



BILTON GRANGE SOCIETY

E-Bulletin May 2022



A word from the Head

I once read that whenever the New Zealand rugby team is together a former captain is always with the squad, there to remind the players of who has gone before as well as the values that come with wearing the shirt. Whether this is hyperbole or not, I was reminded of the principle when I heard Englishman Maurice Trapp speak a couple of years ago. At the time, Maurice was President of the All Blacks and in explaining what makes the team so consistently good, he centred on the culture that has been created as being one of acknowledgement, not judgement. A culture that judges, he explained, is one which leads to blame and then fear whereas a culture which acknowledges leads to honesty and responsibility and, ultimately, the willingness to give things a go without fear of failure.

This goes some way towards representing the culture for which we strive at Bilton Grange. By acknowledging every pupil we hope they develop a feeling of security in themselves as individuals but also a responsibility to serve those around them; something, it seems, that has long been the case. And as we approach the 150th anniversary of the school, with many celebrations afoot, the I have found myself steadfastly focusing on what the school stands for, what has gone before and how our values and traditions have developed. I have very much enjoyed what I have read and heard.

If the roots of the school are buried deep into the past then the branches of today's Bilton Grange are spreading gloriously into the future. BG is a forward-thinking school with bold

ambitions, ready to embrace new ideas, evolve and innovate, just as it has always done through the years. We may have more day children than boarders these days but we retain the heartbeat of a boarding school and that makes us a very special community.

Having arrived last September, the period since has been fast-paced yet extremely enjoyable, especially when I am meeting and chatting to Biltonians young and old. If I have not met you yet, I sincerely look forward to doing so. Please come and visit.

Launch of the Earle Fund

On 11 February 2022, members of the Bilton Grange community past and present gathered to celebrate the launch of the Earle Fund. Named after the School's founding Headmaster, the Reverend Walter Earle, the Fund enables the work of Rugby School's Arnold Foundation to extend to years 7 and 8 at Bilton Grange. Established in 2003, the Arnold Foundation offers fully funded boarding bursaries for children from challenging circumstances with 156 young people having benefitted to date. Kerry Wilson, Director of the Rugbeian Community, comments, "The superb pastoral care and boarding ethos will ensure Bilton Grange offers a wonderful introduction to our schools. We are grateful to those who have encouraged and enabled us to establish the Earle Fund this year." Two pupils at Bilton Grange will be joined by a further two in September this year.

[Photos from the launch dinner can be found here.](#)



OB Day 2022

In the diary for Saturday 25 June, this year's OB Day will be the first we have managed to hold since the pandemic. As with previous years, the event will combine with the Schools summer fete and we have been told by the Chaplain that great weather has also been booked in.

To find out more and book your place, [please click here.](#)

Updates to the School estate

During the summer holidays last year, our relentless estates department set about the huge task of major updates to the Bilton Grange site. The Prep and Pre-Prep building had an enormous investment of £1,350,000 allowing us to update not only furniture and carpets, but also technology and restoration of heritage architecture.

Next major projects on the agenda include a new boarding house and changing rooms at the school as well as extension on the newly launched Little Grange Nursery.



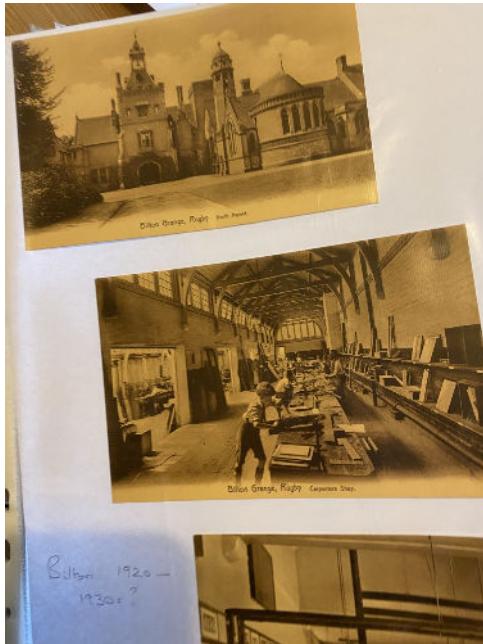
Meet Elizabeth Holmes

Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of the late Granville Earle, has fond memories of her father and his abiding influence on her and her sister.

"My father married late in life and his wife, my mother, was considerably younger than he was. By the time I was born, he had retired from the role of Head Master at Bilton Grange and they had moved to Dorking in Surrey. He was able to spend a lot of time with us, especially coaching us at tennis and we both became quite proficient. (Elizabeth played at the Combined Services Tournament at Wimbledon in her youth!).

"Granville had served as an Army Chaplain in the First World War and this, I believe, had a profound effect on the rest of his life. His spirituality and understanding of pastoral care were as fundamental to his role as Head Master as they were to his approach to family."

Although her father died when she was only 13, Elizabeth has remained in touch with the Bilton Grange Society and visited the school on several OB Days. Her keen interest in family history led her to research the Earle family, and this led to a remarkable discovery. Quite apart from the 33 first cousins she has



identified, Elizabeth has also been able to trace the ancestry of the Earles right back to William the Conqueror.

"I am thrilled to see that the Earle family continues to play an important role at Bilton Grange, and we wish you every success in building up the Earle Fund for the Arnold Foundation."

Welcome to the Rugbeian Community Office

On Wednesday 16 March, we officially launched the Rugbeian Community: a place for friends to connect, belong, share and inspire the future of our schools and students.

The Community Office has been established to support with connecting alumni, ambassadors, patrons, advocates and parents. Likeminded motivated people who will realise the potential and strength of our networks and continue lifelong, meaningful relationships. We believe being a part of the Rugbeian Community means connecting to the whole experience. Because we believe relationships unite us, connections guide us, and impact drives us.

We are delighted for the Bilton Grange Society to become a part of this wider community network.





Help us to keep in touch

As the 150th Anniversary of Bilton Grange approaches, our planning committee is starting to pull together ways in which we can all celebrate this milestone occasion in 2023. We are especially excited to invite as many Biltonians, Homefieldians and supporters of the school as possible to visit us and take part in our community events. In order to do this, it is essential we have as much up to date contact information as possible from you.

Please do take a moment to send us your most up to date contact details by emailing us at RugbeianCommunity@biltongrange.co.uk

American Friends of Rugby School and Bilton Grange

Old Biltonian Ed Day is leading the way with the integration of Biltonians to the existing Rugbeian networks in the USA. This launched with a virtual event in November and various smaller face to face events since then. We have plenty more regional events in the pipeline in America too, so if you are based in America and want to take part, please do get in touch at RugbeianCommunity@biltongrange.co.uk