

BROMSGROVIANS

# connected



BROMSGROVE'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE ISSUE 3 2016/17



*Bringing the archives alive: Old Bromsgrovians share their memories with Archivist, Nikki Thorpe during the 1960-1969 Leavers' Reunion*

## The first word...

My father used to tell me that I had the best of both worlds; child of a large family, parent of a small one.

Certainly, a childhood with swarms of siblings provided non-stop entertainment, even if we did exhaust our parents. We took for granted the comfort that if, at any given moment, you were offside with a particular brother or sister, you were usually onside with a couple of others. Someone was always there to share the moment. Throughout feuds or fondness, siblings weave an unbreakable bond of mutual support. The shared experiences of our youth forge the relationships that sustain us in later life.

Thus, when OBs refer to the 'Bromsgrove Family', they invoke the same connotations of affinity and shared foundations. We are a family, centuries old and global in our reach. And like any family gathering, the numerous reunions and OB functions we host can be, by turns, raucous and respectful, noisy and nostalgic. Brotherly and sisterly reconnection is the norm. Hazy memories are brushed off, dubious tales embellished, ancient debts debated, friendships rekindled. Reunions are exactly that; former unions, revitalised.

Just like any growing family, the further Bromsgrovians have travelled from their School, whether in miles or years, the more poignant the homecoming.

It is deeply humbling to watch current pupils, proud ambassadors of their School today, hosting past pupils who may not have set foot on the grounds for decades. The curriculum, facilities, even the language may have changed but sharing Bromsgrove's heritage binds them as if they were contemporaries. Hence the remarkable span of OB triumphs chronicled in this latest edition of your magazine, each of which should make you proud.

Enjoy browsing another chapter in the family album.

**PETER CLAGUE  
HEADMASTER**

**IN THIS ISSUE:** The year in photographs... The inside story: Ben Key CBE... News from your era...

## Welcome from the Chairman

It's often said that there is no better 'ticket' to explore the world than a good education.

Whilst my own time at Bromsgrove, some 40 years ago, was very different to the experience afforded by a Bromsgrove education today, the privilege of that education provides a wonderful opportunity for Bromsgrovians to express themselves in sport, business and culture around the globe. So, amidst all the current talk of 'hard or soft Brexit', we must not lose sight of the immense value to the UK of welcoming students from all around the world and then encouraging those Bromsgrovians to go out and establish their own place in history.

I hope you enjoy reading about the diverse exploits of our truly international alumni.

**HANS ROSTRUP  
CHAIRMAN**



# Picture This...

A LOOK BACK AT THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/16.



Friends, Parents and Old Bromsgrovians joined together to celebrate the School's annual Commemoration Day. We welcomed many OBs to the marquee on Charford again this year - as well as a group celebrating their 20th anniversary!



Archivist, Nikki Thorpe and Megan Griffiths from the Alumni Office designed a special commemorative board for display in Worcester Cathedral for their exhibition on The Somme.



Lupton House was refurbished and re-opened to pupils and staff in June 2016.

The late Professor Sir Michael Drury, a Luptonian, was honoured with a special plaque which is proudly displayed in the common room.



*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* was the School's major production of the year.



The 1st XV retained the NatWest Schools' Cup for the second year running. A pre-match reception was held at Twickenham for Old Bromsgrovians attending the day.



Bromsgrove School continued its partnership with the Bromsgrove International Musicians' Competition (BIMC), holding their four-day music competition in Routh Hall.



A Level, IB, BTEC and GCSE pupils celebrated their superb exam results over the summer. 86% gaining A\* to B grades at A level, 38 point average for IB and 85% A\* to B at GCSE.



# Picture This...

EXTRA-CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015/16.



As Deputy Head (Co-Curricula), Paul Mullan is responsible for the wider variety of academic extension activities that occur at Bromsgrove School. Here, he gives you a run down from the 2015/16 academic year.



Senior pupils participated in the Worcestershire National Citizen Service (NCS). NCS is designed to take participants out of their comfort zone, testing their fears at a PGL camp and battling their nerves with public speaking.



The Young Enterprise team won Best Company at the Area Final as well as Best Report and Best Presentation. Team 'GECO' made and sold eco-friendly upcycled products at craft fairs and local markets.

The Chamber Choir's annual visit to sing Evensong in the UK's great cathedrals took them to Bristol this year. They performed responses by Richard Ayleward, the evening canticles by Jon Stainer in E flat and Edvard Grieg's a cappella setting of *Ave Maris Stella*.

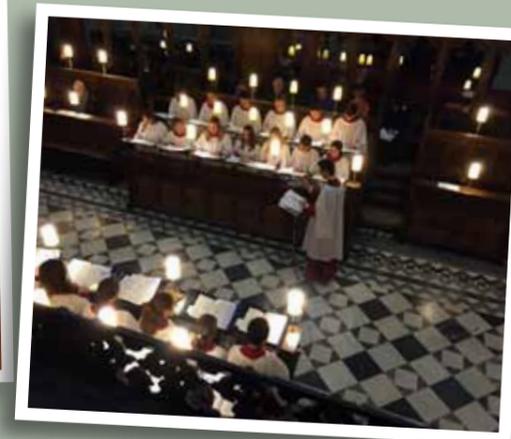


A contingent of three hundred and forty cadets were on Parade for the Lent term's Biennial Inspection by Group Captain Stirrat.



Four teams of Sixth Form students were charged with the task of acting as consultants for the UK, ahead of the EU Referendum. The groups presented their ideas to a panel of judges, in front of a packed audience of parents, staff members and OBs.

“The opportunities here are endless, whether it be working in the community, taking part in CCF expeditions or performing in concerts.”



Two Zero One, the new student-led magazine was launched in 2016. It was an initiative led by Sixth Formers Anastasia Broder and Madalina Macadrai alongside Upper Fourth Alia Derriey.



2015/16 saw The Chicken Kitcar team race at Rockingham, Merryfield and Castle Combe, as well as enjoying the use of a 3D printer to help with aerodynamics.

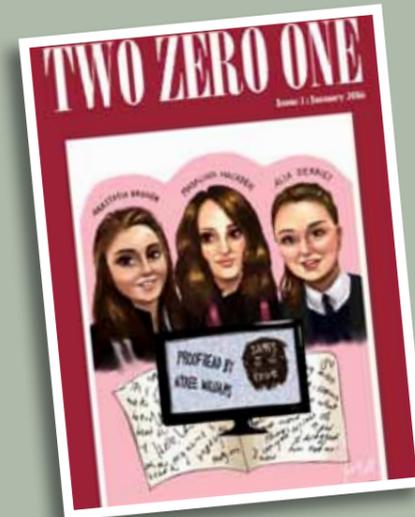
After the finals, the team improved their standing, being a top five Kitcar out of over one-hundred other cars.

In 2016, Team Chicken reached the World Finals. They finished as the second fastest Kitcar in the world. A fantastic result.



The Flourishing Fiver activity has continued in full force this year. Thirteen students set about raising money for Primrose Hospice, having been given £5 each to start their enterprising initiatives.

In total, the team managed to raise £1400.



# About You

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

## Elmshurst

The CCF recruits' Pass Out parade was inspected by Old Bromsgrovian **Major Gary Feek RE ME** – a Staff Officer at 11 Signals and West Midlands Brigade. Major Feek (1976-1981) was an enthusiastic member of the CCF during his own school days. To mark the occasion of his return to Bromsgrove after an absence of twenty-five years, Gary presented the CCF with a photograph of himself and fellow Bromsgrove cadets winning the West Midland District March and Shoot Competition in 1980.



**John Campion** (1989-1994) has recently been elected as the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner. John was previously a Worcestershire County Councillor and studied Business Information Systems at Liverpool John Moores University. He has worked in private business as well as in the High Security Prison system as an Intelligence Officer.



The School Chaplain, Paul Hedworth (a lifelong fan of LCFC) met up with **Apichet Srivaddhanaprabha** (1996-2001) at the final home game of the season at Leicester City Football Club.

We offer our congratulations to Apichet, the Srivaddhanaprabha family and all at Leicester City on winning the Premier League.



We were delighted to welcome **Miklos Radnai** (1999-2001) and his family to Bromsgrove School. Miklos is currently visiting the UK and enjoyed his tour of the campus, especially his old House.



**Andy Lai** (2004-2009) has joined the Hong Kong Observatory as a Meteorologist. He's also a current PhD student at Cambridge University. Whilst at Bromsgrove, Andy won the annual subject prize for Geography, so it is great to see all of his skills and enthusiasm for the subject being put into practice now.



**Ben Tibbetts** (2010-2015) has been awarded his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award by Prince Edward. Here he is pictured after the ceremony outside St James's Palace.



Upper Sixth leaver **Henry Walker** (2005-2016) was named in the U18 England Rugby squad ahead of their tour to South Africa in August 2016. Henry is a member of the Gloucester Senior Rugby Academy for 2016/17.



Credit: England Rugby

## Cookes

Old Bromsgrovians **Matthew Taylor** and **Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham KB** arrived at Bromsgrove School on 10th February 1966 to sit their Foundation Scholarship exam in the Old Chapel, exactly 50 years ago this year.

On his schooling and professional career, Matthew says, "On arrival at the School, I spent two years at Cobham House, followed by five years in the Senior School – Cookes and Walters Houses. In my last year, I became Head of House and Under Officer of the CCF.



In 1973, I took up an exhibition at Worcester College, Oxford for four years where I read Greats and went on to the Civil Service, where I spent three and a half years in tax policy and management at what was then the Inland Revenue in Somerset House. In 1977, I also took up a commission in the Royal Artillery Territorial Army where I served for seventeen years alongside my civilian career receiving the TD in 1991.

In 1981, I began my training as a Chartered Accountant with what is now KPMG in London, where I remained for twenty-two years becoming Director, Insurance Tax in 1996. Whilst there, I met Liz and we have now been married for twenty-eight years.

In 2003, I moved to what is now EY as a partner continuing to specialise in insurance taxation in London for another twelve years. I retired there on 31st May 2015. Last September I joined Pinsent Masons in London and again focussed on insurance and tax.

In addition to being a Trustee of the Bromsgrove School Foundation, I am Trustee of two military charities and continue to have a close involvement with Worcester College, Oxford."



Digby writes, "I arrived at Cobham House which was the new home of Bromsgrove Preparatory School in September of 1966. I moved from there to the Senior School with an Open Scholarship, won that Summer, 1969.

I was Head Boy at Bromsgrove and received my Hockey Cap, having won my Rugby Colours during the Michaelmas term. I was in Cookes House and then when it divided, in Walters House. I left Bromsgrove in March of 1974. I won a place to read Law at University College, London. I joined the Royal Navy on a University Cadetship in April 1974. By June 1977 I had obtained my Law Degree and I left the RN, achieving my Solicitors' Professional Exams in 1978, when I took Articles with Edge & Ellison in Birmingham.

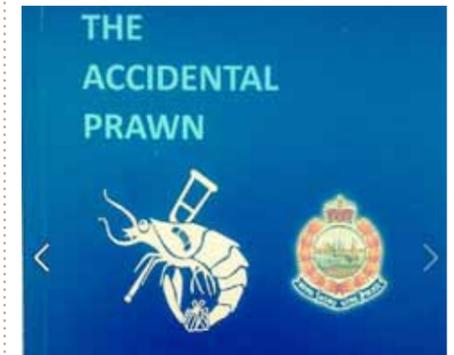
I rose through the ranks, becoming Deputy Senior Partner in 1990 and Senior Partner in 1994. In 1998, I joined KPMG as Vice-Chairman of Corporate Finance. In January 2000, I became Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, was knighted for Services to Business & Charity in 2005, and left in 2006. In 2007, I became Minister of State for Trade & Investment, became a non-aligned Member of the House of Lords taking the title Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham KB.

Since 2009, having left Government, I have developed a portfolio of Company Chairmanships, Corporate Advisory positions and many Senior roles in the voluntary sector. I have written a book (Fixing Britain) which sold 12,500 copies and also made the BBC TV series, Troubleshooter. I deliver speeches and lectures around the world, and I appear often on radio and TV, as well as write for newspapers. I am Chairman of Governors at Stratford-upon-Avon College of Education, and a Trustee of the Bromsgrove School Foundation. I have been married to Pat for 25 years and we live in the village where Shakespeare was married, some three miles from Stratford-upon-Avon."

## Gordon

**Guy Shirra** (1960-1965) has written a book entitled *The Accidental Prawn*, which contains a chapter on life in Bromsgrove School between 1960-1965. Guy says that the book has been favourably commented upon and a copy placed in the School Library for pupils and staff.

If you would like to find out more, please visit [www.facebook.com/TheAccidentalPrawn](http://www.facebook.com/TheAccidentalPrawn)



## Hazeldene

**Iskra Lawrence** (2004-2009) made her debut at New York Fashion Week, walking in the show for Chromat, a swim and athletic wear brand. You might have also noticed Iskra on the cover of Simply Be magazine and in their television adverts.



Credit: Chromat

**Ellen Lockhart** (1998-2013) supported her younger brother Will (part of the 1st XV squad) at the NatWest Schools' Cup Final on 16th March. Here, Ellen is seen congratulating Will on the team's win.



## Hazeldene

A trio of Hazeldenians returned to School during the Summer term to speak to students interested in a variety of university options and career choices:

**Abbie Davies** (2004-2013) kindly returned to Bromsgrove to speak to students interested in taking an Art Foundation course.

Following on from her Foundation course, Abbie is now studying Fashion Marketing at Falmouth University with an internship at a prestigious London PR firm.



**Ellie Ball** (2004-2015) is currently studying French and Chinese at UBC in Canada. Ellie spoke to pupils interested in applying to international universities during her return to the UK for the summer.



**Lucy Sapwell** (2006-2015) spoke to the MedVet Society about making an application to medical school. Lucy currently is studying medicine at Edinburgh.

Congratulations to **Emilie Oakley** (1995-2003) who won the bottle of champagne in our prize draw after completing one of the OB update cards at Commemoration Day this year.

## Housman Hall

**Stefan Squire** (2010-2012) has beaten off stiff competition to be selected for the Great Britain Talent Squad for the Skeleton. Stefan commenced training in May 2016 and will spend 10-12 weeks out on the ice during his first year of the programme.



*Credit: British Bobsleigh & Skeleton*

**Farah Asghar-Sandys** (2011-2013) has set up a nationwide food business called Spiced by Rayeesa. They sell frozen Indian cooking sauces, and have their own cookery school in Herefordshire.



## Lupton

**R.A.A. Edwards** (known as Allen) celebrated his 90th Birthday in April 2016. Allen attended the School from 1937 until 1942, and was in Lupton House.

Also present at the birthday celebrations were fellow Old Bromsgrovian **David Higgs** (Lyttelton 1953-1957) and **Christopher Price** (School 1939-1944).



**Peter Jones** (1963-1967) remembers witnessing The Queen Mother's arrival in 1965. Peter said that it had been rumoured that the Headmaster, Mr Carey, had to make some improvements to his bathroom facilities, just in case Her Majesty needed to pay a call during her visit!

Peter spent twenty-five years in banking, followed by twenty years teaching on various Business and Finance courses at HE colleges in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Now retired, Peter volunteers one day a week at Hidcote Manor Garden in the Cotswolds.

**Matt Boyles** (1994-1999) featured on the BBC programme, Dragon's Den, pitching an idea for a fitness app. Matt, who is a Personal Trainer says that since appearing on Dragons' Den he and his business partner have found investment elsewhere and Wireless Fitness is going from strength to strength.

**Ben Simm** (1997-2004) returned to School in March 2016 to talk to Geography students about planning, development and flood risk management.



## Lyttelton

Thank you to **Myles Griffiths** (1957-1961) who drove all the way from Lancashire to speak to students interested in a career in the legal sector. Myles stayed on to take part in the Mock Interview Evening, helping pupils with their university and careers interview preparation.

**Declan McManus** (2013-2015) is currently studying at Belmont University in the US. He has won the Conference Freshman of the Year for Cross Country and was recently awarded University Male Newcomer of the Year.

## Mary Windsor

During her business trip to Vietnam, **Miss Scannell** (Assistant Head) was delighted to meet **Phuong Ta** (1997-2000).

After leaving Bromsgrove in 2000, Phuong studied a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London. Phuong is now a very successful Engineer for Rosneft Vietnam.



**Kirstie Friend** (2001-2012) returned to Bromsgrove in November 2015 to interview Mr Hallows (Head of Senior School) on the subject of cyberbullying, which is her dissertation topic. Kirstie is in the final year of her undergraduate degree in Geography at the University of Exeter.



**Polly Heung** (2005-2012) recently contacted us to share a photograph with **Odin Leung** (Wendron-Gordon 2010). Odin is studying his final year of medicine and Polly is in her final year of nursing at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Polly and Odin happened to be practising on the same ward and bumped into each other on their rounds!

Polly is also in contact with **Crystal Leung** (2002-2007) who works at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong as a Midwife.



## Oakley

Congratulations to **Emily Horton** (1998-2001) who led the Royal Navy Memorial Day proceedings for Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown in July. Emily is pictured above with **Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE**, also an Old Bromsgrovian (and our next Foundation Lecture speaker), who was at the School between 1979 and 1984.

**Violetta Onischenko** (2002-2007) graduated with an art degree from Central Saint Martins, then briefly worked as a knitwear designer. Violetta's interests evolved purely from the design side of the business and the legal side of creating and maintaining a successful enterprise, particularly intellectual property rights. Violetta later graduated with a law degree from City University, London and worked for a year as a paralegal at a top family law firm assisting with high value international divorce cases. Currently, she is undertaking the LPC course at The University of Law to become a solicitor.

Violetta says that she has always remained passionate about art, remembering her art teacher, Mr Hedges very well, and in her free time exhibits her own work online via Instagram crafty.oni.art. Violetta's commissioned paintings have been very well received – actor Steve Coogan was one of her customers.



*Actor Steve Coogan with one of Violetta's paintings*

**Theodora Dyakova** (2005-2007) attended our 'just for fun' Call My Wine Bluff event earlier in the year. At the end of the night, Theodora was introduced to the fine art of sabering a bottle of champagne by Robin Shuckburgh, one of the evening's wine experts.



**Ella Cardinali** (2004-2015) has returned to School on a number of occasions this year to speak to students about her experience in Bangladesh with the International Citizen Service (ICS). Ella spent three months on a community project to raise the status of women and girls through educating the villagers.

The experiences that Ella has gained here will be further explored through her degree in International Development at the University of East Anglia. Ella is happy to talk to any student or parent interested in a gap placement with ICS.



Thank you to **Aisling Brinn** (Oakley 2004-2015) for taking time out of her day to speak to MedVet Society pupils. Aisling is studying Medicine at Nottingham.



## School

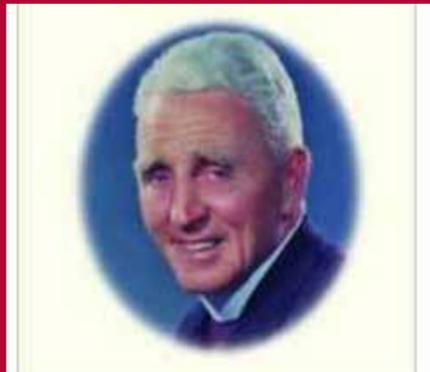
The Headmaster welcomed **Geoffrey John CBE** (School 1947-1951) to the School during the Summer Term. Geoffrey was joined by his wife, Lynn and former Chairman of Governors, Matthew Horton (Cookes 1962-1967).

Geoffrey was Bromsgrove's Chairman of Governors from 1982-1991 and then President of the School between 1994 and 2010.



**Canon Christopher Hall** (1949-1954) was recently in touch to let us know that his father, Ronald Hall (who was one of the first of many Halls at Bromsgrove) has a biography in print, *The Practical Prophet: Bishop Ronald O. Hall of Hong Kong and His Legacies*.

Christopher's grandfather was at Trinity Oxford with R.G. Routh which is the reason why the family originally chose Bromsgrove for Ronald and the succession of Halls who followed him.



We're always pleased to hear when our social media posts prove to be successful. **Anthony Walters** (1952-1955) noticed a comment from an old School friend, **Chunduang Saeng Xuto** (1953-1956), on our Facebook page. They hadn't been in touch since leaving Bromsgrove over sixty years ago but were able to re-connect on Facebook and they are now corresponding again after trying to find each other for many years.

Thank you to **Dr Nigel Buxton** (1965-1969) for returning to School for a Bromsgrove Futures presentation on Pathology.

Dr Buxton was on holiday in the UK from Australia where he works as a Forensic Pathologist and Histopathologist.



It was a delight to meet British Airways Pilot, **David East** (School 1997-2002) earlier in the year. David returned to Bromsgrove for an informal talk to current pupils interested in the Aviation sector.



Congratulations to **Will Jordan** (1991-1997) who was announced as a finalist for The Birmingham Young Professional of the Year 2016 awards.

Will, currently part of Knight Frank's UK residential development team, was nominated in the Property and Construction category.



**Matt Mullan** (1997-2005) was named in the England squad for the RBS 6 Nations earlier in the year. He was co-captain alongside James Haskell last season.

**William Parkinson** (2004-2014) has been awarded an organ scholarship at Lincoln College, Oxford. William underwent a gruelling audition process which involved both playing and conducting at various colleges. William will play at college chapel services and read music at the university.



## Thomas Cookes

**Caroline Garrett** (née Pickering, 1992-1997) runs a local contemporary choir at Aston Fields Middle School on a weekday until 9.00pm. To register your interest please visit: [www.got2sing.co.uk](http://www.got2sing.co.uk)

**Justine Lynch** (2005-2007) recently shared a photograph of her School sporting memorabilia. She says that her Bromsgrove items are still favourites, especially the sports caps.



**Ellie Johns** (2001-2010) returned to Bromsgrove to speak to students from the MedVet Society. Ellie has now qualified as a Doctor from Brighton Sussex. In the photo below Dr Ellie Johns stands alongside her Dad, our Head of Sixth Form, also Dr Johns!



## Walters

**Tom Fullwood** (1999-2010) successfully auditioned for the BBC Symphony Chorus. Having performed a few concerts with them in 2015, this year Tom took part in all four concerts in the Proms, including the First Night and the Last Night at the Royal Albert Hall, which was broadcast on BBC.



Outoo, a Mobile Dating app, developed by Old Bromsgrovians **Jon Hollway** (2002-2010) along with Housman Hallians **George Melhuish** (2001-2010) and **James Bell** (2002-2010) was launched in Birmingham over the bank holiday weekend. Over 1,000 people checked in across Birmingham.

Outoo allows users to check in to locations they are attending to see the profiles of other people going to the same locations at the same time. They plan to extend the app into Nottingham and Birmingham before expanding nationwide.



It was a pleasure to hear about school friends **Rich Westman's** (2008-2010) and **Ben Buckley's** (Lyttelton 2005-2010) new app, Kaido, during a presentation to pupils on entrepreneurial skills. Kaido makes sense of a user's health and fitness data, working with existing apps and tracking devices to become their personal trainer. Rich and Ben have recently been accepted onto the Microsoft programme following a competitive application process.

## Wendron/Wendron-Gordon

**Tim Scott-Bolton** (1960-1965) has written and illustrated his first book about Lancelot 'Capability Brown' to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Lancelot's birth. From childhood, Tim has been passionate about great country houses. As a full-time artist for over 40 years, Tim's passion has enabled him to visit and paint many country houses over the years. *A Brush with Brown* is published by the Dovecote Press. We wish Tim every success with the book.



**Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE** (1979-1984) has taken up the role of Fleet Commander and Chief Naval Warfare Officer at a Royal Navy handover ceremony during February 2016. Ben was also awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours. You can read more about Vice Admiral Key in the 'Inside Story' section of this magazine.

We're thrilled that Ben has accepted the invitation to be our next Foundation Lecture Speaker on 2nd March 2017 at the RAC Club, Pall Mall, London.

It was lovely to welcome **Wai Kit Tong** (Wendron 1993-1998) and his girlfriend to Bromsgrove School during the summer. Wai Kit was over from Hong Kong for a friend's wedding in London and dropped by the School for a tour. Wai Kit met up with some of his old teachers including Mr Challoner and Mr Wingfield.



**Rohil Dattani** (2004-2008) and **Jennifer Thomas** (Thomas Cookes 2004-2008) returned to School for Head of Year on the topic of 'dare to be different'. Their talk mentioned a number of OBs who had ventured down unconventional career paths.



**Mr Bell** (formerly of WG, now Houseparent of Walters) and **Dave Chou** (2011-2013) met up in Tokyo during the Easter break. It was a complete coincidence that they bumped into each other on a street in the Chiyoda district of Tokyo. Dave has graduated from the University of Birmingham and is now working in Hong Kong.



2015 leavers **Milton Lau** (left) and **Justin Chung** (right) popped by to see how their beloved House was getting on. This coincided with WG playing in the Inter-House senior table tennis matches (both boys were masters of the sport during their time at Bromsgrove). Justin is now at Warwick University and Milton at the University of Bath.



## Llanwrtyd Wells

We were delighted to hear from the **Llanwrtyd Wells committee**, who officially opened their new Heritage and Arts Centre on Saturday, 14th May 2016.

The School has worked closely with the committee members for a number of years, and it is fantastic to learn of the new centre which will feature photographs from Llanwrtyd Wells and Bromsgrove's time there (where the School was exiled to during WWII).

The opening times for the centre will be Thursday to Sunday inclusive, 10am until 4pm from spring until mid autumn. It will also open on other days throughout the year when events are taking place.

All OBs, Friends of the School, pupils and staff are very welcome to visit. You can find out more at [www.facebook.com/LDHAC/](http://www.facebook.com/LDHAC/)



**Jenny Bossard** (Walters 1972-1974; Bromsgrovian Executive Assistant) and **Nikki Thorpe** (School Archivist) paid their respects with **Andrew Campbell** (Wendron 1967-1972) on Remembrance Sunday in Llanwrtyd Wells. Andrew read the lesson during the Service and presented a wreath from the School at the War Memorial.

Whilst there, Nikki and Jenny interviewed Beryl Driscoll who had worked in the kitchen in Elmshurst House as a 15-year old girl. She is now 94 but still has an amazing recollection of the School's time in the town. They also stopped by the recently opened Heritage and Arts Centre which has a section on the School's time in Llanwrtyd.

Not long after the School moved back to the Midlands, the kind townspeople of Llanwrtyd opened their doors to numerous Czechoslovakian Jewish refugees.

## Staff News

Two former Bromsgrove School coaches were flying high with their respective National sides at the Rio 2016 Olympics this summer.

**Craig Parnham** (Head Coach for USA Women's hockey) was Bromsgrove's 1st team girls' coach in the 1990s and later Director of Hockey until 2004. During that time, he led Great Britain to two Olympic Games with the Men's hockey team and still found time to coach numerous pupils to the indoor and outdoor National Championships five years in a row. Such School teams included future England and Olympic hopefuls Jennie Bimson, Lucilla Wright and Sally Walton. Craig himself represented England and Great Britain 115 times.

At Rio, the USA women's side lost out to Germany in the quarter-final match at this year's Olympics.

Craig has been named as National Coach of the Year and has recently announced that he will step down as head coach of the United States' women's hockey team after four years in the job. He will now become director of coach education and learning for Team USA.



*Craig Parnham*  
(Credit: Team USA)



*Jimi Lewis*

**Jimi Lewis**, current Goalkeeper Coach for the German National side, was also active in making Hockey at Bromsgrove what it is today. Jimi coached pupils at Bromsgrove along with fellow Cannock HC player, Chris Mayer. The German side won Bronze in both the men's and women's matches at Rio.

Former Deputy Headmaster, **Philip Bowen** (1981-2015) recently spoke on the Gunpowder Plot at Coughton Court. To Philip's surprise, there was a fellow Bromsgrovian in the audience – **Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham Kt.** (Cokes/Walters 1969-1974). Lord Jones very kindly thanked Philip for his excellent talk and added a few words of his own.

## Sports News

### OB Hockey

On Sunday, 23rd October, four Old Bromsgrovians (**Lily Alsop, Sarah Hawkey, Freddie Robbins** and **Annie Brown**) took part in the inaugural Dean Close Sixes. This is a friendly tournament for ex-pupils from a number of independent schools.

The Old Bromsgrovian won two matches and lost two, finishing fifth overall. Congratulations to our OB team.



### OB Netball

The **OB Netball Club** is interested in recruiting more members for their teams which compete in the Redditch and Worcester Leagues. If you would like to find out more please contact Becky Alton by emailing [obnetballclub@yahoo.com](mailto:obnetballclub@yahoo.com).

In the annual OB v School matches, Bromsgrove's A team retained the trophy, with the match ending 44-22. But it was the OB B team who managed to get the upper hand on Bromsgrove's 2nds, winning the match in the last quarter.

### OB Tennis

**Paul Siviter** (Lyttelton 1994-1999), **Richard Westman** (Walters 2008-2010), **Ben Buckley** (Lyttelton 2005-2010) and friend **Brad Keenes** won their matches for the Public School Old Boys' Lawn Tennis Association against the 1st School tennis team in May 2016.



*David Powell, Greville Rossiter, Paul Burman, Charlie Pearson, Ian Sanders, Peter Clague (Headmaster), Brian Marsden, Ian Matthews and David Cory*

## 1st XI Cricket Reunion

**Paul Burman, Bill Jay, Brian Marsden, Ian Matthews, Charlie Pearson, David Powell, Greville Rossiter, Ian Sanders** and **David Cory** (Bromsgrovian Club Treasurer) returned to Bromsgrove on 11th June 2016 to celebrate 50 years since they played in the 1st XI.

The OBs enjoyed a lunch in the Old Chapel before venturing down to Lower Charford to watch the School against Monmouth.

## OB Rugby

The newly-formed OB 7-a-side Rugby team, **the Buffaloes**, competed in the Sparkle 7s Tournament, held at Felsted School.

The OBs won their group stage games, but were sadly knocked out in the plate semi-final.



*OB golfers celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Old Bromsgrovian Golf Society*

## OB Golf 50th Anniversary

In the OB v School match, it was Bromsgrove who retained the Cavill-Webb trophy, defeating the OBs three matches to one.

2016 marks the **Old Bromsgrovian Golf Society's** 50th Anniversary. In 1966, the Hayes Salver was presented to the Society and played for by a group of OBs with a particular love of golf and good company.

To celebrate, Old Bromsgrovians were invited to compete for this very same trophy, followed by dinner at Blackwell Golf Club on 12th October 2016.

Well done to **Philip Eve** (Gordon 1953-1958) who won the Hayes Salver, and equal second were **Bill Jordan** (Gordon 1966-1972) & **Ian Mellor** (School 1962-1968).



*The Hon. Secretary, Anthony Webb*



*Chris Firminger, William Caswell and Chris Sellers*



*Ian Mellor, Ian Powell and David Greenhouse*

## Wedding Bells

Congratulations to the following Old Bromsgrovians who were married this year. Do let us know if you'd like to feature in the next issue.

Our best wishes to **Olivia Safe** (Thomas Cookes 1992-1994) who married her partner Duncan Patrick in Droitwich.

Our heartfelt congratulations to former Head Girl, **Harriet Eales** (Hazeldene 2000-2008) who married fellow Old Bromsgrovian **Ed Eden** (School 1997-2008) on 6th August 2016.

**Max Tam** (2003-2006) and **Sandy Chang** (Oakley 2004-2006) had their wedding photographs taken at Bromsgrove. They have very fond memories of their time at School, which was of course where they both first met.



**Ha Anh Vu** (Mary Windsor 2000-2002) was married to her partner, Oly this summer in a beach ceremony in Vietnam. We wish Ha Anh and Oly the very best for the future.



**Ollie Bache** (Elmshurst 1991-2002) and **Rachel Pritchard** (Thomas Cookes 1991-2001) were married in France this summer. Both Ollie and Rachel started at Otilie Hild School and, along with quite a few others in the below photo, went all the way through the School until the age of eighteen.

A strong crew of twenty-one Old Bromsgrovians were present, including Rachel's brother, **James Pritchard** (School 1994-1999) and his wife, **Amy Pritchard** (née Jordan) who also met at Bromsgrove.



*L-R: Marco Yu, Simon Lau, Sean Park, Cherry Ho, DL, Edmund To, EAL, Ronald Tse and Sam Sui*

**Edmund To** (1999-2004) got married in Hong Kong back in March 2016, in the presence of a host of Old Bromsgrovians.

Edmund's former Houseparents, **Mr and Mrs Langlands**, who were visiting at the time, were also present.



**Fiona Jones** (Mary Windsor 2001-2006) married **Tom Binks** (School 2001-2006) in Croatia earlier this year.

Tom unexpectedly proposed to Fiona on their ten year anniversary at the Gullfoss Waterfall in Iceland. They married in the beautiful Old Town of Dubrovnik and enjoyed a boat trip around Lokrum Island. There was great food, great company and dancing the night away under the stars.



## OB Brick

Last year, the Bromsgrovian Club donated £60 to **Moseley RFC**. They were raising money to fund their new stadium.

The money went towards sponsoring a brick in the name of the Old Bromsgrovians, as many former pupils went on to play at Moseley after leaving School.

Other OBs whose individual names have also been spotted on the new stadium wall are **Tony Hilton** (Gordon 1945-1950), **John Rose** (School 1948-1951) and his father, **A J Rose**, **Nigel Creese** (Former Staff 1952-1955) and **Donald Perry**. There may well be more too.

## #OBsinHK

**Mark Chung** (Wendron 1978-1983) met up with fellow Old Bromsgrovians **Kenneth Bi** and **Edwin Lam** over coffee in Hong Kong recently for an impromptu 1980s Reunion.



*Kenneth Bi, Edwin Lam and Mark Chung*

## #OBsinBristol

We were delighted to hear from **Anthony Sharman** (Wendron-Gordon 1990-1995) who met up with other OBs in Bristol. He says that it had been over 20 years since they had left Bromsgrove – and only wished that they had kept their maroon books!

If you have any photographs or news to share for future editions, please email, tweet or write to us at the School (contact details on the back page).

**If you're on Twitter, why not tweet us @BromsSchool with your own hashtag #OBsin...**



*L to R: Zoe Stollard (née Raxter), David Stollard, Ant Sharman and Jo Menon (née Rawles)*

## 20 Year Anniversary

**Vicky Rees** (née Bywater, Hazeldene 1991-1996) organised for her year group to return on Commemoration Day 2016 to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

Vicky says that some of the 1996 leavers had not seen each other since leaving School and the festivities continued into the early hours at a local venue.

The Alumni Committee would be happy to assist OBs who wish to organise future get-togethers during Commemoration Day celebrations - please contact us.



## 1960-1969 Leavers' Reunion

Over 100 Old Bromsgrovians, who had left the School between 1960 and 1969, returned to Bromsgrove on Saturday, 10th September for a Reunion.

The day began with a welcoming service in the Memorial Chapel with a special Anthem by the Chapel Choir, memories recounted by the current Heads of School and a reading from Catherine Maund. Pupil guides then escorted the OBs on a tour of the School and Old Chapel. Lunch followed in the hospitality suite and later in the afternoon, OBs were invited to record memories of their school days on camera.



*Back to School: Bill Jay, John Adkins and Hedley Brunt*



*Simon Hill, John Denby, Richard Brookes, Harry Doodson, Christopher Tan and Richard Hoyle*



*OBs in the Old Chapel looking through the archives*



*Taking a tour of the School: Ian McDonald, Robert Dowler, Gordon Harvey and Sandy Blair*



*Mr Gunton chatting to former pupils*

## Drury Plaque Unveiling

The School honoured the late **Professor Sir Michael Drury** with a special ceremony in Lupton House during the Michaelmas term.

A Luptonian, Michael Drury was at Bromsgrove between 1939-1943, spending his School years in Llanwrtyd Wells. He was our School Medical Officer for many years, as well as the Cottage Hospital Doctor.

Michael was a very supportive Governor and Chairman of the Education Committee for much of the 1990s. Latterly, he was a Vice-President.

In his later life, he enjoyed his visits to the School, especially Commemoration:

We were pleased to welcome members of the Drury family, including Professor Sir Michael's children and a grandchild, to the unveiling.



*Houseparent, Al McClure and Headmaster, Peter Clague with members of the Drury family*



*Headmaster, Peter Clague honours the late Professor Sir Michael Drury*





## Hong Kong Reception

The Headmaster, Peter Clague, along with Assistant Head, Rachel Scannell, Bursar, Lesley Brookes and Deputy Head (Academic), Peter Ruben, welcomed Old Bromsgrovians, parents and friends of the School to the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club for a fabulous evening reminiscing about school days and learning about what Bromsgrove offers today.

With gracious thanks to member Mr K F Yau for allowing use of the Yacht Club for our event.



## South-East Asia Reception

Thank you to all Old Bromsgrovians, parents, BIST alumni and staff for attending the South-East Asia Reception at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club.

With special thanks to Old Bromsgrovian Todd Sundaravej for his excellent organisation of the event, and for acting as host member at the Sports Club.



## Reunion Dinners

The **Bromsgrovian Hong Kong group** organised two special reunion dinners for **Mr and Mrs Langlands** during their trip to Hong Kong in March 2016 and for **Mr Challoner** in October 2016.

The group was delighted with the turnout, and everyone was thrilled to be able to meet up on two separate occasions.



## OBEC 2016 AGM

The **Old Bromsgrovian Expedition Club (OBEC)** 2016 AGM took place at the Tyn Y Coed Hotel, in Capel Curig, Snowdonia, over the weekend 21st and 22nd October 2016. Thirty-four members took part, with ages ranging from eight to ninety-one years old. There was cycling the 'Dog Route' (about seventy miles), ascending Cadair Idris and running the Ogwen Valley and the Carneddau Range. Members also took part in walking in the Creigiau Gleision and Lyon Crafnant, ascending Snowdon, Cnicht and Moel Siabod, traditional climbing at Tremadog, mountain biking at Blaenau Ffestiniog and surfing at Surf Snowdonia.



The AGM dinner was predictably great fun with speeches from members who all displayed the common thread of friendship and the mountains. Next year will be the Club's 40th Anniversary Dinner.

New members wanting to enjoy the hills of Snowdonia are always welcome. Please search for 'OBEC' on Facebook or drop a line to the secretary, **Jon Badger** (Walters 1985-1990) at [jonathanbadger@outlook.com](mailto:jonathanbadger@outlook.com)

## My Gap Year with the Gauntlet Award

In 2015, **Marie Kriegler** (Oakley 2004-2015) was chosen as a recipient of the Gauntlet Award. This award is offered to current Sixth Formers who wish to undertake a gap year. It does not necessarily have to be of a strictly charitable nature, although it's always preferable for it to be selfless and to benefit a community in some way. It might, for instance, involve conservation, historical/archaeological investigation or social work of some kind.

Marie has shared her experiences over the year with us and we hope it will inspire members of the Upper Sixth to apply in future years.

Here's Marie's story:

"I'm experiencing my biggest adventure in Costa Rica. I am living with a host family which gives me a great opportunity to learn about the culture. I'm volunteering in a local primary school and assisting the English teacher. The school starts at 7.00am which is quite early compared to schools in the UK. In total, there are six classes and 95 students. The students are between six and twelve years old. I have been singing, drawing and playing games with the children.



*Marie Kriegler (right) with fellow Old Bromsgrovian Marie Heller*

During the weekends, I'm travelling with my friends. I have seen waterfalls, volcanoes and the wildlife. Monkeys, snakes, dolphins, tarantulas and many more animals have crossed my path.

I've had the chance to visit an Animal Rescue Centre and I have hiked up the volcano Concepción in Nicaragua which was the hardest challenge, but also one of the greatest achievements. A gap year is a great opportunity to step out of your comfort zone.

I met up with my friend Marie Heller, also an Old Bromsgrovian, for part of my trip. We travelled together to La Fortuna, hiked the Cerro Chato and saw the Arenal Volcano. It is really a coincidence that we were volunteering at the same time in the same country. I wonder where I will meet other Old Bromsgrovians in the future?"

## Blue Plaque

In 1996 **The Housman Society**, in conjunction with Bromsgrove District Council, placed blue plaques on five buildings associated with A.E. Housman, the English classical scholar and poet who is famous for *A Shropshire Lad*. In recent years these plaques have become rather faded, and so with Bromsgrove School carrying out an extensive refurbishment of Thomas Cookes House, the Society offered to provide a top quality replacement.

In A. E. Housman's day, Cookes House and the Chapel (now the Old Chapel) were the heart of Bromsgrove School. Now a listed building, the House has been fully renovated by Architects, Robothams, as part of the Worcester Road School's Day House project, the objective of which is to keep all historic buildings within the campus in good condition.

The blue plaque was made by the Whitby firm, Croft Castings, who also made the plaque erected on Laurence Housman's home in Street, Somerset last summer. The other plaques in Bromsgrove are on Housman Hall (Housman's birthplace, which is now also part of Bromsgrove School), the wall outside the Clock House and at the bottom of the path up to the Parish Church called Adams Steps.

Bromsgrove School has a longstanding relationship with The Housman Society which the Headmaster, Peter Clague is proud to continue. The School offers its thanks to the Society for their continued support and generous contribution of the new plaque, which adorns the oldest building at Bromsgrove School with pride.



*Former Chairman of the Housman Society, Jim Page (School 1945-1949; Prep School Headmaster 1961-1989)*

## Do you remember... The Binger?



*The School Shop circa 1962, otherwise known as 'The Binger'*

We recently posted the above photograph on our Twitter and Facebook pages for **#ThrowbackThursday**.

Throwback Thursday is a worldwide initiative, enabling organisations and individuals to post old photographs online using the hashtag #TBT or #ThrowbackThursday, with the aim of engaging its followers. We encourage your own memories and comments, so please do take a look.

If you are a Twitter user please follow us **@BromsSchool** and also visit us at **www.facebook.com/oldbromsgrovians**. Please send in your own photographs which we can use online for this purpose too.

We were delighted to receive many comments from OBs relating to this photograph on our Facebook page. Clearly 'The Binger' is still remembered with great affection.

Andrew Muir (Cokes 1964-1974) remembers, "'Auntie' ran the Binger for decades and served piping hot jam doughnuts (many a mouth scalded on the super hot jam inside)".

David Chowen (Broom/Lupton 1959-1965) commented that Lardy cakes were on offer during his schooldays - "But only in Autumn and Spring terms, and you needed to be in Physics or Chemistry blocks to be in with a chance of getting one!"

Guy Shirra's (Gordon 1960-1965) favourite tippie from the School Shop was "Coke and Ice Cream" and even as late as the 1980s, Gavin Catlow-Hawkins (Gordon 1982-1985) still remembers the Shop selling coca-cola in vintage bottles to its pupils.

Hot dogs seem to have been a popular choice, with Martin Tyrie (Lupton 1966-1971) describing them as "delicious".

John Hitchon (Broom/Elmshurst 1955-1959) is perhaps not so complimentary, remembering "cold doughnuts and sandwich spread to eat." - We wonder what our pupils today would think about that?!

Anthony Walters (School 1952-1955) recalls "hot pies and Tizer in the mid 50s."

And in the 1980s, Simon Williams (Lyttelton 1974-1983) remembers "listening to *Hocus Pocus* for the first time, so there must have been a radio as well."

What do you remember about "The Binger" during your own schooldays at Bromsgrove?

# Our News to You

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE BROMSGROVE ALUMNI OFFICE.



## Class of 2016

The Upper Sixth leavers received their OB tie (boys) and OB pin (girls) during a special ceremony led by the Headmaster at the end of the summer term.

We congratulate the Class of 2016 and look forward to welcoming them as Old Bromsgrovians to our alumni events.

## Bromsgrovian 2016

All 2016 leavers automatically receive a hard copy of The Bromsgrovian. There will be a small print run - if you do not have access to the internet in order to download a copy and you require a printed edition, please contact the Editor, Megan Griffiths. All OBs who have previously requested a copy will receive one.

## Mailing List

If you haven't received our news and invitations from the Alumni Office recently, it probably means that we have an out-of-date email address for you.

You can log on to [www.bromsgrovians.com](http://www.bromsgrovians.com) and amend your contact details at any time, day or night.

You can also email us at [Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk), write to us at the School address or telephone 01527 579679 ext 357/366.

## OB Items

The new OB woollen scarf is now available in the School Shop. It is priced at £32.50 and can be posted out to OBs at the current P&P rate.

A new set of enamel and metal cufflinks are also available, priced at £28.00 plus P&P.

To purchase any item from the School Shop, please email [SchoolShop@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:SchoolShop@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579 679 ext 220.

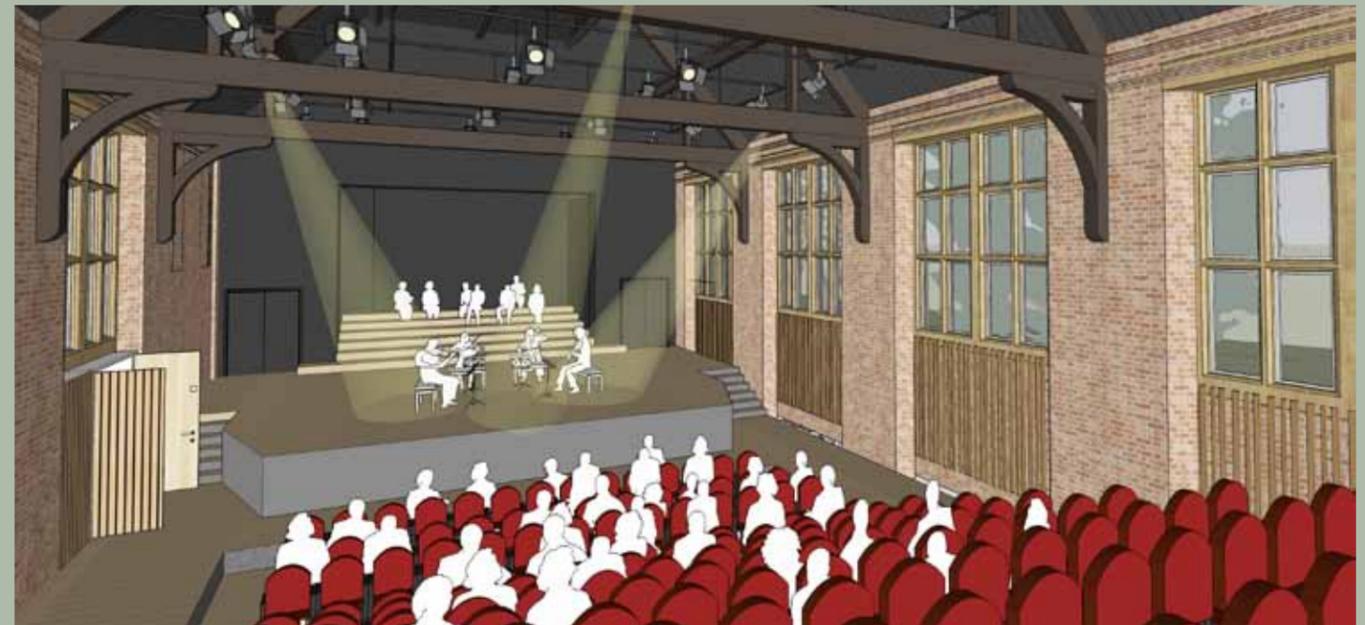


## Alumni Ambassadors

We are looking to recruit a group of Alumni Ambassadors, from the many diverse parts of the OB population. This group will be drawn from the numerous countries where Old Bromsgrovians are located and the hope is they will represent not only their Houses and their year groups but also the different interests that connect our alumni together.

The Ambassadors will support the Bromsgrove Alumni Committee without having to commit the time to attend the meetings, although they will always be most welcome. Ambassadors will be invited to share their thoughts and ideas for future events and other initiatives, and promote and attend events in their own country. In addition to supporting the events programme, we hope that Ambassadors will also offer assistance to OB students and recent graduates either in their own countries or in the UK.

If you are interested in becoming one of our Ambassadors or would prefer to discuss this further, please contact the Alumni Office by emailing [oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579679 ext. 357 or 366.



Artist's Impression of the interior of the new Routh Concert Hall which will seat more than 300 people

## Performing Arts

Construction of Bromsgrove School's new performing arts complex is now firmly underway.

Two distinct 300+ seat theatres are being created, linked by an avenue which also connects the Preparatory and Senior Schools.

Historic Routh Hall on the Senior campus will be transformed into a concert hall, tuned exclusively for musical performances and making use of its exceptional acoustic qualities. Adjacent, a new Music School will house a suite of specialist classrooms, recording studios and instrumental practice rooms, as well as a reception foyer and box office.

The Performing Arts Avenue will then lead to an equivalent home for Drama, built where the old Cobham Hall once stood in the Preparatory School. Flexible seating and a hydraulic thrust stage will allow for a wide range of dramatic and dance performances.

From intimate plays to large scale productions, the new facility will provide fully equipped technical galleries and safe access to all lighting and flying facilities, encouraging students into technical aspects of theatre as well as performance. The facility will also boast a 90-seat Performance Studio, with large scenic workshops, props stores and modern dressing rooms available for both lessons and productions.



Architect's Impression of the exterior of the new Routh Concert Hall



Artist's Impression of the Prep School Performing Arts Theatre

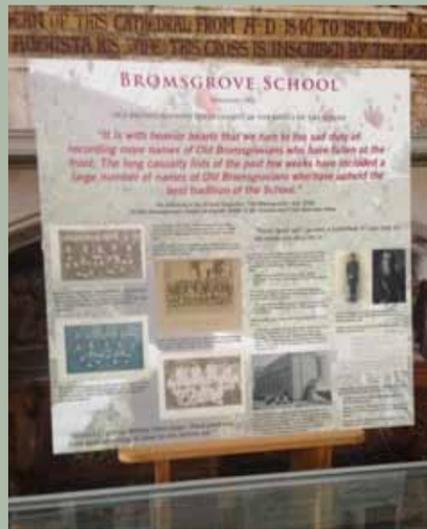
## From the Archives...

School Archivist, **Nikki Thorpe** looks back on the year in the School Archives and what has been happening in the Old Chapel...

My first year of being School Archivist at Bromsgrove School has been a voyage of discovery in more ways than one, all of them wonderful!

A key role has been the preservation and conservation of the many fantastic items in the archive which has included the repackaging of vulnerable documents and the digitisation of photographs from Houses, Old Chapel and public buildings to make high quality copies available for display without risk of fading originals.

I have also recovered many items from Houses and basements and located a few things that were thought to be missing including the 'School Book' mentioned by Icely in *Bromsgrove School through Four Centuries*, which is our earliest book (1693) relating to the School's History. It details the 'charitable gift' paid by Sir Thomas Cookes, Baronet 'for the Free Schools of Bromsgrove' and also contains a copy of Thomas Cookes' Will. Members of Bromsgrove History Society visited in July 2016 to use it to research the Blue Coat Scholars and information from the book was then presented to the Society's Summer School. It is currently on display in the Headmaster's Dining Room.



*The Somme Exhibition Board on display in Worcester Cathedral*

Raising the profile of the School Archive beyond the immediate School community has proved successful with two external exhibitions. In June, items from our archive giving an overview of school life was loaned to Bromsgrove Library for a three-month exhibition about School Days in Worcestershire.



*School Days exhibition in the Town Library*



*Some of the oldest Bromsgrove School material is currently on display in the Headmaster's Dining Room*

In July 2016 we put together an exhibition board of Bromsgrove's role in the Battle of the Somme using School archive material and this was displayed at the Worcester Cathedral Somme Commemorations where over 500 people attended a service and an exhibition. During August 2016, over 1400 people visited Worcester Cathedral, many of whom saw the exhibition and feedback has been plentiful and very complimentary.

There has been an ongoing accession of new items to the archive, both in the capture of current events through creating a digital archive of photographs, video and oral histories and digitally born documents, and through generous donations from Old Bromsgrovians of physical items such as photographs, School magazines and sports reports, uniform, trophies, badges and even recordings of chapel services on vinyl and cinefilm footage of school life in the 1960s. Please do keep these deposits coming as it is these personal collections which breathe life into the formal institutional records.

Video History recordings are continuing at alumni events with sixteen recordings made at the 1960-1969 Leavers' Reunion on 10th September 2016. There is also a plan to begin recording Sixth Form student school life recollections from the start of the next calendar year, to go alongside the existing year book photos and hopes and aspirations from leavers of the School.

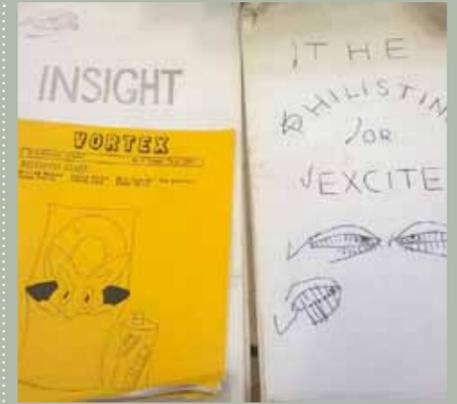


*Nikki Thorpe showing pupils how to preserve and conserve material in Archive Club*

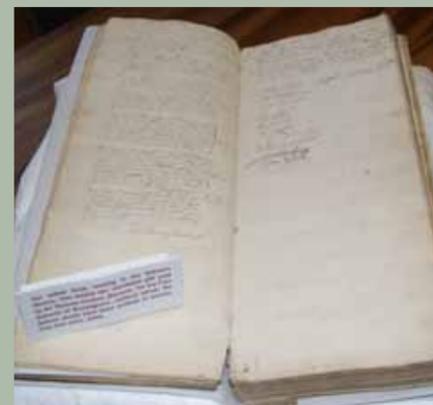
Archive Club began during the Michaelmas term for Bromsgrove Service students, where pupils in Years 10-12 are learning archive skills of preservation, cataloguing and documenting in order to preserve and display archive material to the wider School community. They are also enjoying being responsible for the #ThrowbackThursday tweet on the School's Twitter account and finding, to their surprise, some resonance in accounts of School life by their forebears detailed in the student magazine *The Hornet* from the early 1900s.

**A HYMN OF HATE.**  
 I hate the pips in raspberry jam ;  
 I hate the " resurrection pie ;"  
 My spirit loathes  
 The coal-black clothes,  
 I hate the awful red rope tie.  
 I do not like the library rules  
 Displayed upon the door ;  
 No kind of work  
 I fail to shirk  
 And lock-up I abhor.  
 I hate the black and white straw hats  
 The game of cricket I dislike ;  
 I likewise shun  
 The Parkgate run  
 And at P.T. I go on strike.  
 I don't like doing Latin lines,  
 Or ren for being late :

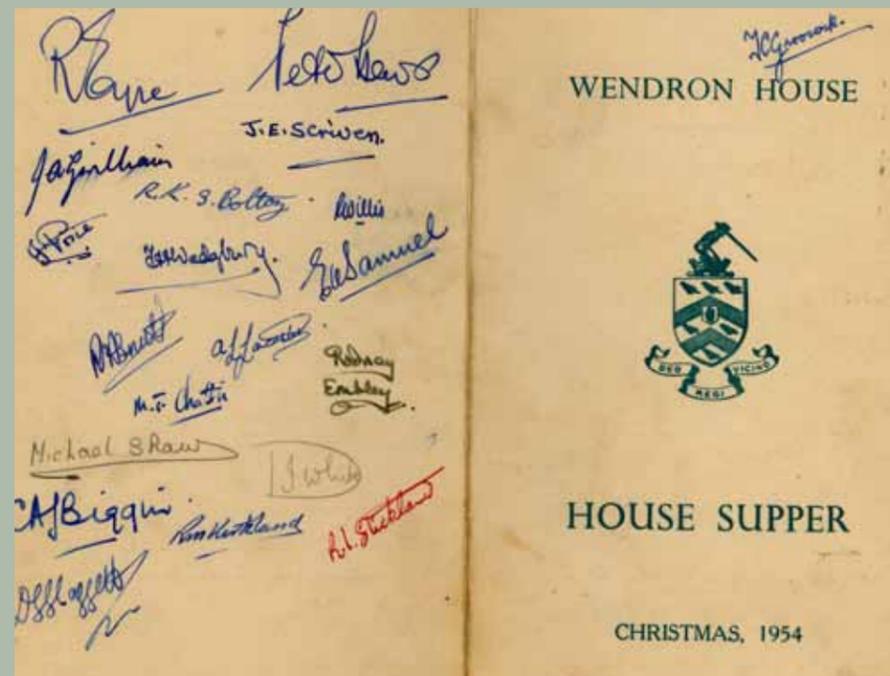
*'A Hymn of Hate' discovered in an early student magazine, The Hornet*



*More student magazines from the 1980s found in the Old Chapel during Archive Club*



*Our earliest School book from 1693*



*An original House Supper menu card from 1954, signed by members of Wendron-Gordon*



*The Archive Club hard at work cataloguing material from the Old Chapel*

And finally, the digitisation of The Bromsgrovian has begun with a project which will culminate in all of the magazines being accessible and fully searchable online, an excellent step towards long term preservation of the archive and of meeting the many requests of researchers and enquirers, especially from our alumni.

# The Inside Story

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT WHAT OUR OLD BROMSGROVIANS HAVE ACHIEVED.

## Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE

(Wendron 79-84) will become our Eighth annual lecture speaker in March 2017. We caught up with him ahead of the Foundation Lecture to find out more about his time at Bromsgrove and what he has learned in his career to date...

### What are your abiding memories of your school days?

I remember eight very happy years. Of course, some rose tinting may apply here, but even so I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Bromsgrove and benefited hugely from the wide range of opportunities - academic, sporting, music or just life. My Housemaster, John Gunton features prominently in my memories - for all the right reasons - as do the friends with whom I spent my time.

### Thinking back, what was life like at Bromsgrove in the late 70s and early 80s?

Looking back I realise it was a period of significant change in the School: it was the early years of co-education (my year was the last to stop being just boys), there was a shift in balance between boarding and day, and the then Headmaster, Nick Earle, was driving academic improvement. So it felt progressive, even if I did not always understand why.

### And was there anything that you really didn't enjoy at School?

Other than the perennial dislikes of teenage school days (too much lock up and too little tuck), I don't remember disliking very much at all. It may not be fashionable to admit, but I genuinely relished the breadth and pace of activity. But most of us also need time alone; as a (not very good) organist, for me this was to escape to the Chapel in the evenings and play to empty pews. However, I was perpetually bothered by having to wear quintessentially old fashioned summer headgear (a boater) into town in the middle of winter. Frankly, it looked daft when worn with a thick reefer coat.



### What was life like for you after Bromsgrove?

I went straight into the Royal Navy as a University Cadet. This meant completing a year of training at Britannia Royal Naval College and at sea before heading to university to read Physics. I spent my summer holidays back with the Fleet, and returned to full time service on graduation. Because my parents lived in Australia during my last few years at School, I needed financial support at university (a different system back then) which the RN scheme offered. I don't think I had any notion of how long I would subsequently serve, but it was probably closer to five years rather than the thirty-two I have just clocked up.

### And what opportunities has the Royal Navy afforded you in your career to date?

The first twenty-five years of my career were spent largely at sea, or in training as I moved through various specialisations (I am a qualified Principal Warfare Officer and helicopter aircrew). I have spent time in six of the seven oceans of the world and been privileged to command four ships, including the aircraft carrier HMS ILLUSTRIOUS.

Command at sea is a unique role, with the energy, skill and commitment of however many hundred people ultimately focused on what you think

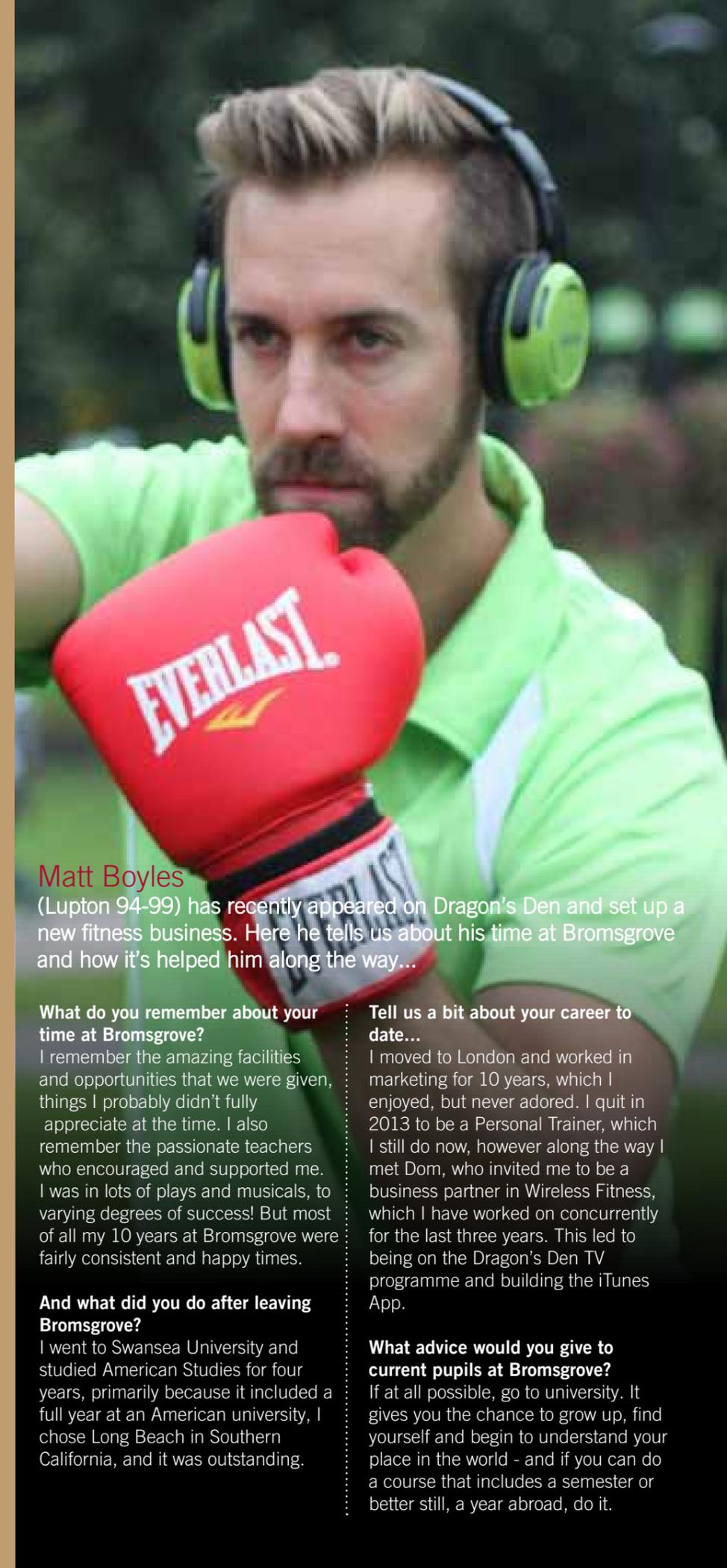
needs to be done, and all eyes do turn to you when the pressure comes on. But with it also comes rare opportunity as the white ensign still has an international allure; for instance, in overseas I have welcomed on board two kings and four presidents. One of the most fascinating periods was in 2006, working as an advisor inside the Iraqi Military Headquarters in Baghdad; it gave me insight into a very different society, and I was constantly challenged by some highly educated but disarmingly polite senior Iraqi officers to explain why the western model was so much better than theirs. Set aside the ravages of dictatorship under Saddam, and in the aftermath of the invasion, there was not always an easy or convincing answer.

The last seven years have been spent in senior management and leadership roles ashore, and I am currently the Fleet Commander, responsible for day to day readiness and deployment of the ships, submarines, naval air squadrons and Royal Marine Commando units of the Royal Navy. It is an exciting and stimulating role which I relish. On the back of one job interview (aged 18), I have had eighteen different appointments through my career, almost all of which were rewarding and fun. But I don't think anything will quite beat being the captain of a ship where you can stand on the bridge and watch jets and helicopters launch into the sky on your order.

### What advice would you give to pupils and young OBs starting out in their careers?

Working life is very different to school days. I think that is a good thing. But the support, advice and protection you are used to just does not exist in the same way, or perhaps even not at all. You set your own tempo, are tested by your values, and have to live with the consequences of your decisions. This is not always as easy as it seems, and requires a degree of determination to tackle difficult circumstances, and grit to see them through. Add to that the humility to admit when you have got things wrong and the courage to put them right, and life after school can seem much more daunting and demanding. But that is no reason to fear it. Rather I would hope you can embrace it, for the sense of purpose and achievement in doing something worthwhile is very rewarding.

As to when you take the first steps towards a career, try and enjoy something in every day. Clearly it is unrealistic to expect our lives to be a permanent rollercoaster of exhilaration and laughter, but amongst all but the most difficult days, there is usually something positive to be found. I passionately believe that we all have the ability to offer effective leadership, whether providing direction from the front or by quietly influencing a team; in among characteristics such as perseverance, ingenuity or compassion, the ability to find moments of cheerfulness in the tough times is as important as anything else for sustaining ourselves through uncertainty or challenge. So go and enjoy your career. And if you can't, do something else.



## Matt Boyles

(Lupton 94-99) has recently appeared on Dragon's Den and set up a new fitness business. Here he tells us about his time at Bromsgrove and how it's helped him along the way...

### What do you remember about your time at Bromsgrove?

I remember the amazing facilities and opportunities that we were given, things I probably didn't fully appreciate at the time. I also remember the passionate teachers who encouraged and supported me. I was in lots of plays and musicals, to varying degrees of success! But most of all my 10 years at Bromsgrove were fairly consistent and happy times.

### And what did you do after leaving Bromsgrove?

I went to Swansea University and studied American Studies for four years, primarily because it included a full year at an American university, I chose Long Beach in Southern California, and it was outstanding.

### Tell us a bit about your career to date...

I moved to London and worked in marketing for 10 years, which I enjoyed, but never adored. I quit in 2013 to be a Personal Trainer, which I still do now, however along the way I met Dom, who invited me to be a business partner in Wireless Fitness, which I have worked on concurrently for the last three years. This led to being on the Dragon's Den TV programme and building the iTunes App.

### What advice would you give to current pupils at Bromsgrove?

If at all possible, go to university. It gives you the chance to grow up, find yourself and begin to understand your place in the world - and if you can do a course that includes a semester or better still, a year abroad, do it.

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN 2015/16.

## Roger Buswell (S/M 48-52) d. 18th May 2015

*(Editor's Note: We received the following obituary after the print deadline for the previous issue)*

Roger was a keen swimmer and sportsman. He played Rugby at School in the winning XV during the 1949 season, and also the Millington XV in 1951.

After leaving School, Roger entered the family business. He joined the Worshipful Company of Butchers and was a very active member, especially of their Golf Society.

Roger ran a successful wholesale meat company, Buswell Meats, selling on to Dalgety and then carrying on his own business in Northampton. Whilst there, he played Rugby Football for Northampton Wanderers.

Following his retirement, Roger lived with his wife Monica in Somerset and had just returned to his roots in Northampton where he sadly died.

- John Rose

## Sir Adrian Cadbury (Chairman of Governors 77-82) d. 3rd September 2015

Sir Adrian Cadbury was appointed as our Chairman of Governors in 1977. The same year, he was knighted in the Queen's Jubilee Honours List.

In 1982, then-Headmaster Revd. Nick Earle paid tribute to his contribution:

"I would like to add my own appreciation of a man who has taught me much and not least the importance of delegation and even, on occasions, of judicious neglect; but a man who nevertheless never fails to reply to a letter by return of post and often in his own hand; never fails to take in all the details of a problem at first hearing but at the same time concentrates one's mind on the essentials; and (this above all) a man who is never less than courteous in his dealings with a subordinate however short-sighted, impatient or inane."

Sir Adrian spoke at Commemoration 1982 after handing out the prizes. He told each member of the School that he had found his position on the Governing body a happy and worthwhile job. His parting words to pupils were that they were to find themselves and that a Bromsgrovian must have character.

After Bromsgrove, Sir Adrian was installed as Chancellor of Aston University in 1979, a position which he fulfilled until 2004.

Sir Adrian will be sadly missed amongst his friends and colleagues on the Governing body - past and present - and at the School.

## George Edward 'Mac' Crichton (Lu 29-35) d. 22nd September 2016

George Crichton died peacefully at home in Edinburgh on 22nd September 2016, aged 98.

George received a good Matric aged 15 but his parents couldn't afford to send him to University so he left School a year later to become a Junior Clerk with Lloyds Bank at a salary of £70 per annum. He disliked it from day one, but stuck at it for three years.

Having moved to Edinburgh in 1938 he was able to start a degree course in Forestry at Edinburgh University. A year later these studies were interrupted by war. He joined up and served in France but was invalided back to the UK with pneumonia, and then after a long convalescence was posted with the Royal Engineers Forestry Company to Sierra Leone. Their function was to set up sawmills to provide timber for a Naval jetty in Freetown; with their knowledge of tropical botany they selected suitable species in the rain forest which were then cut into massive 60 foot long piles for the construction of the Corvette jetty. The corvettes were then engaged in anti-U boat operations along the west African coast.

In 1944, George was seconded to the Colonial Service where he was sent to a remote part of NE Sierra Leone to put a boundary around the 6000ft high Tingi Mountains to protect the rain forest there from shifting cultivation. He returned to Edinburgh at the end of the war and finally graduated in 1947. He continued working for the Colonial Service in the Northern Province of Sierra Leona where he was responsible for adding about 250 square miles of rain forest by reforestation of large areas of degraded grassland with useful species, for local authorities.

The following year whilst on leave in Edinburgh, George married Kay Romanes. They set up home in Batkanu, Sierra Leone and had three children, Neil, Michael and Trina. However, in 1955 she decided Sierra Leone wasn't for her and subsequently moved back to Edinburgh where she bought a house and lived with the children. They divorced in 1957. By this time, George had transferred to Nyasaland (now known as Malawi) and became a Working Plans Officer, where he wrote a full scale working plan for Zomba Plateau.

Whilst attending a conference at the Shire Highlands Hotel that same year he met and fell in love with Joan Bridle, from Birmingham. She was working as a Receptionist at the hotel and had moved to Malawi because her sister Eleanor was there. By 1960 they were married. This was to be the best thing George had ever done, and she proved to be a loyal wife and devoted mother to two more children, Jane and Jonathan.

A few years later George was made Conservator in charge of Game with a small field staff of highly dedicated Game Wardens and fifty Game Guards. There followed a six year period of rapid development in the 2,300 square miles of Game Parks, building roads, dams, visitor camps and airstrips, and controlling poaching. The country's three major Game Reserves, were thus created. The expat community in Malawi was sizeable, and The Crichtons enjoyed the sociable expat lifestyle, making lots of friends in Malawi. These were very happy times for him.

George retired in 1970 and the family returned to live in the family home in Edinburgh. Soon after, on a caravan holiday to Portugal, he bought some land in the Algarve and over the next five years built a villa with views overlooking Luz Bay and the Monchique hills. This was to be their retirement home, but sadly in 1977 his much loved and loyal wife Joan, died.

George sold up in Portugal and remained in Edinburgh to bring up the children. Fortunately, they had bought some holiday properties in Galloway which he rented out. These helped to mitigate the soaring inflation, and when the time came for the children to settle, these were sold to provide funds for them to purchase properties in London. He spent the remainder of his life quietly in Edinburgh, mainly interested in maintaining the house and the garden and growing organic vegetables in his Polytunnel. During the last two years of his life, his daughter moved to the family home in Edinburgh to care for him, for which he was immensely grateful.

- Jane Crichton (Daughter of George)

## Robert Guthrie Gifford (Elmshurst 64-69) d. 27th July 2016

It is with great sadness that we were informed of the death of Bob Gifford on 27th July 2016. The funeral was held at St John the Baptist Church in Aldbury on 16th August.

His Honour Judge Richard Foster, a contemporary of Bob's wrote "He was a great character who achieved his ambition from an early age to be a criminal barrister. He practised for many years from the chambers of Ashe Lincoln QC in King's Bench Walk, London, but sadly had to retire early some years ago after a life-changing illness."

Our thoughts are with Bob's friends and family.

## John Spencer Kendon (39-42) d. 12th April 2016

John Spencer Kendon (known as Spencer) died peacefully after a short illness aged 91 on 12th April 2016. After leaving Bromsgrove School, Spencer joined the RAF and trained as navigation crew to fly Wellington bombers. He was discharged in July 1946 having reached the rank of Sergeant.

After training at agricultural college and having worked on a farm in Herefordshire, Spencer purchased Broomhill Farm, Bubbenhall, Warwickshire in December 1950 which he farmed until his retirement in 1989.

Spencer was a Governor of Bethany School in Kent which was founded by his Great Grandfather JJ Kendon. He was happily married to Pauline for 59 years and is survived by his son Colin (School House 1976-1981) and by his grandchildren Emily and George.

- Colin Kendon

## Andrew Startin (G 54-57) d. 13th November 2015

Andrew Howard Startin, an Old Bromsgrovian from the 1950s, died on 13th, November 2015. Brave to the end. He thought the world of his old School.

'He loved chivalrie, Trouthe and honour, freedom and curteisie. He was a verray parfit, gentil knight!' – Chaucer

- Miriam Startin (wife of Andrew)

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN 2015/16.

**Nancy Wilkes (Former Prep School Secretary)**  
d. February 2016



Parents, pupils, teaching and domestic staff who were involved with the Lower School in its first few decades in the newly built Cobham House will be sad to hear of the death of Nancy Wilkes. Nancy was one of eight children brought up on a farm in Woodcote where money was very tight and life was hard - no mains water or electricity - but after schooling in Bromsgrove she obtained a job with a local accountant and joined Bromsgrove as John Webber's (Headmaster of the Junior School) secretary in 1966.

Headmaster's Secretary soon turned into School Secretary and it was in this capacity that for twenty-three years her strengths as a diplomat, organiser and friend made her the true heart of the School.

In retirement, helping others continued to be of the greatest importance to her but she has also left a lasting and valuable legacy in the fascinating book she wrote *Woodcote Green and the Chronicles of the Turbutt Family* - available from the Library. There was standing room only at Redditch Crematorium where her large family and many friends gathered to celebrate her life. A tree will be planted in her memory in the Prep School grounds.

- Jim Page (Former Headmaster of the Preparatory School)

**Roger Bryan Savage Wood (G 52-57)**  
d. 24th March 2016

Roger sadly passed away with heart failure on 24th March 2016. His funeral service was attended by more than 300 people at The Church of St. George, Edgbaston and later at Edgbaston Golf Club. Roger leaves behind his wife of forty-six years, Dinah and son Alistair, daughter Philippa and three granddaughters.

Roger had many varied interests and led a very active life – with the emphasis very much on 'active'. After leaving Bromsgrove and dabbling in a water ski school on the Costas in Spain, he was articled to the accountants, Harris West Ledsam. His organisation skills were soon recognised and he became Secretary of the Accountants' Student Society.

Roger spent three years with Birmingham Investment Trust, then Neville Industrial Securities, during which time he met and married Dinah.

Looking for another challenge, he qualified as a Stockbroker and joined Smith Keen Cutler, and following various takeovers, he ended his career with Brewin Dolphin.

His leisure time was taken up with sport, motor cars and country pursuits. He played hockey for Harborne and was picked for Staffordshire in 1966, was a member of Edgbaston Golf Club, Midland Counties Hockey Golf Society, and also played regularly for the Old Bromsgrovian Golf Society.

Roger's organisational skills and his accountancy background enabled him to sit on various committees, including Secretary of the Buckland Dining Club, Treasurer of Evesham Society of NAD-FAS, Treasurer of his local village Hall, a member of Pershore Duplicate Bridge Club and Secretary for many years of The Hood Down Motoring Club, where he participated with his MG cars - which unfortunately did most of their mileage on the back of a low loader.

His country pursuits led him to become Chairman of the Warwickshire Beagles, a post he held until his death. His other interest was Aberdovey in mid Wales, where he regularly holidayed in his hilltop Norwegian Chalet, water skiing with his speed boat, playing a round of golf at Aberdovey Golf Club, then sailing in his dinghy or on his windsurf board, often all in the same day!

My own association with Roger started during our school days at Bromsgrove, where he was my study head, as well as on the hockey field and on the golf course. I, along with his many friends, miss him greatly.

- Philip Eve (Gordon 1953-1958)

## OBs who also died in 2015/16:

Christopher Edwards (Lupton 55-60)  
d. 12th March 2016

P. M. Farmer (Elmshurst)  
d. 2015

Sir Iain Glidewell (Gordon 37-42)  
d. 8th May 2016

William John Griffiths (School 52-55)  
d. 5th May 2016

John Anthony Haggett (Wendron 50-55)  
d. 18th June 2015

Lucy Hayward (Hazeldene 94-04)  
d. 15th November 2015

Philip Hoyle (School 62-67)  
d. 21st July 2016

Charles Jay (School 37-41)  
d. April 2015

Lindsay MacDonald (née Macmaster, Hazeldene 85-90)  
d. 26th September 2015

Frederick Arthur Murray (Elmshurst 48-53)  
d. 20th December 2015

Nicola Lean (Oakley 87-92)  
d. 19th November 2014

James (Angwin) Marples (Lupton 46-51)  
d. 25th January 2016

William Murray (Wendron 58-63)  
d. January 2016

Brian Naylor (Gordon 43-47)  
d. 19th February 2016

Diana Haley (wife of Former Governor)  
d. 23rd March 2016

Lance Pickering (Gordon 76-81)  
d. 4th November 2016

Robert Pruden (School 55-60)  
d. 27th September 2016

Clive Hamilton Power (Gordon 51-55)  
d. 31st January 2016

John Stallard (School 40-45)  
d. 3rd August 2016

John Frank Swallow (School 47-52)  
d. 6th October 2016

Simon Vickers (Walters 70-75)  
d. 14th February 2016

Philip 'Simon' Wilkins (Lupton 65-70)  
d. 21st July 2016

Richard Wood (Elmshurst 77-82)  
d. February 2016

# Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN 2015/16.

## Major Tim Hayward (Academic Staff 75-97) d. 26th January 2016

Major Hayward made a unique contribution to Bromsgrove School from 1975 to 1997. After years of outdoor life in Zimbabwe, Tim and Gail as a couple relished the fresh challenges and opportunities of an English day and boarding school.

Tim was always a larger than life character to both School and Common Room - the life and soul of any gathering. He brought to every responsibility and task enormous energy and enthusiasm. He was big-hearted and whole-hearted in all things.

He played a crucial pastoral role in times of great change. Tim and Gail were the first House Parents of Oakley, our second girls' house and absolutely vital to the success of recently introduced co-education. Tim pioneered visits to the cinema, shopping centres, canoeing, ice rinks - and the barbecues and discos organised by the Haywards were legendary. They were much loved by the girls during their ten year tenure from 1983 to 1993.

Tim also ran Lyttelton and Walters day boys' houses. Did any other colleague in our history run three houses? Few, if any, would have done so. But no-one surely ran four?

His contribution was all-embracing. Tim was a teacher of English and President of the Common Room. He coached many sports but notably it was his years in charge of the U14 and U15 Rugby teams which saw outstanding success. He produced an endless stream of fine young players, well versed in tactics and skill, and who then shone in senior sides. He also coached 1st XI cricket.



He was well-known for his love of animals and birds. He kept a goat at School which kept escaping; his Rhodesian ridgeback dog was notorious; he kept a succession of birds of prey, including a Goshawk which led to his nickname 'Gos'.

When the post of Officer Commanding CCF became vacant in 1989, Tim briskly stepped forward to take on a role crucial to life at Bromsgrove. Major Hayward's famous distaste for paperwork led to an uncomplicated, no-nonsense practical approach which engendered the most positive responses from the cadets. The Corps attracted large numbers under his command and its hallmark under Tim was enjoyment and enthusiasm. He led adventurous training camps to many destinations and a succession of very successful Field Days and Inspections. He once took the salute on the Parade Ground on horseback - his charger grew increasingly restless as the ceremony wore on and at one point we thought horse and rider would be heading off into the sunset to Lower Charford at a gallop.

Today's Lower Fourth Camp is a huge event at Symonds Yat. It all began humbly with Tim and Gail initiating a camp on the site of the LRC, then in a field at their cottage until it was moved to Gloucestershire. From its inception, they attended all of the camps for the full week until 2014.

Tim continued to play an active role, long into his retirement, with his wife Gail with the CCF, on field days, DofE and expeditions. A visit to Norway was one of the most memorable of trips in recent years. It is true to say that many CCF trips in the holidays could not have been possible without Tim and Gail's presence.

Tim enjoyed a unique swansong when he led a fourth House. The School was full and in 2004, when a wing of the Perry Hall hotel became available for the School to use for seventeen pupils, Tim and Gail valiantly offered to step in. They managed to make Perry Hall - or rather a mere hotel wing - into a very happy home for the boys who lived there and to this day, the School still receives correspondence from Old Bromsgrovians who say that they will never forget the kindness shown to them by the Haywards. It was a trailblazer too - boarding pupils were back in the town after thirty years absence. When Perry Hall itself became available the groundwork had been done. It had been selfless work on their part - to move from their lovely cottage to a hotel corridor. Tim's noble sacrifice in retirement sums up a great servant of our School.

It was fitting that when an additional building was purchased at Perry Hall, it should be named 'Hayward House'. Opened in 2011, the inscription reads:

"This building is named in honour of Tim and Gail Hayward, the first Houseparents of Perry (later to become Housman) Hall. Over the decades, in many roles, they have enriched the lives of numerous Bromsgrovians, winning the respect, admiration and affection of all. Their achievements were immense. Their legacy will never be forgotten."

Our School offers sincere condolences to Gail, their children and grandchildren.

- Philip Bowen (Deputy Headmaster 1981-2015)

## A letter from Gail Hayward:

To all the former pupils and colleagues of Tim Hayward,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many past pupils and colleagues who sent in the most marvellous emails and cards. Your comments have lifted us as a family and reminded us of just what a special person Tim was. Your memories of him truly bring him to life - his irreverent sense of humour, the schoolboyish sense of the ridiculous and sometimes frankly childish enjoyment of the basics of life - no wonder he related so well to so many pupils.

His loyalty towards the School, and in particular the people who made up the School, was absolute. He could be grumpy - indeed his grandchildren called him "grumpy grandpa" - but as so many of you have commented, he really did go out of his way to help any person - pupil or member of staff - if he possibly could. It was so much part of him that I do not think he was even aware of it, and he expected his family to follow suit! So again thank you for sharing your wonderful memories: the kindnesses, the humorous, and even the outlandish!

When Tim said if you ever need help just contact me, he truly meant it. When we first arrived at Bromsgrove School nearly forty years ago, a pupil from the Boarding School where we had taught in Rhodesia arrived on our doorstep (how he found us I do not know). He stayed for two months with us with his girlfriend while they worked to earn their flights home.



Tim and I could not have wished for a better community than Bromsgrove School. The way in which the School supported us after Tim's sudden death was truly amazing. Our special thanks must go to Rachel Scannell, who immediately stepped in and arranged for the use of the School Chapel as well as organising the collection of the many messages of condolence. With Jenny Bossard and Megan Griffiths, she also arranged the memorial service and refreshments. And a special thanks to Stephen Agnew for leading us in our remembrance of Tim both at the Cremation Service and the Memorial Service. The book Megan made from all of your emails have given us great joy and many chuckles: over thirty years of memories and 'snapshots' of Tim from his coaching, House mastering, CCF expeditions, etc. It will be an heirloom for the family.

I, along with Kate, Tracy, Robert, and Susanna, have been quite overwhelmed by your kindness and condolences. The grief is there, but you have helped bring the past alive for us, and this has been a huge comfort.

Thank you all.

Gail

## Tribute to outgoing Chairman of Governors, Stewart Towe CBE

The Headmaster offered the following tribute to retiring Chairman of Governors, **Stewart Towe CBE**, at Commemoration Day Prizegiving on Saturday, 2nd July 2016:

“As some of you will realise, Mr Towe has just completed his final presentation of trophies in his capacity as our Chairman of Governors. He steps down from that post today, having served the School as a Governor for twelve years, the last six as Chairman. I pay tribute to his wife Ann for allowing us to command so much of his precious time and for her own ongoing support of the School.

An Old Bromsgrovian, Stewart Towe was a day pupil in Lupton House from 1965-1970. Even back then, he was no stranger to leadership, having been appointed Head of School in his final year. There are a number of other prescient echoes from his time as a pupil. The Dining Hall had just been built when he arrived in 1965. He leaves having overseen its complete refurbishment.

He was a serious academic, having been the recipient of the Wattell Prize for Biology (1969) and Master's Reading Prizes (Junior 1966 and Senior 1969). Perhaps unsurprisingly then, over the past decade, our academic reputation has flourished under his stewardship.

Similarly, as a pupil he was a member of the 1st XV, the 1st VIII Cross-Country team, the School Polo team and Vice-President of the Games Committee.

As a Chairman, he has overseen significant investment in our sporting facilities and a commensurate rise in our reputation. We are now ranked the fourth best sporting school in the nation, and not too bad at rugby. Yet perhaps the loudest echo emanates from his early passion for the performing arts. Secretary of the Music Society and the Literary and Dramatic Society, Leader of the Choir, and instrumental (if you will forgive the pun) in a great run of musical successes for Lupton.



So a boy of musical and theatrical ambition. Jump forward forty years and we have a man who leaves us having just commissioned what will soon be two world-class performing arts venues on our campus.

In the intervening years between leaving Bromsgrove as a boy and returning as its Chairman of Governors, Stewart Towe has had a stellar career as a businessman and community leader. I could read you a remarkable list of successes and contribution, but amongst his many virtues is a strong sense of humility and I can already feel his glare burning into my back.

So let me just say this. Every Headmaster prays for a Chairman who is strong enough to keep them honest, trusting enough to keep them motivated and wise enough to know when to apply each quality. Over the past two years, I have enjoyed the steadfast loyalty, quiet wisdom and reassuring authority of just such a Chairman.

On this day, forty-six years ago, Commemoration Day 1970, a young Stewart Towe was presented with the Headmaster's Prize. I would like to reprise that act now and present our outgoing Chairman of Governors and long-time servant of the School with another Headmaster's Prize in acknowledgement of the School's gratitude.”

## Donor Tree

The Donor Tree (opposite), by the stairs leading up to the Hospitality Suite is our way of formally acknowledging and expressing our appreciation for your support. Donors giving £250 and over can have a bronze, silver or gold leaf engraved in a name of their choice.

## Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society

We were delighted to welcome our Legacy Society members for their annual lunch with the Headmaster at Bromsgrove School in April 2016.

The Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society acknowledges and thanks all those who have made a gift in their wills to Bromsgrove. Members are invited to an annual lunch and a new legacy board listing those who have made bequests over the years will be erected around the School.

If anyone is interested in making a gift in their will to Bromsgrove, please contact the Foundation Office: [foundation@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:foundation@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579679.

## Donors' Lunch

Donors were invited to the School in February for a celebratory lunch to honour their kind donations to Bromsgrove School Foundation over the past year.

A special mention must go to Old Bromsgrovian Andrew Clark (School 1947-1952) who celebrated his Birthday at the event. This was Andrew's sixth Birthday celebration at Bromsgrove, the last time being when he turned 18 as a current pupil at the School.



## The Seventh Annual Foundation Lecture



*Chairman of the Foundation, Dick Noake with guest speaker, Stephen Page*



*Nikki Thorpe and Isabella Wong*



*Peter David and Tim Miles*

The School welcomed **Stephen Page** (Lupton 1978-1983) as guest speaker to the Annual Foundation Lecture on Thursday, 10th March. Stephen, who is CEO of Faber & Faber, spoke eloquently about the idea of legacy and what it means to the publishing world especially in the digital age. Mr Page's speech was highly entertaining, thought-provoking and received rapturous applause from the 130-strong audience.

The event, now in its seventh year, was held at The Lansdowne Club in Pall Mall, London and kindly hosted by Chairman of the Foundation, **Dick Noake** (Elmshurst 1959-1964).



*Jim Page with Mr and Mrs Quibell-Smith*

We are delighted to announce that the Eighth Annual Foundation Lecture will take place at The RAC Club, Pall Mall, London with guest speaker Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE (Wendron 1979-1984), Fleet Commander and Chief Naval Warfare Officer of the Royal Navy.

You can read more about Vice Admiral Key in our interview with him on page 26.



*Old Bromsgrovian Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE: The 2017 Foundation Lecture Speaker*

If you would like to attend the next Foundation Lecture on Thursday, 2nd March 2017, please contact Megan Griffiths: [mgriffiths@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:mgriffiths@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579679 ext 366. Please include your connection to the School in your response, along with the name of your partner or guest.

# Donor Roll

## THANKING OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 2015/16.

(GIFTS RECEIVED FROM SEPTEMBER 2015 - SEPTEMBER 2016)

### Cookes

Kim Daniels (Lupton and Cookes 60-65)  
Richard Kenchington (65-69)  
Donald Robbie (67-72)  
Matthew Taylor (Walters and Cookes 68-73, Foundation Trustee)

### Elmshurst

William Gardner (65-68)  
David Hallchurch (42-47)  
Richard Herbert (53-58)  
Jerome Keyte (69-73)  
James Leek (57-62)  
Ian McDonald (58-63)  
Dick Noake (59-64, Chairman of the Foundation)  
John Ruck (50-53)  
Hady Thomas (87-89)  
Topper Webb (72-73)  
Michael Woodall (69-74)

### Gordon

Richard Brook (45-50)  
Jeremy Davis (46-54)  
Barry Dumughn (50-55)  
Clive Gummow (52-57)  
Sir Robert Hastie KCVO CBE (43-51)  
Andrew Parffrey (68-73)  
Colin Pimble (69-74)  
Anthony Scott (52-57)  
Graham Sim (69-74)  
Anthony Spackman (44-49)  
John Vine (45-50)  
Emory Winship (71-72)

### Hazeldene

Alexandra Lloyd (01-06)  
Amy Mason-Towers (11-16)  
Katherine Parnell (98-03)

### Lupton

Richard Brookes (61-65, School Governor)  
Kim Daniels (Lupton and Cookes 60-65)  
Francis Dunne (60-65)  
Patrick Firminger (43-47)  
F. Rufus James-Moore (53-58)  
Kelvin Morris (76-81)  
Philip Powell (62-67)  
David Reeve (50-54)  
Gregory Smith (92-97)  
John Steveni (75-80)  
Stewart Towe CBE (65-70, Chairman of Governors 2010-2016)  
David Walters (81-86, Governor)

### Lyttelton

J Myles Griffiths (57-61)  
David Higgs (53-57)  
William Lockhart (05-16)  
Rowland Morgan (53-58)

### Mary Windsor

Victoria Underwood (82-87)

### School

Simon Bucknall (90-95)  
David Buller (48-53)  
Andrew Clark (47-52)  
John Gardner (40-44)  
Mike Hales (47-52)  
Anthony Horton (55-59)  
J Roy Hughes (45-50)  
William Jay (61-66)  
Garth Kenderdine-Davies (43-47)  
John Massey (62-67)  
Jim Page (45-49, Academic Staff 61-89)  
Edward Perkins (56-60)  
Christopher Price (39-44)  
Richard Pyatt (72-74)  
David Roberts (53-58)  
Paul Snape (58-62)  
Christopher Tan (61-66)

### Walters

Matthew Taylor (Walters and Cookes 68-73, Foundation Trustee)

### Wendron / Wendron-Gordon

Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE (79-84)  
Tim Roberts (58-63)

### Friends of the School

Bromsgrove Court Leet  
Old Bromsgrovian Lodge  
Chris Edwards  
James Sommerville  
One Anonymous Donor

### Parents

Mr and Mrs Bannister  
Mr Bewick and Miss Boulton  
Mr and Mrs Boersch  
Mr and Mrs Bolger  
Mr and Mrs Bruten  
Mr Coffee and Ms Grimmett  
Mr and Mrs Collie  
Air Cdre and Mrs Cooper  
Mr and Mrs Edgington  
Mr Fu and Mrs Or  
Mr Georgievskii and Mrs Singalevieh  
Mr Ho and Ms Shing  
Dr B King  
Dr and Mrs Koenig  
Mr and Mrs Lam  
Mr Lau and Mrs Ho  
Mr Lau and Mrs Yau  
Mr and Mrs Limbu  
Mr and Mrs Lord  
Mr and Mrs Macadrai  
Mr and Mrs Mason-Towers  
Mr and Mrs Meredith  
Mr Palmer and Mrs Hanschell  
Mr Tang and Mrs Fong  
Mr and Mrs Vaughan  
Mr and Mrs Walsh  
Mr and Mrs Westley  
Mr Wong and Mrs Tong  
Dr Zhang and Ms Bian

## Farewell to Chairman of the Foundation, Dick Noake

We pay tribute to our Chairman of the Bromsgrove School Foundation, **Dick Noake** (Elmshurst 1959-1964), who retires from his position in December 2016 after seven years at the helm.

An Old Bromsgrovian, Dick was at Bromsgrove between 1959 and 1964 in Elmshurst House. His children, James and Rebecca also attended the School.

In 1994, Dick joined the board of Governors, and in 2006, when the idea to create a Foundation providing life-changing bursaries to pupils who ordinarily could not afford to come to the School was first discussed, Dick was one of the first to offer his help and assistance. The Foundation Board held their first meeting in September 2007 and then in 2009, Dick became Chairman of the School's Foundation following John Wheatley's retirement.

Dick has been instrumental in leading the Foundation, bringing his expert knowledge of accounting and financial practices and driving forward the Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society and the Foundation's life-changing Bursary Fund.

Dick will remain a Trustee of the Foundation and we thank him for his loyal and dedicated service to Bromsgrove School.

Headmaster, Peter Clague said "Pupil, parent, Governor and Foundation Chair; Dick Noake is the consummate Bromsgrovian. A man of endearing humility, in each role he has shown selfless loyalty and an unflinching desire to see the School thrive. It has been my great good fortune to work with him as the Foundation has restructured itself and the sharper focus which has resulted is a testimony to his vision."



*Dick Noake (centre) with his children (also OBs) James and Rebecca*

We are delighted to announce that Dick's successor will be **Matthew Horton**, Old Bromsgrovian (Cokes 1962-1967), former Chairman of Governors (2002-2010) and a Vice President of the School.

Of his appointment, Matthew says, "I am delighted to have been asked to return to the Bromsgrove Foundation Board after a six-year absence. I share the "pride and joy" expressed by the retiring chairman, Dick Noake that the Foundation can now claim to have come of age since the date it was formed in 2007.



What enthuses me most about the initiative is that it is serving the aims of our founder, Sir Thomas Cookes: it exists solely to support the financial needs of future pupils so that regardless of background, any child of potential and ability can aspire to benefit from the "Bromsgrove experience".

I would also like to pay tribute to the School, who, through its Foundation Office, encourages and helps Old Bromsgrovians to share their experiences and achievements with their Alma mater, and welcomes us back, by way of organised events (as I did recently with the 1960 decade of leavers) or on individual tours.

With Megan Griffiths at its helm, the Foundation Office is certainly upholding its purpose – which, I believe is reiterated by the following misquote (forgive me!) of the strapline of one well-known national charity: "Bromsgrove School is not just for school days, it's for life"!

I greatly look forward to participating in the Foundation and playing my part in its continued success."

# Events

WHAT'S ON AT BROMSGROVE DURING 2016/17 AND BEYOND.

## January 2017

### Senior Production of *Hairspray!*

Tuesday, 24th - Thursday, 26th January  
Venue: Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove  
Time: 7.00pm  
The smash Broadway musical is coming to Bromsgrove in January 2017. Tickets can be booked online at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk) or via the box office on 01527 577330.

## March 2017

### The Eighth Annual Foundation Lecture

Thursday, 2nd March  
Venue: The RAC Club, Pall Mall  
Guest Speaker: Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE (Fleet Commander of the Royal Navy)  
Time: 7.00pm-9.30pm  
The Foundation Lecture is open to anyone with a connection to Bromsgrove School. Numbers are strictly limited; please contact us to reserve your place.

### Mothering Sunday Service

Sunday, 26th March  
Led by Reverend Paul Hedworth, School Chaplain  
Venue: Memorial Chapel  
Time: 10.30am  
All welcome

### Pop & Jazz

Date TBC  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Time: 7.30pm  
For bookings, please contact [music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579679 ext 235

## April 2017

### Appreciation Lunch for Donors and Legacy Society Members

Thursday, 27th April  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Time: 12.00 noon – 2.30pm  
Donors from the last academic year and members of the Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society are invited to a special lunch with the Headmaster. All eligible Old Bromsgrovians, Parents and Friends of the School will be sent invitations in the Lent Term.

## June 2017

### Commemoration Concert

Date TBC  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Time: 7.00pm  
For bookings, please contact [music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:music@bromsgrove-school.co.uk) or telephone 01527 579679 ext 235

### Commemoration Day

Saturday, 1st July  
Old Bromsgrovians, families and their guests are warmly invited to the OB Marquee on Lower Charford between 1pm and 5pm. Invitations will be sent out in the Summer Term and OBs are encouraged to sign up to register their attendance.

## September 2017

### 1970-1979 Leavers' Reunion

Saturday, 9th September  
Venue: Bromsgrove School  
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm  
Invitations for eligible OBs will be sent out in early Summer Term.

## On-going

### Bromsgrove Futures & OB Networking

In conjunction with the careers department, we are inviting OB volunteers to 'speed network' with current students about their profession. The evenings start at 6.30pm with refreshments and the opportunity for OBs to network. Students will arrive at 7.00pm, and there will be timed slots for students to circulate around the rooms. It maybe that an OB links up with others in that profession, or you may be happy to chat with a group as an individual.

In addition, the Bromsgrove Futures department are always looking for guest speakers to give a presentation or advice to small groups of current pupils on particular career paths and university applications. If you're able to help, please contact us.

**To find out more about any of these events, or if you have suggestions of your own, please email us at:**

[Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)

Telephone Jenny and Megan on 01527 579679 ext 357/366

Or contact us the good old-fashioned way:  
Bromsgrove School  
Worcester Road  
Bromsgrove  
Worcestershire  
B61 7DU

# Update Form

NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR DETAILS BY COMPLETING THIS FORM.

Please detach and complete this form in CAPITALS. Further details of how to return the form can be found overleaf.

## Personal Details

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Honours (e.g. CBE, FRS): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname on Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## School Details

Senior School House: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparatory School House: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional House? \_\_\_\_\_

Start Year (YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ End Year (YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ (If you started in the Prep School, you can begin with this date)

## Contact Details

Home or Correspondence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

County/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode/Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have your own website, please specify it here: [www.\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_.](http://www._____.)

Twitter Username: @\_\_\_\_\_ Facebook Profile: \_\_\_\_\_

LinkedIn: \_\_\_\_\_ Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_

## Professional Membership

I am a Non-executive Board Member: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of a livery company: \_\_\_\_\_

Other details you wish to share: \_\_\_\_\_



# Higher Education

1. Degree Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Type (BA, BSc etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

College (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle: Undergraduate / Postgraduate / Further

2. Degree Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Type (BA, BSc etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

College (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle: Undergraduate / Postgraduate / Further

# Occupation Details

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Industry: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

# Events and Communications

We will use the email address provided to send news, invitations and information we believe to be of relevance to our Alumni. To opt-out, please tick the box.  (You can also opt-out of communications yourself by logging on to [www.bromsgrovians.com](http://www.bromsgrovians.com))

# How you can help

There are many ways in which you can help the Alumni Office and School. Please tick the box where relevant.

- I can offer careers advice or insight into university courses
- I am happy to offer my services as a speaker on my chosen career/university subject
- I can suggest work placement or recruitment opportunities
- I'd like information about leaving a legacy
- I have pledged a legacy to the School
- You can pass my email details to the School Careers Department
- You can pass my email details to other Old Bromsgrovians who would like to get in contact generally\* and / or for careers advice\* (\*delete as appropriate)

Data Protection Statement: All data is held securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your details will not be passed to external organisations or used for any purpose other than promoting the welfare of The School. Please note that core data (which is in the public domain and consists of your name, date of birth (where we have this), your year of admission, your House and your year of leaving) is automatically made available to other alumni on the OB database. You can change any of these settings to make your data visible or not visible to other alumni at any time.

**Please detach and complete this form in CAPITALS, and then post it to:**

Alumni Office, Bromsgrove School, Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B61 7DU. Or email: [Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk](mailto:Oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk)  
If you require more than one form, you can download additional copies from [www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/ob-documents.aspx](http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/ob-documents.aspx)  
You can also update your own details instantly by logging on to [www.bromsgrovians.com](http://www.bromsgrovians.com)