

THE CONNECTED BEDLIAN

CELEBRATING
• 125 •
YEARS
1895 - 2020



WINTER 2019 - 2020

WELCOME

You might not know it quite yet, but 2020 is a significant year in Bede's history.

In part this is because this year marks a significant anniversary, in that St Bede's Preparatory School first opened its doors 125 years ago.

Who in 1895 could have imagined that our school community would thrive as it has done, and that Bede's would become a place where every individual is encouraged to explore, seek new horizons, and achieve their potential – whatever that might mean for them?

2020 also began with some very sad news however, in that Peter Pyemont passed away on Friday 7 February.

He was a remarkable man, and was regarded as one of the greatest headmasters of his generation. He was the headmaster of Bede's Prep School for thirty five years (and was, thereafter, Head of History for ten years) and in these capacities alone he made thousands of lives better.

But his legacy is something much greater than that. Greater than that of teacher, headmaster, father, grandfather, or even friend.

Indeed, it was under Peter's leadership that Bede's became the first co-educational Prep School in the country (1968). It was also his forethought and vision that saw Bede's Senior School established and then located in Upper Dicker, in partnership with Roger Perrin.

As such, Peter was a leader, and a change-maker, and he remained a figurehead for Bede's until the end of his life.

Peter's legacy will continue, and is alive in all of us. His example guides us all – from his kindness and warmth to his good humour, passion and prudence.

While we look back at the past then, and celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the foundation of our school, it is important to remember that we are also starting a whole new decade.

It is one in which my colleagues and I look forward to reconnecting and deepening links with every Old Bedian, and I was very thankful to meet so many of our founding Senior School pupils and staff last year at the 40th Anniversary Dinner.

I hope to meet many more of you at the events we have planned at the school in this special anniversary year, and in the meantime during this unprecedented time I encourage every Bedian to reflect back and also to look ahead, in just the way Peter Pyemont always did and to keep safe and well during this difficult period.

*Peter Goodyer
Headmaster*



I would like to say a huge thank you to all Old Bedians who have been in touch to share their stories, who have taken the time to come back to school, to those who have helped reconnect and rebuild the Old Bedian community and helped us celebrate our history.

The deep connection every Old Bedian has for the Prep and Senior schools and the experiences, opportunities and encouragement every individual has shared

has been infectious and I look forward to meeting many more of our old pupils, families and staff in the months to come.

We continue to build our events programme and you will see there are a number of opportunities over the year to meet up with old friends and teachers.

If you would like to get in touch, please email alumni@bedes.org or call 01323 356652. You can also stay in touch with fellow Old Bedians through our [facebook](#) and [linkedin](#) groups or by signing up to the [mailing list](#).



*Elizabeth Banner
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125 YEARS OF BEDE'S

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS
1895 - 2020

1895

St Bede's was founded as the Preparatory School to Eastbourne College by Mrs Browne (widow of Rev F H Browne, HM Ipswich School 1883-94) in January 1895 with a roll of four boys at 55 Blackwater Road. The name was chosen because the Venerable Bede (monk, scholar, historian and theologian) had just been canonised by the Pope.

1902

The Prep school moved from its then-site in Blackwater Road to its current, grander premises in Duke's Drive where it is nestled on a cliff top above Beachy Head, affording stunning views of the sea and sharing a border with South Downs National Park. St Bede's started its independent career here.

1940

On 24 June 1940, having received a warm invitation from St Edwards, Mr Harding (then Headmaster) left Eastbourne with 58 boys for the safety of Oxford. The expectation was that the relocation would be for just three to six months. The evacuation to Oxford lasted almost five years! The school was used for the training of over 2,000 code-breakers able to intercept and recognise enemy messages made in Code and Cypher.

1945

8 May 1945, the boys returned to Eastbourne from Oxford. Coincidentally, the same day was declared V.E. day and the children were greeted by flags and bunting and two days holiday!

1964

Peter Pyemont became one of the youngest Headmasters at the age of 25 and under his leadership over the next 35 years, St Bede's grew from 40 to 400 pupils.

1968

The Prep School accepted its first girl pupil – Sally Ayers – becoming the first co-educational prep school in the country.

1978

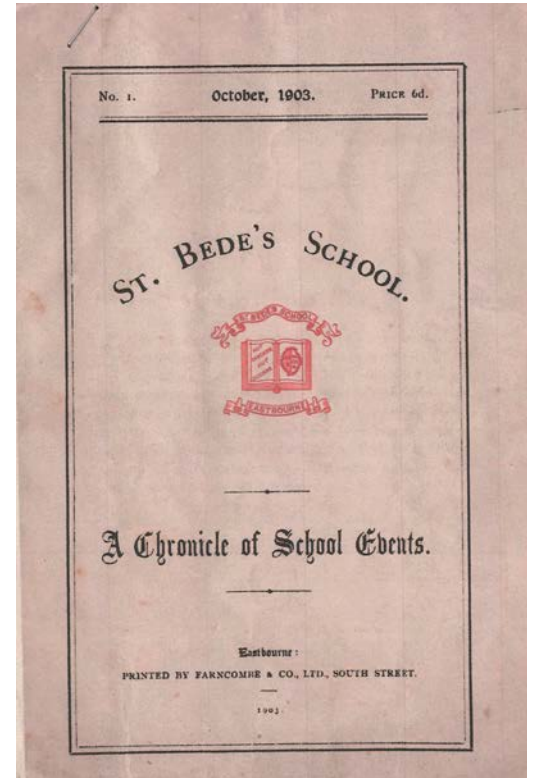
Peter Pyemont (Headmaster) recognised the need for a new school where Bede's pupils could continue the nurturing holistic environment of the Prep School and in 1978 St Bede's Senior School opened in the garage of the Prep School.

1979

With the appointment of Roger Perrin (Senior School Headmaster) the Senior School moved to The Dicker, an estate established by Horatio Bottomley, the notorious swindler, MP and founder of the Financial Times.

2010

The school expanded again and Bede's Nursery opened in 2010. The school now educates children from 3 months to 18 years in the Upper Sixth Form.



Drill.

Every morning after breakfast drill is held by the sergeant for half-an-hour, on the asphalt court in dry weather, and in the play room on wet days.

It is splendid exercise for the boys' muscles and serves to enlarge and strengthen the chest and lungs.



St. Bede's School Chronicle

OF

SCHOOL EVENTS.

The School.

St. Bede's School is situated at the head of Duke's Drive, just under the Downs, so that the dormitories are sheltered from the south-west winds. The school has a very fine and extensive view of the sea. Attached to the school is a large playing field, and an asphalt court where the boys drill every day.

Cricket.

This term we had a fairly good average, winning eight matches, losing three, and drawing one.

We had very good luck in one match, having 30 runs to get, our last man in, and one minute to play.

Bourke proved himself the best batsman and bowler, though Dennys ii. ran him fairly close.

The season was a success beyond the expectation of those interested in the cricket. The lost matches were generally lost in the field; boys would think that "it was somebody else's ball"—quite a fatal thought. Otherwise, and especially towards the end of the season, the fielding was really good.

MEMORIES FROM THE YEARS

Alexander (Sacha) Engelhardt (Prep, 1915-1923)

An extract from Bede's History in celebration of the centenary:

"Having come over to England from Russia at the outbreak of World War I, I went to St Bede's in 1915. Not speaking a word of English, I was clearly handicapped from the start. The kindness and patience of all the staff, however, soon put me on the right road.

"The house opposite was bought by Mr Ellerman (later Sir John, the Shipping Magnate) and every Sunday Mrs Ellerman gave a tea party to her son John and his school friends. We had cream cakes and other goodies which made us all happy."

John Harrison (Prep School 1938 – 1941)

Remembers people and events at (St) Bede's when he was a boy.

"I remember very few names. The Horne brothers I remember quite well, their father was a director of Charringtons the coal people. Horne senior and my father had a mutual interest in model railways. There was a great "0" gauge model railway in the school, having been constructed by J.B.Keeling (in 1936), who took woodwork classes in the workshop down the lane. He also carved the front panel of the altar in the chapel which was built during my time.



I was initially in the bottom form in the care of Miss Barnard, a middle aged lady who

lived near Beachy Head. The Warden of St. Edwards (Oxford), H.E. Kendall, was a friend of Ken Harding (Bede's Headmaster) and always came down to Eastbourne to present the prizes on school sports day.

Other masters I remember were "Hucka" Mckay, a rather daunting elderly maths teacher, Jimmy Connell, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Williams and Miss Harding was our Matron.



Production of Toad of Toad Hall, 1939

The move to St. Edwards 'Teddies' where we were evacuated during the war was quite exciting. Baths were taken in the washroom next to the dormitory allocated to us, and the baths were galvanised metal tubs about four feet in diameter. They were emptied by simply tipping them over onto the floor - no mean task! The food was manageable, but not up to the standard we were used to in Eastbourne. Classes were held in Teddies old library and cricket on the field next to Corfe House. I was Captain of cricket in my final term in 1941 and I remember taking 5 wickets for 40 runs and was awarded my first eleven colours as a result.

I transferred to St.Edwards in September 1941 [as many boys did] and took School Certificate two years later, then took Higher Certificate for the next two years, winning the Physics prize in my final term. I was the Engineer in charge of the trailer pump, Chief Petty Officer of the Sea Cadets and in the shooting eight (0.22).

One event sticks in my mind. When Ken Harding loaned his projector to Teddies for a Bulldog Drummond film show, he as usual appointed me as the projectionist. He had no idea how to work it. Unfortunately the previous borrower of the film had had a

mishap of some sort, and halfway through the showing there was a break in the film, and not only that, the rest of the film had been rewound backwards! Fortunately there was a spare empty reel and I was able to figure out how to sort things out. I can still remember the slow handclaps from the 300 strong audience while I struggled with the problem. (I was only 14 at the time!) Poor Ken Harding was looking very anxious during this proceeding. I finally managed to get it going again (Phew!).

I subsequently went up to Cambridge and took a BA in Engineering. I eventually joined the family printing company becoming CEO. I am now retired and take an interest in the teaching of Maths to primary school aged children. I have five grandchildren, two in their twenties and three under 10 years. Of the eldest one is on her way to becoming a Barrister, and the other is a statistician in the Bank of England.

Sally Marchant [nee Ayers], (Prep 1968-1971, Staff 1977-1980)

"Imagine my surprise on my first day at St Bede's to find that I was the only girl! I don't think the boys knew how to cope with me either!

At roll call, some called me 'Ayers' some 'Sally' and one even 'Miss Sally'. I was quite embarrassed having not been in an all boys' school before but soon got over that when I realised that the boys didn't like being beaten at anything by a girl, which spurred me on to do my best in fortnightly orders etc.

St Bede's certainly taught me a lot and I am sure equipped me for the future."



BEDE'S TODAY

With the Prep School becoming co-educational in 1968, parents started to consider ongoing options for their children's education. At the time there were very few co-educational Public Schools and none in the local 'day' child catchment area. Peter Pyemont had the vision to found a new Senior School in Sussex and with the appointment of Roger Perrin, St Bede's Senior School was opened in September 1979 in Upper Dicker.

Today the school continues to thrive with over 1000 pupils across the school.

Senior School Drama pupils perform in Edinburgh

A group of our talented dramatists performed 'The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui' at the Edinburgh Fringe 2019, a satirical play about the rise of Hitler explained by a group of gangsters who sell cauliflower. The pupils gave six performances.



National Champions

Bede's U15 Girls Cricket team were declared national champions for the second time in 2019 when they won the National Schools Sports Magazine Final.



Bede's Prep appoints new Headmaster

Mark Hammond has been appointed as the new Headmaster of Bede's Prep School. Selected from an impressive field of candidates, Mr Hammond succeeds Giles Entwisle and will take up his post at the start of the next academic year.



Mr Hammond is currently Headmaster at Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School in Five Ashes, a post he has held with distinction since 2015.

Bede's CEO and Headmaster of the Senior School, commented, "Mark is a highly accomplished educational leader and brings with him a wealth of experience. I have no doubt that Mark will make a significant long-term contribution to Bede's Prep School."

Commenting on his appointment Mr Hammond said, "It is a huge honour to be given the opportunity to lead such a forward-thinking, innovative and inspirational school. From our first visit, Sarah and I were struck by the warmth of everyone we met and I am looking forward to working with and serving the whole school community over the years to come."

The Bede's Equestrian team flew through the NSEA Qualifiers earlier this year.

The Prep School teams won the Novice class and came 2nd in the Intermediate class. Individually, pupils also came fifth and third in the Novice and Intermediate classes respectively, second in the Open class and had a fantastic speedy round getting the fastest time in the 70cm class. One pupil also qualified for the Blue Chip Second Round show jumping competitions. The pupils will go forward to represent Bede's in the NSEA Eventers Challenge Championships at Hickstead in May, which is a great achievement.



EVENT REVIEWS

Founding Senior School Pupils Celebrate 40 Years

Last April, we were delighted to welcome founding pupils and staff for a special anniversary celebration at The Dicker.

It was wonderful to celebrate 40 years of the Senior School with our founding Headmasters (Peter Pyemont and Roger Perrin), staff and pupils at a special reunion dinner hosted by current Bede's Headmaster Peter Goodyer and his wife Laura. There was an infectious warmth throughout the evening.

Guests travelled many miles from across the globe and the bustle and chatter over drinks in the Old Dining Hall gave to a wonderful atmosphere as pupils and staff were reunited, countless for the first time in decades.



And it was wonderful to hear the memories flooding back whilst touring what were once dormitories, classrooms and day houses. Peter Pyemont gave an uplifting speech on the night and spoke of the origins of the school, born from a genuine need and demand for a co-educational school in Sussex.

As Roger said on the night, "two classrooms in the converted garages with views out to sea in Eastbourne turned out to be a rather ordinary preparation for learning French in the boudoir, chemistry under the guidance of a musician in the kitchen and science in the stables at The Dicker!"

We also managed to recreate the iconic photograph of unlocking the front door of The Dicker:

The School has since come a long way and yet as Peter Goodyer said, "Bede's – or St Bede's as you will remember is not a different school, but rather a different name with very much the same ethos, belief and philosophy in Education. It is a special place – a treasure in the East Sussex countryside which we all hold dear – a place where friendships are born, where opportunities abound and where children are able to grow as individuals."



Alumni Gather for Largest Prep School Reunion to date

By Angela Morgan

There were many familiar faces at the annual Prep School alumni event on Saturday 4 May. The event was held in the Dining Room, with some fantastic canapés on offer courtesy of Darren and Phil (from Holroyd Howe) in the kitchen. This was probably the largest gathering since this event was started. The group ranged from people who were here in the 1960s to those who only left in this century! We even had a father and son duo who had been at the school 30 years apart; both of them had been taught by former Headmaster Peter Pyemont.

As usual there were plenty of photographs to look at. I always find it amazing how many of the old pupils can recognise everyone in a photograph, even when it is the whole year group.



There were plenty of former staff who reminisced with the old and not-so-old former pupils. Trying to get everyone onto the tarmac for a group photograph was a mammoth task as they were so busy talking. Towards the end of the event, Peter Meier took a large group for a tour of the school.

It was a great occasion enjoyed by everyone who came to it; some people had travelled quite a long way, Nottingham and Dorset to name two distant places. Some of the group retired to the pub to continue catching up with their old school friends.

Hong Kong reunion

Rachael Woollett (Deputy Head) and Richard Mills (Registrar) arranged to meet with a number of Old Bedians whilst in Hong Kong. Sadly the difficulties in the country at the time effected travel but they were delighted to catch up with Gordon Lau (Stud, 1991-1995) and Andy Yang (Camberlot, 2007-2012).



From left: Andy Yang, Gordon Lau, Ms Woollett and Mr Mills

We really appreciated them joining us despite the difficulties in the country at the time and everyone enjoyed catching up. We hope that under different circumstances we will meet with more Old Bedians, former parents and current parents when we are in Hong Kong again.

Andy Yang said: "In mid October there was a UK education fair going on in Hong Kong and I was invited to meet up with Mr Mills & Ms Woollett. Mr Mills taught me business (GCSE) and coached me rugby during my time at Bede's. I was excited and nervous to see them again after at least 6-7 years, we did a lot catching up and talked about the changes between now and then. It was a great evening overall, and it was good to meet Mr Mills and Ms Woollett again. I hope to visit Bede's again in the near future.



Gordon with his eldest son

Gordon is now working in Hong Kong and has two boys, Lyndon aged 5 and Quinton aged 2. He said "I've been pleasantly surprised a few of the staff during my time still have some form of association with the school. Continuity of core values are key to the success of Bede's and I can envision one day sending my 2 sons to Bedes after relocating my family back in UK in perhaps 5-7 years.

Eddie Izzard (Falcon, 1969-1975) Performs at Bede's Prep School



We were delighted to welcome Eddie Izzard back to the Prep School for a work-in-progress performance of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations last week.

Eddie's first love was acting and this special evening merged actor and comedian in a reading/performance of this much-loved classic. It was an intimate and immersive experience with Eddie making a heartfelt tribute to Peter Pyemont (Eddie's former headmaster) who was unfortunately unable to attend but watched the show through live streaming.

The following morning Eddie was back to give a special assembly to our Year 7 and 8 pupils – a first for him and a complete delight for the children. Warm, inspirational, funny and totally engaging, Eddie spoke about his time at Bede's, his motivations and love for performing both comedy (in several languages!) and acting. It was a real treat for our pupils from the senior years and we are hugely grateful for the time he gave so willingly.

Alumni Enjoy a Wonderful Day of Cricket

For the third year Bede's hosted an Old Bedian's Alumni Cricket Match at the Senior School on Sunday 23 June 2019.



We were delighted to welcome back 11 old boys along with their friends and families to play against the Headmaster's 1st XI. The day began with bacon rolls and refreshments followed by a Twenty20 match with a break for a BBQ lunch.

EVENT REVIEWS

The Headmaster's son tossed the coin for the start of the match and the Old Bedians were up to bat first. It was a close match with brilliant performance by all and ending in a win for the Old Bedians.

Well done and thank you to all our brilliant alumni players Joe Billings (2017), Ian Crouch (2000), Dunstan Harris (2009), Dominic Heater (2018), Ryan Hoadley (2018), Charles Hodgson (2015), Elliott Hooper (2014), Arthur Rossi (2014), Harry Scowen (2018), Richard Slinn (1994), Jordan Turner (2010). And thanks also to all the supporters! We look forward to the fourth match this year and perhaps some of the old girls will join the team next time!

Old Bedians Win at Alumni vs Bede's XI Football Match

It was fantastic to see our alumni footballers return for a match against the 1st XI Football team at the Senior School in August.



The match was arranged by David Caryer (Director of Football) and the Old Bedians were expertly managed by former teacher David Leggett.

The team included (from top left in the photo) Oli Welbourn (2016), Ashley Crocombe (2011), Luca Page (2017), Michael Brown (2009), Patrick Dallaway (2016), Alex Leigh (2011), David Leggett (Manager), Jack Dunkley (2017), Tommy Trenaman (2017), Harry Blackman (2016), Harry Prow (2016), Paul Turner (1999), David Carruthers (2015).

The game was a well-contested match with Bede's 1st XI scoring early with a well-taken counter-attack goal scored by Sutton, and then the Alumni team equalizing mid-way through the 1st half with some excellent play from Trenaman creating a tap-in for Page. It was 1-1 at half-time, and with most people expecting the old boys to fatigue, the 1st XI were favourites. However, the old boys showed their experience to go ahead and then, as Bede's 1st XI pushed for an equalizer, they hit them on the break with some ruthless counter-attacks of their own, and some sublime finishing from Page with the final score being 5-1.

The old boys, David Caryer, and Mr Leggett then headed to The Plough for some well-earned refreshments and remembering their days at Bede's, especially the tours to Brazil, Portugal, Valencia and Amsterdam.

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY 14 JUNE, 10.00AM – ALUMNI CRICKET MATCH

Free event

Come and play against the Headmaster's 1st XI or join us as a spectator at The Dicker! All Old Bedians – Prep and Senior School are warmly invited to this relaxed annual event.

SUNDAY 14 JUNE, 10.30AM - 25 YEAR REUNION

Tickets £5 (children free)

All those who left Bede's Senior School in 1994, 1995 or 1996 are warmly invited to a family event at The Dicker on Sunday 14 June. You will have the opportunity to catch up with old friends, see old haunts and picnic on the lawn. The Zoo will be open for all to explore and we will provide a picnic lunch and refreshments.

FRIDAY 19 JUNE ART & DESIGN PRIVATE VIEW

Free event

All are welcome to join us at the private view of our Art and Design Exhibition at the Senior School. Please register your interest by email to alumni@bedes.org.

SATURDAY 27 JUNE, 3PM – PETER PYEMONT MEMORIAL SERVICE Bede's Senior School

All are welcome to a memorial service in celebration of Peter Pyemont's life. Peter was Headmaster of the Prep School for 35 years. Please register your attendance at <https://www.bedes.org/peter-pyemont-obituary>.

AUTUMN 2020 – ALUMNI FOOTBALL MATCH

Free event

All Old Bedians are invited to join us for a competitive match against the Bede's Senior School 1st XI. Please register your interest in joining the team or as a spectator by emailing Liz Banner at alumni@bedes.org.uk

AUTUMN 2020 - 10 YEAR REUNION

Tickets £10

Old Bedians who left Bede's Senior School in 2009, 2010 or 2011 are invited to a reunion in London. The date and venue will be provided in due course. Ticket price includes a glass of bubbly and canapés and there will be a cash bar.

Please email alumni@bedes.org and let us know if you would like to join any of the events and we will then be in touch with details about how to register

PLEASE NOTE ALL EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PROFILE

Former England Cricketer Sarah Taylor Joins Bede's (Bede's Prep 1999-2002)

Sarah Taylor, former England and Women's World Cup winning cricketer, joined the School's Sports department as the Sports Development and Life Skills Coach in January.

Being an Old Bedian herself (Bede's Prep from 1999-2002), Sarah commented,

"This really is the perfect role in the perfect place for me. The opportunity to work with the coaches already at Bede's and learn from them, as well as inspire the next generation of children coming through the School is incredibly exciting."

In this brand-new role, Sarah is working across both the Senior and Prep Schools to increase participation and performance in sport across all year groups; to support with elite-level coaching across the core and competitive sports; and promote positive emotional and physical wellbeing in pupils at all athletic levels.

She is best known for being a world-class level wicket-keeper in the England Cricket team, with career highlights including being the youngest female cricketer to score 1000 runs in One Day Internationals when she scored 75 not out against India in 2008; being the first woman to be inducted in the Legends Lane at the Brighton and Hove County Cricket Ground in 2015; and being awarded the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year four times (T20I in 2012, 2013 and 2018 and ODI in 2014).



In 2017, Sarah was selected to represent England in the Women's Cricket World Cup. During the fourth round, Sarah and teammate Tammy Beaumont set the record for the highest 2nd-wicket partnership in Women's Cricket World Cup history (275) in a 68-run victory over South Africa. In an outstanding final match against India at Lord's, England won by 9 runs and lifted the winning trophy. "That was such a memorable moment," Sarah says. "When I close my eyes I can still remember it: the feeling of elation at winning, the celebration with my teammates, the sound of the crowds. I think that will always stay with me."

Alongside her astounding athletic career, Sarah has been a vocal advocate for positive mental health and wellbeing. "The life skills

aspect of the role is something that I feel very passionately about," Sarah explains. "I am so incredibly fortunate to have had the experiences I have playing international cricket professionally – it was a dream come true to travel the world and make the friends I did playing a sport I



love. However, competing at that high level came with a huge amount of pressure (mainly from myself), which made me understand the importance of instilling a work/life balance – because if you don't then something will crash eventually."

Sarah will be using her experiences and best-practice methods learned from a Diploma in Life Coaching to promote good mental wellness to all pupils. "Being a young person these days is very difficult – alongside the academic and sporting pressures, there is a lot of social pressure to be who everyone else wants you to be. I really want to encourage all of our pupils to trust and believe in themselves. There is no set method that works for everyone and the process will be different for every child or teenager and may vary by sport; the beauty of taking on a brand-new role is that it gives the flexibility needed to make the programme a success."

For Sarah personally, exercise has taken on a new meaning in her life since her retirement from international cricket. "I run every morning without fail for two miles, which sets me up for the day. When you exercise and challenge yourself it makes a huge difference to your mental wellbeing. The most important thing about my morning runs is that I'm not being told to do it or training with any goal in mind; I'm choosing to do this for myself. This message is at the heart of what I want to teach the pupils – they are playing sport because they love it, and should ultimately work hard to achieve their dreams for themselves."

David Byrne, Director of Sport at Bede's, comments, "Coaching is at the heart of the Bede's sport offer, and we are absolutely thrilled to have Sarah joining our team. She brings with her a wealth of experience and enthusiasm that I know will have a huge impact on our pupils and department as a whole. Bede's has always focused on providing a quality, holistic education tailored to the individual, and our sporting mission is no different. We place equal importance on participation and performance to encourage a love of sport for life, and Sarah's new role is absolutely vital in achieving this vision."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1980's

Kola Ayanwale (Dorms, 1983-1987)



Congratulations to Kola Ayanwale who has passed his FIE exam and is now an internationally licensed Epée referee. The FIE license is, to all intents and purposes, the epitome of refereeing qualifications. Kola will now be able to referee at Junior World Championships and Satellites (the level just below Senior World Champs) and he may even referee at the Veterans World Championships in Poreč, Croatia, next October.

1990's

Jamie Lloyd (Dicker, 1995-1999)



The next instalment of Jamie Lloyd's year-long Playhouse Theatre residency opened this month. A modern production of Chekhov's *The Seagull*, Jamie is directing Khaleesi herself. Game of Thrones star - the Mother of Dragons - Emilia Clarke, will be making her West End debut. The production runs from 11th March to 30th May 2020.

Other news is Jamie Lloyd's son played Roger in TV series *His Dark Materials*!

2000's

Jordan Turner (Deis, 2001-2010)



Jordan joined the staff at Bede's Senior School in September as Teacher of History and Politics.

"I went to both the Prep and Senior Schools, and spent 9 years in total at Bede's. Being back is a real privilege for myself. Since deciding to make the move into teaching after 4 years in the corporate world, the goal was to end up teaching at the school that generated my passion for History and Politics in the first place.

I spent some time travelling in 2011, and then graduated with a BA (Hons) in History and Politics in 2014 after finishing my A Levels at Bede's in 2010. It's great to be back and involved with both schools. My fiancée, Amy Snelling, is a teacher at the Prep School and runs the boarding house at Meads End whilst I teach and coach up at the Dicker.

The only thing that has been difficult to adjust to is calling some of my old teachers by their first name now! I spent the first month or two calling Richard Frame 'Mr Frame' or 'Sir'; calling him Richard took some getting used to. But it's fantastic to be back and to see how much the school has progressed since 2010, and coaching football and cricket on top of teaching has been a real bonus. I look forward to the Alumni cricket match later in the year, only this time I won't be on the Alumni side!"

Emilie Whitmore (Charleston, 2002-2008)



Emilie Whitmore married Lewis Hampton at St. Andrew's Church in Alfriston on the 20th of December 2019. Emilie says 'all of my bridesmaids and I are Old-Bedians. Since meeting at prep school we have been the best of friends. We were also lucky enough to travel to the wedding in a Bede's minibus thanks to my father, Gerry Whitmore, being a driver.'



In the photograph: Alice Smith (née Chaloner), Lucy Dowling, Emilie Whitmore (Bride), Grace Brickell (née Limpus), Emily Kemp, Becci Barrie

Please keep sharing your news and let us know where you are and what you are doing. We love hearing your stories be it a new addition to the family, celebrating your wedding or marking special achievements and successes.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Winnie Kubiita (Dorter, 2008-2011)



Winnie (a Quicken Trust Scholar) joined Bede's in 2008 from Uganda. She returned to her home town and Bede's continued to sponsor her training until she completed and gained a certificate in Nursing. Winnie was recently in touch with Bede's to say thank you again for the support she received: 'I am working at Kabubbu Health centre giving back to my community... I am doing all of that because of you'.

Rosie Stephenson (Crossways, 2008-2015)



Rosie is in her last year studying Graphic Communication Design at Central St Martins. Last January she displayed her work at the Royal Academy Late's event. Rosie has fond memories of Bede's and says: 'My love for art and design very much came from studying Ceramics, Photography and Fine Art at Bedes, it was such an inspiring environment, I really had a wonderful 7 years at both the lower and upper school.'

Duncan Brown (Dicker, 2009-2011) & Jade Barraclough (Charleston, 2009-2011)



Our warmest congratulations to Duncan and Jade who married on 6 June 2019. They have been together since they met in sixth form at Bede's some 11 years ago!

Brighton Reunion



Old Bedians Kirsten Bergen (Dicker, 1984-1988), Neil Storm (Dicker, 1982-1987), Kola Ayanwale (Dorms, 1983-1987), Michael Wrightson (Dorms, 1983-1986) and Alex Alder (Dicker, 1984-1987) met up in Brighton in December 2019.

Reunion in Australia



Wendy Abadi (Dicker, 1978-1982), Tom Marshall (Dorms, 1979-1982), Sarah Henderson [née Barsby] (Crossways, 1978-1982) all met up in Australia.

Reunion in New Zealand

Wendy Abadi also met up with former Headmaster Roger Moses whilst travelling in New Zealand.



Reunion in the States



In December, Jamie Vaughan and Oliver Gilson caught up with each other in Los Angeles.

PETER PYEMONT

11 May 1939 – 7 February 2020

Peter Pyemont, who has died aged 80, was a pioneering and charismatic prep school headmaster who also founded one of the largest and most successful new independent secondary schools of the postwar period.

As headmaster of St Bede's prep school, Eastbourne, Pyemont applied his conviction that education is about more than academic achievement and includes the development of emotional, social, physical, creative and spiritual faculties.

From 1964, when he took over aged 25, to 1998, when he retired as headmaster, numbers at St Bede's – now known as Bede's – grew from 40 to around 400 pupils and the school became a charitable trust in 1971.

Among other things Pyemont encouraged pupils to become involved in discussing new ideas and plans for the school, and under his leadership it built an enviable record of success in prep school sport.

The cricket commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins, a boarder from the age of eight, recalled how “the pain of being wrenched from home and parents had been eased, indeed forgotten, by a game of cricket with my older brother and his friends on the first evening in my new surroundings.”



A highlight of the school year were the plays and musicals Pyemont produced, which left a lasting impression on pupils such as the actor Nicky Henson and actor and comedian

Eddie Izzard. Izzard, who played in the school's first football XI, complained on his website that Pyemont “had a strong thing about not putting me in plays”, but the pair became friends, and Pyemont gets a mention in the credits to Izzard's forthcoming film *Six Minutes to Midnight*.



Finding that many parents wanted their children to benefit from the same approach to learning throughout their school careers, Pyemont began to search for a site for an upper school, and in 1978 the St Bede's School Trust purchased an estate at Upper Dicker, to the north of Eastbourne, formerly the home of the MP, financier and fraudster, Horatio Bottomley.

The following year St Bede's (now Bede's) senior school opened with 25 pupils. It now boasts a total of 750 pupils and 223 staff.

One of seven children, Peter Pyemont was born at Notley Abbey near Aylesbury (later the home of Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh) on May 11 1939 to Wilfrid and Ruth Pyemont (née Johnson) and brought up in Eastbourne. His father was a stockbroker and keen tennis player who had competed at Wimbledon, and all the family were keen on sports.

Peter attended St Bede's prep school, where he and his fellow pupil, the satirist Peter Cook, played together in the school's cricket first XI and shared an interest in theatre. Cook, Pyemont noted later, “laughed at you”, while Eddie Izzard “laughs with you”.

He went on to Marlborough, where he represented the school at hockey and cricket and reached the final of the Public Schools Rackets Championships. He did National Service with the Black Watch and the Royal Sussex Regiments, quelling the bullies among his fellow recruits, many of them poorly educated conscripts, by reading to them their letters from home; this experience shaped his thinking on the importance of education.

Pyemont began his career teaching history at Chelmsford Hall prep school, Eastbourne, where he took a diploma in education, before being appointed in 1964 as headmaster of St Bede's, aged just 25.

While there he played tennis, squash and hockey for Sussex, captaining the hockey team for several years. He also captained Eastbourne Cricket Club, played for MCC and was a first-class ski judge.

Pyemont carried on as head of the prep school after setting up the new school, appointing Roger Perrin as its first headmaster. He retired as head of St Bede's prep in 1998, but stayed on as head of history for a further 10 years.



PETER PYEMONT *cont.*

In 1989 Pyemont had won the Frank Fisher Memorial Prize presented by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company with a thesis on "What the West could learn from the East" and spent three months in Asia, teaching in schools and meeting ministers of education.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he travelled to the former East Germany and established a scheme under which parties of children and their teachers visit Eastbourne to experience life in a British boarding school and learn English.

In retirement, Peter and his brother Christopher, who had taken over as headmaster at St Bede's prep school, set up a public speaking company, Talking Heads, and gave entertaining lectures on everything from the First World War to the history of skiing.

Pyemont became a founder governor of Gildredge House Free School, also in Eastbourne.

In 1962 he married Elspeth Grant, who survives him with their son and daughter.

*Peter Pyemont, born
May 11 1939,
died February 7 2020*

All are welcome to a memorial service to be held at Bede's Senior School in Upper Dicker in celebration of Peter Pyemont's life. Please register your attendance at [here](#).

Roger Perrin, Founding Headmaster of the Senior School reflects...

For me Peter was an absolute pleasure to work with on so many levels. He was 100% supportive and constructive; he let us get on with things in Upper Dicker and was always fully behind every moment of advance however perilous some of the early investment could have seemed. It is best summed up perhaps by saying that Peter was an outstandingly good captain as he showed in his time with Sussex Hockey and Eastbourne C.C.



The best captains let the individuals in their teams show their particular skills and back them up; anyone who worked in his School knew this and it helped ensure that the School prospered. It wasn't just that though: I enjoyed working along with Peter for all sorts of reasons; we believed that there was fun and a good deal of laughter to be had in our work..., Peter was great at this and it is true to say that the more uncertain and risky the business might seem, the greater was the fun to be extracted from the circumstances. Peter could see the main point clearly and

that was that school life should be enjoyable and all the different boys and girls should be equally celebrated. I do remember with pleasure when Peter had his year as President of The Eastbourne Schoolmasters' Association he ended his presidential address by telling us that the Association was no longer to exist; typical PP...he saw clearly what many others did not dare to say; the Organisation had become pretentious and formulaic, its very title was an anachronism, no one would miss it except a few stuffys and Peter was most surely not one of them; he was never afraid to act radically and decisively...to get to the point and as those who heard him speak and teach to do so with a crisp authority...as I said he was a good captain. That he could also converse on all matters sporting with acumen and enjoy a "couple of pints" whenever the opportunity arose added to his excellence, in my view anyway!



I spoke to Peter a few days before he died and although very weak he was as cheery as ever and said to me that we had been very lucky to have had such an enjoyable time; It was moving to hear this and I could not have agreed more; knowing him well for over 40 years was indeed most lucky!



OLD BEDIAN ENTREPRENEURS

Bede's entrepreneurs share their experiences with Bede's pupils

Barry Jackson (Head of Business Faculty) and teachers were very pleased to welcome back three old Bedians: Felicity Collins, Professional Event Rider [Charleston, 2010-2016]), Chris Garvey, DJ & Producer [Knights, 1998-2003] and Matt Halls, Personal Trainer [Knights, 2003-2010] to tell their stories of success in business and to explain how their time at the Dicker continues to influence their lives.



Perhaps some of the most important lessons learned crossed over from the world of business and into other aspects of life. Advice like 'ask more questions', 'be resilient and demonstrate a growth mindset' and 'break goals down into small, manageable targets' were hugely appreciated by our current pupils and will no doubt prove invaluable for those who put these into action.

We are fully aware that time is a precious commodity, particularly when you are self-employed, and to speak so honestly and engage the pupils in such a positive way was both hugely impressive and appreciated.

Old Bedian Chris Garvey (Dicker & Knights, 1998-2003), having been inspired by teacher Mr Long, revived his passion for music whilst at Bede's and today is an international DJ, Music Producer and Record Label Owner.

Chris joined Bede's in Lower 5th and despite coming from a family of musicians, Chris's ambition at the time was to be a mountain bike mechanic. Mr Long, a particular influence and pivotal in getting him back into music, insisted Chris pick up the Trumpet again.

It was during his A-level years - studying CDT, Ceramics with Mr Hammond, Music Tech with Mr Long and Music AS with Miss Barclay & Miss Long - when things became more focused. Chris was one of the founding members of the Bede's Jazz Band which went on tour, playing at Carnegie Hall in New York and touring Taiwan!

After leaving, Chris stayed connected for many years working as a weekend Tech Assistant whilst studying for his degree in Music Production and after graduating as the Music Tech and later Head of Music Technology. The department grew from having a few mics and computers to two control rooms and one live room – all packed with equipment! The kids spent all their time there, it was a thriving hub where students could come and get lost in music.

It was while at Bede's when Chris was having to reprimand a hugely passionate individual – who loved to make music but refused to do any course work – that he realised that this was not what he wanted to do in life. He was already a resident DJ for Shogun Audio a big label in Drum and Bass, a roadie for drum & bass pioneer DJ Friction travelling all over the UK and had been building his contacts in the underground dance culture and making music for years. That day he resigned to follow his dream (2008)!

Recognising he tends to overthink things, he partnered with an old friend Nick White. They decided to write music and in just three days had produced two tunes - their company, The Prototypes, was born. From there the hard work started, handing out CDs to DJs, posting copies, online chats it was relentless!

One day Nick received a call from Roni Size [UK DJ and producer, Mercury Prize Winner [1997] and MPG (Music Producers Guild) Award for Inspiration 2017]. Roni was one of their heroes so when the call came Nick assumed it was a friend playing a prank – he put the phone down on him! The phone rang again and this time Nick realised he'd made a huge mistake!



Roni shouted about The Prototypes for some time which created loads of interest – Grooverider then picked up their second release 'Cascade' and played it over and over again on his show on BBC Radio 1, Grooverider put it on the desk of Zane Lowe (Now Apple Radio DJ & exec but at the time BBC Radio 1 DJ) he then played 'Cascade' on his evening show for weeks and shouted about The Prototypes for some time, Chris remembers this whole time as being very special to them both (2010-2013).

OLD BEDIAN ENTREPRENEURS *cont.*

They released singles with a number of record labels worldwide, including official remixes early on for the likes of Avicii, Ed Sheeran, Don Diablo, Haduken! even Snoop Dogg. 2015 saw the launch of their first album with Viper Recordings and single Pale Blue Dot ranked as Beatport's second top selling drum and bass track of the year, along with two others in the top ten. It was also nominated for Best Track at the Drum & Bass Arena Awards, with The Prototypes nominated for Best Producer, Best Music Video, and Best DJ. They were also awarded Mixmag's prestigious 'best breakthrough DJs' in 2016.

Chris recalls 2014/15 & 16 were a massive game changer for them, they were regularly playing on the main stages at festivals and headlining Clubs shows globally with tours across the US, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, all of Europe and of course the UK. In 2019 they reached a long time dream of playing Glastonbury Festival and were invited by Andy C to play at his XOYO Residency. In 2017 Chris and Nick started their own record label 'Get Hype Records' which was a huge success with a family of Artists involved in the label and selling out the main room at Fabric London in 2018. Fast forward to 2019 and their second album is almost finished for release in May 2020 which also marks 10 years of The Prototypes.

Chris says: 'People think the life of a DJ is easy, it is an amazing career being able to follow your passion, go to so many places and meet amazing people from all cultures around the world, but it isn't for the faint hearted, it takes a massive toll on your mind and body so you have to look after yourself. Travelling but not seeing the destination most of the time, in the studio under the hammer often from 10am until the early hours of the morning, getting your foot in the door is one thing, staying there & fresh while meeting the expectation you've made for yourself in your art is quite another! You need to keep reinventing yourself and consistently raise your own bar which isn't easy but totally worth it if you can pull it off. If there is just one thing I would like to convey for anyone who's got this far in to me waffling is you can do it, if you have a dream, whatever that dream is it is possible to be involved and have a great life and a fun time doing it as long as you put the work in. It won't come easy, it really won't, but it is worth it. Experiment with your passion and at a certain point be realistic with where your talents are and guide that towards a rewarding career for yourself, if you've given it the best you can and you still don't feel you have what it takes, look at how you can still be involved within your chosen industry and live the dream that way - maybe its in Promotion, maybe Social Media, building stages, statistics, helping artists grow or getting them their next big deal!? It's funny but I don't consider what I do as work its just something I do and have done since I was about 15 in one way or another and for that I am most grateful.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friend Mr Jackson for getting me in, also to Mr Perrin Sr, Mr Perrin Jr, of course Mr & Miss Long, Mr Hammond, Mr Trenamen, Miss Gillham and all my other teachers and Original Bedes crew, you made a significant impact on my life.

Felicity Collins (Charleston, 2011-2016) runs her own Eventing business and thanks Bede's for allowing her to excel in horse riding.

Felicity had joined the local secondary school and was not keen to move but with her background in horse riding she was encouraged to apply for the Bede's Riding Scholarship. Even after being offered the scholarship, she wanted to stay with her friends and most importantly she told then Headmaster Dr Maloney that she did not want to wear a kilt! These are vital factors when a teenager!

That said, spending five years at Bede's was the best decision. Already competing in horse riding competitions across the country, her passion was horses and being at school came second to that. Rather than refusing her time off for the competitions, like so many of the schools her 'horse friends' attended, Bede's embraced her talent and took an interest in her sport. The teachers recognised how important it was to Felicity and even at the age of 13 years, took her seriously, allowing her to train during activities and in free lessons and they were understanding when she returned on a Monday exhausted from a weekend away competing.

The flexibility allowed her to have horses (if she'd had to be at school until 5pm every day and again on Saturday it would have been impossible) and she did extremely well in competitions including, after three years of trials, riding for Great Britain in the European Championships (Young Riders and Junior teams). She would not have been able to build her career if it wasn't for the support.



At the same time Bede's made sure Felicity received the best education and achieved the best GCSEs and A-levels. She particularly remembers Mr Jackson's unrelenting support, offering his time for catching up on her Business Studies and also the support Miss Dunstall gave for her English. She also remembers seriously talented individuals across sport, art, drama and academic subjects and how Bede's is a place for everyone. A place that doesn't worry so much about results tables but nurtures talent whilst still getting the most unlikely to put in the effort in their school work.

Felicity now runs her own Eventing business (<https://www.felicitycollins.co.uk/>). She is a Professional Event Rider competing in what could be described as equestrian triathlons which involve three phases – Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country – in a single competition on one horse. She might ride 4 horses in one competition

OLD BEDIAN ENTREPRENEURS *cont.*

for different owners having been training them for up to 5 years previously. For the owners it is all about seeing their horse do well, the prestige of winning and the publicity.

Matt Halls (Eagle (Prep) & Knights (Senior), 2003-1010) runs his own Personal Training business.

Matt in his own words lived and breathed Bede's from the moment he started at the Prep to when he left in the Sixth Form. He was a Drama scholar at the Prep School and sport played a pivotal role and Matt was Captain of the Rugby team at both schools.

After Bede's and studying Sports and Materials Science at Birmingham University, he worked overseas teaching sports in a boarding school, but not wanting to pursue teaching, he soon started out as a Personal Trainer setting up a training studio and business at home.



My love of sport was manifested at school, Bede's gave me the freedom to push for anything I wanted and the range of activities allowed for that. Doc Carroll (Housemaster) was a constant support offering the right balance between discipline and fun and Nick Potter always welcomed me into Design Tech (Matt's other passion) and gave me the freedom to work independently.

Most recently, in partnership, Matt has opened a new studio in Hailsham which spans both health and fitness. We wish him all the best for this new venture! <https://www.facebook.com/MattHallsPT/>

An interview with Anouk Jacob (Crossways, 1989-1992)

What are your strongest memories of your time at Bede's?

I have to admit that my strongest memories are the friends I made; specifically Anna, Katie, and Solveig. We were known as the infamous four (or sometimes troublesome four). We were curious, adventurous,

and rebellious; which are quite typical traits of teenagers but we possibly pushed those traits a bit more than the average teen. I am still friends with them today.

Was there a particularly influential teacher/tutor?

I think all teachers had some influence whether direct or indirect. Mr Wilson was my Geography teacher at the time and he told me that as long as one reads a newspaper a day (broadsheet of course) our general knowledge (from politics to international relations to economics to culture to sports) level will be optimised. This is what I did for over 20 years and I feel it was such a simple piece of advice but so powerful and very true.



Tell us about your journey after Bede's

For my A-Levels I went to Marlborough College, and then went to UCL for my Bachelor of Arts. After completing my degree, I moved to Paris where I started my PR career.

I worked hard, made my way up the ladder, and landed with several successful positions including General Manager of a PR agency in France, as well as Deputy GM at another agency. I worked in London, Paris, and Brussels. I loved my job but it was really hard work, stressful, ruthless at times, and I was burning the candle at both ends.

After over 15 years, in 2016, I decided to drop everything, to travel and study again. I spent over a year in India, 7 months in South America and quite a few other places. I studied Naturopathy, Ayurveda, Nutrition, Gut Health, Hormones, Detoxing, Essential Oils, Medicinal Plants, Stress, and Sleep. I'm also now a certified Health & Lifestyle Coach (from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition), as well as a certified Yoga and Meditation teacher. I have 3 yoga teacher trainings and many meditation retreats under my belt. Since I came back I totally changed my life and left behind my PR career for good.

It was a few years in the making but my company, Harmonious Health (<http://harmonioushealth.co.uk/>), was finally launched. Harmonious Health is all about supporting people and helping them get their lives back on track; getting them to feel their best - mainly through nutritional and lifestyle changes. Harmonious Health is about people finding balance, serenity, and peace at a physical, mental and emotional level.

ALUMNI VISITS

Guy Williams (Hawk, 1965-69)



Guy and his wife Sue came to visit the Prep School in September and it was wonderful to show how much the school had changed and yet how so much was still the same! Guy was particularly happy to see an old radiator still in place (this will no doubt have meaning to many Old Bedians) and to see the chapel unchanged. Guy was even impressed to see the Cross he had been charged with polishing whilst a pupil at St Bede's (featured in the photo)!

Matthias Joch-Noellke (Dorms, 1993-1995) and Susanna Mayerle (Crossways, 1993-1995)



We were delighted to welcome Matthias Joch-Noellke and Susanna Mayerle back to Bede's. Matthias and Susanna met at St Bede's in the sixth form 25 years ago and came back to see their old school with their two boys Moritz and Benjamin. Some things have not changed since they boarded here: the Old Dining Room is exactly as it was but other aspects are very different - the music department is where Crossways dormitories were, Dorms chalets are now classrooms and we have a zoo!

Edwin Sido (Prep, 1972-1979)



Edwin Sido visited the Prep School in July, with his wife Annette, Uncle Mervin and son Ofejiro. Edwin said: 'It brought back so many wonderful memories. The years between 1972 and 1979 were great years for me & I had a wonderful time at St. Bede's.'

Edwin went on to St Lawrence College, Ramsgate and later read Business & Banking in Kensington. He remained in London until 2003 working at Barclays, the United Bank of Kuwait and Coutts Private Bank. Edwin then moved to the US to run his brother's medical practice and in 2009 set up his own Real Estate company.

Simon Gough (Prep, 1985-1988)



I attended Bede's prep school as a full time boarder from Bahrain. They were honestly the best days of my schooling life and gave me my love for cricket, which I still play for my local club and gave me such fond memories.

Recently my children, Georgia (9) and Seve (8) came across my old school reports and photos, it stirred such great memories and one inset day we headed to Eastbourne to visit Bede's. We were very lucky to have a tour with Giles Entwisle (Headmaster) - from the swimming pool area to the old dorms in the main building, from the (new) sports

centre, to the chapel. The chapel was a very strange experience. As we entered, it could have been thirty three years earlier, the smell was exactly the same, the creaking floor boards, the wooden benches and the familiar stained glass window which I stared at countless times before, was the same. It was also amazing to see the pupils so engaged with their lessons and teachers, genuinely interested. Both my kids commented on how happy all the children appeared and I couldn't agree more.

We bid farewell to Bede's school, but one last homage still needed to be paid. I wanted Georgia and Seve to do the walk we all did most days along the cliffs, regardless of the weather, to the Hollow for games. Today they were lucky, it was crisp and chilly, but mostly clear blue skies. [If anyone remembers Simon and would like to get in contact, please email Liz (Elizabeth.banner@bedes.org).

Ezequiel Waingart (Dorms, 1986-1987)

"Thirty two years ago I was in Bede's School. Now I'm turning 47 years old and when I look back on time it sometimes feels like a flash and other times I have the feeling that it has been a long run to get where I'm now."



Ezequiel had a brilliant time at Bede's as did his brother Sebastian and he fondly remembers Roger Perrin and Derek Newton. He has a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton and now runs a Technological Distribution company. He and his wife Cristiane travel several times each year which is what bought them to Eastbourne and Upper Dicker.

ALUMNI ON THE STAGE

Matthew Amos (Raven & Knights, 2013-2019) & Holly Saw (Dorter; 2015 – 2017)



Two former Bede's pupils, Matthew Amos and Holly Saw were selected as two of six of the Canterbury Young Cast of dancers in Matthew Bourne's modern take on 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. They performed alongside the professional dancers throughout the production, showcasing the same movements and repertoire as the rest of the cast. Alex Murphy, Bede's Director of Dance says, "The production was amazing, and Matthew and Holly's performances were absolutely incredible; you honestly couldn't pick them out from the professional dancers. We are so proud!"

*An interview with Holly Saw
(Dorter; 2015 – 2017)*



What are your strongest memories of your time at Bede's?

Its really impossible to narrow my strongest memories down, but one that really sticks out, and that is quite relevant, would be being cast as the Cupid in Legat's recreation of Matthew Bourne's The Nutcracker Snow Scene. We performed it initially in the Winter Wonderland Cabaret in my U6 and then again in our showcase. Lee and Ross taught it to us along with a guest from MB New Adventures Sophia Hurdley, and I just remember loving every second of the rehearsal and performances. The whole piece was so joyful and to learn from New Adventures dancers (along with all the classes across my two years) was so inspiring. It really highlighted to me my passion for storytelling. To dance with the company as a Young Cast was so surreal and a complete dream come true.

Was there a particularly influential teacher?

What made Bedes so special for me was all my teachers! I remember how every single one of them was so passionate about what they did, and they made me feel really encouraged. I was always also pretty passionate about everything I did; probably bordering on obsessive if you asked any of them! I was lucky enough to mainly have Mrs Lambeth and Mrs Morton Freeman for Biology, and Mr Henham and Mr Muirhead for Maths, Ms Murphy (my form tutor) and Mr Leggett in House, and then Lee, Mr Williams, Ms Chadwick, Ross, and Ms Manes.



Did your time at Bede's influence your journey after you left?

It was Legat that really introduced me to New Adventures. I'd always loved their work, but never though it was something I could do as I wasn't confident in contemporary prior to joining. But when we learnt their repertoire in school, I fell completely in love with it which resulted in me finding the young cast and it was Lee who encouraged me to actually go for it.

Where has your journey after Bede's taken you?

After I left Bedes I went to the School of Ballet Theatre UK, to do a BA (Hons) in Ballet Performance. Its so nice to be able to do a degree along with vocational training (I was always really into academics). Whilst at BTUK I've had many great opportunities, such as fabulous roles in their showcases, and winning their top accolade of the Artistic Performer Award in second year. The school helped me participate in the British Ballet Grand Prix, where I won Gold in the Pas De Deux category and was awarded their Artistic Award, and I

ALUMNI ON THE STAGE *cont.*

was part of the group that won Bronze in the Tanzolymp International Dance Festival Berlin, gold in a smaller competition in Belgium, and performed at Move It!. I was even invited to perform with the professional company Ballet Theatre UK last year, doing both a pas de deux and corps work, and later this year I'll join the company again for Giselle.

What it was like to perform in a Matthew Bourne production?

Being part of the Young Cast was one of the most fantastic opportunities I've ever had, as it gave me an invaluable insight into life in a professional company. To dance right next to artists who have inspired me throughout my training, in class, rehearsals, and performances was so inspiring! One of the highlights for me, was taking our bow every night in front of the sold out Marlowe auditorium surrounded by the New Adventures company. It was completely surreal as it's been a life long dream of mine and something I'll never forget! It was also so lovely to have Legat (current Bede's pupils) come one night, they really are like family.

What's next?

At the beginning of this year, after new adventures I was part of a new BBC Creatives film as well. I'm now currently in my final year and am auditioning everywhere, whilst finishing my degree. As I mentioned I've just been in Europe doing auditions in Germany, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, as you've just got to do everything it takes to reach that hurdle of getting a job.

Matthew Amos (Raven & Knights, 2013-2019)



Matthew joined Bede's in Year 6 and remembers his dance teachers in the Prep School and Legat were influential in forming who he is now. "My teachers at Legat especially encouraged me and allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and to try things I never would have done on my own. For example, auditioning for dance schools to attend after my GCSE year. At first, I couldn't imagine this being an option for me as I wanted to stay at Bede's where I was comfortable, but gradually, they all convinced me to audition and now, at 16, I am attending a University course at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. This is one of the best dance schools in the England, with students from all over the world."

Matthew's strongest memories of Bede's are spending time with friends and dancing in Legat but he also remembers his academic teachers helping him grow in confidence: "I am quite shy and like to just keep to myself and that part of me prevented me from believing in myself, but my academic teachers all helped me realise that I could do everything that everyone else was doing and I just needed to believe in myself a little more."



I would never have been able to do the things I am doing now, if these teachers and my friends had not told me that all I needed to do was to just believe that I could do it!

Now at Rambert, Matthew is studying for a BA (hons) in ballet and contemporary dance. He is dancing 30+ hours each week in ballet and three styles of contemporary (Cunningham, Graham and Flow) and the physical training is topped up with a critical studies including anatomy and history.

Dancing in the Matthew Bourne production, Matthew says: "It was an eye-opening experience, one I would cherish and remember forever." But he first had to overcome his fear of not being good enough. I was very nervous going into the production of Matthew Bourne, as this company is a famous dance company and to think that I would be dancing amongst the professional cast, started to put pressure on me. I felt like I was out of place with this opportunity and that I would not be able to deliver what was expected of me. I mean, the company tours all over the world, they have a reputation for being innovative and daring, the male dancers are strong and fierce and I didn't want to be the young cast member ruining the performance and audience's expectations.

Throughout the first rehearsal, I felt that I wasn't meant to be there and I felt I was letting everyone down. When I went to my second rehearsal I started to feel a bit more confident, that I was capable and there was a reason that I was there, to be part of this massive opportunity. Our third rehearsal was the last one, which was joined by the professional cast. Once our rehearsals started with the

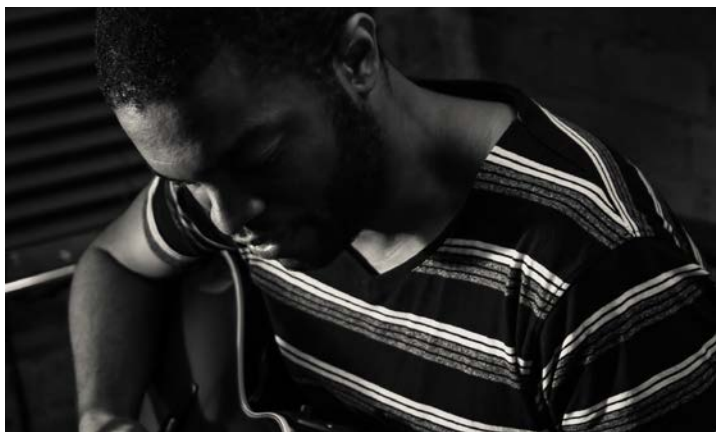
ALUMNI ON THE STAGE *cont.*

professional cast, I imagined that the Young Cast would separate from the professional cast but surprisingly, we all got to know each other really well and all became very good friends by the end of the first week of our joint rehearsal. During the performance week, I was extremely nervous as I had never performed in front of 1,200 people, but before the show the pro cast told the young cast that we would be great and just enjoy and this advice allowed me to calm down and perform. And while I was on stage I completely forgot about my nervousness and could feel my adrenaline rushing through me as I was excited to dance with these amazing dancers all around me.

Today Matthew is taking it one step at a time, enjoying everyday at Rambert creating amazing memories and learning as much as his body can take. One day hopefully I would like to be in the main pro cast for Matthew Bourne dancing in front of thousands of people again, enjoying entertaining people with the art of dance.

Of Bede's Matthew says: Bede's is a very unique place as it allows anyone and everyone who is wanting to learn no matter where you are from around the world, to reach your potential. The teacher's are enthusiastic and always there to provide support. I joined Bede's when I was 10yrs old, without being able to read or write English and my spoken ability limited. I was also dyslexic and I struggled to read and write. But at Bede's, everyone respected our differences and made us know that it was okay to be different. The teacher's enthusiasm and the support they provide to us the students allowed my time at Bede's to be ten times more enjoyable. The teachers also help you find and realise your strengths, which in the end, makes you unique and helps you realise your capacity. The people you meet at Bede's are very special, as they come from all over and inevitably we will all have our differences, but we learn to get along; which allows the students to get insight into different cultures, religions and hobbies, which creates a friendship like no other school does.

Ayanam Udoma (Stud, 2007-2009)



Last year we were incredibly excited and proud to watch Ayanam compete in The Voice (a talent show contest on ITV). With the encouragement of his teachers, Ayanam started to perform while at Bede's despite not studying music and by the time he left he knew that he wanted to do more and in front of the world!

Almost 10 years later, his dream came true! Having been chosen out of 15,000 competitors and getting through three further auditions, he was one of only 80 people to be chosen for the televised Blind Auditions aired in 2019. Ayanam sang Wonder Wall by Oasis and was picked by Sir Tom Jones for 'Team Tom'. Ayanam's success continued, winning the Battle stage and taking him as far as the Knockouts. A huge achievement!

He is now playing weekly gigs and his exposure is growing - 'being paid makes you feel legitimised, valued as a musician. It certainly now feels more than just a hobby'.



He describes his style as chilled lounge vibe and he is very proud to have recently played at Nobu in Mayfair for their opening weekly live music sessions, a venue that could have the pick of the bunch. He has also played at the Troubadour in South Kensington, a place that has worked with some of the biggest names - Bob Dylan held his first London gig there.

Being recognised from the Voice is strange and surprising. His music career is a strong passion and he hopes to build his reputation, increase his contacts in London and have more opportunities, including competitions and contests.

But Ayanam is keeping all his options open and is currently studying a Masters in Advertising, he does not believe he has to choose his career yet and wants to keep all options open until he works out where he'll be most successful. He says 'its a question of how much sleep you need! You just need to ask, how much do I want this and how much can I do?'.

He always reflects and looks back on what has been achieved - 'you need to remember what progress you have made and that keeps you going'. Its the little victories that keep things moving forward like when you open a new door or get a new opportunity'.

OBITUARIES

Tim Nelson (Stud, 1988-1992)

We are saddened to share news of Tim Nelson's passing in January 2019.

Friend and fellow Old Bedian Brendan Murphy wrote with news of Tim: "It is with a very heavy heart that I share the passing with all fellow Bedians who unanimously loved "Big Tim Nelson". I know my father and teacher at Bede's Terry Murphy adored Tim and privately told me that he was one of his favourite ever students!!...We all loved Tim and he stayed positive until the end of his days still cracking his corny jokes! He went too soon but he lived an amazing life touching the hearts of people wherever he went. As his friend I feel so blessed to have him as a small part of my life and the memories that will endure onward."



John Glover and other teachers remember Tim as a larger than life character, always polite and a great sense of humour. John Berryman reflects: "Tim Nelson was one of those folk that nobody who was acquainted with him could ever forget...In the nicest possible way, he was the 'elephant in the room', and that isn't primarily a pejorative comment on his physique. He would listen, and almost invariably come up with something funny, but never coarse... Rugby was always Tim's passion at school, always subjecting the Academics to a lower rank order; he was no slouch, however, and his own idiosyncratic philosophical insights could be relied upon to enliven discussion. Small wonder that he made it into Rugby big time... So sad, therefore, to learn of his untimely passing, and the school, I'm sure, recognises that a good man has gone on before; from this we trust that Laure, and his children, will derive comfort, as his Name lives on..."

Tim's sister Kate also writes St Bede's was undoubtedly the best thing that could have ever happened to Tim when he was young. He totally thrived at the school and like everywhere Tim went, he was a huge part of his community and participated in everything he could. He played Saxophone, was in the Tennis team, school plays and of course excelled in Rugby. I remember going to watch Tim receive an award for his contribution to the school as an all round great guy. He loved his time at St Bedes and made many life long friends there. I know our family is grateful for his time at St Bedes, helping to shape the great man he became.

Although he never put academics at the top of the list at school, he went on to excel at his MBA at business school in Lausanne Switzerland and became successful not only in Rugby but in business. Tim was an amazing brother, son, husband to Laure and father to his 3 children Luca, Lily and Hugo and a dear friend to many. He was a very funny guy, larger than life.

Tim fought brain cancer to the end and was full of love and positivity right to his last breath. He is sadly missed but forever loved."

It is clear Tim was adored by all at Bede's and we offer our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Saxon Bowes-Crick (Dorms, 1986-1989)

by Jonathan Dow

All great journeys must come to an end, even for the indomitable Saxon.



Saxon Bowes-Crick was a triathlete, Land Rover enthusiast, keen adventurer, rock'n'roll jive dancer, who skied, went ice-climbing in the Rockies and bike-rafting trips across Mexico and Mongolia.

When saving money to fund his epic adventures he would run his Tree Surgery business from his home in Chelwood Gate, Sussex. Saxon was well known for his thorough approach in planning and execution to his role, which bought him an enviable reputation for the more challenging 'jobs'.

One friend, Mark Jaehnchen, wrote: "When I tell people about the travellers I look up to, the ones who really go out and explore, I tell them about this wonderful human, Saxon, who I met cycling the desert with a pack raft and his unbreakable spirit."



OBITUARIES *cont.*

He was above all a lovely man with a cracking sense of humour who lived life to the full and will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

RIP Saxon 25.08.72 to 17.02.19

Please watch this short Video of Saxon and his Land Rover in The Fjords by following this link <https://vimeo.com/37094134>

Nicky Henson (Prep 1950s) (1945-2019)



Nicky Henson, British Actor, died at aged 74 after a long illness having first been diagnosed with cancer in 2003. He attended the Prep School and went on to Charterhouse.

(Cicely) Pearl Ayers (1931-2019) by Sally Marchant (nee Ayers)

Pearl Ayers, together with husband Derek and three children, Sally, Katharine (Dotty) and Stuart, settled in Eastbourne in 1967.

After a somewhat interrupted first year of schooling for Sally and Dot at St Helena's Girls' School and Neville House Boys, the children were welcomed into St Bede's Prep in 1968; Sally in the Main School, Dot in Pre-Prep and Stu in the Nursery, thus began their long connection with the school. Sally was the first girl in the Main School, so there was much consultation and learning for Pearl and Elspeth in terms of creating and developing a girls' school uniform amongst other things! PP was one of the first Headmasters to pioneer co-educational Prep School education in the country at that time.

When Pearl was in hospital recuperating after an operation, Sally and Dotty became boarders for a short time (again, the first girls), which was another experiment,

involving the redecoration of a special dormitory!

When the swimming pool was built, Pearl asked the question: 'When are the parents allowed to swim?' She volunteered to set up and run the St Bede's Swimming Club, collecting subscriptions and employing students as lifeguards from among her various friends' families. The pool was well-used out of school hours, Pearl swam there regularly.

Years later, in 1977, Sally, who had returned to St Bede's as Headmaster's Secretary to PP, employed Pearl as a minibus driver, as an emergency, but she ended up driving the Nursery and Pre-Prep children in from as far away as Chiddingly, for seven years, which she loved! She was also available as a 'temp' on other rounds.

The saying 'if you want a job done, ask a busy person' epitomised Pearl. She was always willing to put herself out for people, in addition to her active family life and social life (she was involved in Holy Trinity Church as well as being a Brownie Guider, Guide Guider and Commissioner).



In the 1980s and 1990s she began working in the school office organising the 'Old Boys'/ Old Bedians' publications and events, as well as assisting the secretary with other tasks.

Pearl was a great encourager – always positive, supportive, cheerful and took great delight and interest in her children and life at St Bede's, there for every concert, play,

sports fixture and other school event. Pearl and Derek were still in touch with many of their friends, staff and parents, as well as pupils, even after she and Derek had moved to Somerset. Some parents and staff would remember Derek playing in the cricket matches against 1st XI!

Pearl had become housebound since 2017. She was admitted to hospital after another more debilitating stroke in the summer of 2019, losing her ability to speak, extremely frustrating for such an extravert!

She is greatly missed by Derek and the family and all her friends at Bede's. A memorial service was held on 10 October 2019 in Wincanton.

Mr Costley (1959-2019) (former Head of Science) by John Tuson



Mr Martin Costley, who retired at the end of the last academic year, sadly passed away in November 2019.

Mr Costley, Martin, was Head of Science and taught Chemistry at Bede's for nearly 20 years. Prior to that, he worked at the Grove School in Hastings, working alongside several colleagues who would, like him, move to Upper Dicker. One of those was Mr Henham, who tells me that in his teaching career he has never known anyone be as brilliant as Martin. Teaching at the Grove, in the 1990s, was very different to Bede's.

OBITUARIES *cont.*

One distinctive story retold of the Grove was the day the school was swarmed by armed police hunting a suspect on the same day Martin faced a very important series of observations. It is perhaps the experiences there that influenced the teacher Martin became.

Those who knew him well knew that Martin was passionately concerned with the teaching of science and capable of ferocity when the occasion demanded. He was absolutely interested in making sure that all students, whether they found science straightforward or difficult, could push on with the subject. He was both demanding and supportive of the teachers under his care – able to provide the support, counsel, advice, and friendship that was required. Mr Juniper says that of all the very many bosses he had had, Martin was the best, that he knew how to work with people to get the best results, whether those people were colleagues or pupils.

Martin was also an outstandingly good chess player and could give many English teachers a run for their money on literature. He was a keen supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers, and was delighted by their recent successes.

Our deep condolences are with his family and friends, he is dearly missed.

Gillian Northey (1931-2020) (former Housemistress of Crossways)

We are deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of Mrs Gillian Northey, the first Housemistress of Crossways Girls House at the Senior School (1980-83).

Roger Perrin (Senior School Founding Headmaster) remembers: Gillian was a friend of Oliver and Gilly Keef (Oliver was bursar at the Prep School from 70s into the 80s and both he and Gillian's husband had been Colonels in the Royal Engineers). Gillian had recently been widowed in 1980 and the Keefs wondered whether the Senior School could offer any employment as she

had moved from Army quarters "The Oak" in Upper Dicker. In September 1980 Angela and I gave up running Crossways House (boarding for both boys and girls) and the then matron of Crossways, Helena Honney, moved to the newly established Dorms.



Just in time Gillian Northey filled the role of Housemistress of Crossways Girls House 1980-83. She arrived with her son Charlie who became a boarder in Dorms House and top junior table tennis player. Gillian maintained close contact with the School after leaving and one or two of the staff continued to lodge at her house in the village; there might even have been one or two students living with her too during times when our arrivals tended to outnumber the beds we had available!! She was an immensely kind and thoughtful person who looked after the girl boarders with a motherly, almost super motherly, care and was well liked by some very naughty girls in her year as Housemistress; they were notably pleased to see her at the 2019 reunion.

Gillian's eldest daughter Diana arrived back from a gap year in Australia and joined the staff as matron of Dorms house the year after Gillian left and Charlie came onto the School's Staff in 1997 to 2007 after a career in the Army and saw the changes in headmastership from Roger Perrin to Steve Cole. He was the sports facilities manager and attached to the P.E Department as a specialist strength and condition coach for

the sport scholars within the school.

Gillian's son Charlie said: Her joy of meeting so many Alumni at the St Bede's reunion last summer was such a special evening for her and often retold fond memories and anecdotes from her years in the school and all the events she attended in subsequent years; a passionate supporter of all things Bede's.

Her friend Maria Leigh (Front of House Co-ordinator) remembers Gillian as an immensely strong and supportive lady, who wholeheartedly enjoyed absolutely everything 'Bede's'. She was always first in line for musical, drama and dance events, especially enjoying 'Cabaret', and gaining much pleasure from being entertained by our very talented pupils. She enjoyed her life in Upper Dicker, so close to the school. Gillian was kind and compassionate and lived her life to the full. She will be missed.

Michelle Martin (Housemistress, Charleston) and her family were very close to the Northey family: Gillian had a particular passion for the Legat and their shows, which we would attend together, as Gillian had trained as a professional classical ballerina, prior to getting married and starting a family. She was very well-travelled, but was always amused by the fact that Peter Pyemont only set up the senior school in the village after she had sent her own three children away to boarding school. We had been in contact just after Christmas about meeting for lunch one weekend, but sadly, it was not to be.

Mark Rimmington pays tribute to her: She was kind, she cared, and she contributed to the School and the local community. She was a joy to know, always had time for you and loved Charlie so very much.

Gillian passed away in Eastbourne DGH in early hours of Monday 9th March. Our sincere sympathy is with her children Diana, David and Charlie.



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