

OB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018



Old Biltonian Society



FEATURING THIS YEAR

BG YEAR IN PICTURES
- PAGE 3

OB DAY 2017
- PAGE 8

OB NEWS
- PAGE 12

WW1 1918
- PAGE 14

President's Welcome

Dear Biltonians and Homefieldians,

Welcome to our 2018 Newsletter! I hope that you will enjoy the pages within—my sincere thanks yet again to Tony Millinger for his excellent work on this publication! Do share with us any news that would be of interest to the wider Biltonian community. Role models are of crucial importance in inspiring young people and the Biltonians of today—what successful people there are amongst our alumni and alumnae!



I thank the OBS Committee for their continued contribution and I must pay tribute one final time to Mark Tovey for his sterling work over a decade as Honorary Secretary. We now welcome to that role the familiar and avuncular figure of David Searle, a senior member of staff at BG and one well-known to many of you, particularly amongst the ex-boarders.

As always, Emily Rycroft has been invaluable in her deft, skilful management of the President, particularly around deadlines and events. Her 'Throwback Thursday' feature on the OBS facebook page has been much-enjoyed—so feel free to offer your own material, whatever the era, whatever the curricular context! We are also on the lookout for a volunteer archivist to help the School, if you're interested do get in touch.

Finally, I must once again thank Alex Osiatynski for including me in the life of the School so readily, whether that be for the BG evening lecture series, OBS committee meetings, the bursary-related activities of the Bilton Grange Foundation or for culinary treats.

The Headmaster, the Chairman of Governors and the Governing Body as a whole (rightly) have ambitious plans for Bilton—exciting opportunities lie ahead for the institution that we know and love so much; as a Society, we add our weight to the strategic drive and hence to the concomitant success of the School.

I shall hope to meet many more of you at our various events over the coming year; you will be most welcome at all of them, but particularly at Old Biltonian Day in June.

With sincere best wishes to Biltonian pupils, parents and pedagogues of all generations,

Tim Day (Homefield 1974-1978, Bilton Grange 1978-1983)

President

Headmaster's Welcome

As I wrote to you last year, our Senior School Chapel Choir were getting ready to perform at the Royal Festival Hall having reached the finals of the Banardos Choral Competition and I am delighted to announce we have been shortlisted again this year. It is a tremendous experience for pupils aged 10-13 to sing in a world-famous venue and is in many ways representative of the whole Bilton Grange experience. In every aspect of school life we are always trying to make our pupils' childhood special, to give them opportunities they wouldn't otherwise be offered and to gently stretch their comfort zones and in doing so, to grow their confidence and help them explore their passions and talents. It is this holistic development which we are so very proud of and which OBs often talk to me about.



In September we launched our BiG Saturday programme of curriculum enrichment for our Year 4 pupils and in this September our Year 5 pupils. This optional programme has been tremendously successful with the vast majority choosing to come into School on a Saturday to take part. Our boarding programme continues to thrive and is now led by Mark Tovey, Assistant Head, Boarding (and until recently OB Secretary). Mark and the Boarding team have made some changes, including renaming the dorms after popular skiing and surfing resorts, but have continued the family feel that we all hold so dear. The School continues to look forward and I am delighted to announce that, thanks to the support of the Bilton Grange community, we plan to extend our Music Department into the old Fives courts to create three dedicated teaching and rehearsal spaces which are sorely needed as a result of our increased level of activity. We will have a dedicated choral rehearsal room complete with choir stalls; we will create a percussion room, which will allow us to develop increased numbers of talented percussionists. Finally we will complete the development of the Recording Studio, allowing it to be used to record pupils' performances as soloists and in ensembles and helping them to learn about music technology in a practical way. We still have some funds to raise but as I write, thanks to the generosity of parents and OBs and OHs, we have raised 80% of the monies required towards this much needed extension of our facilities.

As you can see, your school continues to innovate and to provide the best possible education for all our pupils. Please do stay in touch with us as we move forward, whether that is by attending OB Day, subscribing to our email newsletters or liking the OB Facebook page – we are always delighted to hear from our OBs and OHs.

Alex Osiatynski

Headmaster



Our Senior Chapel Choir were finalists in the Barnardos Choral Competition and performed at the Royal Festival Hall.



Scouting went from strength to strength. We now have one School Scout pack, two Cub packs and a Beaver colony.



Our Year 7 Science team won the inaugural Shrewsbury School Darwin competition.

A BG Year in Pictures



Rugby School's Andrew Chessell directed Buggy Malone—splurge guns, gangsters and cream pies made this a musical extravaganza to remember.



Our Creative Arts Festival was a great success with soapstone carving, parkour, capoeira, samba lessons and the opportunity to build a geodesic dome.



Our Academic Scholars designed, built and fired a trebuchet.



We had great fun making a video of a rugby ball being passed around School as part of Rugby School's Global Pass to celebrate their 450th Anniversary



The Boarders enjoyed some fantastic weekend activities including zorbing on the grounds.

From the Chairman of Bilton Grange Foundation

Over the last year, your Foundation has continued to raise money and to complement the sterling efforts of the Friends and the OB Society; thank you to all who support us and the Bilton community as a whole, your commitment is much appreciated.

We have also spent time looking at the workings

of the Foundation itself and have decided that, rather than remain a separate legal entity, the Foundation should revert to being a component of the Governing Body. This decision does not constitute a belittling of our role, rather an opportunity to become a part of the school administration and gain from the economies of scale this allows. Our resources and purpose will remain the same and we will be able to continue to help to ensure that the Bilton experience remains both appealing and relevant in a contemporary world, while retaining the unique DNA of the school, which hitherto has been the lucky and priceless passport for generations of Biltonians. A formidable legacy to maintain!



Peter Waive (1957-62)
Chairman

SCHOLARSHIPS 2017

Jemima Bantoft
Foundation Scholarship to Rugby

Keiran Bedi
DT Scholarship to Rugby

Sam Brodie
Design Technology Scholarship to Bloxham

William Crane
Academic Scholarship to Oundle

Peter Crews
Kennedy Academic Scholarship to Shrewsbury

Isaac Denness
Academic Scholarship and Music Scholarship to Rugby

Bunty Garland
Art Exhibition to Oakham and Art Scholarship to Tudor Hall

Sophia Greaves
Drama Scholarship to Kingsley

Edward King
Sports Scholarship to Rugby and Bloxham

Dana Manasir
Art Exhibition to Repton

Milan Macdonald-Bradley
Academic Scholarship to Cheltenham College

George Miley
Design Technology Exhibition to Bloxham

James Peto
Sports Scholarship to Bloxham

Edith Reay
All-Rounder Award to Princethorpe College

Zara Sharp
Sports Scholarship to Oakham

Rachel Timms
All-Rounder Award to Princethorpe College

Zachary Wenham
Choral and Sports Exhibitions to Repton

Alice Whittaker
All-Rounder Award to Princethorpe College

SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS TO DATE 2018

Archie Das Gupta
Foundation Scholarship to Rugby School and
All-Rounder Scholarship to Princethorpe College

Thomas Dodsley
All-Rounder Scholarship to Princethorpe College

Matilda Kember
Academic Scholarship to Rugby School

Leia Gonzalez Lee
Sports Scholarship to Rugby School

Kerecsen Martin
Music Scholarship to Uppingham School

Scarlett Mitchell
Academic Scholarship to Rugby School

Alexander Pittman
Academic Scholarship to Princethorpe College

Henry Woodward
Sports Scholarship to Rugby School

Extension of the Music Department

From its very inception, music has played a key role at Bilton Grange. Concerts and vocal recitals have been a part of school life since the 1870s, and by 1902, the Bilton Record suggests that Bilton Grange was considered unique amongst UK Prep Schools with 50% of the pupils taking part in the School's choirs.

Music continues to play an important role in the education and wellbeing of our pupils today. Our rounded education focuses on unlocking and nurturing talent as a way of ensuring happiness, confidence and success amongst our pupils; the expansion of our music programme is integral to this vision.

Our current Music School opened in 1985 and we have now outgrown the rehearsal space that it offers. Today, we teach around 180 individual instrumental lessons per week and each of these pupils is encouraged to take part in our Orchestra with many more participating in our vocal groups.

With the support of the Bilton Grange community, we plan to extend our Music Department in time for the next academic year, 2018-2019. We intend to refurbish and partition the existing ground floor 'band room' as well as extend out into the old Fives courts to create three dedicated teaching and rehearsal spaces which are sorely needed as a result of our increased level of activity; finally we hope to complete the development of the Recording Studio, allowing it to be used to record pupils'

performances as soloists and in ensembles and helping them to learn about music technology in a practical way. Thanks to the generosity of a number of OBs and OHs and current and former parents, we have already raised the majority of the funds required towards this much needed extension of our facilities and we now have just £10,000 left to raise before work can begin this summer.

If you would like to make a gift to support the project, please use the enclosed gift form or contact 01788 810217.



Richard Montgomerie (1979—1984)

Richard Montgomerie was a professional cricketer between 1990—2007 and now teaches Chemistry.

Tell us about your success:

I played County Cricket for Northamptonshire from 1990 - 2007. Sussex won the County Championship in 2003, 2006 and 2007 and the Cheltenham & Gloucester one-day trophy in 2006. I have taught Chemistry at Eton College since I retired from cricket, also coaching the 1st XI as well as some Rugby, Hockey and Rackets.

How did your time at BG support and encourage you?

I was very lucky to play all sports at BG – Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis, Squash, Table Tennis and probably a few more.

In cricket I had outstanding role models and coaches. In the Colts, Jeff Tolchard, who played Minor Counties Cricket, was the first to coach me and it was exciting to see him go off and play against counties with international players. Once I was on the radar for the 1st XI, Mick Norman spent hours coaching and advising me. I remember a eureka moment in the new indoor net in the new sports hall when he told me I batted best when I kept my head still! On the Science front, I think it was Jeff Tolchard and Bill Bower who taught me – I remember pronouncing Organism wrong once and everybody laughing at me. It took me a long time to realise why!

Do you have a special memory of School that you would like to share?

Cricket tour to South Africa in 1984 with Gerald Potts and Mick Norman. It would be fun to meet up with everyone and see what they are up to now.

Which teacher particularly helped or supported you?

Mick Norman for Cricket and I always liked Maths with Tony Day

What advice would you give to current students looking to follow a similar path?

Play sport to enjoy it – if you do then you will give the time it needs to get good. Aim to win in the right way (fairly, with integrity, as a team) and be a good loser when things don't go right. Learn from your experiences – good or bad.



Rory McClean (1992-1997)

Rory McClean is a professional Chef and owner of a Michelin rated restaurant.

Tell us about your success:

Having spent several years working alongside Michelin star chefs in London, I now run the White Swan in Shawell. We renovated the village pub, and this year will be our 6th anniversary since opening. We are very proud that we are now a Michelin rated establishment

How did your time at BG support and encourage you?

The environment at BG was a privilege to experience and a perfect balance of hard work and fun. Opportunities are there for everyone to develop whatever their passions and strengths may be.

Do you have a special memory of School that you would like to share?

Rugby Tig on the “fox & geese” pitch was the best fun.

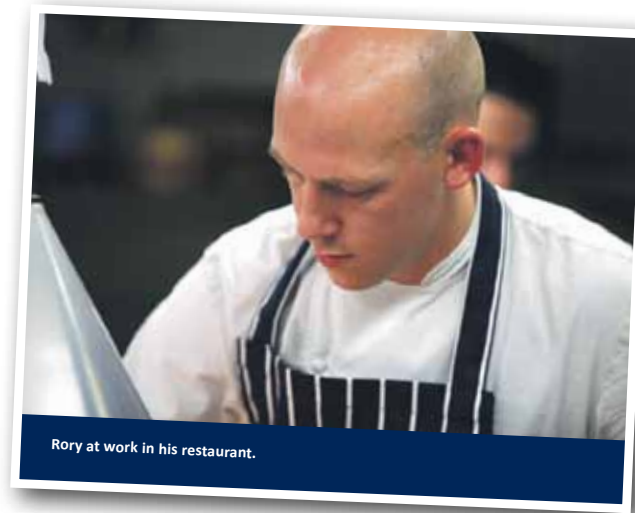
Which teacher particularly helped or supported you?

Mr Tooze, Mr Nicholson and Mr Norman were all very helpful on the sports field. I also remember having a lot of fun with Mr Smith, Mr Gornall & Mrs Pickering at the Edinburgh Festival.

What advice would you give to current students looking to follow a similar path?

I would suggest that if you enjoy something you should follow that path wholeheartedly and stick with it. If you have an interest in cooking I'd recommend travelling and working amongst different cultures.

If you would like to send in a profile and feature in the newsletter, please email obsociety@biltongrange.co.uk



Memories of Homefield in the early 1980s

Homefield School, founded in 1938, was then a sister school to Bilton Grange. It consisted of a Pre-Preparatory department of boys and girls from 4½ - 8 years old, the boys usually joining Bilton Grange before their eighth birthday. Girls remained at Homefield until 12 when they moved on, mainly to Girls' Independent Schools as boarders. It was predominantly a day school with 25-30 boarders aged 8-12.

By the early 1980s our numbers were increasing with a new prospectus attracting more interest. There have been many room re-arrangements over the years and an outside classroom had to be introduced at one stage. Space was always a priority and Morning Assembly had to take place in one of the larger classrooms.

I enjoyed the challenges of my role as Headmistress with teaching, interviewing parents, to Governors meetings, Senior School visits, School plays and concerts, administration. My greatest joy, however, was seeing the children gaining the right kind of confidence to go from strength to strength on all levels of experience whether in the classroom or out, supported by dedicated staff.

In the Summer term of 1981, 16 receptions were held in different parts of the country in aid of an Appeal for the Sports Hall and the extended Music School at Bilton Grange. As a result, activities expanded on the sporting front, especially after the completion of the new Hall.

Particularly pleasing was the development of Music in the School from 1982 with more pupils leaning to play a wide variety of instruments and children of all ages singing with real enjoyment. A special highlight for me was the confident performance of 'A Ceremony of Carols' by Benjamin Britten by senior girls in 1983. It took place in St Peter's Church, Dunchurch and was accompanied by a professional harpist who inspired the girls to sing at their very best.

Boarders enjoyed life, judging by the number of day girls who wanted to board during exeats when we had spare beds. Weekend

activities were varied and included outings to theatre, cinema and ice skating rinks, as well as indoor cookery and parties. At that time I had a yellow Labrador, Copper, who welcomed a bedtime dog biscuit from the girls. He was very much part of the School community. A great tail-wagger who caused one 5 year old boy to ask me if his tail ever got tired. Food for thought!

The culmination of those early years was the official opening of our new Assembly Hall on Ascension Day in 1985. Proceedings began with a fanfare played by 3 clarinetists and was followed by the cutting of the ribbon by our Head Girl, Fiona Dimpleby, with Ian Stott, Chairman of the Governors, officiating (pictured right). More space at last!

It is hard to believe that over 30 years have passed since those early 1980s and it is good to hear of and see the many changes that have happened since Bilton Grange became fully co-educational.

Miss Sylvia Clements (1978—93)

Being asked to write my recollections of Homefield certainly made me think, and picture myself aged between 7 and 12. How the memories came flooding back...

Homefield felt like one big family and as an only child I relished all those different dynamics and personalities. In my day, Mrs Jones's Year 1 classroom was the Dining Room and I remember enjoying drinking my break-time bottle of milk and looking up at the famous photo portrait on the wall of Queen Elizabeth II in her robe. Mrs Pattison's Year 1 Reading Room was a music room where I had my individual piano lessons with Mrs Craxton.

When I was Head Girl, I remember I had to ring the 'bell' before assembly. The 'bell' was a switch on the wall on the top corridor, almost opposite Mrs McLean's Library.



I remember doing handwriting classes in the French room and getting stars and Good Copies from Mrs Wass.

I remember a responsibility as we got older was to help Miss McKinnon (Mrs Nicholson) and Mrs Moulton with serving the lunch to the children in 'Kindy' (Reception) which then was in Mr Brindley's Office!

After lunch, younger pupils would go and lie down and rest or read in the main Hall, which then was Mrs Watson's Music Room. I recall doing Brownies in that Hall, dressed in my dark brown 'Pixie' outfit.

I think my love of sending Christmas cards came from my experience at Homefield because of the Red Post Box! I loved it when we all sat around the Hall and exchanged cards from the Post Box!

Prior to the construction of the Pre-Prep Hall, there was a prefabricated classroom to the left of the current main entrance. I remember having sewing lessons with Mrs Day on a Saturday morning in that classroom.

Following the completion of the Pre-Prep Hall, I was delighted to help open it by cutting the ribbon alongside Mr Ian Stott, Chairman of the Governors, and Miss Clements, Headmistress.

Memories of Bilton Grange

I remember a new music teacher called Mrs Thomas (who owned a Boxer dog, I recall!) from whom I had individual singing lessons. The Section names were the same then as now and I remember competing in the Section Competition in the newly opened Hall. I played and sang 'Walking in the Air' from *The Snowman* as my contribution. I am delighted to say Shakespeare won!

I remember the Homefield upstairs corridor for being the Boarders' home. Mrs Connor's Year 2 room was the big dorm with 12 beds. Miss Noon's Year 2 classroom, with all its old traditional desks, was where the Boarders would sit on a Saturday afternoon to write letters home.

I really liked my Homefield teachers; Mrs Maxey, my French teacher, who gave me a Mars Bar for the winning design in a Christmas card competition, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Coulson, Mrs Day, Mrs Wass, Mrs Simco and Mrs Craxton, to name a few. Mrs Stokhuyzen from South Africa was the first teacher who actually helped me to understand maths, and so to enjoy it!

As for the lovely grounds, I remember running around the big oak tree opposite Reception and playing hockey against the Parents on the Pre-Prep sports field – no lovely AstroTurf then! I remember on Sports Days going over to the BG Athletics fields and doing long jump with the BG flag flying – those fields seemed so far away from Homefield!

'Big School' (Prep) did seem a large and rather daunting place to me and very different from Homefield. Back then, they were two Schools; the early Pre-Prep years were mixed, then the Boys went over to BG at 7 or 8, the girls remaining at Homefield. So Homefield was a Girls' School and BG was a Boys' School. How things have changed!

Fiona Willoughby (1979—85)
(née Dimbleby)

It was not particularly fashionable to be a day-pupil in the early 1950s, but we still experienced much of what was on offer, and how excellent that was! For a start, Pugin's superb interiors set us up aesthetically for life. Any O.B. M.Ps would feel immediately at home in the House of Commons Pugin interiors, or even the House of Lords (yes, we had a very pleasant young lord in the fifties).

Bilton was lovely in summer, with bread, 'Stork' margarine and Marmite and cakes for tea outside, and the strong scent of cow-parsley. The icy water of the swimming pool was not such a happy memory though.

Rex Machin headed a very well-organised and disciplined school, although he was rather more fearsome than a headmaster would probably wish to be nowadays. Joe Richardson was a very thorough French teacher, talked English with a French accent and was a very vociferous goalkeeper in the staff hockey match. His Austin 7, 'Rudolph' had curtains on the tiny rear window. The late Miles Kington, inventor of 'Franglais' was a contemporary pupil of his.

Robin Paul was, as we know, an outstanding personality and teacher. Did he really drive some pigs up to music master Mark Pasteur's bedroom? I was relieved that he was not good at cricket in the staff matches, when a colourful array of Oxford and Cambridge blazers were in evidence. How I wished that I was good at cricket, as it would have pleased Rex Machin who had been a Cambridge Blue.

Trevor Cox (later Sir William Trevor who wrote brilliant but depressing short stories) was an accomplished woodcarver, rode a cool early Vespa scooter and spoke with an unfamiliar Irish brogue. Tom Cruikshanks was a very caring man, which belied his somewhat sergeant-majorish appearance. His catch-phrase was, 'running round the gym. Go!', with very Scottish 'r's.

Douglas Garrad was also very kindly and taught Latin and Maths, a difficult combination but often required at the time. Later he went



on to design and sell toys for children with disabilities. Peter Summerson was a very thorough teacher and good at table tennis. Lunchtimes were punctuated by his sporadic gales of laughter. Thinking of lunchtimes, I remember the hardworking waitresses. I don't know what they thought of waiting on small boys – probably not much! There was a master whom I didn't like at all. He later took Holy Orders!

I remember 'Staff Laughs' very fondly. Although light entertainment, it was witty and very well-produced. Robin Paul and Tom Cruikshanks dressed as Homefield girls to sing a silly song were unforgettable. Head Matron, Lennox, showed a real flair for acting when she portrayed a murderess, and Rex Machin surprised us with his excellent conjuring tricks. Yes, I am sure that the early fifties were one of Bilton's 'golden ages'.

John Boyden (1951—55)



British summer weather provided a rather better backcloth to OB Day this year as guests were welcomed to a typically varied and full programme of events.

The formal part of the day saw one major change with the AGM being held in the Pugin Library, an experiment which seemed to meet with considerable approval and which helped with the smooth-running of what is invariably a tight schedule.

After Minutes and Matters had been formally dealt with, the customary minute's silence was held in memory of OBs who had died during the previous year. A full list appears elsewhere in this edition.

President Tim Day's address highlighted another year of popular social events, including the informal drinks reception in London and the OB Golf event organised by Paul Jackson. The President spoke of the close and productive working relationship which exists between the Society, the School and the Foundation. The Society was, he said, in a strong financial position and in addition to continuing to support the OB Bursary, the Committee is looking at ways in which it might further support the School with major projects in the future.

The President thanked the Headmaster for once again allowing the Society to hold its flagship event at the School, and Emily Rycroft for all she does behind the scenes to ensure that this, and the many other events with which she is involved, runs smoothly. Committee members were thanked for the time, effort and support they have once again given the Society and the School. A special vote of thanks was proposed for Kate Windley as she steps down from the committee this year.

If his thanks for retiring Secretary Mark Tovey seemed somewhat muted, it was genuinely given, and with the promise of more to come later in the meeting. There was appreciation, too, for Treasurer Jeremy Westhead who, although unable to be present at

the meeting, had once again successfully overseen the finances of the Society for another year. Editor, Tony Millinger, was thanked, too, for another successful edition of the OB Newsletter for 2017. At this point Mark's successor as OB Secretary, David Searle, was introduced to the meeting.

Finally, the President highlighted some of the events which were due to take place over the next twelve months with the promise of further details to come, and a reminder that information will, as always, be available on the OB section of the School's website. The President then invited the Headmaster to take the floor.

In referring to yet another busy and successful year at Bilton Grange, Alex Osiatynski spoke of the continued importance of promoting core values as part of the preparation of our pupils for life's long journey. The school has continued to perform strongly and remains proud of its non-selective ethos. To date, the 6th Form has enjoyed resounding success on the scholarship front with three top academic scholarships to Rugby, Shrewsbury and Oundle, and further scholarship success in Music, DT, Art, Sport to Rugby, Bloxham, Repton and Oakham. There has also been CE success with all the pupils gaining places at the senior schools of their choice.

The Headmaster went on to speak about the inaugural Vartan and Veit Hockey Tournament which was won by Mr Tovey's Bilton Grange U11 squad – a fitting start to this new annual competition which will be hosted at the school's outstanding venue.

Mr Osiatynski acknowledged the huge contribution Mark Tovey has made to the Society during his decade as Secretary, a period which has seen a few Presidents and Headmasters come and go! Mark has recently been appointed as Assistant Head, Boarding, and his family will move into the school to look after the Boarding community.

Finally, the Headmaster thanked all those who had organised the day, especially Emily Rycroft and Mark Tovey, and he wished everyone all the best for the coming year.



From left to right: Alex Osiatynski, Headmaster, Maggie Edwards (Former Head of Pre-Prep 1992—2003) and Quentin Edwards (Former Head 1992—2003)



From left to right: Former OB Secretary Mark Tovey and OB President Tim Day

In the absence of Jeremy Westhead, the President read out a prepared statement from the Treasurer. (These accounts and information are all available online under the OB Society section). The Society's funds and investments were all noted to be in very good shape.

At this juncture, the President was pleased to welcome a deserving group of hard working staff who had been nominated for honorary membership to the Society: Stefan de Bruin, Sue Warner, Kirsty Hawkes, Kathryn Heathcote, Nicola Fisher, Sarah Mourant and Janet Newman. Committee Members were re-elected as follows: Jeremy Westhead (1980—89), Jocelyn Tysall (1968—72) and Paul Jackson (1991—2005). Stepping down this year were: Mark Tovey and Kate Windley (1980—88). Newly elected members to the Committee were: James Barker (1996—2006), Fiona Willoughby (1979—85) and Mr David Searle (BG Staff).

The President thanked Mark Tovey for his help, support and loyalty to the Society over the last 10 years. He had organised and attended many OB events and had always sought maintain the link between new and old(er!) OBs and OHs.

The meeting then drew to a close with the customary rendition of the school song, accompanied by the Headmaster. This was followed by the annual OB Day Service, led by the lay chaplain, David Noble (current member of staff and Hon. OB).

After the service, the School hosted a drinks reception in the Gallery before lunch was served, al fresco, courtesy of some welcome summer sunshine. Andrew Parker and his able team had, as ever, prepared, cooked and served a fantastic array of culinary delights.

The afternoon was given over to a 'beach themed' Summer Fair run by the children, while across the drive, the OB XI and Faders XI enjoyed a closely fought cricket match, though Mrs Murray and her 1st team showed the OB's how to play rounders!

OB day 2017 had been another busy and successful day. I am, as always, immensely grateful to Emily Rycroft and the Marketing

Team for giving up their Saturday to help ensure the day runs like clockwork, as well as being a huge support to me. Thanks are also due to Darren Price and his team for helping to set everything up and clearing it all away afterwards.



Robert Hepworth (1929—34) and Elliw Rusdale



From left to right: Fiona Willoughby née Dimpleby (1979—1985), Anne Summerson, Jocelyn Tysall (1968—1972) and Monica Summerson (1942—1947 & 1969—1981)

Once again, we love to hear how you are getting on and if you have any news (however big or small) you wish to share, do drop us a line. You can also visit the school website to see what future OB events are happening at: www.biltongrange.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you back at your old Prep School very soon and I'm sure you would all wish to join me in wishing Mr David Searle the best of luck in his new role. He can be contacted on: obsociety@biltongrange.co.uk

Mark Tovey
OBS Secretary
mgt@biltongrange.co.uk



The rounders team



OB DAY, 23 JUNE 2018

To book, return the enclosed form or visit www.biltongrange.co.uk/our-community/ob/events

OB Golf Society (UK Branch) June 2017

The UK Branch of the Golf Society met in June last year. Congratulations go to Anthony Day (1969—2004) who won back the trophy he had originally given to BG 16 years previously! Doing the honours here is golf aficionado, Paul Jackson (1991—2005).

Our Summer 2018 event takes place on Sunday 10th June 2018 at Overstone Park, Northampton, contact Paul Jackson on eajackson22@hotmail.com for details.



From left to right: Paul Jackson and Anthony Day

Dubai Golf Society October 2017

The Dubai Golf Society event took place under the lights at the very impressive Emirates Golf Club. The Faldo Course provided the usual golfing hazards whilst the backdrop of the Dubai skyline at night time was an inspiration.

Informal Drinks January 2018



From left to right: Chris Hickman (1971—76), Michael Pratt (1961—66), David Hardstaff (1968—72)



From left to right: Morag James (née Standeven) (1964—69) and Felicia Dykstra (née Sanders) (1966—69)



From left to right: Nick Burns (1990—94), Paul Nicholson, Rebecca Ukleja (1996—06), Alex Austin (1995—04), Amy Hicks (1996—2005), Henry Barton (2006—06), Charlie Wood (1998—2006), James Barker (1996—2006), Tim Day (1974—1983). Front Row: Louis Worrall (2000—06) and Sam Bendel (1997—06)

OB President, Tim Day, Headmaster, Alex Osiatynski, and Deputy Head, Paul Nicholson, met with OBs and some current parents at a venue in Pall Mall to reminisce about BG and share the latest School news. This annual event is always great fun and we do enjoy the chance to chat to our OBs and learn more about their experiences of BG.



From left to right: Tim Day (1974—1983), Amir Ahmad (1976—77) and Alex Osiatynski, Headmaster.

OB Hockey – February 2018

It was a pleasure to welcome OBs back to BG for our annual hockey match. A crisp, blue February day provided the perfect backdrop to a great match with the teams cheered on by former BG parents, current BG boarders, Mr Osiatynski, Mr Searle and Mr Tovey. Despite having a Cup Match later that day, Mr Nicholson joined the match while OB President, Mr Day, kindly refereed. Thanks to everyone who joined us and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!



From left to right: Sammy Carter (2012—14), Guy Balderstone (2014—15), Beno Wiltshire (2013—15), Sean Tobin (2006—15), Dan Hatton (2012—15), Marcus Nicholson (2006—14), Eddie Baker (2006—15), Conor Tobin (2006—15), Toby Henderson (2010—15), Alexander Watson (2007—16), Lucy Ball (1993—2002), Timothy Day (1974—83).
Front Row: Georgina Woodward (2009—15), Lucas Marshall (2007—15) and Paul Nicholson, Deputy Head



ONLINE ARCHIVE

Our online photo archive is now live and with almost 1,000 images from 1888 to more recent times. It's well worth a look. Email obsociety@biltongrange.co.uk for the log in details.

John Boyden (1951—1955) Edited 'German Lyric Poetry' which was published in 2011, and exhibited paintings with 'The Society of Catholic Artists' in 2017.

David Lees-Jones (1955—60) Now aged 70 years and after some years on the Governing body, I have retired from this most privileged role. Our son and daughters are happily married and so far Katherine and I are blessed with two grandsons and a grand-daughter. Cruising with Regent provides a wonderful opportunity to see the world. Skiing remains exhilarating whilst singing in a specialist group keeps me very well focused!

Edward Holt (1960—65) After leaving St Edward's, Oxford, I spent a year working on a farm in Warwickshire and then studied Land Agency at The Royal Agricultural College (now University), in Cirencester. After a couple of years in private practice in Manchester, and having qualified as a Chartered Surveyor, I joined North West Water which is now United Utilities. I spent 40 years with them as a land agent, spending much of that time in the Lake District managing the water catchments at Haweswater and Thirlmere as well as in the Forest of Bowland in Lancashire. Highlights included pioneering work on water catchments, bringing together agriculture, conservation and the requirements for clean drinking water, and being a founding partner along with the National Trust and the Forestry Commission in the Wild Ennerdale project that allows nature to play a predominant role in the development of the valley.

Since retiring I have been developing my long-standing interests in oboe playing, choral singing, photography and cycling amongst other things.

I hope to be followed into the profession, albeit on the urban side, by my daughter who is shortly to take her final assessment for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Hannah Murphy (1994—2002) went on to Oundle School, and after a gap year went to Oxford to study French and Italian. She formed a band there and enjoyed much music making. After a few years working for the CBI in London, she went to City University and gained a Masters in financial journalism. She now works as a journalist for the Financial Times, and continues to enjoy music as part of a newly formed band in which she sings and plays her flute.

William Murphy (1996—2005) went to Rugby School and, after a gap year, went to Oxford initially to study archaeology and anthropology. However, he saw the light and decided to pursue maths instead, so went to Bristol where he graduated with a 1st. From there, he taught in a school in rural Northern Thailand, returning last year to start a Masters in Maths and Computer Science at Oxford. He has been appointed to a post as a maths teacher for 6th form at his old alma mater, Rugby School, and started there in September. He has travelled extensively in Asia since leaving Rugby initially.

Takuya Kamiyama (1999—2000) has successfully completed his PhD in organic chemistry at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. He is now on the postdoctoral staff at the Technical University of Munich, Germany, in molecular electronics.



Takuya Kamiyama

Michael John Gornall (staff: 1988—2002) After 30 years of teaching, Helle and I finally decided to move permanently to our house in Denmark and use our Stamford base as our retreat in the UK. Given the role of developing the arts in a school that has more than 50 different nationalities and has only been around for 8 years has reignited my enthusiasm. I even coach rugby once more after a break of 15 years. In my first season my under 12s lifted the Scandinavian International Schools Cup – played 11 won 11. My old mentor, RGJ Barnard, would have been proud, and once again I carried my unbeaten captain off the field in the final match as I did with James Saunders in BG's undefeated 2nd XV of 1994!

Jack Murphy (2002—2011) went on to Oundle School, and is currently on a gap year. He re-joined his old hockey club, Rugby and East Warwickshire, and has been working as a builders mate, and in a Bentley car restoration workshop, until setting off on his travels through India, Nepal, Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia and finally Hong Kong where he will stay with another OB, Alicia Tidmarsh (2003-09), before returning home in mid-July. He met up with OB Ed Wiltshire (2005-11) whilst in India. He starts at Bristol University in October, studying anthropology, where he will join OB Saksun Young (2007-11).

Oliver Robinson (2003—09) has been selected for the England Students Rugby squad. He is seen here receiving his shirt from Eddie Jones – England Head Coach. He has played against Ireland in Oxford and is hoping to be selected for further matches.



Oliver Robinson (right)

Miranda Kember (2003-12)

Congratulations to Miranda who has been awarded the Queen's Medal for History for her work '*Manning the Barricades? Women and the Legacy of the French*



The Queen's Medal

Revolution'. First awarded to Rugby School pupils by Buckingham Palace in 1848, the medal is minted every year by Buckingham Palace and issued to an outstanding history essay. The essay is read by Her Majesty and past winners have included Rupert Brooke (1906) and Sir Salman Rushdie (1961).

Katie Mackintosh (2008—14) enjoyed a skydive last summer to raise money and awareness for the Guide Dogs Charity. Her aim was to raise £2,500 to name a puppy. Anyone wishing to support her endeavours can visit her Just Giving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Katie-L-Mackintosh>.

Gigi Woodward (2009—15) was selected for the final squad of 12 for the WASPS U17 and to represent our region at the National Performance Foundation League last August. She worked tirelessly at the trials where about 130 girls were hoping to be selected for the "Long Squad" of 18. She was naturally delighted to have been successful and to have made the final squad and she continues to train with the WASPS Academy.

Obituaries

Mike Munt (1939—44) and staff (1972—93)

To say that Mike was a larger than life character is true in so many ways. He was a big man, big-hearted, generous, always willing to attempt to tackle the knottiest problem and to help anyone in difficulty. He will be remembered for his individualistic approach to life, and teaching in particular. He certainly didn't fit any traditional idea of a late 20th century prep school master!

His background included Bilton Grange, Repton, coal mining in his native Nottinghamshire as part of National Service, and a stint in the RAF as a navigator. This last led to the story of Mike zooming over Hadrian's Wall in a Canberra bomber, much embellished by Bill Bower, and so quite possibly apocryphal!

Young Michael arrived at BG in September 1939 just at the outbreak of war. The boys would seek safety during times of danger in what came to be known as the "Secret Passages". Later, when he returned as a member of staff, taking the boys down to discover them was just one of many things that endeared him to them.

Mike loved to tinker, and much of his spare time (and possibly some of his duty time) was spent under his Volvo, dressed in his trademark long grey socks, long shorts and grey RAF sweater. He was ever the practical man and was never happier than when dismantling or reassembling some gadget or other.

His practical side continued in the classroom, particularly when teaching Science. Many former pupils will remember the exploding can

experiments – a practical demonstration of the effects of air pressure.

Mike played a full part in the Games side of the school. He coached Hockey and Cricket and brought his own individual methods of instruction to this as he did to so many things. I remember once being asked to take Game 2A Rugby with Mike. "Hold that", he said, thrusting a tackle bag at me. He then proceeded to charge at me full pelt to demonstrate tackling technique; he wasn't a small man!

Mike seemed able to turn his hand to anything, or at least give it a go, sometimes with unexpected consequences. Surprisingly to some, he was even Head of the Junior Department for a time – an incongruous sight, a six foot-sixer talking to a three-foot sixer!

At the end of each summer term, Mike, his wife Judy and I ran a Narrowboat Trip. On one occasion, one of the boys fell overboard. Mike was in like a shot to help him, the water coming just up to his waist! I think someone fell in most years, but Mike would always display his handy knack of defusing a potentially worrying situation, with the help of a grand fry-up from Judy.

Mike and Judy formed an inseparable pair, Judy usually accompanying Mike to OB Days. She could handle Mike effortlessly, with any admonishment being acknowledged with a gentle, "Oh, very well my love", or, perhaps, his best-known phrase, "Fair enough!"

There are many amusing stories which, whether apocryphal or not, will nevertheless be entirely plausible to those who knew him.



For example, he liked the occasional nap and would think nothing of nodding off after a hearty meal at a friend's or colleague's house. It is even said that he once fell asleep during his own Maths lesson. On another occasion, the forward gears of his car inexplicably failed mid-journey. Undaunted, Mike proceeded to reverse the last few miles to his Worcestershire home! Many former pupils will doubtless have other stories and memories!

With Mike's passing, one of the real characters which Bilton Grange seemed to attract in those years in the second half on the 20th century has gone. No doubt each generation produces its own set of personalities, but few will remain in the memory as long as Mike Munt.

Ray Jarvis, Friend and Colleague

Quiz Answers



The Plunge, where boys would take a wash, with open showers at the back. This space now houses the boys and girls toilets.



This was the main ward in the sanatorium. The building has now become the Bursary and this is the Bursar's office.

THE GREAT WAR – 1918

The final year of the conflict saw startling fluctuations in fortunes as the Germans took full advantage of Russia's defeat and descent into revolution and chaos to concentrate all their forces in a massive push in the West. It was a close run thing, as the war was so nearly lost before overwhelmingly superior forces finally broke through and compelled Germany and its allies to surrender. For the last time in this short series of reflections on the First World War, we honour all those Old Biltonians who fought in the conflict and who played their part in achieving final victory.

The Final Hours of Lieutenant Stanley John Marlow

Lieutenant Stanley John Marlow (1906-1909) joined the Northampton Regiment as part of the British Expeditionary force in Palestine in 1915. He was reported missing after the Battle of Gaza in 1917, though it was not until the following year that the story of his final hours came to light. In a letter from one Colonel Brown, his Battalion Commander, we read the following:

"...we found about sixty of our men, to whom we immediately gave Christian burial on a nearby hill. This became officially known as 'Northampton Mound' as it was there on this hill that they made their gallant stand on that fateful day, and from which they prevented the Turk from leaving his trenches for a counterattack. Marlow was lying with thirty-three of our men in a group between 50 and 100 yards of the Turks' front line. Every man died facing the enemy and Marlow was at the head of his men. It was a pathetic sight, but yet how glorious: every man was going straight for his task with his officer at the head. Could anything be finer?..."

For most Conspicuous Bravery and Leadership

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Borton (1893-1896) was one of two Old Biltonians who were awarded the Victoria Cross during the First World War. The citation reads as follows:

"For most conspicuous bravery and leadership. Under most difficult conditions and in darkness, he deployed his battalion for attack, and at dawn led his companies against a strongly held enemy position. When the leading waves were checked by withering machine-gun fire, Lieutenant-Colonel Borton, showing an utter contempt of danger, moved freely up and down his lines encouraging his men under heavy fire. Reorganising his command, he led his troops forward and captured the position. He later led a party of volunteers against a battery of field guns in action at point

blank range, capturing the guns and the detachments. His fearless leadership was an inspiring example to the whole brigade."

The Ambulance driver who wanted to be close to the Action

Ralph Bonfoy Rooper (1904-1906) had on numerous occasions been rejected for military service on medical grounds. Undaunted, he joined the Friends' Ambulance Unit in Flanders in 1915. During 1916 and 1917 he worked in the Ministry of Munitions and at the Admiralty, but still was anxious to be as close to the fighting at the front as possible, eventually securing the job of ambulance driver to the rather unlikely sounding Scottish Unit of the French Red Cross. Surviving for over twelve months in this role, he was eventually killed by enemy shellfire during the great German push of 1918.

Apart from his bravery and determination to share the same risks as the men at the front, it was said of him that his keen interest in all schemes for social and political betterment, and his artistic and literary taste had gained him many friends. (The death of his younger brother, Captain W V T Rooper, in an air battle over Flanders in 1917 is briefly described in last year's Newsletter.)

A much-decorated Ace

This is the story of Lieutenant J A G Haslam (1905—1910), whose bravery in the face of the enemy earned him two awards for conspicuous gallantry during the final months of the war.

Flying with a fellow officer on patrol over enemy territory, he spotted a number of vehicles carrying troops and supplies. As they could not be engaged by artillery, he pursued them for some 8,000 yards under heavy fire before dropping his bombs with pinpoint accuracy, causing considerable damage. He then made further attacks, strafing with machine gun fire, finally returning to base

with valuable intelligence which enabled an artillery barrage to be directed on large concentrations of enemy troops. For these acts of bravery he was awarded the Military Cross.

In August 1918, he was again in action. While carrying out a contact patrol, he was attacked by seven enemy scouts. Although wounded in the leg, he showed great courage and determination as he continued to direct machine gun fire on the enemy aircraft. After shooting down one, the remainder dispersed. For this further act of valour, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

HEROES PRO PATRIA MORTUI

By the end of the war, casualties amongst Old Biltonians were believed to be 148 killed and 185 wounded.

The relatively high proportion of deaths is largely accountable by the fact that a significant percentage would have taken commissions or been promoted in the field. Like so many junior to middle-ranking officers, they would have led from the front, and would be deliberately targeted by the enemy.

HONOURS

At the end of hostilities, the list of honours awarded to Old Biltonians stood as follows:

186 Dispatches; 21 Special Promotions; 63 MCs (with 5 bars and 1 double bar); 39 DSOs (with 5 bars); 1 DFC; 15 Orders of Empire; 3 CBs; 1 KCB; 10 CMGs; 1 KCMG; 1 KCSI; 1 KCVO; 36 Foreign Decorations, and 2 VCs.



***All these were honoured in their generation,
but their name liveth for evermore***

Notices

Engagements

David Millinger (1979—85) to Julianne Joyce. The wedding is due to take place in 2019.

Weddings

Congratulations to **Matthew Cotterill (1995—2005)** and Émilie Barbier, who were married at Bishop's Cleeve in August 2017.



Mr and Mrs M Cotterill

Births

On 8th November, 2017, to **Mr Matt McVeigh (1997—2002)** and Mrs McVeigh, a daughter, Layla Anne, 6lb 1oz.



Layla Anne McVeigh

On 14th January, 2018, to **Joseph (1998—2005)** and Amy Barsby, a daughter, Alexa Elizabeth, 9lb 2oz.



Joseph Barsby with daughter, Alexa

On 4th Feb 2018, to **George (1990—95)** and Michelle Armitage, a son Hugo – a little brother to Camilla.



Young Hugo Armitage

Send in your news

To feature your news in our next OB newsletter and on our website, please email obsociety@biltongrange.co.uk or fill in our online form:



<http://www.biltongrange.co.uk/our-community/ob/send-in-your-news/>

Deaths

May 2016

Lady Denise Rice (1944—46) niece of Gordon Ravenscroft (he was a former Chair of Governors, after whom the Ravenscroft Hall is named).

August 2016

Robert Beckett (1971—1976) died suddenly last August within 24 hours of catching Meningococcal Septicaemia. After BG he went to Malvern College and then studied Biochemistry at The Royal Holloway College (London University). Rob then went into the wine industry and had established himself as one of Britain's top portrait painters over the last 25 years.

March 2017

Giles Powell (1958—63), on 6th March 2017.

Henry Hope-Frost (1978-84) Known as 'the voice of Goodwood', Henry was passionate about motor racing working at Autosport magazine and then freelance as a motoring writer, broadcaster, commentator and event MC.

Mrs Susie Mitchell (1969—1989) died on 11th March. Wife of Music Master Mr Michael Mitchell, she ran the School Shop from 1969—1989.

June 2017

Babette Richardson who was on the staff of Homefield School from 1972 – 1987.

July 2017

Catherine Evans (nee Stott, left Homefield in 1966) on 20th July.

November 2017

Anthony (Tony) John de Nouaille (left in 1944),

died suddenly on Monday 6th November 2017 at the Horton General Hospital, Banbury. As well as attending BG, Tony supported the school later in life as a highly respected governor. As part of his role he led the forward planning committee in 1980 which recommended the construction of the sports hall and the conversion of the old gymnasium into the music school.

December 2017

Group Capt JS Hart, MBE FCMI (1931—39) on 9th December.

January 2018

Dr P J Edwards (1943—46) was a GP and enjoyed a very happy time at Bilton Grange. He noted in his diaries: 'Ken Waydelin was my hero at Bilton, also a boy scout type, he introduced me to butterflies and moths and shooting and fishing. I spent delightful evenings looking for Puss moth eggs in the Black Poplars, and Lime Hawks pupae under the trees in the drive. To this day, when I am casting I hear his voice saying "Keep your elbow in and your waist straight, boy"'. He also commented 'Thank you 'Waddy' for all the butterflies and moths and all the fish caught and all the shooting and how to hold a gun. You passed on a love of the countryside and a whole range of old-fashioned values which I hope remain with me still'.

John de Morpurgo (1931--36), on 13 January. We are exceedingly grateful to Mr de Morpurgo who kindly donated the annual de Morpurgo poetry award. Pupils continue to be inspired to compete for the prize for the best poem.

February 2018

Michael H Munt, (1939—44) and staff (1972—93). An obituary appears elsewhere in this edition.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 11th May

Pre-Prep Open House, 1.30-3.00pm

Open House is an informal way to have a good look around the Pre-Prep and see what a busy day looks like for our 4-8 year olds. Our pupils will lead your tour and tell you what they love about their school. You'll also be able to meet staff and current parents and find out what they think makes an education here so special. Contact admissions@biltongrange.co.uk to register.

Sunday 10th June 2018

BG Golf Society (UK Branch), 2.00pm

The annual meeting of the BG Golf Society will be at Overstone Park, Northampton and is open to everyone – OBs, staff and parents (former and current). For further information please contact Paul Jackson: eajackson22@hotmail.com

Saturday 9 June

The BG Ball

OBs, parents and friends of the School are all welcome at our BG Summer Ball. Tickets cost £70 per person (reduced to £60 if paid before 27th May; £40 for under 25s) and include a cocktail reception followed by a three course dinner, live entertainment and dancing. To book please email cartwright@biltongrange.co.uk

Saturday 23 June

OB Society AGM and OB Day

A great opportunity to meet up with old friends, attend the OBS AGM and enjoy a superb lunch. During the afternoon, you will have an opportunity

to talk to current students at our Summer Fair and enjoy a game of cricket, hockey or rounders. Tickets cost £17.50pp and are available by completing the enclosed booking form or via our website. OBs under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Thursday 20 September

Bilton Lecture, 7.30pm

Join us for a lecture by Jonathan Myles-Lea, the leading painter of portraits of country houses and gardens in the United Kingdom. Contact admissions@biltongrange.co.uk for further details and to reserve a space.

Saturday 6 November

School Open Morning, 10.30am

A lovely opportunity for prospective families to come and look at the School, meet current parents and be taken on a tour by our current pupils. Contact admissions@biltongrange.co.uk to register.

Thursday 10 January 2019

Informal Drinks, London 6.30pm

An annual informal drinks event. Join us from 6.30-8.30pm to celebrate the New Year and catch up on all of the latest news. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details nearer the time.

Sunday 3 February 2019

OB Hockey Match

Join us for our annual hockey match at BG. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details nearer the time.

Quiz

What were these rooms and what are they used for now?



OB Society Committee Members

Tim Day (President)
David Searle (Secretary)
Jeremy Westhead (Treasurer)
Alex Austin
James Barker
Henry Fray
Jane Garland (née Kember)
Millie Garland
Dee Horton (née Summerson)
Paul Jackson
David Reay
Jocelyn Tysall (née Applegate)
Becky Ukleja
Fiona Willoughby ((née Dimbleby)

Editor of the OB Newsletter
Tony Millinger

New OBS Committee Members

If you are interested in joining the Committee, or would like to know more, please contact David Searle, OBS Secretary on obsociety@biltongrange.co.uk

How to get in touch

We are always delighted to hear from our former pupils.

Please contact us on obsociety@biltongrange.co.uk

Bilton Grange
Dunchurch, Rugby
CV22 6QU

01788 810217
www.biltongrange.co.uk

[/obsociety](https://www.facebook.com/obsociety) [@biltongrange](https://twitter.com/biltongrange)

Further Information

For further information on any of the above events or to register your attendance, please contact 01788 818249 or email obsociety@biltongrange.co.uk

Dates for other events will be notified on the website, via email and on our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/obsociety