way game.

The team, captained by Richard Meese, was triumphant, which was appropriate as we were also playing in memory of his wife – Charlotte (née Hubbard) – an OB herself. It was at a Martlets game in 2004 that they reacquainted! Richard also generously presented a new trophy – The Hubbard Cup - more of which I will write later.

The initial squad was heavily represented by OBs from the 1990s, although we were able to attract several recent leavers and one current pupil. This is going to be essential to our future direction as the club will want to take on more challenging fixtures and offer a range of opportunities for OBs of all ages to enjoy cricket on Charford. Please contact me (Will Glover) or the Bromsgrovian Office if you would like to register with us for future events.

We welcomed former Headmaster, Tim Taylor, who spoke movingly about his days at Bromsgrove, his personal memories of several of the players and his delight that we had reformed. It was a true measure of his support that he made the long journey up from Somerset and we were so grateful to see him again in such fine form. On top of that, there were appearances from many other OBs and former Martlets cricketers, including stalwarts such as Ian Sanders, and, of course, Mr Martlets himself – Mike Perkins. Thank you to all of you and I hope that we will see you in bigger numbers in the years to come.



With the game finishing at 5.00pm, and the fridges bursting with refreshments, the players enjoyed the remaining sunshine in front of the pavilion chatting and enjoying catching up and making several new friends. With the new Martlets flag flying high, it was a beautiful setting and a highlight for all of us.

After the success of the July game, we decided we were ready for a new challenge and so, on Sunday 20th August, the Martlets played their first away match in twenty years at Himbleton Cricket Club. With father and son combo, Christian and James Batteley (hereafter known as Batman and Robin) opening the bowling, ably supported by mystery spin from Richard Meese, less mysterious spin from Glynn Harrhy and some searing pace from Pete Gough and Pete Goodrem, Himbleton were restricted to 155 runs from their 35 overs.

Opening up with Richard Gough and Alex Wilkinson, Goughie dispatched four sumptuous boundaries before Alex decided he had seen enough and ran him out. From there on, a dashing 50 from Andy Langlands and another red inker from our oldest Martlet – Glynn – saw the team home with ten overs in hand. Another gloriously fun day together, flag again flying high and drinks in the sunshine.... PERFECT!

Thank you to the following players who put their hands up this year:

Dan Ashton
Chris Batteley
James Batteley
Chris Brook-Carter
James Dixon
Matt Eckersley
Rhys Evans
Pete Goodrem
Pete Gough
Rob Gough
Richard Gough
Paul Gummer
Glynn Harrhy
Richard Howell
Andy Langlands
Richard Meese
James Pritchard
Matt Sanders
Ed Sawtell
Mark Slater
Alex Wilkinson

- Will Glover

If you are interested in finding out more about The Martlets, please email oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk and we will pass your details to Will Glover.

JOIN THE MARTLETS CRICKET CLUB

So, what are the plans for 2024?

The Club has outlined four events for your diary as they seek to increase the OB cricket on offer. Players of all ages are welcome, with a range of events that will attract different players, umpires and supporters.



SUNDAY FRIENDLIES: We will have three Sunday matches at lovely local grounds – Himbleton CC, Hagley CC and Belbroughton CC

MARTLETS VS THE SCHOOL: This is an absolute priority and we are very grateful that we have found several younger OBS who have agreed to assemble a capable team to take on the School. It will be captained by Alex Wilkinson and take place during the Summer Term. The Hubbard Cup will be contested annually between the Martlets and the School

MARTLETS CRICKET DAY: Friday, 5th July 2024 - We want to follow on from last year and make this as widely inclusive as possible for all ages and genders. We would like to welcome as many OBs as possible who have a connection with Charford, families, umpires, scorers, players etc. This year we had one game but for 2024 we are proposing to have two or three T20 matches all between OBs: Ladies, Mens (over 35) and Mens (under 35)

Finding sixty-six players sounds like a challenge, but after the success and support of this year, the Club is sure they can do it. Help is particularly needed for the ladies' match, so please step forward and volunteer to play and organise the team, especially if you have played or coached ladies' cricket at Bromsgrove or elsewhere

To find out more, or to join the team, please contact Will Glover via the Bromsgrovian Office - oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Sports News

OB Netball

The netball season has given us a mixture of ups and downs as a club. We had a great Winter season for 2022/2023, where we finished as runners up in Division 2. The Summer season was a little different, finishing towards the bottom of the same division. However, our amazing centre player, Maisie, was awarded the 'Player's Player' from Redditch Netball League for Division 2.

This Winter season has started slowly with us finding our feet with a new team of players. We've welcomed back Eve from maternity and a few other new players. Maddy and Lily from Bromsgrove School are currently part of our club and it is great to have them on our team.

We've also welcomed some new arrivals along the way too - Baby Erin, Rex, Isla and Lily. Slowly between us all, we are creating the next generation of netball players.

As a club we love our social events and it is always a great way to let our hair down and get to know everyone outside of netball. In April, we had a night out in Birmingham, competing with each other at Shuffleboard. Our next social event is planned for January.



The Old Bromsgrovians Netball club are always on the look out for new players, no matter what your experience is. If you'd like to receive some more information about joining or coming along to training, you can find us on Facebook, 'OB Netball (Bromsgrove)' or contact Helen on 07770 815429.



2024 is a big year for us - it marks our 20th Anniversary as a club. We will be planning on celebrating with past and present members, so watch this space.

- Claire Williams



OBEC

Under the leadership of club secretary Helen Rowberry OBEC has had a superb year of visiting the hills for walking and socialising. This year we've been walking in North and South Wales and Worcestershire. We stay in touch with each other via a WhatsApp group and Facebook.

In April, we filled a rustic cottage in the Llanberis Pass in the shadow of Snowdon. Against the odds the weather was kind and on the Saturday we completed an epic walk from Capel Curig back to the cottage near Nant Peris.

As is often the case there was spot of paragliding for the more adventurous and some river walks for those feeling the effects of a long and eventful reunion the night before - we are an inclusive club for all abilities!

Since losing our AGM spiritual home we've been searching for a new regular venue to host us each autumn; we have now adopted the Saracen's Head Hotel in Beddgelert and they have been exceptionally hospitable to the club. This year, on the Saturday, Mike Woodall led a river gorge walk (including wild swimming) in the Pass of Aberglaslyn, and Tom Thompson guided a large group of us to the west of Beddgelert, ticking off numerous low lying peaks that are off the tourist routes but offering spectacular views. It should be noted that Andrew and Catherine Maund snuck away to Ynys Mon to play golf in brilliant weather. At the AGM dinner, we now have two speeches - the Mountains (proposed by Jon Badger) and the Club (proposed by Tony Blacker). Following the speeches the music and revelry was led by Terry Reis and Rob Oliver, with some rather excellent music including some squeeze box action from Neil Gibbs.

Sunday was a right off due to torrential rain - the clever folk went to Harlech where it was dry for some excellent coastal walks.

In between our weekends away, there are the occasional day trips. At the start of November, John Denby navigated and marched a hardy bunch across a small corner of Worcestershire, clearing paths and stiles as they went and concluding in the pub for a late lunch.

All Old Bromsgrovians (recent or distant leavers, staff and friends and family) are warmly encouraged to get in touch with the club. Please look us up on Facebook or contact us via the Bromsgrovian Office.

- Jon Badger



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE OB NETBALL CLUB



We are always on the lookout for new players to join our friendly club



Division 2 of the Redditch League



Open to all - whether you are an OB or not, everyone is welcome

Contact us via the Bromsgrovian Office - oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk



What to expect from OBEC?

- A number of trips each year
- Annual dinner in Wales
- Local walks and pub lunches
- A convivial and friendly group



If you are interested in joining OBEC, please contact us via the Bromsgrovian Office - oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

INTERESTED IN CLIMBING, WALKING, OR MEETING LIKEMINDED PEOPLE?

THEN THE OLD BROMSGROVIAN EXPEDITION CLUB COULD BE FOR YOU!



Wedding Bells

Christina Rasanayagam (Hazeldene 2002-2011) married **James Trigg** (Walters 2007-2011) on the 8th October 2022 in Gloucestershire. Christina and James met at Bromsgrove School in 2007 before dating in 2011.

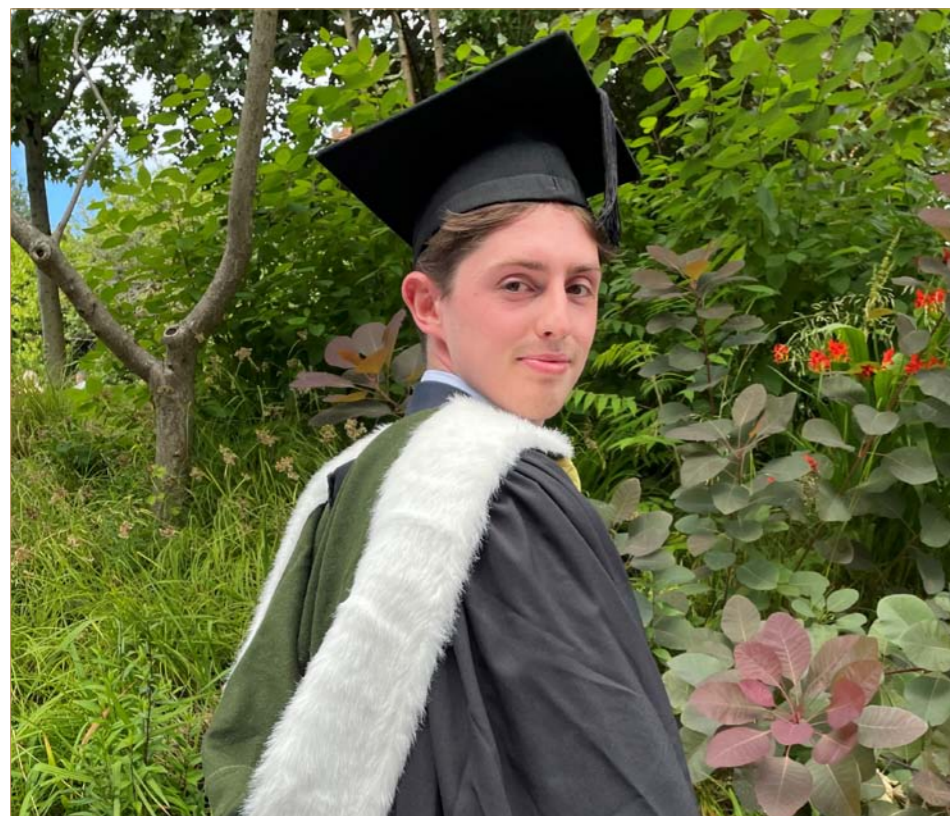
They were surrounded by friends and family including multiple OBs, one of whom was James' best man, **George Davies** (School 2004-2011).



Would you like your wedding featured in the next issue?

Contact the Bromsgrovian Office - oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk
or Tweet us @OldBromsgrovian

Graduation Stories



During the Summer holidays, news of our young Bromsgrovians graduating has been trickling through. Congratulations to **Rufus Hulbert** (2014-2019) who has graduated from the University of Exeter with a BSc in Business and Management with Industrial Experience. He will be joining EY as a UK&I Business Consultant.

Will Edwards (2013-2020) has graduated from the University of Sheffield with a first class degree in BA (hons) Architecture. He started his architectural position at JTP in London this September.

Doctor of the Year



What did you do after Bromsgrove?

I embarked on a gap year immediately after Bromsgrove where I spent time travelling and experiencing different cultures in Japan, Switzerland, France, and the US. I then started my undergraduate medicine degree in 2015 at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. After the first two (pre-clinical) years, I decided to intercalate externally to gain a BSc in Management in one year at Imperial College Business School before returning to complete the remaining clinical years of medicine. I finally gained my medical qualification in 2021 and moved back to the West Midlands to do two years of foundation training around Birmingham. In August 2023, I started my five-year specialty training post at University College London Hospitals to eventually become a Consultant Radiologist.

What are some of your career highlights to date?

In 2022, I worked with IR Juniors, a division of the British Society of Interventional Radiologists, to increase undergraduate engagement in Radiology through creating a national network for medical students. This included organising an eight-month national teaching webinar series with nearly 500 attendees, and I presented this work at the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe Congress in Barcelona in 2022 where I won an international grant award. Most recently, I am very grateful to have been awarded Foundation Doctor of the Year by Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Tun Tha (School 2000-2014) has recently been awarded "Doctor of the Year" at the end of his Foundation training in the West Midlands. He is now training to become a Consultant Radiologist in his five-year training post at University College London Hospitals NHS Trust in London. We spoke to him about his time at School and career to date.

What are some of your fondest memories of Bromsgrove?

I was always impressed with the extra-curricular activities that Bromsgrove had to offer since starting at Pre-Prep School. I have fond memories of Lower Fourth Camp where I remember toasting marshmallows in the summer evening. I also enjoyed going on numerous Model United Nations trips, which allowed me a chance to develop my knowledge of current world affairs and meet like-minded individuals from other schools. Finally, I really miss lunching at the dining hall with my classmates, and in particular the Beef

Bourguignon that was sometimes served in a bread bowl on Thursdays!

Did the subjects you studied at Bromsgrove solidify your career choice of Medicine?

I feel I had a clear penchant for the sciences and had the privilege to be taught by some great teachers throughout my time which contributed to this. I enjoyed learning Biology, in particular, and remember curiously investigating the ecological fauna of the Pembrokeshire coastline during the Lower Sixth field trip.

1980-2009 Leavers' Reunion

At the beginning of the Michaelmas Term, we welcomed Old Bromsgrovians who had left the School between 1980 and 2009 for a special reunion. Guests enjoyed reminiscing in the Heritage Centre, where they were able to spot some familiar faces, as well as a visit to their old House or classroom around the School. Lunch was a convivial occasion in the dining hall where the Headmaster read out passages from the Bromsgrovian and gave them an update about the School today.



Scan the QR code to watch our mini film documenting the event.



Lupton House Centenary

1922-2022

As part of Headmaster Routh's expansion of the School after the First World War, which had recently seen him open Elmhurst, Wendron and Oakley as additions to the established School and Gordon Houses, he declared his intention at Commemoration 1922 to 'open again next September, if arrangements could be completed, the small waiting house under the care of Mr Champain ... [to] bring [the School's] numbers to 300.' Mr FH Bateman-Champain (to give him his full name) had only been at Bromsgrove for a year, a highly talented yet enigmatic character, who had been a celebrated first class-cricketer (making his debut for Gloucestershire under the captaincy of WG Grace while still a schoolboy at Cheltenham College) and had gained a double Blue in both cricket (four years, captain in 1899) and rugby (three years) at Oxford. After distinguished service in the First World War he had taught at Sedbergh School as a Tutor in their Lupton House (named after the School's founder, who was also a Provost of Eton College). It is that association which led Mr Champain to give the name of Lupton to the 'waiting house' he duly opened in Bromsgrove on New Road for about 20 boarders in 1922. Although Mr Champain left the School six years later in rather curious circumstances, Lupton has remained a House in its own right ever since, surpassed only in time-frame by School House and Elmhurst (although that is in part due to the merger of Wendron and Gordon Houses in 1983).

From contemporary sources, Mr Champain was held in some awe for his sporting prowess (although personally entirely modest about his pedigree) and was well-known for his whimsical humour and behaviour, most notably in his invention of a mythical figure called 'The Countess' who, he suggested, lived in an attic room in the original House and who would advise him on which boys had gained her approval represented by the gift of a Countess's Penny.



Original Lupton House tuck postcard 1929



Founding Housemaster Mr FH Bateman-Champain

Even the teacher who briefly covered Mr Champain's absence heard enough in one term to provide the title of his novel *The Countess's Penny*, and we are told that Major E Mashiter, who took over as Lupton Housemaster in 1928, loved to recount though not to emulate the eccentricities of his predecessor. Major Mashiter was a most loyal servant both to his home Border Regiment (including service in both World Wars) as well as to Bromsgrove School and to the local area – there was hardly a community-minded project at School to which he did not give the generosity of his time and energy, whether CCF (his last parade aged 80 was just before his death in 1973), preaching in Chapel, organising the Bromsgrove Boys' Club in Birmingham, Pathfinders, or Toc H.

In his gentle and kindly manner, he was just as loyal to his Lupton 'troops' although, due to the depression of the 1930s, they were down to a mere five pupils by 1933. In a move that likely saved Lupton (unlike Oakley which ceased to exist as a House in 1937 when its small number of boarders were transferred to Wendron), Mr Routh accepted Major Mashiter's canny suggestion that Lupton could provide a base in School for the day boys – Lupton numbers immediately looked far more healthy (high twenties) and the day boys too suddenly had a far stronger identity in the School compared to the rather isolated existence they were used to, hanging around Big School in any spare moments.

By the summer of 1937, for example, the boys of Lupton felt established enough, like their counterparts in Elmhurst and Gordon, to level and prepare a third grass tennis court for their use to the south of the Chapel. The success of this integration plan was probably the motive behind Major Mashiter purchasing the adjoining property to Lupton (originally called Garlisters, on the side of The Crescent) with expansion in mind, but the enforced evacuation of the School to Llanwrtyd Wells in 1939 when the Government commandeered the School's buildings, including Lupton, put such thoughts on hold.

Although Major Mashiter initially travelled to Llanwrtyd Wells with the School, the call up to his regiment in August 1940 saw a brief hiatus in Lupton's timeline as pupils were split operationally not so much by their Bromsgrove Houses as by their accommodation building in Wales (e.g. Llanwrtyd Hall or Abernant House) or according to the staff available (e.g. the 1940 Bromsgrovian lists Messrs Keeble, Cory, Darby and Human responsible for the division of Abernant into the four 'Houses' of Collis, Millington, Hendy and Routh respectively). Even when the School returned to Bromsgrove in Autumn 1943, there was a period of transition in which boys had to be accommodated according to the gradual return of the buildings for the School's use. Without ever formally being Lupton Housemaster, Mr WR Littleton oversaw the day boys until Major Mashiter's return from service in May 1945, prior to the long-awaited return into Lupton House itself (the last building to be returned by the Government) by Major Mashiter and twenty-eight boys in the summer of 1946.

The planned expansion of the House into the next-door Garlisters duly started in 1948 meaning that, when Major Mashiter retired in 1952, he was able not only to sell the physical Lupton House to the School, but also to pass on to the new Housemaster Mr WG Holmes an established House of thirty-seven day boys which now justified its existence beyond the 'waiting house' for which it had originally been opened. Although we are not sure of its precise origin, the adoption of the boar's head as a Lupton symbol was in use by the early 1950s and must, surely, reflect the day boys' connection with the town and its own medieval folklore of a local boar seen in the town's heraldic arms, as well



Early 1970s Commemoration showing the back garden of Lupton with the wooden studies

as in the badges of its rugby, football (pre-Bromsgrove Sporting's use of the Rousler) and cricket clubs.

Headmaster Carey's arrival showed renewed faith in the Lupton cause and structural modifications made in 1953 saw the reintroduction of boarders alongside the day boys in a hybrid model which for the next decade housed 55-60 boys, fifteen to twenty of whom were boarders. All of this was overseen by Mr Holmes, a schoolmaster (according to the 1972 Bromsgrovian) of wide interests, with patience and a balanced view of life, as well as a keen sense of humour which cloaked a conscientious devotion to duty. Due to the steady growth in numbers and the consequent breadth of talents available, this was also the period in which the boys of Lupton were first genuinely able to 'hold their own' in sporting House competitions, rather than having to rely on the odd individual success or joining ranks with other smaller 'out-houses' to compete.

1964 saw some fundamental changes to the House system at Bromsgrove. The new Dining Hall heralded centralised dining for all on campus which freed up space in the boarding Houses previously used as dining rooms or to accommodate House catering staff. Another part of the reorganisation was Old School House being rechristened as Cookes House, the new House for all of the day boys in the School. In reverting to a fully boarding House, Lupton received some alterations, including new wooden 'portakabin' studies built in the back garden to replace the 'temporary' ones that had been there previously; the

Lupton day boys transferred to Cookes House, the twenty Lupton boarders stayed where they were, to be joined by twenty-five new Lupton boarders transferred from School House. As a mark of the successful culture in Lupton in this period, at Commemoration in 1967 the Headmaster pointed out that a third Head Boy from Lupton in four years was a fine tribute to Mr Holmes as he finished his 15 year tenure as Housemaster.

In contrast to his predecessors, the next Housemaster Mr D Gibbin had a relatively stable period of little change from 1967 to 1974 with a House of forty to forty-five boarders. An extrovert known for his sense of fun (his retirement present from the Common Room was a large wooden 'stirring' spoon), there is something of his character in many of the reflections of Lupton life at this time in Bromsgrovian editions. In general, while the Lupton boys may not always have shone on the sporting field in House competitions, albeit always competing with good humour and with some success in individual events such as swimming or running, they established something of a reputation in more cultural pursuits by holding events such as art exhibitions or hosting cultural evenings, as well as winning the Unison Song for five years in a row.





Lupton's base on campus 2010, previously School House Cottage, including the '93 extension on the right

Mr JRJ Bourne (Housemaster 1974-89), with his typically warm, cultured and yet practical manner, presided over as many changes as anyone in Lupton. Against the uncertain backdrop of the UK economic climate of the 1970s, the Headmaster Rev Earle recognised the all-round benefits for the School of a move towards co-education and an increase in the numbers of day pupils, as well as the financial and community benefits of moving the 'out-Houses' on to the main campus. Thus, Mr Bourne took over Lupton as a boys' boarding House of thirty-seven but, as these boarders worked through the School, they would only be replaced by day pupils, including the first three official Lupton Sixth Form girls in September 1975 (fittingly including the daughter of Mr and Mrs Gibbin). As the last four boarders left Lupton in the summer of 1979, the doors of the original House at the corner of New Road and The Crescent were closed (it was sold by the School in 1981 and demolished in 1983) and Mr Bourne re-opened Lupton the next term with fifty-six day pupils (including nine girls) in the rooms on the ground floor of School House (members of which had moved upstairs since they, too, were gradually becoming a day house) – more recent OBs will think of this area as the Housman Room classroom corridor (English, Classics/RS, or Mathematics depending on one's era). In 1980 the Lupton total spiked at eighty-three in the year before its thirty-three girls were transferred to the newly built girls' House Mary Windsor which opened in 1981. Even after this separation of male and female Houses (and indeed into the 1990s), girls were still affiliated to a specific boys' House for the purposes

of some House competitions, such as drama. Mr Bourne presided over one final move of location in 1987 when, in order to accommodate the English Department, the day boys of Lupton moved into the former School House Cottage, where the House still resides today.

Having worked alongside the other colleagues who have been Lupton Housemasters, it is perhaps too soon for one to try to define their influence, albeit I think it is fair to say that Lupton has retained a reputation as a loyal and whole-hearted House with a competitive edge in a breadth of areas, yet an undercurrent of good humour and community spirit, including an active calendar of social events involving its parental body. Much of that reflects positively on the all-round schoolmastering outlook of Messrs WK Hamflott (1989-1997), WLD Honey (1997-2000), JM Wingfield (2000-2003), DN Perry (2003-2006), P Greetham (2006-2009) and GI Evans (2017-present). The only real building changes to The Cottage in the last thirty-five years have seen an extension incorporating what was part of an older quad area, which doubled the size of the common room in 1993. Then in 2016 during my tenure as Housemaster (2009-2017), there was a complete refurbishment requiring a temporary move to the Old Police Station from January to May which, as well as providing a new entrance and some reconfiguration of the studies (now named after the first six Housemasters), also removed the load bearing 'pillar' of the 1993 work in order to open up the common room area fully. This day room remains the hub of Lupton life – the fact that one cannot enter or leave Lupton



House Song practice in the Day Room section extended in 1993 - photo by AGM, October 2010



The interior of the Lupton Day Room as extended in 1993 - photo by AGM, December 2010

without passing through it and thus in some way interacting with other members of the House really is, I believe, one of the key reasons for its enduring sense of community.

For all of the runs which he scored on a cricket pitch, the completion of Lupton's century is perhaps Mr Bateman-Champain's greatest legacy. There is something rather neat and cyclical to the House beginning its second century with another sport-loving mathematician at the helm, yet now it is situated right at the heart of the School campus, with about 85 day boys looking out over the sloping lawn where the ash-pit outside one of the original School gates was once used (in the second half of the nineteenth century) as the play area for some of the original day boys who were not allowed anywhere near the original Cottage Studies or on The Playground (now Gordon Green). It is indeed fair to say that the existence of Lupton has played an important role in the integration of day pupils into the Bromsgrove School of today.

- A. G. McClure (Deputy Head Pastoral)



2014 Commemoration with the LIV year group on the Lupton stairs - photo by AGM, July 2014



Views of the Lupton Day Room and studies after the 2016 refurbishment



View of the Lupton Day Room prior to the 2016 refurbishment



Lupton exterior after the 2016 refurbishment - photo by AGM, March 2017



Commemoration Day



Our News to You

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE BROMSGROVIAN OFFICE.



Class of 2023

A warm welcome to our most recent leavers, the **Class of 2023**, who we look forward to welcoming to OB events in the near future.

The Headmaster gave an OB tie or label pin to each Upper Sixth leaver in a special ceremony during the final Routh Assembly of the academic year.

We urge all leavers, if they haven't already, to log on to Bromsgrovians Connected and update their contact details, particularly with a personal email address so that we can stay in contact.



Thank you

A big thank you to Old Bromsgrovian and former academic staff, **Adele George** (née Williams, Oakley 1997-2002) for assisting Rachel Scannell (Assistant Head) at an event in Thailand earlier this year.



Heritage Visits

We welcomed a group of Old Bromsgrovians at the end of the Lent Term to look around the Heritage Centre - **Bob Wilson** (School 1961-1966), **Simon Wood** (Cokes 1963-1968), **John Massey** (School 1962-1967), **Father Dennis Touw** (School 1962-1968), **Philip Powell** (Lupton 1962-1967) and **Matthew Horton** (Cokes 1962-1967, Foundation Trustee, Former Chairman of Governors and Vice President of the School) had a wonderful afternoon of reminiscing about their School days.

It was also lovely to welcome back Old Bromsgrovians from the 1960s - **John Moody** (Cokes 1963-1968), **Alex Field** (School/Wendron 1964-1969), **Paul Reading** (Elmhurst 1964-1969), **Will Carey** (son of former Headmaster, Lionel Carey), **Tim Vickers** (Cokes 1963-1969), **Howard Burton** (Gordon 1963-1969) and **Charlie Bowen** (School 1963-1968).

After reminiscing over School photographs and memorabilia in the Heritage Centre, the group enjoyed watching cricket on Lower Charford where a National Cup match was taking place.



Alumni Helpers

Thank you to all of our alumni helpers at the recent **Academic Asia Top Schools** event in Hong Kong.



The Inside Story



Joe Phillips

(Lyttelton 2013-2015) recently spoke to us about about dyslexia, the world of business and what it was like to take part in BBC's *The Apprentice*. Here, he looks back on his time at Bromsgrove...

"I would implore students to capitalise on the Bromsgrovian zest for life... seize every day."

What you remember about your time at Bromsgrove? The vibrant culture that permeated every aspect of School life. It was a place where both students and teachers exuded an infectious zest for life, where students were encouraged to excel in whatever path they chose. It didn't matter if it was in the classroom, on the sports field or on the stage. Bromsgrove installed a belief that with dedication and enthusiasm, I could achieve my goals. That is a state of mind that has stuck with me all these years later and has been a driving force in shaping my career.

How would you describe your experience at the School? One of my favourite memories from Bromsgrove School has to be the House Song competition where I had the privilege of conducting my House, Lyttelton. Trying to organise 100 rowdy boys, none of whom could hold a note, in a rendition of *Mr Blue Sky* was certainly an experience but, unbelievably, we went on to win. Forget House sports or even House rugby, this was the *crème de la crème*!

What did you do after leaving Bromsgrove? After winning the Gauntlet Award, I was granted some money to put into conservation. I took a Gap Year in South Africa where I did

exactly that. I fell in love with wildlife and upon my return to the UK, studied Zoology at Exeter and Ethology with the DCE at Oxford. After working as a Safari Guide in SA, I set up a small business called Surf Balm, which is now stocked in eighty-nine retailers across the UK and South Africa. These entrepreneurial endeavours eventually led to my appearance on the BBC's business programme *The Apprentice* where I pitched for £250,000 investment from Lord Sugar. I failed and got fired on national television but none the less, a MASSIVE thank you to Jo Williams (now Mrs Holdsworth) for everything she taught me in A level Business Studies.

So, what would you say has been a career defining moment up to now? I've had a varied career from Cairo to Cape Town, and from the African Bush to the Boardroom. After university, I moved to South Africa. Upon my return to the UK, I was offered a job in the corporate world, working for a large multi national and, eventually, running my own business.

Two defining moments stand out to me. The first is being charged by a 6 tonne bull elephant in the African bush and the other is being fired by Lord Sugar in the Boardroom - I think I'd rather face the elephant!

Tell us more about your time on *The Apprentice*... I applied for the show after watching the credits roll last season. I had a small business at the time, so my Dad suggested applying. I know the show receives 60,000-100,000 applicants per year, so I thought nothing of it and abruptly forgot! I was on horseback in the Kariga river when I got the phone call.

The process was unbelievably intense but I loved every second of it. For ten weeks, you are taken off the face of the planet; no phone, no watch, no communication with the outside world. We worked sixteen hour days, six days a week living on adrenaline and caffeine. A gruelling and exhausting process but I would do it again in a heartbeat and feel very lucky to have been invited to take part.

Do you have words of wisdom for current pupils today? I'm not sure I have the authority to be offering advice - I make A LOT of mistakes along the way but if there's anything I would implore students and OBs to capitalise on, it's the Bromsgrovian zest for life - to seize every day. It doesn't matter what area it's in, if you're passionate about it and give it everything you've got, you are bound to succeed.

Join Team Bromsgrove

TAKE PART IN THE AJ BELL GREAT BIRMINGHAM RUN 2024.

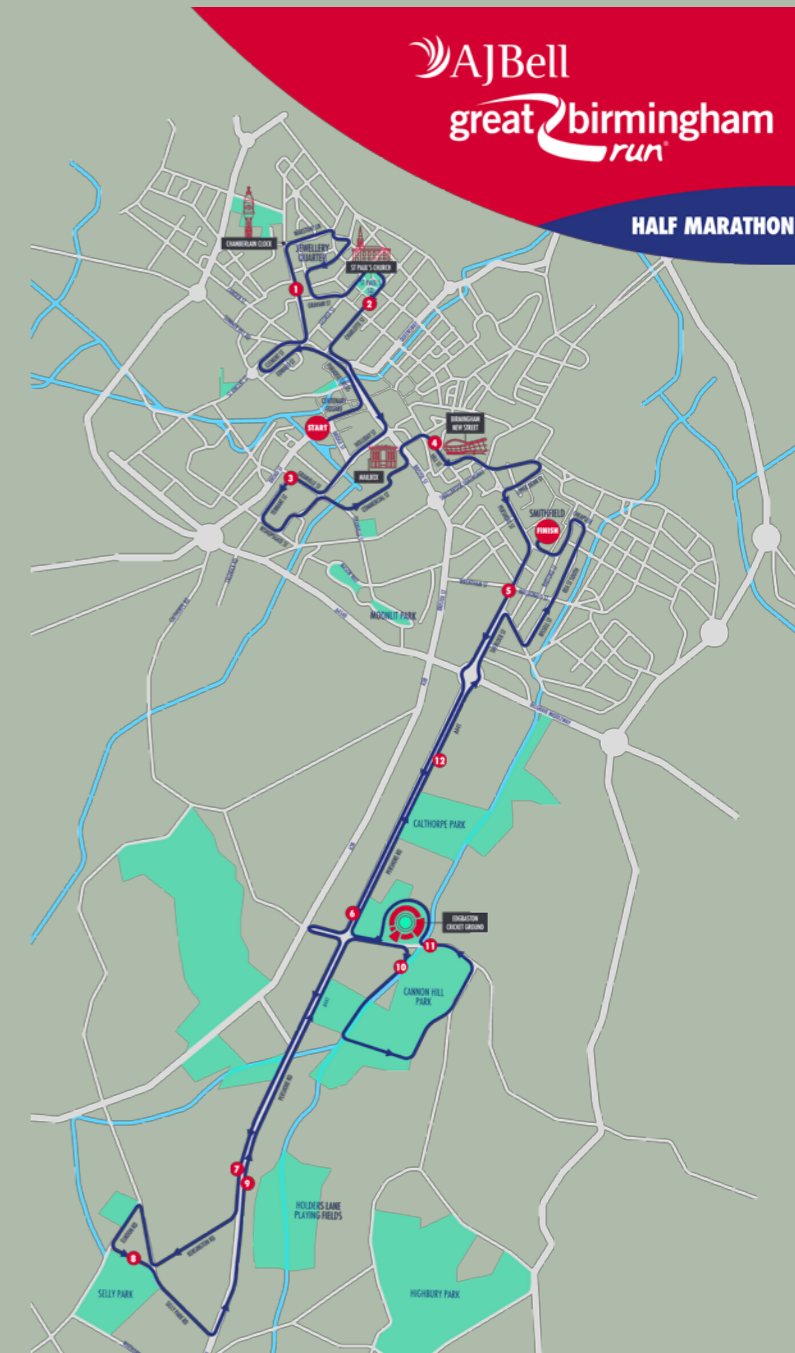
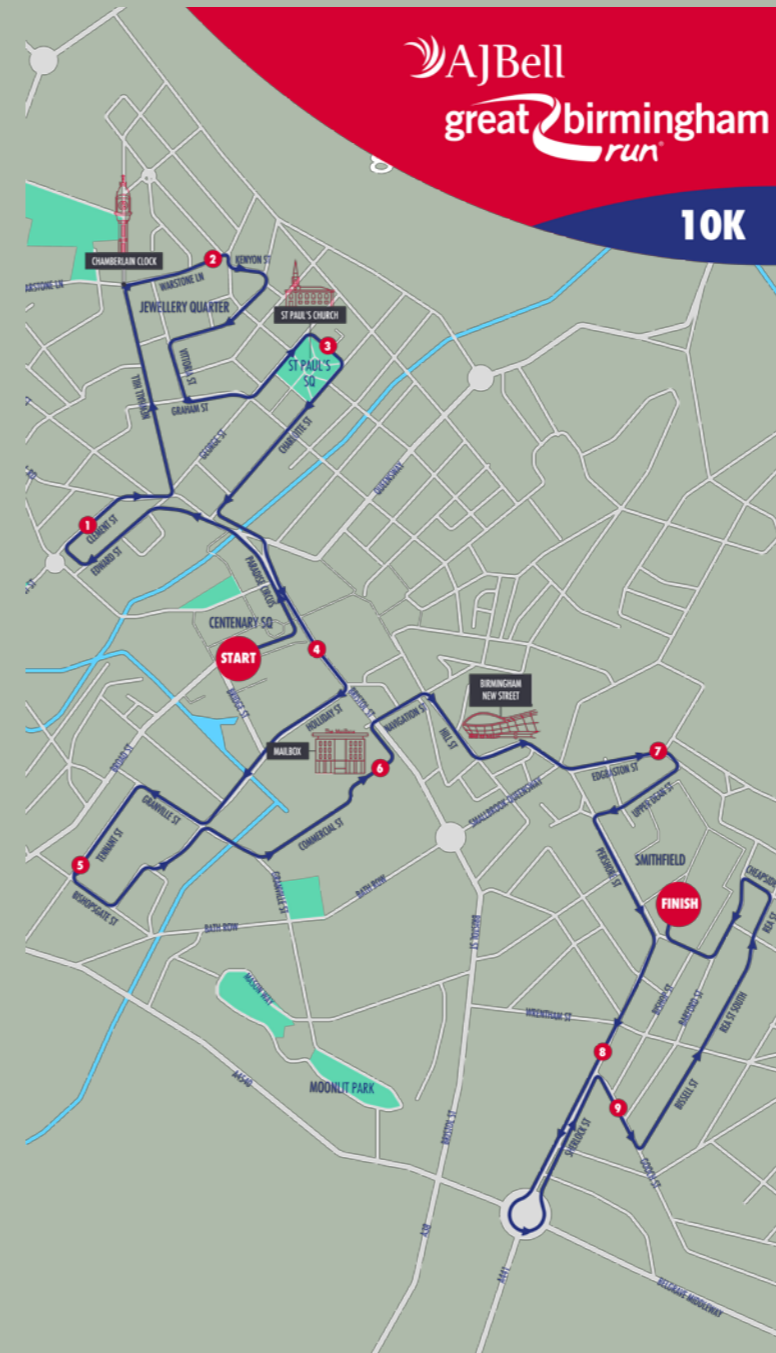
Would you like to lace up your trainers and be a part of our Bromsgrove School team of charity walkers/runners?

We aim to walk, jog or run the 2024 AJ Bell Great Birmingham Run on Sunday, 5th May for Cancer Research UK. As you may well know, many in our community are facing this dreadful disease and so we intend to raise funds and awareness to support Cancer Research UK in their vital work to bring forward the day when everyone lives longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.

The 2024 AJ Bell Great Birmingham Run takes in many popular landmarks across the city centre and beyond. You can find out more about it at www.greatrun.org/events/great-birmingham-run/

You can opt to tackle either the 10k or Half Marathon on the day as both start at the same time and place.

If you would like to join 'Team Bromsgrove School', please email enquiries@bromsgrove-school.co.uk or write to us at the School address (marked for the attention of the Bromsgrovian Office).



Choose the 10k or half marathon - walk, run or jog

2023 route shown. Course may be subject to change

From the Archives...

A RUN DOWN OF THE ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR.

The Heritage Centre continues to attract visitors from all areas of the School community and beyond. Many Old Bromsgrovians from different decades have been able to view archive material relating to their particular time at School and their own particular interests. It has been wonderful to welcome OBs from Germany and the US as well as closer to home. Sometimes this has been the first time back since leaving school. These visits also give us an opportunity to acquire photographs, documents, knowledge and first-hand accounts of life in School at particular moments in Bromsgrove School history. Archive Club students are trained in oral history recording and gain a lot from what they learn of how School has changed over the past seventy years.

Visits from further afield, by relatives of Old Bromsgrovians, included the grandson of OB Sir Lionel Whitby, First World War veteran and founder of the Blood Transfusion Service in WW2. Peter Whitby, Sir Lionel's grandson who visited from Canada, donated many items including his grandfather's photograph album from WW1 (seen below in the images), a valuable addition to our School Archive which will be used in WW1 workshops with students in November.



Archive Club has continued with good support from students on key archiving tasks and on developing their own exhibitions for the Headmaster's Dining Room and for Commem in June. One student, an able photographer, matched his own photographs of School campus with historic images he found in the archives and put together an excellent exhibition with support from fellow students. His photographs are also a useful contemporary capture of life at Bromsgrove School through a student's eyes.

Another view of life at Bromsgrove School in the 1950s was captured on cine film by OB J.M. Care's family, who has now donated the film to us. It has been digitised and we were able to show it at Commem this year. It is a lovely informal view of life at School from the trunk being put into a car to the end of year prize giving and sports events, including a good look at the outdoor pool! For our current students and school community it is a valuable resource for the archive, showing how much has changed in seventy years at Bromsgrove.



Cinefilm footage of the School during the 1950s



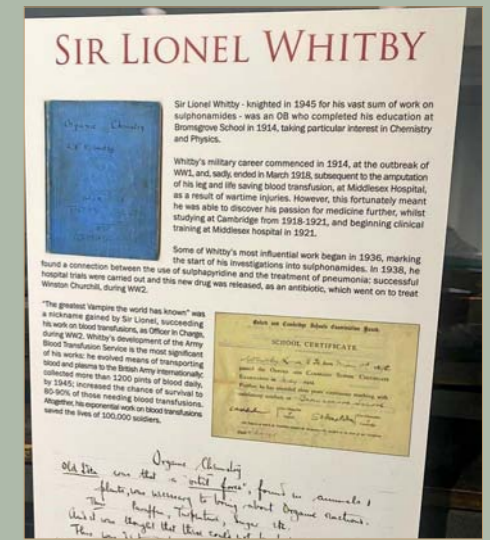
We are working with Rugby School in conjunction with the Art Department on a research project on Schools of Empire, Class and Colonialism to develop ways of documenting large artefacts through 3D photography. This will form part of the Photography GCSE coursework and will visually record key assets for the archive as well as giving contextual history to the items.

We have also hosted two successful student work experience placements this year and worked with Sixth Form students on our collections around 'Hidden Histories: Women of Bromsgrove School', creating a digital exhibition in School and on our social media channels. We continue to identify gaps in the archival record of particular decades, curriculum areas and extra-curricular activity and are grateful to Old Bromsgrovians for their part in donating items that help to fill these gaps.

The work on digital preservation continues as a primary area of focus for the archive to ensure the archival capture of school life for the future. We are working with a digital preservation network of school archivists, SDS Heritage, Gloucester Archive and Record Office and The National Archives to find solutions for School Archive digital capture and preservation. Seeing the obvious delight of Old Bromsgrovians, in returning to School to view the photographic and documentary record of their time at Bromsgrove, drives the impetus for ensuring that the archive is captured, kept and accessible for future generations of OBs.



Engaging work experience students in the Archive



A piece of work compiled by one of our work experience students on Sir Lionel Whitby



Welcoming OBs into the Heritage Centre - John Denby (School 1956-1965, top image) and John Thorpe (Gordon 1952-1957, bottom image)



Exploring Connections

FROM INITIAL ENQUIRY TO FINDING THE LINK, OUR ARCHIVIST TAKES A CLOSER LOOK.

An enquiry from a family member connected to Bromsgrove School has led to a closer look at an album of photographs in the archive from the early twentieth century. Among other things, the photos show Masters at the School in various informal poses when they are not teaching or looking after boys. They are initialled and following the enquiry we now have at least one full name and a story to go with it.

David Eddershaw, who made the enquiry about his father and whose brother attended Bromsgrove gave us this information to go with the photos we found:

"I am a historian and am researching my family history for the benefit of my children and grand-children (and even great grandson just a few months old!). My father Harold Trevor Eddershaw died at the age of 52 when I was only four years old. He had been at Christ College Brecon then Jesus College Oxford. His first teaching post was at St Peter's York where he taught classics but had to leave after less than a year because of ill health and an urgent operation. Following his recovery from that he joined the staff at Bromsgrove in 1915. I knew almost nothing about this early part of his life and your archives have filled in so much for me. Among other things it is noticeable that while he was a Wesleyan Methodist at Oxford he gradually moved into the C of E at Bromsgrove and seems to have been a good preacher. He was ordained in 1919 or 20, soon after leaving Bromsgrove and became vicar of a parish in Sheffield, then Conisborough until his death in 1942. I notice he was invited to preach at Bromsgrove on several occasions."



Hazeldene 1916



The little dog.



Hazeldene



A.G.J.



H.M.I.'s study



Hazeldene 1916 (H.M.I.)



H.T.E.'s study



The wards



Sunday afternoon - tea



W.B. & Scout.



Ward

Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2021/22.

Kieran Brinn
(Walters 2004-2019)
d. 23rd December 2022

Old Bromsgrovian Kieran Brinn passed away shortly before Christmas at the age of 21. Kieran joined the Pre-Prep in 2004 and contributed to many areas of School life. In the Sixth Form he was Deputy Head of School and the Cookes Prizewinner at Commemoration 2019. After Bromsgrove he went on to study Medicine at Liverpool University.

The family have created a kudoboard where they ask that those who knew Kieran share photos and memories: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/9dUn63HX>

A celebration of Kieran's life was held in the Memorial Chapel at Bromsgrove School in January 2023.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kieran's mother, sister, Aisling and all of Kieran's wider family and friends.

John Brownsdon
(School 1948-1953)
d. 22nd April 2023

John Frederick Barton Brownsdon died suddenly in Portugal on 22nd April.

John was part of the second generation of Brownsdon's to attend School House. He joined the Wine Trade in 1959 and achieved the distinction of being a Master of Wine in 1962. He formed his own business Barton Brownsdon and Sadler and was highly respected for his great knowledge on French Wine.

Susannah "Susie" Donne
(Lupton/Mary Windsor 1980-1982)
d. 20th February 2023



Susie was born on 31st July 1964 at St Thomas's in London and her early education was spent at The Convent School before joining Bromsgrove in the Sixth Form. This was at a time when Bromsgrove was starting its path to full co-education, and with her trademark curly hair, Susie certainly made an impact. What it must have been like to have been in a School of about 300 boys and a small number of girls, having come from a Convent, can only be imagined. You would sink or swim, and Susie was never the sinking kind. She soon formed a close cohort of friends who were to remain long-life acquaintances with regular meet ups either on a one-on-one or a group occasion.

Post-Bromsgrove, Susie went to Goldsmith's University where she was quite the exotic creature with her halo of blond curls, Colgate smile and trendy knee-length red boots. A non-smoker, non-drinker, this very clean living country girl with her natural beauty – how annoying must that have been to her many girl friends.

At University, whilst everyone else was working at the union bar, in supermarkets, haberdashery departments and the like, Susie landed jobs at Liberty London and then Purdys, where she not only met the Queen Mother, but also the King of Spain.

'My normal order please' he said to a flustered Susie who, as she later recounted it, went to the old fashioned Roladex to look for his 'normal order' only to be unsure whether she should be looking under 'K' for King or 'S' for Spain.

After Purdy's came Max Factor and then into the Hotel Industry where she was to spend the rest of her career. In an industry where the barrier to entry is set quite low, Susie raised it immeasurably being, as one her colleagues described, "one in a million".

Her initial stint at Prima, part of the leading hotels of the world group, was followed by a move to Pineapple. Well respected in the industry - dependable, honest and with integrity - she had a natural feel for what the end user might or might not like. From Pineapple she moved to Peninsular, a brand of quality to which Susie was ideally suited and where she stayed for the rest of her working life, excelling and rising through the ranks to be European Sales Director.

Walking was a huge part of Susie's life and one that enabled her to keep in close contact with her friends. Whether she was stomping the Thames path, coastal walks, the Malvern hills or stretches of Pembrokeshire, this was a special part of Susie's life. Many an hour would be spent shoulder to shoulder with her friends talking about everything important and nothing in particular.

Susie was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, which she bore with fortitude and generally did not want people to know how ill she was. In the times that Susie was well enough she loved nothing more than pottering around her Worcestershire home tending to the garden. Despite an initial successful stem cell transplant, the cancer returned with a vengeance and Susie died on 20th February 2023.

Susie, with your trademark hair, your twinkling eyes and your beaming smile, your friends all loved you dearly and will miss you terribly.

- Gordon Farmiloe (Lupton 1976-1981)

Ben Dudley
(Lyttelton 1995-2005, Director of Hockey 2013-2016)
d. 12th April 2023



We know that the tragic loss of Ben Dudley will upset many across our School community.

Ben was a superb pupil and contributed to many areas of School life but was a particularly talented hockey goalkeeper. Ben also returned later to Bromsgrove as a member of staff and a very successful Director of Hockey from 2013 to 2016, and he inspired many young hockey players during his time.

A celebration of Ben's life was held on 20th May at Wycliffe College Chapel.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ben's wife and all of his family and friends.

Michael John Hare
(Elmshurst 1949-1953)
d. 12th April 2023

When Michael left school in 1953, the letter from the Head, D.J. Walters, predicted that he would "develop into a very good Engineer". And that is just what he did, serving an apprenticeship at G.E.C, Witton, Birmingham, attaining membership of I.E.E.E, then transferring to Courtaulds in Coventry. As part of their engineering development division, he applied his skill of problem solving to the control of equipment in many areas. As well as work with fibres, he also designed a way of printing toothpaste tubes, handling very large rolls of plastic wrapping, weighing potentially explosive powders and quality controlling fabrics. Anyone who remembers him will not be surprised that he always had a well-equipped shed, where he was at his happiest making and mending for the home, the children and later the grandchildren.

His other great gift, his talent for music, continued to give pleasure to many people. From piano playing, he played the organ at the West End Cinema in Birmingham, then taught himself the accordion. As well as being part of several church groups, he formed the Arden Folk Dance Band. They became highly popular and in demand through the length and breadth of the country for more than twenty years.

Michael's health became compromised by breathing problems from asthma, but he remained well until the last winter. He is succeeded by his wife, Gillian, three children, grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

- Mrs Gillian Hare

Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2022/23.

Tony Finn
(Teacher, Housemaster, Senior Master, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Services 1964-1995)
d. 22nd May 2023

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Tony Finn, who passed away on 22nd May 2023.

Tony first appeared on the Bromsgrove scene in 1963 when he brought a touring Glenalmond 1st XV to play the School 1st XV. He then joined the Physics Department in 1964, becoming involved in all aspects of School life: on the rugby field, in the Science Department, in Gordon House, as Senior Master, Deputy Headmaster, and Director of Services.

His valet in the Bromsgrovian states that "...any who had contact with him for only a brief period will soon have discovered that this 'Leader' cared for the people in his teams. He never tackled any task without first setting clearly defined goals, pointing out areas of responsibility amongst the team members and then with a clever blend of encouragement... and firm driving, he aroused the enthusiasm necessary to achieve success."

The following is an extract from his entry in the Bromsgrovian upon retirement in 1995: His first post was in the Physics department where he rapidly established himself as a gifted teacher demanding the best from his pupils, most of whom will never forget the frequent "Big Tests" which kept everyone up to the mark and produced increasingly good examination results. Soon after taking over as Head of Physics and establishing the department, he was elevated to Housemaster of Gordon and with it came the opportunity to introduce innovative ideas. The Gordon House Parents' Association was the first of its kind in the School, a very radical idea then, followed by Study Bedrooms for Seniors.



Eventually Tony relinquished Gordon House and was flourishing in his new role as Second Master. Many members of the Common Room have good cause to remember kind or encouraging words from him during a crisis. In the period following Nick Earle's retirement and Tim Taylor's installation as Headmaster, the School was quietly but firmly led forward by Tony who handed over to the new man a calm, well ordered School and Staff: no mean achievement.

In the fullness of time, Tony retired from teaching to take up the post of Director of Services; it was here that his leadership and entrepreneurial skills could be seen. The Dining Hall facilities and their produce were transformed, multiple choice menus appeared, the unseemly rush in and out of the Hall became a pleasant tidal flow and the pupils actually began to enjoy their food! For the Staff, the termly 'Dining In Night' became a regular and stylish fixture. A minibus fleet came into being with day pupils being brought in by our own transport system and the grounds and buildings began to hum with activity as renovations and new buildings proceeded to add to the quality of our campus. The final logistical triumph of the Library and Resources Centre was certainly due to a great deal of behind the scenes prodding and cajoling in the approved 'Finn style' of management and is there for all to see and enjoy.



On the rugby field, Tony also worked transformations; he organised the fixture list, which had been a rather haphazard sequence of matches, into an orderly Saturday only programme allowing time for injury recovery and team training to take their proper place in the intervening weekdays. Later as the Colts coach, he achieved the same success with this younger age group and sent a supply of astute young rugby players on to the Senior game.

Other sporting achievements include fiercely competitive squash, marathon running and setting up the Bromsgrove 'Fun Run' for the town. For a time, he also organised the Third XI cricket.

We send our sincere condolences to Tony's family and hold them all in our thoughts.

Editor's Note: *The School understands that a Memorial Service for Tony Finn may go ahead in 2024 – further details will follow from the family and School in due course.*

Christopher Garrett
(School 1946-1951)
d. 28th December 2022



Chris Garrett, left Bromsgrove in July 1951 after four years at the School. He was bound for Birmingham University to study medicine. It was, clearly, a good choice; he would spend his entire working life in the medical profession. He arrived at Bromsgrove from Arnold Lodge Prep School in Leamington Spa. Its then-head, H.D. Hall, commented, "He has the makings of a scholar and we will be most interested in his further development. We are indeed sorry to lose him."

Bromsgrove gave Chris an excellent education; he attained A grades at A Level in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. He was also awarded his School Colours and would later play hockey in the Army before injury forced him to give up. Chris was also a Lance-Corporal in the School's Combined Cadet Force, his CCF certificate noting he had "showed a satisfactory standard of proficiency in use of the Bren gun." That was, perhaps, just as well. In 1957, soon after becoming a junior doctor, Chris was called up for National Service and would go on to spend thirty-four years in the Army.

In his final School report, the Head, D.J. Walters, noted, "He has done well here and developed splendidly. A good Bromsgrovian, who will enhance our reputation at Birmingham University. He has my best wishes."

In 1993, after retiring from the Royal Army Medical Corps with the rank of Brigadier, Chris spent a decade serving as medical director for the Pilgrims Hospices in Canterbury, Kent. He then retired completely to take care of his wife, Gwen, who passed away in 2016.

- James Garrett (Cobham House 1966-1970 and School House 1970-1974)

Simon Skelding
(Elmshurst/Oakley 1954-1962)
d. 26th December 2022

Simon Skelding passed away peacefully at home on 26th December 2022, aged 78, after a long battle against prostate cancer. He left his devoted wife Judy, his brother William, his son Oliver, his daughter Melissa and five grandchildren. His funeral and thanksgiving were held at St Andrew's Church Compton Dundon, Somerset on 16th January 2023.

In January 1968, aged 23, Simon formed a suspended ceiling company called Roskel Contracts. The business was very successful and expanded rapidly. In 1988 the company was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market (USM). Under Simon's guidance the company continued to prosper and was acquired by The Sheffield Insulation Group (SIG) in 1997. SIG was only interested in the supply side of the business, so Roskel Contracts left the group and reverted to being a private company. All of the above stemmed from Simon's determination and drive. After the acquisition Simon took early retirement but maintained a keen interest in the company's progress. Roskel Contracts continues to this day having completed its 55th anniversary.

During his retirement, Simon pursued his life-long ambition of collecting classic cars. He also took up speed hill climbing with great enthusiasm right up to the end of his life.

- William Skelding (Lupton 1953-1957)

Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2022/23.

Geoff Strong
(Former Governor, Former Parent and Vice President of the School)
d. 24th April 2023



A kind, generous and deeply empathetic man, few have served Bromsgrove with the quiet passion and wisdom that were hallmarks of Geoff's service to the School.

Geoff and Sue Strong had strong links with Bromsgrove School from the early 1980s when their children Sally (TC '89) and Tim (School '89) joined the Prep School. In Geoff's time he was Chair of the Prep and Senior School Parents' Associations. He then was appointed to the Governing Body as one of the original Governors before the School was incorporated in 2003.

Geoff served the School loyally for a remarkable 25 years on various sub-committees before being appointed as Vice-Chair of the Board and then as a Vice-President following his retirement. During his time at the School, Geoff was also the Governor for our Support Staff, frequently meeting with them and acting on their behalf. He was a regular visitor to the School and supporter of all School events and concerts, from our Pre-Preps at Bromsgrove and Winterfold through to the Senior School. His smile and good-humoured support had become a fixture of Bromsgrove life.

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 and selfless servant to the School, who supported our every endeavour with wisdom, passion and endearing humility.

John Talbot-Cooper
(1946-1950)
d. 2021



John was born in Worcestershire, and after attending schools in Upton-upon-Severn and Malvern, went on to study at Bromsgrove School from 1946 to 1950. After studying at Birmingham Technical College and Bristol University School of Pharmacy he qualified as a pharmacist, becoming Manager Director of the family business in Upton-upon-Severn in 1958. He remained there for 35 years and was a well-respected and popular figure in Upton, where he was Chairman of the Edward Hall Charity, a member of the Earls Croome Parochial Church Council, also playing cricket for the Upton cricket team and was a founder member of Upton Arts Association. He was a sponsor of the first Upton Jazz Festival and as a member of the local Scots Club, he was often called upon to tell his humorous stories!

John was a keen photographer, winning national awards and becoming Chairman of Worcester Camera Club and for many years enjoyed family skiing holidays. Music played a huge part in his life and he enjoyed playing cello with friends and family, attending concerts and hosting many distinguished musicians at his home after moving to Gloucestershire.. He supported a number of music and poetry societies and was Treasurer of Gloucester Music Society.

From a young age he and his brother Anthony shared an interest in cars. He was a member of a number of car clubs and owned many interesting cars over the years including a type 57 Bugatti, a 1919 Le Zebre and most recently three Talbots from the 1930s. He leaves three children, Robert, Allan and Sarah from his first marriage and twin step-daughters Eleanor and Hannah from his marriage to his widow Christine.

- Christine Talbot-Cooper

David Loxley Trickett
(Wendron 1957-1962)
d. 14th March 2023

David Trickett died peacefully at home on 14th March 2023, aged 78.

David was born in Sheffield and at 13 years of age came to Bromsgrove School following medical advice that a milder climate would help his asthma. Whilst at Bromsgrove, David started cross-country running, something that he continued to do well into his senior years. The School also allowed him to embrace his love of sailing. He was a member of both the School cross-country running and sailing teams.

On leaving Bromsgrove, David returned to his home city and studied metallurgy at Sheffield University graduating three years later with a first class honours degree. He represented the university running team, competing in events up and down the country. Later in life, David started running marathons, and despite being asthmatic, he ran them in incredibly quick times.

David was a life-long churchgoer and Christian. He was an advocate for helping people less fortunate than himself and gave much time and support to charities, in particular a local charity assisting the homeless.

David had a passion for the outdoors and loved walking in the wonderful Peak District, which sits in close proximity to Sheffield. He enjoyed numerous holidays walking in mountainous regions in Europe.

We said goodbye to David in Sheffield Cathedral on 24th April, his service was attended by many including several Old Bromsgrovians. David was a popular and respected person, and will be greatly missed by many.

- Simon Trickett (son)

Old Bromsgrovians who also died in 2023/23 but for whom we have no obituary:

Geoffrey Ashford
(Elmshurst 1946-1949)
d. January 2023

James Danvers Baker
(Former Staff 1963-1965)
d. 19 June 2023

Dean Bartram
(Cokes 1969-1973)
d. 2022

David Benson
(School 1950-1955)
Deceased date not known

Donald M.M. Bruce
(Elmshurst 1953-1958)
d. 3rd September 2023

Tim John Campbell Darby
(Lupton 1969-1972)
Deceased date not known

Ralph Duncan
(Wendron 1946-1951)
d. 7 October 2022

Tony (Robert Anthony) Foster-Smith
(School 1953-1957)
d. 18th May 2023

Garth Kenderdine-Davies
(School 1943-1947)
d. 2023

Ian Mellor (School 1962-1968)
d. 21st October 2023

John Poulton
(Elmshurst 1970-1975)
d. February 2023

Michael Roberts
(School 1944-1948)
d. December 2022

Lt Col (Rtd) AJ Scott MBE
(Gordon 1952-1957)
d. 4 January 2023

Peter Simpson
(School 1953-1956)
d. 23 January 2023

Richard Thorpe
(Gordon 1935-1940)
d. 1st March 2023

Jonathan Wells
(School 1956-1961)
d. 22nd April 2023

Frank Westerman
(Wendron 1948-1952)
d. 4th November 2023

Editor's Note: Please be aware that the Christopher Williams referred to in the last issue is 'Christopher Lawrence Williams'. We understand that there has been some confusion as a number of OBs with the same name exist.

The Foundation

THANKING OUR DONORS, LEGACY MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS.

Appreciation Lunch

Donors and Legacy Society members attended our annual Appreciation Lunch in May 2023, one of the first events for the new Headmaster, Michael Punt. Guests listened to an introduction from the Headmaster and an overview from the Chairman of the Foundation, Matthew Taylor.



Geoff Godsall, Gareth Morgan, Una Morgan and Caroline Godsall



Mave Turner, Philip Powell and Susan Powell



Michael Punt (Headmaster) and Dr Vivian Anthony (Vice President of the School)

Would you like to know more about the Foundation?

Email: foundation@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

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



David Dutton, John Cutler, Mary Whittall and Christopher Price



Victor Matts, Alastair Willcox (School Governor) and Matthew Taylor (Chairman of the Foundation)

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.

Foundation Speaker's Lunch

Thank you to everyone who supported the Foundation Speaker's Lunch, with proceeds from ticket sales going to the life-changing bursary scheme.

We are very grateful to guest speaker His Honour Judge Richard Foster (1967-1972, Foundation Trustee) who spoke about his legal career to a captive audience of OBs, parents and members of the pupil-led Law Society.



Donor Roll

THANKING OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 2022/23.

(DONATIONS & GIFTS IN KIND* RECEIVED FROM SEPTEMBER 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2023)

Cookes

Stephen Bradley (1968-1973, Foundation Trustee)
Kim Daniels (1960-1965, also Lupton)
Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham Kt. (1969-1974, also Walters)
Matthew Taylor (1968-1973, also Walters, Chairman of the Foundation)

Elmshurst

Philip Baldwin (1954-1958)
Richard Cariss (1956-1959)
His Honour Judge Richard Foster (1962-1972, Foundation Trustee)
Hugh Furber (1952-1957)
Philip Hobson (1948-1952)
Topper Webb (1972-1973)

Gordon

Barry Dumughn (1950-1955)
Nevil Malin (1948-1953)
Graham Sim (1969-1974)

Housman Hall

Funbi Akinsanya (2015-2017)
Jason Chu (2021-2023)
Haotian Cui (2015-2017)
Robyn Davies (2016-2018)
Daniel Kwok (2013-2017)
King Sum Tong (2020-2022)

Lupton

Richard Brookes (1961-1965, President of the Foundation)
Peter Byng (1960-1964, deceased)
Kim Daniels (1960-1965, also Cookes)
Frank Dunne (1960-1965)
David Dutton (1956-1961)
Kelvin Morris (1976-1981)
Philip Powell (1962-1967)

Lyttelton

Will Lockhart (2005-2016)
Gareth Morgan (1953-1958)
Joe Phillips (2013-2015)

Mary Windsor

Tiffanie Tseng (2013-2017)

Oakley

Adele George (née Williams, 1992-2002)
Amy Nolan (2012-2019)

School

Andrew Clark (1947-1952)
John Cutler (1956-1961)
John Denby (1956-1965, Foundation Trustee)
Geoff Godsall (1956-1959)
John Massey (1962-1967)
Jim Page (1945-1949, also Headmaster of Junior School 1961-1989)
Christopher Price (1939-1944)
David Roberts (1953-1958)
Haydn Stanney (2013-2020)
Chris Tan (1961-1966)
Robert Williams (1963-1968)

Walters

Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham Kt. (1969-1974, also Cookes)
Matthew Taylor (1968-1973, also Cookes, Chairman of the Foundation)

Wendron / Wendron-Gordon

David Harrison (1947-1950)
Jeff Lomax (1949-1954)

Friends of the School

Old Bromsgrovian Lodge
Judy Dennison
Chris Edwards
Paul Pittaway
Rachel Scannell
James Sommerville
Ann Taylor
Tim Taylor
Patricia Whistance

Parents

Mr Au-Yeung and Mrs Lo
Mr and Mrs Barker
Mr and Mrs Black
Mr Buchel and Mrs Reutlinger
Mr and Mrs Caserio
Mr Chung
Mr and Mrs Daminov
Mr and Mrs Dunn
Mr and Mrs Glatter
Dr Hong and Mrs Woo
Dr Barbara King
Mr and Mrs Lamb
Mr Lo and Ms Ten
Mr Nuriyev and Mrs Gadimova
Mr and Mrs Pumpapanich
Mr and Mrs Rai
Mrs De Sangosse
Mr Schulze and Mrs Young
Mr Sun and Ms Ai
Mr Sunsaneeyachevin and Mrs Towiwatt
Mr To and Ms Ngai
Dr Wan and Ms Ma
Mr Wong and Mrs Ho

* We now record monetary donations and gifts in kind, i.e. those who have offered to help students through the Futures department or have given their time to the School.

Events

WHAT'S ON AT BROMSGROVE DURING 2024 AND BEYOND.

February 2024

Foundation Speaker's Lunch

Saturday, 10th February 2024
Venue: Bromsgrove School
Former Headmaster, Tim Taylor, returns to Bromsgrove School to lead our third annual Speaker's Lunch. The Speaker's Lunch is open to anyone who has a connection to Bromsgrove. The cost is £30 per person, which includes a welcome drink and buffet lunch. Profits raised from the Speaker's Lunch will go to the Foundation's life-changing bursaries scheme, giving the gift of a Bromsgrove education to children who would otherwise not be able to attend the School. Email invitations will be sent out in the New Year.

March 2024

The Thirteenth Annual Foundation Lecture

Thursday, 21st March 2024
Venue: The Royal College of Physicians, London
Speaker: Professor Keith Porter
The Foundation Lecture is open to anyone with a connection to Bromsgrove. Email invitations will be sent out in the Lent Term.

May 2024

OB Golf Summer Eclectic

15th May 2024: Edgbaston Golf Club
28th May 2024: Olton Golf Club

Please see the sports pages for further details.

May 2024

Appreciation Lunch

Thursday, 16th May 2024
Venue: Bromsgrove School
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.

June 2024

Commemoration Day

Saturday, 29th June 2024
Venue: Bromsgrove School
Old Bromsgrovians and their families are warmly invited to the OB Marquee on Lower Charford between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Information will be emailed in the Summer Term and posted on our OB Facebook Page. OBs are encouraged to sign up to register their attendance.

OB Golf Summer Eclectic

11th June 2024: Edgbaston Golf Club
27th June 2024: Maxstoke Park Golf Club

Please see the sports pages for further details.

July 2024

OB Martlets Cricket Day

Friday, 5th July 2024

OB Golf Summer Eclectic

9th July 2024: Maxstoke Park Golf Club
23rd July 2024: Olton Golf Club

Please see the sports pages for further details.

September 2024

2001-2021 Leavers' Reunion

Saturday, 7th September 2024
Venue: Bromsgrove School
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
If you left School between 2001 and 2021, this reunion is not to be missed. Invitations for eligible OBs will be sent out during the summer.

December 2024

Alumni Carol Service

Date, venue (London) and time TBC
Invitations will be sent out at the start of the Michaelmas 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 361/366

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: _____

DID YOU KNOW that our online box office also includes events open to the whole Bromsgrovian Community and general public?

We often hire out our theatre and concert hall to external companies who put on pantomimes, music competitions and concerts, plus much more.

Visit www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/whats-on



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. To view a copy of our Alumni Privacy Notice, please visit 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am happy to offer my services as a speaker on my chosen career/university subject	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can suggest work placement or recruitment opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>
You can pass my contact details and occupation to the School Careers Department	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like information about leaving a legacy	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have pledged a legacy to the School	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

If you require more than one form, you can download additional copies from www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/bromsgrove-alumni

You can also update your own details instantly by logging on to www.bromsgrovians.com