

# THE CONNECTED BEDIAN

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WINTER 2019



# WELCOME

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## Welcome to a special anniversary year for Bede's.

2019 marks a special anniversary year for all of us at the Senior School. That is because, of course, in September 1979 the Senior School opened at The Dicker with 91 pupils, after which the village was never to be the same again.

Forty years on, now with 770 pupils spread across 10 Houses, the Senior School has changed physically, yet we retain our fundamental ethos. Bede's remains a place where every pupil is celebrated for their individuality. A place where young people are enriched in the round, where the community comes first, and where academic results remain just part of the picture when we think about words like 'success' or 'achievement' or 'value.'

I am very proud that Bede's continues to welcome such a range of pupils and offers such a special environment for learning. It is only because our School is unique that it has grown and developed to become such a feature of the South East's educational landscape. And likewise it is only because of Bede's uniqueness that we have such unique alumni.

Of course, as much as things stay the same they also change – and one such change is that we have updated this very newsletter, from Old Bede's to The Bedian. I hope that you welcome the differences, and enjoy this first edition of the 'new look' newsletter through which I am keen to share news, stories and opportunities with our community of former pupils, staff and parents.

Bearing in mind the 40th anniversary, we have also looked to spend this issue of the newsletter celebrating a special new beginning in Bede's history. That the School continues to thrive is only due to the continued engagement and passion of the whole Bede's Community, and every individual continues to be important in the future of Bede's. We are entering into a new era, and I say this pointedly as we who live here now need your help!

## My first term at Bede's has been truly inspiring and I feel honoured to have joined such a wonderfully warm and stimulating school.

From exploring the archives both at the Prep and Senior schools, hearing stories of achievement and wondering at the unprecedented individual support and encouragement the school has to offer, I have come to realise and admire the deep influence the School has across our wider Bede's Community.

We want the whole Community to hold on to those memories and experiences by linking

every individual together to share stories and experiences. Many members of our community have supported or expressed an interest in getting involved to help Bede's maintain its unique nurturing ethos, be it through individual support, fostering talent or developing pathways to lifelong success. We are always deeply grateful to these individuals and if you want to find out how you can support Bede's, we would love to hear from you.

Over the coming year, we will be exploring and developing opportunities for our Old Bedian Community to stay in touch, if you are a former pupil (alumnus), staff member, Governor or previous parent please let us

We need you to help shape the pathways of those following in your wake. By sharing your skills, knowledge and experiences through our Careers Engagement Programme. In helping extend talents. In widening opportunities. In bringing the best out of every pupil in the same way that the best was brought out in you.

To help with this process, I am thrilled to welcome Elizabeth Banner, our new Alumni and Development Manager, to the team. We have been looking for someone like Elizabeth for a very long time, and she has a real passion for Bede's. She is already flourishing in her role, and has some exciting plans for Old Bedian's and the Bede's Community. I encourage you to reach out to her to say hello if you have not already had correspondence with her.

Otherwise, I look forward to welcoming many of our Senior School founding pupils and staff back to Bede's in April for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary, and to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming events.

Please do not be a stranger. Bede's was your home once, and remains so, even if you have not been back to see us for a while.



*Peter Goodyer  
Headmaster*

know how best to contact you by joining our mailing list at [bedes.org/alumni](https://bedes.org/alumni).



*Elizabeth Banner  
Alumni and Development  
Manager  
[elizabeth.banner@bedes.org](mailto:elizabeth.banner@bedes.org)*

# UPPER DICKER: 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**This year we celebrate 40 years since the launch of the remarkable venture in which Bedeian alumni across the globe have played a pivotal role in contributing to its growth and success. How better to celebrate than to relive the drama of its tentative genesis, as seen through the eyes of Roger Perrin 'A Corpus Christi Man' (though I won't hold that against him!), whose intuitive drive was the guiding hand on the tiller, and as recorded in his book, now into its second printing; 'Why Does Anyone Want To Go To Your School?'**



*Peter Pyemont and Roger Perrin*

Hardly a title to suggest an avowed ringing endorsement of what was then St. Bede's School (The Dicker), barely 20 years old, materially structurally bound as it then still was, to hand-me-down prefabricated classrooms/accommodation; yet it was a conundrum actually posed by no less a personage than Anthony Seldon, at the time the Principal of Brighton College, not in reality intended to humiliate, so much as to dig deeper as to why little St. Bede's was attracting, and indeed distracting, students from his own prestigious HMC edifice in Kemp Town over which he presided and pontificated. Roger recounts that amazing story and provides a convincing answer from his own perspective; "we looked after them with a real intensity, and in their interests, not those of 'the school'".

The vision of such a school was dreamed up by Peter Pyemont, the then Head of St. Bede's Prep School, who felt that many of his own 14 year olds deserved better than the stark choice of moving up from a nurturing holistic environment to either an Elitist Selective Independent School or a Bog Standard

Comprehensive such as was on offer. Roger tells of his acceptance of the challenge, and assuming educational responsibility for the then 23 students (housed in a converted garage adjacent to the Prep School – perhaps you were one of them!), created a thriving community of 600+ at The Dicker by the time he retired in 2001.

Individual needs were the prime concern. The student body itself is what drove the values, and as such dictated the services rendered. A recently-published study reinforces this approach and commends it on a universal scale: Rather, it suggests, than secondary staff seeking to recruit its students on the basis that they are potentially 'our type', 'just like us', the focus for admission should be on the individual student's eudemonia, as Aristotle would advocate. i.e. allow the student to breathe in his/her own context so as to guide that young person on to the next stage of life. After all, Roger asserts, "the purpose of attending school is to leave", thereby equipped to pursue this end.

The book charts the period in an entertaining, often light-hearted tone, yet interspersed with astute reflexion on current educational fads, in the context of prevailing economic, political and social developments. It describes in graphic detail the ubiquitous iceberg threatening the school's very existence in its formative years: the wheeling and dealing and the search for the funding by means of which an ever growing demand for places could be satisfied. Little did any of us engaged in the more mundane tasks faced by all teachers know of the sleepless nights; the uncertainty as to whether there would even be beds for students and Boarding Staff to sleep in that night; whether the mortgage would be called in at a moment's notice; whether the newly-recruited staff would still have a job by the end of the week. That the storms were weathered, Roger acknowledges, was due in no small part to the unfailing support of his wife, Angela; utterly committed to the cause, she executed unpaid duties all and sundry. Furthermore, Roger was well served by his in-house handifolk who undertook in-house construction tasks at a fraction of outside

contractural prices; the ever-obliging NFC Eric Rogers on the Staffroom Block, Rupert Cain everywhere, immediately spring to mind, not to mention the family connection once more: Giles Perrin and friend Ed Dickie, the hard hats in the Dorms Conversion. It was always a case of make do with the limited resources at our disposal. Roger (CEO, Bursar, Admissions Officer rolled into one) records his driving a lorry to East Anglia to salvage redundant furniture, and accessing outmoded prefabs so as to re-invent them on site as classrooms and even labs.

Small wonder, dare I say it, some staff may have felt they were sacrificed for not perceiving what the school was really about: not difficult now to appreciate the occasional misunderstanding of what Roger's driving force entailed. Yet how inspired were some of his appointments to reinforce and or sustain the values: Derek Newton, James MacArthur, Lou Belhiti, Jim Malcolm, Andrew Barclay, David Graham, Mark Rimmington, to name but a few.

From the outset the school never sought to exist within its own self-important bubble. In true Bottomley tradition the fortunes of school and village were to be symbiotic: shared facilities fostered to mutual 'givers and takers' all round: Glen and Phil Carr's Post Office and Village Shop; the Village Cricket and Soccer Facilities; the Village Hall, utilising local talent; Park Mead Primary School accessing our evolving premises, and not least the use of The Parish Church.

We as alumni can feel that we are very much integral to the evolving jigsaw, valued and nurtured as part of the process. Here's a story not to be missed, and should be recommended reading for all prospective stakeholders in whatever guise one assumes. It is testimony that, although like Topsy, St. Bede's 'just grewed', it would not exist if it weren't for the faith and personal cost to its Founding Father, the author of this book.

*John Berryman  
Teacher*

*See photos of Bede's Senior School in 1978 and 1979 in our 'From The Archives' feature later in this issue...*



# EVENT REVIEWS

## *Prep School Reunion*

On Saturday 5 May, the Prep School welcomed back former pupils and staff for drinks and canapes.



After reminiscing over the photos and catching up with old friends, there was the usual tour. Several of the visitors had not been back to the school since they left in the 1980s. They could not believe the changes that had occurred in that time. Some of the former pupils were heard saying that the rooms seem much smaller now!



It was great to see so many Old Boys and Girls at this reunion, and we very much look forward to the next reunion on Saturday 4 May.



## *Alumni Cricket Match*

On Sunday 24 June 2018, we were delighted to welcome a host of alumni for our annual Twenty20 cricket match against the Headmaster's Team at the Old Waye Cricket Ground, Upper Dicker.



The weather was very much on our side, with bright blue skies and sunshine throughout the day. The Alumni XI batted first and gave an impressive performance, scoring 192 all out.



Led by Peter Goodyer, the Headmaster's team took the overall victory with a score of 196 for 7, winning the match by three wickets.

After the match, both teams enjoyed some well-earned food and drink and relaxed in the rest of the afternoon's sunshine.



Thanks to all who came along - we're already excited for this year's match on Sunday 23 June (when we can hopefully reclaim the title!)

## *Eddie Izzard: Work In Progress*

Giles Entwisle was delighted to receive a phone call from Old Bedian, Eddie Izzard (Falcon, 1969 - 1975) asking if he could showcase his 'work in progress' shows at Bede's Prep on the 16 and 17 November.



*Peter Meier with Eddie*

After visiting the Bede's Prep School over the summer, Eddie, who embarks on his world tour this year, wanted to play the venue where he saw his first performance and was inspired to become an actor. The Prep's new Dance Studio worked beautifully for the intimate shows for a lucky audience of 80 on the Friday night and again for audiences of 100 on Saturday night in the Theatre, where Eddie had played clarinet in many productions (he gained grade 8).

Whilst trying out his new material at the school, Eddie, who was Deputy Head Boy, took time out to tour the school, reminiscing on where he got his colours for football (displayed in the main entrance) and talking about many of his teachers including his old Headmaster, Peter Pyemont and his wife Elspeth, who enjoyed the show on Friday evening.

Everyone at Bede's was delighted to be able to help Eddie in practising his show in front of sold out audiences. We cannot wait to see the final product, Wunderbar, this year!  
[eddieizzard.com/en/shows](http://eddieizzard.com/en/shows)



## *Cabaret*

Thursday 29, Friday 30 November and Saturday 1 December saw the return of Bede's Senior School's annual Cabaret event: a spectacle of music, dance and drama.



Guests – including pupils, families, staff and alumni – were treated to performances by Bede's dramatists on arrival, with the theme of 'Musicals' setting the scene for what was to be an incredible evening of show-stopping performances – from pop, musicals, jazz and classical.



Many thanks to all who attended and supported the event, with special mention to Old Bedians Aidan Kerr, Olivia Prince-Smith and Max Kahn for their involvement.

## *House Music*

In October, the Senior School hosted its annual House Music competition, in which all pupils come together to deliver spectacular musical performances.



Special thanks must go to the event judges, Jane Money and Old Bedians Lazar Liebenberg and Olivia Hemmings.

## *A Life in Writing with William Nicholson*

In February, Bede's was delighted to welcome two-time Oscar nominated screen writer and novelist William Nicholson for 'A Life in Writing', a fascinating insight into his distinguished career, his creative process, and what still inspires him today.



Bill spoke of his Oscar-winning script for 'Gladiator' and award-winning script for the 2012 film of 'Les Miserables', the musical of which will be performed by Bede's pupils this year. He also discussed his approach to bringing historical figures to the big screen, as in his critically acclaimed 'Elizabeth: The Golden Age' and 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'.

Bill's talk was everything the audience could hope for: engaging, witty, full of enthusiasm and sage advice for those aspiring to write for a living.

## *An Evening with John McCarthy CBE*

We were honoured to welcome John McCarthy CBE to Bede's in February.

John McCarthy CBE is a British journalist, writer and broadcaster. In April 1986, as a young journalist on his first foreign assignment for the United Press International Television News, John was kidnapped by Islamic Jihad and became Britain's longest-held hostage, being held in captivity for more than five years. John's talk was poignant and inspiring, and one we will never forget.



## *Dates for your Diary*

### *Bede's Senior School 40th Anniversary 'Founders' Dinner'*

Friday 26 April, 5pm

Bede's Senior School, Upper Dicker

**Audience:** Senior School Alumni (joined 1978, 1979, 1980)

2019 marks the 40th Anniversary of the opening of Bede's Senior School at The Dicker after its foundation year at the Prep School in 1978. Old Bedians who joined the Senior School in 1978, 1979 and 1980 and our former staff are warmly invited to join Headmaster Pete Goodyer and former Headmasters Peter Pyemont and Roger Perrin for a tour of the school followed by dinner.

**Space is limited, please register your interest by emailing [alumni@bedes.org](mailto:alumni@bedes.org).**

### *Bede's Prep School Reunion*

Saturday 4 May, 5-7pm

Bede's Prep School, Eastbourne

**Audience:** Prep School Alumni

Old Boys and Girls from the Prep School are invited to join us in the early evening for reminiscing and conversation over drinks and canapés. **Please register your interest by emailing [alumni@bedes.org](mailto:alumni@bedes.org).**

### *Headmaster's XI vs Alumni XI T20 Cricket Match*

Sunday 23 June, 11am

Bede's Senior School, Upper Dicker

**Audience:** Bede's Community

Calling all our alumni cricketers - please join together to create this year's Old Bede's Cricket Team! All Old Boys and Girls are warmly welcome to take part or join us for a fun day of cricket and refreshments (11am – 3pm). **Please register your interest by emailing [alumni@bedes.org](mailto:alumni@bedes.org).**



# BEDE'S OPENS ZOO EXTENSION

*In September, Bede's Senior School celebrated the extension of its bespoke Animal Management Unit with an official opening by Dr Christoph Schwitzer, Chief Zoological Officer of the Bristol Zoological Society.*



*John Tuson, Academic Deputy Head at Bede's; Paul Juniper, Teacher of Science at Bede's; Dr Christoph Schwitzer, Chief Zoological Officer of the Bristol Zoological Society; and Helen Poyser, Manager of Bede's Zoo*

**The event welcomed invited parents, pupils, staff and alumni – as well as representatives from Drusillas Park, Chessington World of Adventures and the Zoological Society of East Anglia – for tours, speeches, and drinks and canapés.**

Bede's Zoo has been extended with six brand-new enclosures, housing African birds, Madagascan lemurs, and South American squirrel monkeys. The zoo – which originally opened in 2011 – currently hosts over 70 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish and invertebrates.

The zoo forms the cornerstone of the Sixth Form BTEC Animal Management course, as well as one of the School's most popular activities, the Zoological Society. Since we started offering the BTEC Animal Management course in 2013, nearly 40 pupils have completed the qualification, with the majority achieving distinction level. Pupils who have undertaken the course have moved on to study veterinary medicine, veterinary nursing, zoology and conservation.

John Tuson, Academic Deputy Head at Bede's Senior School, says, "With the extensive development of our various animal enclosures, the arrival of a number of new species, and the appointment of the zoo's first manager, 2018 has been a very busy year for Bede's Zoo.

"With the opening of the new extension, Bede's has a truly unique facility: a zoo which is a teaching resource, which enables pupils to learn and to pursue their interests, and which allows pupils to participate in national and international programmes for the benefit of wildlife.

"The Bede's Zoo is not, primarily, a facility for sightseers: it is a working part of a school rather than a visitor attraction. However, each month we welcome many groups to the school zoo – from local schools, disadvantaged children, from our own Prep School, or anyone who is interested in the work we are doing. In this increasingly digital age, there is a lot to be said for the benefits of spending time with a Ring-tailed lemur, or a Kinkajou.

"We look forward to seeing the zoo blossom over the next few years as an increasing number of pupils embrace and enjoy the academic, co-curricular and holistic opportunities the facility brings."



## *Who lives in Bede's Zoo?*

Below is a list of just some of the wonderful animals currently being cared for in our Animal Management Unit. There are over 70 species here, so although we would love to feature them all, there is simply not enough space! However, you can see a full list in our Zoo Guidebook, available at [bedes.org](http://bedes.org).

### **Common Squirrel Monkey**

The large head of this small monkey is indicative of its intelligence: squirrel monkeys are inquisitive, adaptable animals, which has enabled them to flourish in a variety of environments. Our monkeys are an all-male group; they came to us in the summer of 2018, from Bristol Zoo, where they had been bred and where there was a need to reduce the size of the group maintained.

### **Kinkajou**

This South and Central American relative of the Raccoon is well-adapted for a life in the trees: it is an excellent climber (thanks in large part to its prehensile tail) and eats a diet composed mainly of fruit. Our three Kinkajous – one male, two females – came to us from a private collection, in 2014.

### **Ring-tailed Lemur**

The Ring-tailed Lemur is possibly the best-known of all the lemur species. However, despite its success in captivity, it is struggling in its native Madagascar, where as few as 2,000 remain in the wild. Our lemurs came to us in the summer of 2018. Once they are established at Bede's, we hope to bring in further animals – either more Ring-tailed Lemurs, or possibly another Madagascan species.

### **Meerkat**

These south-west African mongooses are amongst the most well-known zoo animals. Our two female Meerkats joined us from Tilgate Nature Centre, in Crawley, in 2017; in 2018, they were joined by three further animals from Bristol Zoo.

### **Siberian Chipmunk**

Our four female Chipmunks arrived in 2016, from Battersea Park Zoo in London.



### **African Grey Hornbill**

This is one of the smaller hornbill species; found through much of sub-Saharan Africa. Since coming to Bede's in 2014, our Grey Hornbills have produced 10 chicks, most recently in 2018. The male is a great deal more confident than the female: he will happily take food from the hand.

### **Northern White-Faced Owl**

Found in a band spreading across Africa, from Senegal to Kenya, this owl mainly hunts small mammals – mice, rats and so on – but also eats a significant number of invertebrates. Our pair of owls came to us in 2011, from a private keeper in Yorkshire.

### **Violet Turaco**

There are 23 species of turaco found throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Our pair of Violet Turacos came to us in 2014; they reared their first chick in 2018.

### **Royal Python**

Our Royal Pythons were previously maintained by a private keeper who was unable to provide them with the correct level of care; we have brought them back to health.

### **Red Footed Tortoise**

Our tortoises came to us from the RSPCA Reptile Rescue Centre, in Brighton.

### **Common Musk Turtle**

Our three Musk Turtles belonged to our much-loved late colleague Guy Rudnick. We are proud to look after them on his behalf.





# ANIMAL-LOVING ALUMNI

*We speak with some Old Bedians who have gone on to pursue studies and careers in animal management.*

## *Scarlet Mayo (2016-2018)*

I joined Bede's in the Lower Sixth from Tanglin Trust School, Singapore.



Bede's was a very influential part of my life and it was an experience that changed me for the better. Not only was I moving from Asia, which had been home for my whole life, but I was leaving everything familiar behind. Bede's took me in and made me welcome. From the very first few minutes after my parents left, everyone in Dorter was warm and welcoming.

My passion in life has always been animals, so I was focused on Photography, Media Studies and Animal Management. I felt that these three subjects in combination would give me the broadest possible spread on a number of animal-related issues such as Wildlife Conservation, Veterinary, animal management and maintenance and animal rescue and welfare issues.

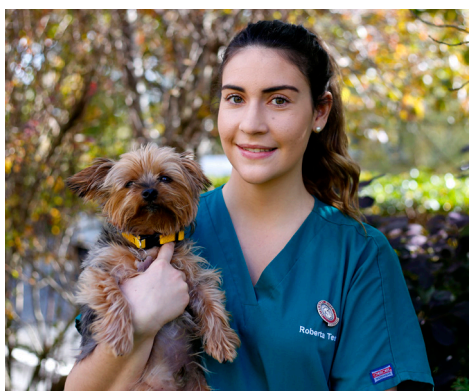
One of the many highlights in my two years at Bede's was a trip to South Africa to get valuable experience at a Wildlife Sanctuary.

I left Bede's in the summer of 2018 and decided to take a year out in South East Asia and India working with animal charities, before joining Kent University in September 2019 on their Wildlife Conservation course. But one of the things I learned at Bede's was to always be prepared for the twists and turns that life throws at you and as luck would have it, I am coming back to Bede's in 2019 to support the team in the Animal Management Department under Mr Juniper.

## *Roberta Testori (2011-2013)*

Bede's provided me with the opportunity to study BTEC Animal Management along with other subjects for two years. In the second year I took Double Animal Management, which was one of the best decisions I ever made.

The Animal Management course gives pupils opportunities that they won't get elsewhere. The ability to learn and care for animals is an experience that is out of this world. Without that experience I would not be the person I am today, nor would I have been able to experience all that I have thus far. Paul Juniper and Peter Jones are very enthusiastic and compassionate, and really care for animal management. It is inspiring to see that level of knowledge and learn from the best.



I qualified with an Honours Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing in June 2017. This provided the opportunity to work in various veterinary hospitals such as Glasgow Small Animal Hospital, Vets Now Glasgow and Edinburgh Small Animal Hospital.

I am currently studying towards a Masters in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia at the University of Edinburgh, whilst also working part time in the Medicine and Exotics departments at the Royal Veterinary Hospital for Small Animals in Edinburgh.

My future plans are to finish the Masters, after which I would love to work with animals abroad. My only hope is to make a difference wherever I go.

## *Andrew Brundle (2001-2013)*

I was at Bede's from Year 2 all the way through to the end of Sixth Form. While going through the Prep School I spent most of my time in the music rooms singing, and in Year 8 I was Head Chorister.

When I moved up to the Senior School I spent most of my first three years studying Science, and then Paul Juniper offered me the opportunity to join the very first year of the Animal Management course when it launched.

Honestly it was my best two years at Bede's. I spent my days designing and building animal enclosures, working and learning how to handle different animals as well as enriching their diet and lives.

My time in the animal unit kickstarted my animal career and helped me develop the passion I have for working with them. It also helped to build my confidence, especially as the course wasn't just essays and an exam - we got to do presentations and hands-on experience to pass the course.

Since I left Bede's, I spent some time with Drusillas Zoo and Black Stock Farm and have mainly been working for the Sealife Centre in Brighton. Here, I ran the fresh water fish and the crustaceans sections.



In the future I would love the opportunity to work with crocodilians, as I have been lucky enough to work with most other animal groups.



## *Grace Longden (2014-2016)*

I studied BTEC Animal Management, BTEC Music Performance, as well as Theatre Studies and Business Studies. I was drawn to the Animal Management course from the first time I visited Bede's and was one of the reasons I decided to come here. I enjoyed a friendly, approachable and supportive atmosphere with my friends and my teachers. I found the subjects in Animal Management really fascinating and particularly enjoyed the biology aspect.



I have always had an adoration for animals. My love and passion for different animal species grew from helping out in Animal Management, however at first, I didn't think I was smart enough to become a successful vet or specialist. My teachers, Mr Juniper and Mr Jones helped to guide me and give me confidence, as well as showing me all the options within the industry. This was when I found veterinary nursing.

After I left Bede's, I began a Veterinary Nursing course at Middlesex University. My first year included a six-month placement at a veterinary practice in London. The practice suggested I apply for their own college course, which is a lot more practical as I work five out of seven days alongside studying.

If all continues to go to plan, I will qualify as a Registered Veterinary Nurse in 2020, when I plan to continue working in the same practice. I am looking into doing a further certificate course in Anaesthesia and Analgesia or Emergency Critical Care and building up my work portfolio in hospitals.

## *Theadora Taylor (2010-2012)*

My time at Bede's was fantastic, though coming from a small all girls school it was slightly daunting! One of the main highlights was the start of the Animal Management BTEC in my second year.



In the summer after leaving Bede's I volunteered on the research vessel Silurian with the Hebridean whale and dolphin before heading off to do a degree at Plymouth University.

Since graduating, I have been involved in research on the vessel Song of the Whale with Marine Conservation Research International, sailing from England to the Falkland Islands collecting research on Marine Mammal abundance and distribution.

More recently, I have become involved with the Brighton Dolphin Project, a section of the World Cetacean Alliance, and am currently heading up the Research programme, aiming to document the abundance and diversity of marine mammals off the Sussex Coast, a previously poorly studied area. We will also be working with the new Rampion wind farm to monitor how it may impact the populations in the future. I am hoping that this research will become the basis for my Masters and PhD studies in the future.

I also work as a rescuer for the East Sussex wildlife rescue and ambulance service, and am trained as a marine mammal medic.

I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to pursue my passion for animals during the BTEC and had such wonderful help from Mr Juniper and the team during and after my time at Bede's.



*If you would like to arrange a visit to Bede's Zoo, please email us at [alumni@bedes.org](mailto:alumni@bedes.org).*



# ALUMNI VISITS

## *Narae Shin (2003-2006)*

Dorter Matrons Jackie Turner and Zekija Dozagic were delighted to welcome Narae back to Dorter House at the beginning of the new School year.

After leaving Bede's Narae studied Hotel Management in New Zealand. She has since lived in Hong Kong and Vietnam, and has now moved back to Korea to work for a toy manufacturing company in sales.

Narae says, "I can't believe I'm here! It's really good to be back."



## *Annabelle Akdeniz (2008-2013)*

In September, the Ceramics department welcomed back one of its A Level pupils from 5 years ago.

Annabelle met with Anthony Hammond, Head of Ceramics, to discuss her new and exciting venture into the world of business with her mother: the 'Belle & Wilde' bakery in Sheffield Park, East Sussex, where they serve a wide range of gluten-free breads.

[facebook.com/belleandwilde](https://facebook.com/belleandwilde)



## *Easter Woo (2004-2007)*

Mary McKenna and Lou Belrhiti welcomed Easter back to Bede's during her trip to the UK in October with her husband.

Easter has worked for a Marketing Agency and the Marketing Team at Dulwich College, Seoul, and regularly sees many of her friends from Bede's.

Easter says, "The School has changed a lot since I was here, the Dorter chalets seemed so much smaller than I remember!"



## *Tom Hesslenburg (2006-2010)*

We were delighted to welcome Tom back to the Senior School for a talk on Structural Engineering in September.

Tom studied Architectural Engineering for 5 years at Cardiff University and currently works for Elliott Wood. Tom says, "It was important for me to come back to my old school to raise awareness of a possible career path that is not typically known. I look forward to returning to the Senior School for the Careers Fair in March 2019." [elliottwood.co.uk](http://elliottwood.co.uk)



## *Matt Halls (2003-2010)*

In January, Matt visited the Senior School to deliver a careers seminar on Personal Training.

Based in Hellingly, Hailsham, Matt offers private and semi-private coaching. He has a BSc Sports and Materials Science from the University of Birmingham, and takes part in regular CrossFit competitions.

[matthallspersonaltraining.wordpress.com](http://matthallspersonaltraining.wordpress.com)



*We always love welcoming Old Bedians back to the School, so if you are coming back to the area please feel free to email us [alumni@bedes.org](mailto:alumni@bedes.org) to arrange a visit. If you are interested in getting involved in our Careers Engagement Programme, please email [Deborah.Franks@bedes.org](mailto:Deborah.Franks@bedes.org).*



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## 1990s

### *Cedric Wildblood (1986-1990)*

Cedric met up with fellow Old Bedian Kirstin Bergen in Victoria British Columbia (pictured) in January. Cedric says, "My wife and I visited Canada, finishing in Victoria, BC. Kirsten lives in Nanaimo, a couple of hours to the North. She kindly made the trip down to spend the afternoon with us." Cedric and his wife also enjoyed a trip to France to visit Lyndon and Lillianne Hadley-Coates.



### *Thomas Pickles (1989-1992)*

Congratulations Thomas! He has been awarded a Foundation Degree in IT.

### *Annabelle Lilly (1990-1992)*

Annabelle has written a book for children with dyslexia. Entitled 'Berky Boing Boing and The Frenchman', the story was inspired by a chicken and crow that Annabelle met on a childhood holiday in Devon. Annabelle says, "I suffered with dyslexia as a child, so I decided to write the book with reluctant readers in mind. This is the first book in a series, so watch out for the next instalment!"  
**Books can be purchased on [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk).**



### *Nick Barr (1995-1999)*

"I just want to share that I am now the super proud father of two amazing little girls - Charlotte and Juliette. Charlotte is four and already bilingual thanks to her French Maman, and Juliette was born on the 8 June last year. The photo shows them when Juliette was one month old."



### *Vanessa Blackledge, née Austin Locke (1996-1999)*

"News from me this year is that we've welcomed a little baby girl. Scarlett Hunter Blackledge joined us on 25 September 2018. I've also moved on from features writing and have signed with Curtis Brown/Conville and Walsh to hopefully get my first novel out. My husband has left the Royal Navy, so we've stopped moving around the country and settled, for now, in London."



## 2000s

### *Emma Colbourne, née Denne (2001-2006)*

"I recently married my long-term partner Daniel, who is currently a serving soldier, at a ceremony at East Hoathly Church. We celebrated our honeymoon in India."



## 2010s

### *Alex Campbell (2016)*

Congratulations to Alex, who completed the Virgin London Marathon last April! He raised over £2,100 for Cancer Research UK.

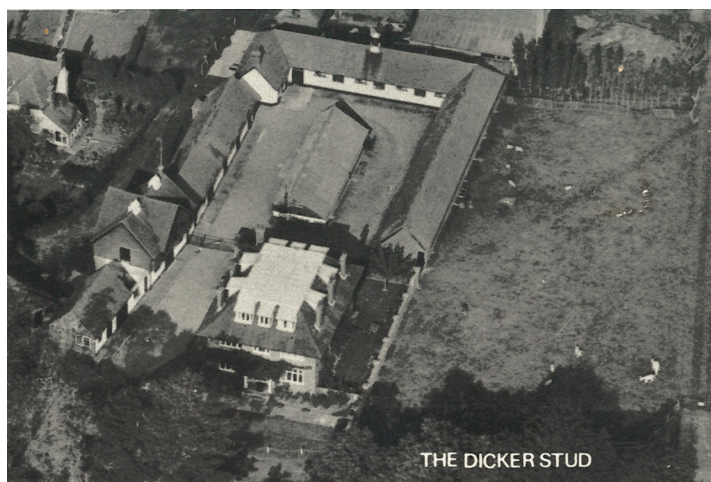




# FROM THE ARCHIVES: 40 YEARS ON

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*In celebration of the Senior School's 40 year anniversary (which was located at the Prep School in Eastbourne in 1978 then Upper Dicker in 1979), we feature a few photos from the School's founding years.*



*Pictured clockwise from the top - pupil photo, 1980-1981; first into the Dorms: Graham Redman and Nick Flamini, 1980-1981; staff photo, 1980-1981; form photo, 1980-1981; The Dicker (Stud) in 1970, before the School opened*

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# THE OPENING OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL



**AN ENTERTAINMENT  
IN SYMPHONIC FORM**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH, 1979

OVERTURE  
TRUMPETS  
Minuett and Trio from 'The Royal Fireworks Suite' G.F. Handel  
Adrian Smith and Jason Coleman

1ST MOVEMENT

<u>SOPRANO</u> Cindy Ford Snowbird P. Thayer	<u>PIANO</u> Anthony Haw Gavotte C. Dencombe	<u>CLARINET</u> Andrew Bodkin The Kings P., Cornelius	<u>GUITAR</u> Phillip Taylor Two Songs
---	---	--	--

2ND MOVEMENT

<u>MEZZO - SOPRANO</u> Maria Panico Habanera From Carmen G. Bizet	<u>PIANO</u> Charles Spanner So You Know The Tune?	<u>CLARINET</u> Adelita Khoury Valse Ingenue G. Jacob	<u>PIANO</u> Adrian Smith 2 Part Invention in D Minor J.S. Bach
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CODETTA  
An Anthem by Joseph Corfe (1740-1820)  
Yesterday by The Beatles The Trinitarians

INTERVAL (20 MINUTES)

DEVELOPMENT  
Friday afternoon Theatre Workshop group present their adaptation of  
the Brian Rix farce Simple Spymen!... 'A Chapter of Accidents'

3RD MOVEMENT

<u>TREBLE</u> Tom Marshall Come Let Us All This Day J.S. Bach	<u>CLARINET</u> Deborah Ransome Voi Che Sapete aria from 'The Marriage of Figaro' W.A. Mozart
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THE DICKERS  
Jailhouse Rock J. Leiber  
Let It Be P. McCartney  
Item Extra-ordinary, with the audience!



*Pictured clockwise from top left - Malcolm Love, first Art teacher in action; music recital programme from December 1979; DG Newton sets off to Camberlot Hall with furniture for new boarding house, September 1981; The Big Red Bus, 1980-1986; playing Tiddleywinks in the Dicker Front Hall, 1979-1980*



# BEDE'S PREP IN WWII

*2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, one of the most historic events in British History.*

WWII was an important period in the history of Bede's when, following the defeat of France and its occupation by Germany in May 1940, the increased threat to the South Coast and the exposed position of the School determined the need to evacuate.

On 24 June 1940, with 58 boys having received a warm invitation from St Edwards, Oxford, Bede's left Eastbourne. The expectation was that the relocation would be for just three to six months. The evacuation to Oxford lasted almost five years!

Eastbourne suffered constant bombardments from July 1940 until the last bomb was dropped in 1944. The Meads area, close to the school, was severely damaged including a direct hit on St John's Church.

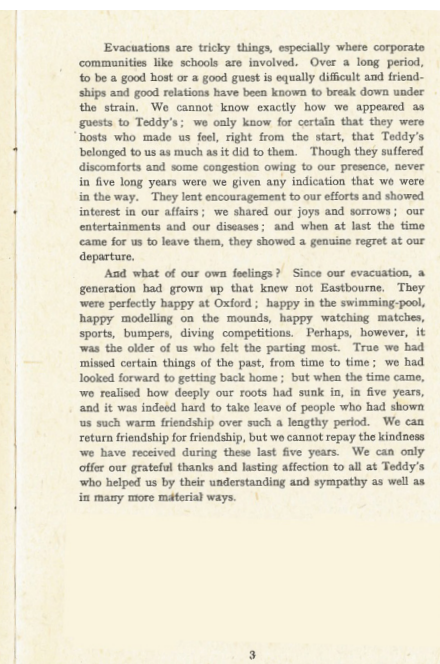
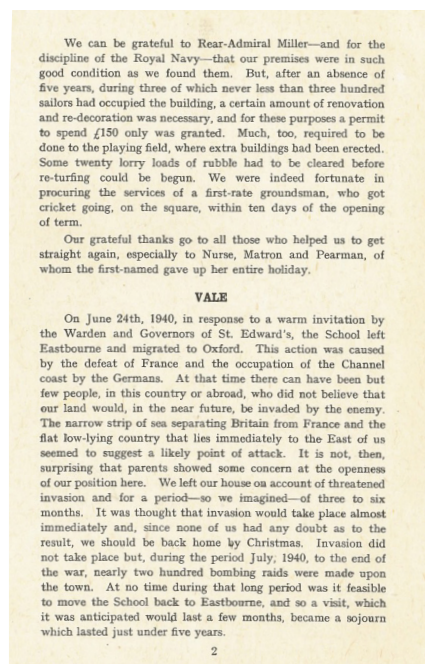
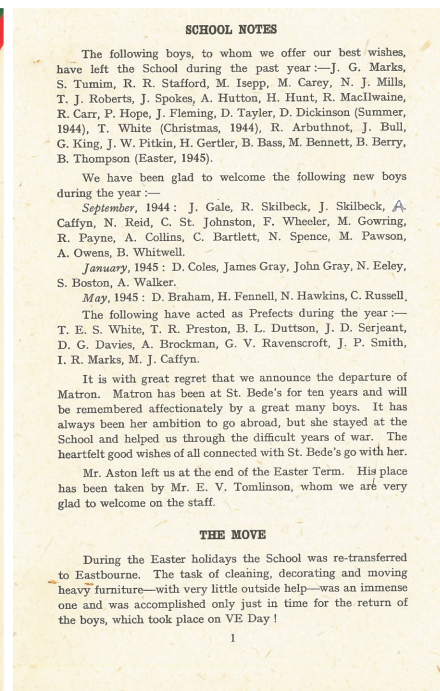
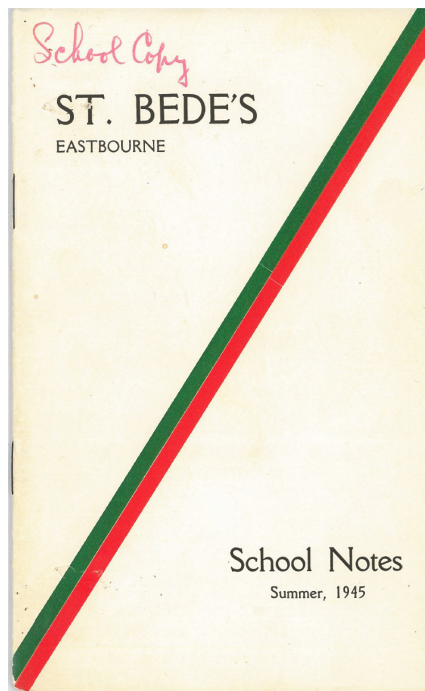


*Meads area, Eastbourne  
c Old Police Cells Museum*



*St John's Church, Eastbourne  
c Old Police Cells Museum*

St Edward's were enormously generous in giving Bede's its own space (dormitories, a classroom block and playing fields) where the two schools operated independently throughout the period, coming together to share and enjoy activities such as cinema and drama productions including in 1941 our production of 'Toad of Toad Hall'.



*From the St Bede's School Chronicle,  
Summer 1945*



# THE EVACUEES

St Bede's Prep. School at St Edward's, 1940-45

John Lambourn (B, 1943-7) was educated twice at St Edward's: first as a member of St Bede's Prep School, Eastbourne, which was evacuated to S.E.S. during the War years, and then as a member of St Edward's in his own right. His son Nicholas followed in his footsteps at the same two schools 25 years later.

In this 50th anniversary of the end of the War, St Bede's are also celebrating their Centenary, on which we send them our congratulations. It is an appropriate moment to remember their generous gift of the wooden reredos in the Memorial Chapel, carved in 1941 by J.B. Keeling, one of their masters.

We are grateful to Mr Lambourn for recalling those war years at St Edward's from a prep school perspective.

Headmaster, Ken Harding (OSE) was kindly but strict. He was very sensitive to the constant exposure of his boys during those war years at St Edward's. Behaviour and presentation was all important.

One jolly event during the 'grey' period was the annual 'Rag Revue'. One year the revue opened as the curtains parted to reveal a scene in the Dining Hall - a table, benches, trolleys and other familiar objects. A number of rather large SES boys occupied the scene, having squeezed themselves into grey short trousers and green blazers. One was dressed overall in white as Matron. Each boy sat at table with one leg tucked under his behind, the other leg revealing a long grey sock sagging at the ankle. A typical scene so abhorred by Ken Harding. Warden Kendall, the School and Bede's all roared their approval! KH, however, was not amused!

## Some Recollections

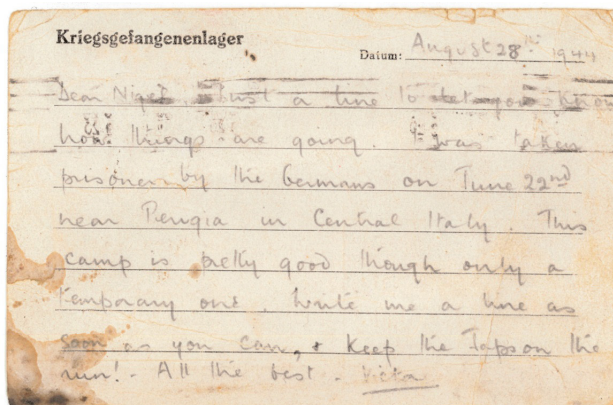
- The saddest event during our time in Oxford: Nigel, the Harding's only child and a contemporary and great friend of all of us, died from a chronic ailment, suddenly made critical by a fall whilst skating on Port Meadow. His funeral service was at St Michael and All Angels, Summertown.
- KH's wife was ex-D'Oyly Carte, so our choir was pretty good!
- Bede's missed the sea and their wonderful Beachy Head position at Eastbourne.
- We used the subway as an air raid shelter in the early days, as raiders flew over to Coventry. Later we merely retired to HEK's dining room, resting under tables. HEK's heavy cigar smoke nearly forced the use of gas masks!
- Our headquarters, and Harding's residence, was Corfe House. However, we overflowed to the Quad, using half of Keble dormitory, the Old Library and its adjoining rooms under Big School.
- Sporting events on Corfe I and II, and Sports Day on Avenue field. We joined the local prep schools' circuit for matches.
- Some events were shared with SES, particularly ciné film shows (with KH's projector) in Big School. We performed *Toad of Toad Hall*.
- Everybody was very kind and friendly to Bede's (there were some 70 of us), despite the overcrowding it created. HEK had invited KH to SES.
- Attractive Matron, Peggy Harding, was housed near Keble and looked after those of us in School House. She led our 'crocodile' for ablutions each morning, often much embarrassed by late showers by privileged SES prefects!
- In 1945 there were 35 Old Bedes at Teddies.
- The *Chronicle* of March 1945, on the eve of our return to Eastbourne, records: "So much has changed since those days of threatened invasion and the first Air Raid Warning which greeted St Bede's; we have all been chastened and educated by the war; we have all come to know each other better; we have all learned to appreciate our friends."

John Lambourn

St Edward's (Oxford) Chronicle, 1995

In the Bede's Centenary publication, Rear-Admiral Hugh Miller wrote: 'For approximately three years from April 1942 to March 1945, St Bede's became a Royal Naval Establishment, named 'Victory S' .... The men [training at the premises] were officially known as Telegraphists and were in fact 'special' wireless operators able to intercept and recognise enemy messages made in Code and Cypher and to locate the position of the enemy from which the messages had been transmitted'.

In August 1944, Bede's former pupil Nigel Groom received a post-card (issued by the German authorities) from his friend Victor Hannay. Victor had been taken prisoner-of-war in Italy and transferred to Bavaria in Germany. He had left St Bede's in 1937 and was just 22 years old when he was POW. The school welcomed the good news of his release in April 1945.



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Against M.O.W.T. Permits  
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**Evening Argus**  
66TH YEAR  
MONDAY, 7 MAY, 1945  
1d.

**NIGHT EXTRA**  
Special service on offer  
**YOU SHOULD SPECIALISE IN**  
**STAIN REMOVAL**

## END OF THE WAR IN EUROPE

### All Nazi Forces to Surrender

**"SENSELESS TO CONTINUE"**  
ADMIRAL DOENITZ, THE NEW GERMAN FUHRER, HAS ORDERED THE UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF ALL GERMAN FIGHTING TROOPS.

**"MUST FACE OUR FATE"**  
In this grave hour of the German nation, and which we now in deep prayer and sorrow are facing, the German people must face their fate. The German people must face the fact that the German nation is no longer a fighting nation. The German people must face the fact that the German nation is no longer a fighting nation. The German people must face the fact that the German nation is no longer a fighting nation.

**"A TRAGIC MOMENT"**  
Count Hermann Doenitz, the new German Fuhrer, has ordered the unconditional surrender of all German fighting troops. This is a tragic moment for the German people, but it is a moment of peace for the world.

**"THE NOBLEST TASK"**  
The German people must face the fact that the German nation is no longer a fighting nation. The German people must face the fact that the German nation is no longer a fighting nation. The German people must face the fact that the German nation is no longer a fighting nation.

## AWAITING PEACE ANNOUNCEMENT

### FULL MEETING OF CABINET

In Downing-street Mr. Churchill presided over a full meeting of the Cabinet. The arrival of Ministers caused a flutter of excitement among members.

**READY FOR REJOICING**  
In anticipation of an early announcement on VE-Day, many people are already preparing to celebrate. The streets are being decorated, and many people are already preparing to celebrate.

**Through the years with Humber**  
Humber has been a part of many lives. It has been a part of many lives. It has been a part of many lives. It has been a part of many lives.

## British Fleet Shells Japan

### AIRFIELDS THE TARGET

The British fleet has launched a series of attacks on Japanese airfields. The attacks have been successful, and the Japanese fleet has been forced to retreat.

**Japanese Last Masses Held in Philippines**  
The Japanese have held their last mass in the Philippines. The mass was held in a church, and many people attended.

The same year, during the Easter holidays, the school returned home to Eastbourne with both excitement and regret at leaving a place that had become so much part of the school. By coincidence, the day the boys returned to Eastbourne was V.E. day (8 May 1945) and they were greeted by flags and bunting and two days holiday!



# MIKE O'NEILL: AN APPRECIATION

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Many Old Bedians will have been moved to learn of the passing, in September 2018, of a loved and respected Head of English and subsequently Librarian at the Senior School.



Mike O'Neill joined us in September 1983, having been born in 1935, the youngest of three brothers in Yorkshire, fresh from a distinguished 13 Year Tour of Duty at the Island School, Hong Kong, where he had led the English Department and later served as Assistant Principal and, among other things, its Sailing Club Skipper. His appointment at Bede's was somewhat fortuitous. His predecessor had left the post during the Summer Break in an untimely manner, at the same time as Mike and his family returned to the UK. Dispensing with formal protocol, and under the circumstances, Roger Perrin's intuition as to who was a 'good bloke', paid off in both the long and short term.

Those of you who were taught by Mike, and those of us who served under him in the English Department, sensed immediately his intellectual qualities combined with an array of interests reaching far beyond the formal Fellowship of the Chalk and Duster; all this held together by a truly human sensitivity; Renaissance Man who had time for everyone. Hence, his students recognised at once that they were in the hands of a scholar who knew his stuff. His literary knowledge was encyclopaedic, interspersed with Germanic allusions, and his A Level results were always of the highest order. Indeed, Mike's affection for Literature was infectious. As one otherwise less than committed student put it: "He could even make Chaucer seem interesting."

He took his Tutoring role in Camberlot very seriously; none more so than when he put his musical talents to the fore, leading his house to victory time and again at the annual Music Competition. This is symptomatic. Mike's talents were 'catholic' (not simply in the light of the formal price he paid to win the hand of his soulmate and wife, Margaret), which he shared with his students at the school. A keen golfer, he helped 'Christen' the school's Driving Range, and he was a formidable competitor on the cricket field. Right miffed he was when playing for the Staff XI, the Captain, one Mr Perrin, relieved him from a spell of bowling "just when I was getting into my stride".

Retirement?...What Retirement?...Mike took on the role of School Librarian, being responsible for establishing it in its new location and, in building such a viable entity, recruiting an Assistant. Enter, Maria Vincent... Her initial introduction to Mike, by her own account, did raise reservations but within days, a professional partnership developed into a wonderfully effective service. Thus, when Mike eventually handed the entire reins to Maria, she paid glowing tribute to her warm hearted mentor.

So the scene was set for Mike to devote his final years to his family first, and to his beloved Alfriston a close second, at the daffodil fringed 'Fossil Cottage' (if ever there was a misnomer, this was it), where one or two overseas Bedians made their term-time home. In their 'spare time' he and Margaret continued to run The Tudor Rose Tea House in the village and Mike took pleasure upwardly gazing from the self-constructed Observatory at Fossil Cottage. Musically he didn't go to seed, employing his Tenor skills in 'The Croakers' Ensemble. He featured as a leading light in the 'Alfriston Players', producing 'Shakespeare on The Tye', and sponsoring the 'Bottomley Opera' (how appropriate). His annual Dickens Christmas Nights became an indispensable feature of the village calendar. He loved serving as a volunteer driver for the Cuckmere Community Bus operative (which co-incidentally took him via The Dicker) and his Twenty-First Renaissance credentials were formally verified by the acquisition of a University-accredited Diploma in Classical Studies. How proud were his children of their devoted Father, in whom he invested so much time in sharing his interests, and of their Mum, Margaret, who predeceased him 18 months previously.

Those alumni who knew Mike well, and reading this, I'm sure would wish to thank Mr Perrin vicariously for his prescience in appointing Mike, on a hunch and at such short notice, to a pivotal role in your lives. I invite you to raise a glass to his memory and a life lived to the full. The sentiment he bequeathed to his own children is worth a wider dispersion: "Never let money stop you from doing what you want to do".

*John Berryman  
Teacher*



# ALUMNI ON THE STAGE

## *Robert Scamardella (1996-2001)*

On Wednesday 6 February, Robert (Director of Music at Bede's) accompanied baritone Benedict Kearns for a memorable performance of Schubert's 'Winterreise'. This is one of the great works of the Western musical canon, and now fills concert halls around the world. Benedict gave a spell-bounding performance of this amazing work, which charts a young man's descent into loneliness, depression, despair and desolation over the course of 24 songs. This is not a work which is heard often in schools, but one which the Bede's Community enjoyed hearing.



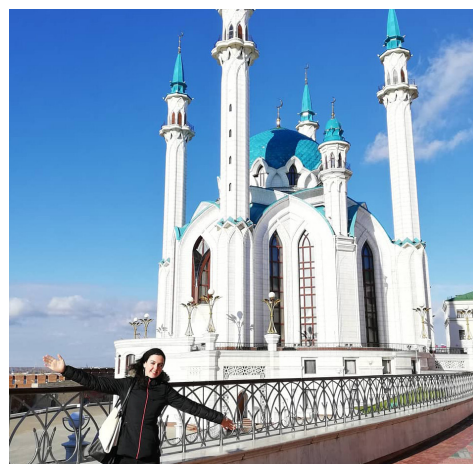
## *Jason Collins (1999-2004) and Georgia Mae Ellis (2003-2014)*

Jason says, "Whilst living in Norwich I hosted a number of sell-out concerts of which Georgia Mae made her 'debut!' and the audience naturally loved her. When I moved to Bungay, Suffolk, to take over the management of The Fisher Theatre I started to get involved with Bungay Choral Society and thought it would be a perfect opportunity to invite Georgia Mae back to East Anglia. Of course it was great to see each other once again, and during the rehearsal I had no idea that her voice had gone from being an excellent amateur to a faultless professional. Everyone was blown away!"



# FFION KELLEGHER: TRAVELS IN RUSSIA

**Ffion (Charleston, 2012-2017) is studying Spanish and Russian at the University of Oxford. She is studying Russian ab initio, and writes to us from her travels in Russia.**



Ffion says, "After 20 hours of travelling I was dropped off by the side of the road at 11pm in Yaroslavl, with just my suitcases and a woman who didn't speak any English. 'Welcome to Russia', I thought to myself as we walked in silence through back alleys towards my new home.

"However, after this I settled in pretty quickly. Before I even stepped foot in Russia, I had made a promise to myself that I would involve myself in the Russian community as much as possible, and that is exactly what I did. I talked to almost every single person at the monthly 'linguacub' meeting.

"While I've been in Russia, I have participated in a three-day Model UN conference and a community-development project – the latter of which involved going to an international architecture festival in Moscow. Moreover, I created and now run the welfare system for international students in Yaroslavl – this consists of welfare teas, movie nights and more.

"I took salsa and tango lessons for the first few months. The activities I have consistently managed to keep up include Muy Thai, kickboxing, ice skating, going to the gym and drum classes. In addition, I fill my time by visiting local museums in Yaroslavl and meeting up with my Russian friends.

"Travelling is also a large part of my experience here. Having been to the cities of Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan, Yekaterin-burg, Perm, Irkutsk and Saint Petersburg. I have met some wonderful people here, learned fascinating new skills and enjoyed the first term thoroughly. I am proud of all that I have achieved."





# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

## *Rhys Parfitt (1993-2006)*

Rhys is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science at Florida State University. He says, "My research group is primarily concerned with atmosphere-ocean interactions and the basic physics of atmospheric and oceanic circulations. I am also interested in large-scale climate variability on all timescales and the socio-economic impact of extreme weather, particularly in a warming climate."



## *Sammy Oyemade (2006-2014)*

Sammy has received a First in Chemical Engineering from UCL. He says, "The highlights of university were definitely my great group of friends who I met on my course; they made the hard hours easier and a lot more entertaining. I couldn't imagine the experience without them. London is also a fantastic place to live." Sammy is currently working as an Investment Analyst at Perella Weinberg Partners in New York and Denver.



## *Alex Broadley (2015)*

Alex has been listed in TransferWise's '20 Under 20' shortlist of young entrepreneurs in the UK and Ireland for 'Small Wallets'. He is studying Business Entrepreneurship at Falmouth University. Alex says, "It's great to be able to run businesses while at university. I intend to develop 'Small Wallets' and explore other niche markets. My dream is to have my own brand." [smallwallets.co.uk](http://smallwallets.co.uk)



*Photo: Pradyuman Samant*

## *Emma Butler-Way (2004-2014)*

Emma is studying for a PhD in English at Aberystwyth University, specialising in the culturally-perpetuated subjugation of women in British sensation literature. Emma says, "I love Aberystwyth; the English department is wonderful, and the extracurricular activities available here are perfect. I'd never considered myself the academic one in my family; I'd got decent enough grades, and enjoyed learning, but to actually pursue academia? It had never really been on my radar, until one day it was. We can never really know what the future holds for us."



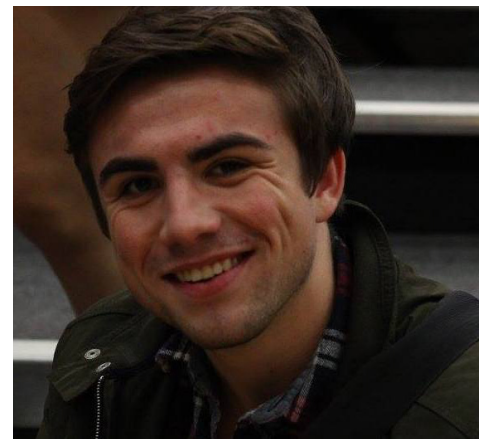
## *Oliver Morriss (2015)*

Oliver has excelled in his LLB Law Degree at Reading University, having been awarded the coveted Neuberger Prize and accepted onto an LLM Law Masters at Cambridge. He says, "There are so many different aspects within studying Law; you can never get bored, and it encompasses our everyday lives. During the Masters, I am specialising in International Commercial, Corporate Law, and will also do a Medical Law module as I very much enjoyed this topic last year. After I graduate from Cambridge I plan to start my BPTC course in London."



## *Luc Foster (2015)*

Luc completed his BA in Film, Photography and Media at the University of Leeds with First Class honours, and is working as an independent scriptwriter and editor. He has also been awarded grant funding from the University of Leeds to make his own film with friends from university. Luc says, "Observing the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack, 'Portrait' looks at three camera phone perspectives running side-by-side, observing the ensuing panic. The film aims to raise awareness about the initial dissemination of information through social media."





# SPORTING SUCCESSSES

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## *Solly March (2007-2012)*

Solly March, midfielder at Brighton & Hove Albion FC, has returned to Bede's Senior School, for additional training with specialist Strength and Conditioning Coach, Tony Morriss.

Solly, who has trained with Tony for many years, has enjoyed several sessions in the gym to add to the already comprehensive training he receives at the Club. Tony says, "The opportunity for our pupils to see and train alongside a former pupil turned professional football player is truly inspirational. It shows our pupils what they can achieve if they have a real talent and are prepared to work hard for their dream."



## *Nick Ayres (2004-2009)*

Nick, who works for the RNLI as Community Safety Partner for the North and East England, travelled to Ri Yue Bay, Wanning, China in November to represent Great Britain in the Surfing Federation world championships. Nick was part of the SUP (stand up paddleboard) and paddleboard teams.

Nick says, "It was a great experience to race along side some of the best paddle boarders in the world. Training has already started for next season, with some bigger challenges to crack along with and trials for the 2019 GB team. I'm also currently looking for sponsors to help me on my journey."



## *James Norwood (2000-2009)*

James has seen massive successes on the field as striker for Tranmere Rovers, including scoring the winning goal at Wembley in May to take the team back into the Football League. James was also awarded Sky Bet League Two's August Player of the Month.

James says, "It's nice to have this recognition, but I'm keen to keep working for success and play as high as possible. I'm really enjoying the opportunity to play upfront again, and thrilled to be part of Tranmere Rovers - it's a fantastic team. I also love being based in Liverpool; it's a very exciting city with lots going on."



## *Jacob Miles (2006-2009)*

Jacob celebrated an amazing three weeks umpiring tennis at the US Open in New York, culminating in being a Line Umpire at the Men's Singles and Women's Doubles Finals. He also worked on two Arthur Ashe night session matches, one of which was Dominic Thiem vs Rafael Nadal that finished at 2.04am. Jacob says, "This was a great opportunity to be working at an overseas Grand Slam tournament with so many friends and colleagues from America and across the world."

Jacob has been involved in tennis as an Umpire since early 2013. This US Open was his tenth Grand Slam tournament and third singles final.



*Read more news and updates from our Old Bedians at [bedes.org](https://www.bedes.org)*

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# NEWS FROM BEDE'S

## BEDE'S PREP EARNS TOP MARKS IN SCHOOL INSPECTION

Bede's Prep School is delighted to have been rated Excellent or Outstanding in all areas of its inspection at the end of last year by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

Educational Quality of the school (including academic achievements and personal development) was rated the highest standard of Excellent:

*'Pupils are excellent communicators; they are highly articulate and enjoy contributing to class discussions'*

*'Pupils develop self-confidence due to their teachers' support and encouragement, and through constructive criticism that is sensitively given'*

*'Pupils appreciate their individuality being acknowledged and supported within a strong school ethos of community'*

The inspectors particularly highlighted the excellent progress made by pupils regardless of starting point as well as the collective individual success in areas such as sport, dance, art, music and drama and cited the variety of activities as evidence that the School "fully meets its aims to promote each child's unique talents."



Bede's Early Years was bestowed the highest standard of Outstanding in all areas:

*'All children, including those with additional needs as well as the more able, make good and often better progress in relation to their ability'*

*'Staff know the children exceptionally well and they endow them with the confidence and skills to prepare them for their next stage in their education'*

Commenting on the report, Headmaster Giles Entwisle said "this report represents a whole-hearted endorsement of the huge commitment and passion for teaching and caring for children which is demonstrated by staff throughout Bede's Nursery and Prep School, but also the love of learning which our pupils bring with them every day".

The full report is available to read online at [bedes.org](http://bedes.org).

## BEDE'S WINS BSA AWARD

The Boarding Schools Association has announced that Bede's School is the winner of their 2018 "Working with Vulnerable Children" Award.

Since 2012, Bede's has been in partnership with East Sussex Local Authority and also supported by the SpringBoard Bursary Foundation, in building a boarding and outreach programme with the aim to raise the educational aspirations and expectations of children in care.



## FOBP RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY

It's been a busy year for the Friends of Bede's Prep.

Last summer, they raised £5,500 for Eastbourne Foodbank with a variety of activities, including school discos, ice lolly sales and quiz nights. December saw our annual Christmas Fair, which enjoyed a fantastic turnout and raised funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Well done everyone!





## TREE PLANTED IN HONOUR OF TONY MEIER

In November, a tree was planted on the grounds of Bede's Prep School, Eastbourne, in honour of Tony Meier, who retired from his position as Chair of the Board of Governors in June last year.



Tony commented on how special it was to be honoured in this way, the only other occasion being a tree planted by the late, lamented Christopher Pyemont to mark his retirement after a lifetime in the Prep School.

## STAR PERFORMERS

It has been an exciting term for Music pupils Daisy Noton (Upper Fifth) and Thea Adams (First Year).



Daisy (pictured) has been accepted into the prestigious National Youth Orchestra as a flautist for the second year running, while Thea has been selected to perform at this year's Glyndebourne Festival. Thea will be part of the choir for Hector Berlioz's 'La Damnation de Faust', which will run at Glyndebourne, Lewes, from 18 May until 10 July.

## MOODY'S 'AGREED' OPERA WOWS AUDIENCES

A group of Bede's pupils visited Glynebourne, Lewes, in March to see 'Agreed', a new opera written by Howard Moody. The Libretto was written by former Bede's pupil, Anna Moody (2015).

"When the performance started, we were all captivated by the unique and distinctive style of the opera," explains First Year pupil, Thea. "It was a perfect contrast to other operas because of the style and the staging, costuming and design."



Photographer: Robert Workman

## IAPS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bede's hosted the Qualifying Round of the IAPS Swimming Championships in February, welcoming over 130 swimmers from eight Prep schools.



All the times from the Qualifying Round will now be ranked across the country, with the top 20 swimmers in each age group and stroke competing in the Finals at the London Aquatic Centre on 8 June. We hope to see as many of our swimmers there as possible!

## YEAR 7 ENGINEERING DAY

In January, Bede's Senior School welcomed Year 7 from Bede's Prep for an exciting Engineering Day.



This is a fantastic opportunity for children to learn that STEM is not the distant and scary subject that some think it is.

Huge thanks to all our pupils (Year 7s and Sixth Form helpers) for taking part and everyone involved in making the day such a success. All of the pupils involved learned to work well in teams and had an enjoyable educational experience.

## FOOTBALL TRIUMPHS

Upper Fifth pupils Ellison Wright (pictured) and Eloise Eyre have seen starring success on the football pitch.

Ellison, who joined Bede's on a football scholarship, has signed a two-year, full time contract with Crystal Palace FC, which will start in September after his GCSE exams.



Eloise has been awarded her first international cap after playing for the England ISFA side against Scotland on Sunday 4 February. England came away with a 4-0 victory.

*Visit [bedes.org](http://bedes.org) for more on the stories featured in this newsletter, plus many more updates and interviews*

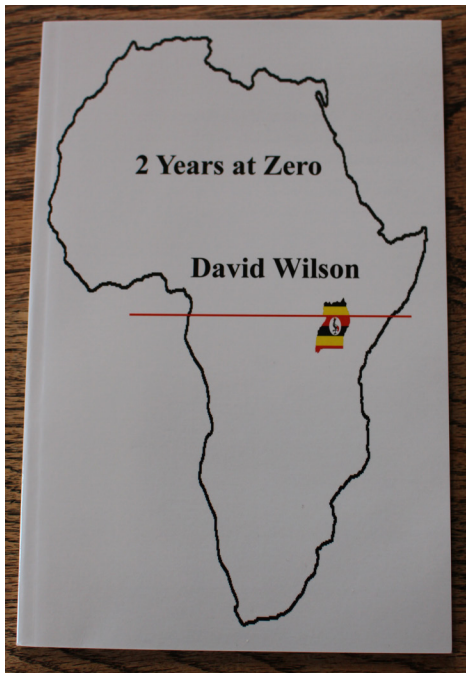






# FROM THE BOOKSHELF: '2 YEARS AT ZERO'

BY DAVID WILSON, FORMER HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY



**"We left the security of a small country town grammar school for the uncertainty and frustrations of newly independent Uganda". So writes David Wilson, recalling his decision in 1966 to uproot his family – wife Barbara and infant daughter Sarah – on a journey into the unknown.**

'2 Years at Zero' traces the fortunes, consequent on his positive response to 'This Advert' inducing him to a two-year secondment. He was to serve at Nyakasura Senior Secondary School (the Eton of Uganda), near Fort Portal in Western Uganda, in the shadow of the Rwenzori Mountains on its border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

David's literary account of a life-affirming experience is no anodyne chronology of mundane daily routine. It is a thematic snapshot seen through the eyes of a sanguine, young(ish) Oxford graduate, anxious to extend his perceptive frontiers, in order to savour at first hand Harold Macmillan's 'Wind of Change' in Africa, pulsating through the continent in the wake of a transition from colonial rule to the faltering first steps on to Independence.

Each chapter in the book keeps us totally

absorbed in the action; the very titles induce the reader to want to read on: 'Whatever are we doing here?'; 'Away matches are so much fun!'; 'Things can only get better'. David's inimitable turn of phrase, so familiar to those who know him: pithy, expressive and succinct, evoke the full gamut of emotions. A fellow teacher's car is described as if it had come from the dodgems of a Fairground; an evening at the cinema, when the technical expertise of the projectionist is impaired by alcohol excess, and the punters were forced to watch the film in reverse so as to get maximum value for their money; then there was the appearance of a lion at the entrance to the family tent on a camping expedition: all the stuff of Stanley, Speke, Livingstone, Park, et al, and fodder for the likes of 'Boys' Own Paper'.

David doesn't, nevertheless, gloss over the genuine worries and concerns: daughter Sarah's sensitivity to climatic and dietary variations; a son, Paul, born into a tropical world and contracting pneumonia; Barbara, diagnosed simultaneously with malaria, hepatitis and glandular fever; not to mention David's graphic account of his close brush with death on a glacial hanging valley in the Rwenzori Mountains.

The irony, so typical of David, with which these dramas are conveyed, serves to fuel their immediacy. Snippets of Historical and Geographical allusions aid our understanding of the Period. The teaching side of the author's experience is dealt with almost as a backdrop to the overall experience. The impression one gets is that Nyakasura School was an attempt to graft on to colonial Africa something of the English Public School ethos (Chaplains, Compounds, Detentions, etc), with an acceptance of certain local traits such as the idea that 'soon' almost invariably meant 'much later, if at all'.

Those of us who have likewise 'done' teaching stints in Developing Countries can, I'm sure, identify in general with much of David's graphically expressed experience.

The difference is that he presents a lucid cartoon of existence in '2 Years at Zero', transforming a workaday analogue into an atmosphere of 'hang on to your seat; what happens next?'

Hence, the book is an invaluable synthesis of the heady idealism of the mid twentieth century, when for many, a stint of duty in the Developing World was a melange of nineteenth century pioneering spirit, and an insidious, albeit subconscious, atonement for our erstwhile imperial mentality. David Wilson's bold attempt to share his own sense of calling with a much wider audience, enables us vicariously to recapture the sense and values of an era.

He kept me fixated from beginning to end. From the intrepid initial drive in their black VW Beetle (purchased from the Archbishop of Uganda) along little more than lateritic murram tracks posing as highways, pitching up for respite en route at the barely encouragingly nicknamed 'Dysentery Arms', to the frenetic journey, at the end of tour, aboard 'East African Railways' (a novel in itself); a race against time to make the flight at Entebbe.

Fortunately for us, this Family which went out as three, and returning as four, they made it. It has been good for us at Bede's to have been able to draw on David's enriched experience, and to have known him for many years. This scholarly book is one which for personal and for public reasons is well worth a read.

*John Berryman  
Teacher*





# BEDE'S

Bede's Senior School  
Upper Dicker, Hailsham  
East Sussex BN27 3QH  
T 01323 843252  
[bedes.org](http://bedes.org)

Bede's Prep School  
Duke's Drive, Eastbourne  
East Sussex BN20 7XL  
T 01323 734222  
[bedes.org](http://bedes.org)