



Archive photographs from around the School, captured just before the Influenza Pandemic of 1918.

The first word...

A Matter of Perspective

As the School has wrestled with the tumult of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 18 months, it has been instructive to dip into the history books for a little guidance and occasional solace. Although calamitous, our recent challenges have not been entirely without precedent. Most notably, I took heart in reading of experiences during the 1918 Influenza epidemic. The Editorial from the 'Bromsgrovian' of the time begins:

"Influenza, Spanish Influenza, Malarial Fever, Trench Fever, Septic Pneumonia, call it what you will, we have had it: practically everyone has had it. At our lowest ebb there were but forty survivors, while six of the staff, five nurses, and the School doctor simultaneously succumbed.... The one remaining monitor had to read the lesson in Chapel every morning and is now suffering from a sore throat. The Upper School and Remove acted as one form and one day the first and second Mathematical sets of the Upper School and the Army Class were represented by four persons. In School House, seventy were down, and the Headmaster, and Mr Smith discovered a long-dormant talent for bed making."

Set against the frustrations of our modern day lockdowns, year-group segregations, mask-wearing, and mass-testing, the thought of the redoubtable Mr Routh doing the rounds, personally making the beds in dormitories that had been requisitioned as wards, was strangely comforting.

After all, this was the same man who had just endured four gruelling years leading the School through the dark days of the First War. Rising despondently to his feet every week at assembly for the sombre task of reading the names of the Fallen. Boys who, just months before, had sat before him in that very hall. The illness that swept the land that following year must have seemed a lesser challenge, if for no other reason than the fact that at least all his beloved pupils recovered.

That sense of perspective assumed even greater significance for me as we commemorated Remembrance Day together as a School once again this year. The stresses of navigating the pandemic were certainly taxing, but as we stood in silence under the flagpole and contemplated the 197 poppies laid out in front of us, each representing an

Old Bromsgrovian who gave their life in service of the country, it was hard to feel too sorry for ourselves. Instead, as we wend our way back to normality, I find myself profoundly grateful for the strength of the School's traditions, which have kept us united in the face of adversity, and for the lessons of resilience that still echo from our past.

PETER CLAGUE
HEADMASTER

Welcome from the Editor

Picture This...

What will people think of when they look back on the year that was 2020/21? The pandemic? climate protests? mass vaccinations? the fuel and energy crisis? As you look through the pages of this magazine, you will find stories of adversity and triumph, resilience and new adventures. Take for instance Tom Trow's new sustainable start up, a topic that has been covered this year by our own pupil-led eco committee, Admiral Key's promotion as First Sea Lord, or Dr Dempsey's MBE awarded in the New Year's Honours list for services to the COVID-19 pandemic. And you should not skip Dr Oluwole's striking article for Black History Month.

From their trailblazing school days to the selfless efforts in helping to make the world a better place, we salute you.

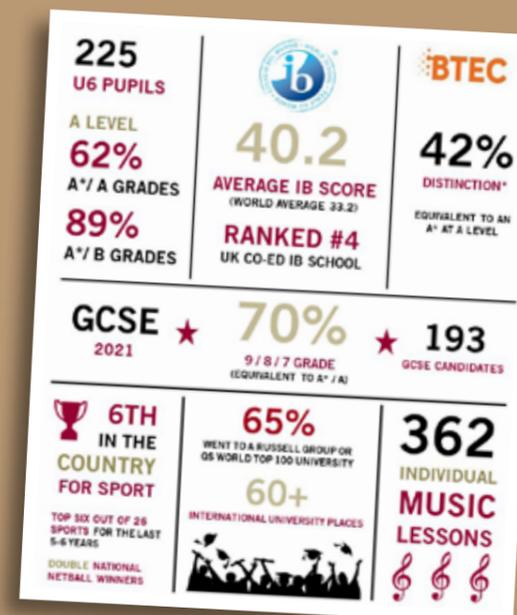
Enjoy reading your alumni magazine.

Megan Griffiths
Editor

A LOOK BACK AT THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/21.



The historic Staff Reading Prize had to be held via Zoom for the first time in the School's history due to the COVID-19 restrictions.



At GCSE, half of all grades were an 8 or above and seventy percent of all entries were awarded at least a 7.

At A level, 89% of all entries were graded A* to B, with 62% at A*/A and 26% of all entries at A*.

In BTEC, 42% of all entries were awarded a Distinction star (equivalent to an A* at A level).

In the IB Diploma, 69 students secured an average of 40.2. 43 students, just under two-thirds of the total cohort scored 40 or more points. Four students achieved the coveted 45 point maximum.



At the end of the Summer Term we were able to hold prizegivings for our Year 2 and Year 8 leavers, albeit without parents present, but sadly, Commemoration Day was once more cancelled to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were, however, able to hold a ceremony at the end of May for our Upper Sixth where we were able to present the majority of the prizes.



Some of our boarders, who could not get home because of the COVID-19 pandemic, stayed with us over the festive period, and enjoyed a special lunch with the Headmaster on Christmas Day. We have also had a number of boarders stay with us at the February, Easter and May half-terms.

Picture This...

EXTRA-CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020/21.



The Bromsgrove School Cardio Challenge, which commenced at the start of 2021, is now complete. Lieutenant Colonel Ballard, one of our Governors, brought us back through the gates of Bromsgrove School.

Thirty-five home nations of our pupils were visited virtually, and 47,619.9 miles completed.

“Even though we were restricted to organising everything in year group bubbles, we looked at creative ways to organise the variety of activities within our extensive facilities.”

The School managed to play in some national competitions, including the Sisters n Sport National Final, which we won for the second year running. The team included three OBs, who were allowed to return to play as they had missed their match in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The boys' and girls' tennis teams also made it through to the National Tennis Final for the first time in the School's history.



The School's Greenpower Kit Car team came first in the F24 event at the Croft Circuit.

Our Young Enterprise Team won the Creativity in Business and Overall Winner prizes at the Worcestershire Company of the Year Competition.



We were able to host some House Drama Competitions in person and a virtual House Music competition took place in December 2020.



Upper Sixth students inspired the next generation of sportsmen and women during a PE lesson for Years 1 and 2.



Over fifty IB2 students returned during the Summer Term to take part in the new Academic Masters' Programme. The course was in place of the exam period, cancelled due to the pandemic.

Students took courses across the range of subjects in the diploma including politics, science and history, as well as a psychology lecture delivered weekly by the Headmaster. The programme also incorporates the service, creativity and cultural elements of the IBDP; students have undertaken a restoration project at Hartlebury Castle with Mrs Holden, Dr Thompson and Chairman of Governors, Paul West QPM. They also visited local historic places of interest with Dr Rimmer and took drumming lessons with Mr McKelvey.

A Level students were also involved in an Academic Extension Programme, with opportunities for them to explore their areas of future interest beyond the A Level and BTEC courses.



The Preparatory School participated in 'Switch Off Fortnight'. Led by the Year 5 Eco Committee, pupils delivered a presentation to explain what Switch Off Fortnight was all about. Everyone was encouraged to switch off lights and whiteboards around the School in an effort to reduce the amount of electricity we use. Energy Monitors went into classrooms at break times to carry out spot checks.

Pupils were encouraged to remember to switch it off at home as well as School. Did you know that approx 12% of the average family's electricity bill is spent on powering appliances on standby?



About You

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

Elmshurst

An update on an OB in Thailand. Earlier in the year, **Dilokpon 'Tik' Sundaravej** (1974-1979) opened his restaurant, Maroochi Mountain Club, in the hills near Thailand's northern city, Chiangmai. We wish Tik the very best of luck with his new venture.



We've recently heard about **Tom Trow's** successful start up. Since leaving Exeter University, Tom (2009-2016) and his co-founder have created a sustainable company ('Bazoo') which offers tree-free and carbon-negative toilet rolls made from 100 per cent FSC certified sustainable bamboo. They have both worked tirelessly since they hatched the idea last summer and we wish them every success for the future.



Congratulations to former Head Boy, **Sebastien Atkinson** (2015-2020) on his selection in the England U20 EPS Squad.



Credit: Worcester Warriors

Gordon

It was lovely to welcome back **Nevil Malin** (1949-1953) who recorded memories of his school days with our Archivist, Nikki Thorpe. He enjoyed his visit to the new Heritage Centre and even spotted himself in the 1952 Whole School photograph.



Michael Parker (1961-1966) says that he read the interesting article written by Jon Badger in Issue 7 of 'Connected', which described the more recent activities of OBEC. He is pleased to see that the spirit of the E Club (as it was known) continues to pervade through Old Bromsgrovians today.

He would like to point out to OBEC members and others who may be familiar with the so called "Bothy Culture", centred around open shelters situated in the more remote and often quite inaccessible places to be found in these islands, and which includes over 100 bothies that are maintained by the Mountain Bothies Association (MBA), a Scottish registered charity.

Founded in 1965, the MBA exists to maintain remote buildings for which the owner has little or not use, yet remain important to walkers and others who make use of the shelter they provide; in more remote areas, emergency shelter for those caught out by extreme conditions.

The work of maintaining the bothies along with the bulk of administration is carried out by volunteers. Each bothy in the care of the Association has one or more Area and Maintenance Organisers who are responsible for arranging routine maintenance, effected through work parties, again of volunteers.

All MBA managed bothies are open buildings and can be used free of any charge subject to certain rules set down in the website. There is no booking system and you just turn up with your sleeping bag and sleeping mat, your stove and food. Most bothies will have a fireplace, and they are a great opportunity to meet new people and make great friends.

For anyone who would like to join, take a virtual trip and have a look on the website; membership costs £25 a year, although there are reduced fees for under 16s, the unemployed and over 65s. Michael says that he joined in the late 1990s and he is now the Area Organiser for the 11 bothies spread across the Scottish Borders Region.

Further information can be found at <https://www.mountainbothies.org.uk>

For those who enjoy the beauty of the Welsh Mountains there are now nine bothies in Wales: <https://www.mountainbothies.org.uk/bothies/wales/>

Gordon

Canon Bob Baker (1963-1968) has sent in a number of photographs from his School days, which he sorted through during lockdown.

One set of photographs shows a group of musicians having a jammimg session. Included in the group is John Illsley from the Dire Straits.



We wonder how many people remember the outdoor swimming pool at the Prep School?



Congratulations to **Mike Jordan** (1971-1976) who won The Horners Award in November 2020 for 'Outstanding Innovation and Design'. Mike and his team at Summit Defence designed flexible, lightweight recyclable shields that can be suited to any workspace using the unique magnetic click system, helping businesses to work COVID secure.



Hazeldene

Candy Lockett (2012-2017) has been unveiled as one of the finalists for the 2020-21 Murphy Osborne Award as part of the Conference Carolinas.

Each college university has one candidate. They then choose one woman from Conference Carolinas to exemplify the best in character, athletics and scholarship. It is the highest honour for a woman athlete to be nominated as the only one from UMO.



Housman Hall

It was lovely to hear from **Chelsey Small** (2015-2017) over the summer holidays.

After Bromsgrove, Chelsey took up a full time role at Grant Thornton UK LLP in the Corporate Tax team based in Birmingham. Last month, she received her final exam results, and after almost four years of studying and hard work, she is now a Chartered Tax Adviser.

Chelsey would like to express her gratitude to the teachers at Bromsgrove, in particular her form tutor, Mrs Bateman as well as Miss Leech and Mrs Ashcroft in the careers department for their continued support during the application process.



Lupton

Harry Heath (1996-2012) appeared in the final of Mastermind in April 2021 with his specialist subject, Jimmy Carter. He came fourth out of six finalists.



Lupton

Congratulations to **Sarah Hamilton-Gill** (Lupton/Mary Windsor 1980-1982) who was a finalist in the "Most Inspirational HR Business Books of 2021".



Little did Sarah know when she starting writing her book, *Leap into HR Consulting*, just how well received it would be. She knew there was a gap in the market for it, and it was something that she had wanted to do for a long time.

Just six months after publishing the book independently, it achieved the Number One spot in the Amazon business consulting books section.

The Business Book Awards are now in their fourth year and were set up to celebrate the top business books over the last twelve months. With twelve different categories, varying from Personal Wellbeing to 'Business Self Development', Sarah's book is up against just six others in the HR Business Books category; a huge achievement to have been announced as a finalist.



Aled Luckman (2001-2008) was elected back in May as a Worcestershire County Councillor. This makes him the youngest Worcestershire County Councillor ever and indeed one of the youngest nationally.

Secondly, and on the back of that appointment, Aled has been selected as the Chairman of the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel.

Lupton

Jamie Cox (2009-2020) returned to School to visit his former Houseparent, Gwyn Evans and Housemother, Angela Cotterill. He is now in his second year at the University of Birmingham.



Lyttelton

Congratulations to **Stephen Page** (1978-1983) who has been awarded an OBE for services to publishing in The Queen's Birthday Honours.

Stephen began his career in bookselling before moving into publishing to work in marketing in sales, joining Fourth Estate in 1994 before becoming Managing Director in 2000. In 2001 he moved to Faber as Chief Executive and recently became Executive Chair at the publisher.



We were very proud to learn of **Ollie Lawrence's** (2016-2018) England debut against Italy from the bench in the final round of the re-arranged Six Nations last October. He was also in action vs Scotland in February 2021. At School, Ollie was our 1st XV captain and he was called up to the England senior squad in the summer of 2018, ahead of their summer tour to South Africa.



Credit: England Rugby

Mary Windsor

Congratulations to two former Mary Windsor pupils who have been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. **Dr Fiona Dempsey** (née Gibson, 1996-1998) for her services to the NHS during the COVID-19 pandemic and **Sarah Cowley** (1989-1998), Vice Consul, British Embassy Montevideo, for services to British Nationals Overseas.



Oakley

Many congratulations to **Anna Rogers** (2011-2016) who has been awarded a first class honours degree at the Royal College of Music. She also received her Diploma from the Royal Academy of Music and now has a place on the Master of Performance course at the Royal College of Music.



Pippa Nisbet (2009-2020) certainly chose the sunniest day for her return visit to the School! It was lovely to welcome her back to Bromsgrove, having been part of the Class of 2020 whose final year was disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is currently at Loughborough studying Politics.



School

Thank you to **Michael Taylor** (1943-1947, also Millington) who has kindly donated memorabilia from his school days, including a Bromsgrove tie and scarf, and a collection of brochures.



Chris Griffiths (2004-2009) was part of the Team GB mens' hockey squad at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The team reached the quarter final against India but went down 1-3. Nevertheless, we are very proud of Chris for representing his country.



It was lovely to catch up with **Zach Jeacock** (2017) and hear how he is progressing at Birmingham City FC, where he is a goalkeeper. Initially taking a two-year scholarship with Birmingham City's Academy in 2017, he went on to make ten appearances for Birmingham's development squad team in the 2018-19 season. In August 2019, Zach joined National League North club Gloucester City on loan for the season. His first inclusion in an England squad came at U19 level for friendly matches in September 2019 in preparation for the Euro qualifiers later that year.



School

Josh Tidmarsh (2018-2019) returned to Bromsgrove where he met up with his former coach, Mr Matthews. During his time at School, he was part of the 1st XI Football team and won player of the year.



Thomas Cookes

Thank you to **Fred Robbins** (2008-2015) who joined the Futures department to share her thoughts on how to make the most of a LinkedIn account for networking.



Two of our 2021 leavers visited us before heading off to university. **Liz Aston** (2012-2021) will read Medicine and **Andy Chia** (Wendron-Gordon 2016-2021) will be studying Physiotherapy.



Wendron-Gordon

Andrew Cowley (1989-1995) visited the UK from Seattle, USA where he now lives. He wanted to show his girlfriend where he spent his youth, and enjoyed reminiscing in his old Boarding House.



Alex Rajkowski (1993-1998) has created a lockdown album, and all of the songs were recorded in his studio in Morzine. You can take a listen at <https://74band.bandcamp.com/album/rock-candy>

Congratulations to **Sam Ison** (2013-2018) who has qualified as a commercial pilot.

Sam says that during his time at Bromsgrove, he was always interested in planes, but it was the CCF that really gave him the chance to experience flying first hand.



Shams Ali Baig (2011-2020) has been working as a COVID-19 vaccinator in Bromsgrove. He is studying medicine and it is good to hear that he is already putting his skills to great use.



Class of 2020 leavers, **James Bradley** (2013-2020) and **Alex Hinkley** (2015-2020) visited the School at the start of the Michaelmas Term to catch up with their former Houseparent, Mr Wilkins and Senior Master, Mr Matthews.



Wendron

Admiral Sir Ben Key (1979-1984) received a KCB in the New Year Honours List. One of the Navy's longest serving and most senior officers is knighted for his "outstanding contribution representing the Royal Navy and the UK's defence". Now Commander of Joint Operations at Northwood, Vice Admiral Ben Key commanded frigates HMS Iron Duke and Lancaster, carrier HMS Illustrious and served as Fleet Commander between 2016 and 2019. More recently, he has been in charge of the evacuation effort in Afghanistan as chief of joint operations. In October 2021, he was appointed First Sea Lord.



Staff News

After giving 19 years of service to Bromsgrove School, we bade a fond farewell to **Jacqui Deval-Reed**, Headmistress of Prep and Pre-Prep.

It was not quite the end of the Summer Term that any one had hoped for but Jacqui was able to say goodbye to her Year 2 and Year 8 leavers at prizegiving and ended the final day of School with a flag lowering ceremony on the Preparatory School site.



Thank you to all the Old Bromsgrovians who contributed to Mrs Deval-Reed's memory book. She was thrilled and said it brought back so many happy memories of all the pupils she has taught through the years.



Those of you who went through the Pre-Prep and Nursery might also remember **Liz Finlay**, who retired at the end of the Summer Term after 18 years of service to the School. Liz began her Bromsgrove journey as a parent and active member of the PA – she was instrumental in enhancing the School grounds for the benefit of the children's education. She later joined the Nursery staff in 2003 where she worked with the youngest Bromsgrovians for three years and then as a Year 2 teacher, continuing in this role for fifteen years.



Chris Dowling spent most of his teaching career at Bromsgrove, giving 31 years of service to the School. Former pupils will certainly remember his legendary Chemistry experiments on Commemoration Day. As well as his role as HoD Chemistry, Assistant Exams Manager and Academic Database Coordinator, he has also contributed significantly to the many adventurous training camps with the CCF, as well as being a stalwart of Bromsgrove Badge and cross-country.



Other members of the Common Room who departed the School at the end of the Summer Term include Sarah McWilliams, Sarah Morgans, Emma Johnston, Alison Buckley, Frauke Jung, Kevin Perry-Eans, Helen Popescu, Sarah Burt, Amine Chambazi, Aline Gay, Alexander McDonald and Raul Sanchez-Saura. At the Prep School, we said goodbye to Richard Widdop, Sian Cadwallader, Alex Lane and Ruth Al-Nakeeb.

Dr Margaret Werrett was an international starter for the 2020 Paralympic Games, which took place earlier this summer in Tokyo. She has started two Paralympic finals in her career to date - London 2021 and now Tokyo 2020. She also managed to see Sophie Hann smash her record for Team GB and also started the race which included Johnny Peacock.



Llanwrtyd Wells

On Sunday, 14th November, **Megan Griffiths** and **Nikki Thorpe** from the Bromsgrovian Office represented the School at Llanwrtyd Wells for Remembrance Sunday. A wreath was laid in honour of the Old Bromsgrovians lost in the war and the names of the fallen were read out during a service at St James' Church. It was very special to be back in the Welsh town after a year away to pay tribute to the welcome we received during our WWII evacuation.



Sports News

OBEC

Despite the very best attempts of the pandemic, OBEC remains strong and continues to flourish. Whilst our September 2020 AGM weekend at the Tyn Y Coed Hotel in Capel Curig, North Wales was cancelled, an intrepid few still travelled up for a glorious few days of stunning weather. Staying in the hotel (and in the car park in vans), we enjoyed several excellent walks and cycle rides across Snowdonia.

The Spring meet in a hut in the Llanberis Pass was delayed until July. Due to Welsh Government rules, we were forced to camp in Capel Curig in perhaps the most basic and cheapest camp site many of us have seen for years, breakfast in the café down the road cost more than a pitch for a tent. There were eight of us in total including two new members - OB Phillip Dawson, and Chris Dowling who retired in Summer 2021 from the School after 30 years on the staff roll.

As the COVID-19 rules relaxed, we were allowed to properly return to the Tyn Y Coed Hotel in Capel Curing by September 2021. Our excitement to return and socialise was somewhat tempered by the sad requirement to say farewell to our Life President, John Gunton aka 'G'. We had four fantastic speeches themed around the mountains, the conclusion of which was from Terry Reis (aka 'Rat') whose eulogy to G was both hilarious and utterly moving. For this weekend there was thirty of us. The weather was quite kind and we managed to conduct some superb hill walking from straight out of the hotel front door. After six years of service, Jon Badger stepped down as Honorary Secretary and handed over to Helen Rowberry (who is expected to do a much better job of it!)



OBEC is always looking for Old Bromsgrovians (former pupils, current and former staff) to join the club. All you need is a sense of humour and some sensible kit to go for some easy hill walking (but we can make it harder if you want it to be challenging).

If you want to join, please look us up on Facebook (search for OBEC) or contact the Bromsgrovian Office who will pass on your details to the new Hon. Secretary, Helen Rowberry.

Jon Badger (Walters 1985-1990)
Hon. Secretary of OBEC



The Old Bromsgrovians Netball Club are delighted to report that we have returned to regular training sessions and competitive match play after all netball activity was cancelled back in March 2020. We are so pleased to be finally reunited on the court with our netball family and back to playing the sport we love!

The club currently holds bi-weekly training sessions at Bromsgrove School on a Thursday evening, giving players the opportunity to hone their netball skills and improve on fitness, as well as finally being able to put our new training kit to good use. The team also participates in the local Redditch league, with regular matches taking place on Sunday mornings throughout the Winter months. We are usually regular competitors in the Worcester City Netball League and will be looking to re-join this league later in the year.

The social side of the club is an important part to us all. Whilst over the last twelve months this has been limited to Zoom quiz nights and remote PT sessions, we are now looking ahead to arranging our Christmas party, which is always a much anticipated event in our club calendar. In the past, we have celebrated in style with events such as gin tasting, crazy golf and a comedy night.

The club is always looking for new players of all abilities. We are a friendly and welcoming team and invite anyone who wants to find out more, or who is interested in joining the OB netball team, to please get in contact with us via Facebook - search for OB Netball (Bromsgrove).

Rebecca Alton

OB Golf

Our fixture list is now almost back to normal, and we are looking forward to 2022.

As far as 2021 is concerned, the match v School couldn't be played in March, and our usual OB meeting at Edgbaston in May also had to be put off.

The qualifier for the Public Schools' Grafton Morrish Competition was also abandoned, but this time due to bad weather. We had a team organised but we could not make the postponed arrangements. However, all was well with the Midland Public Schools' Old Boys Competition in June. We had a good team and came a creditable 5th from twelve entrants, with ninety-six players in total. The main schools' trophy was won by Repton this year, but Mike Taylor and Peter Bingham came second in the Repton-Uppingham Salvagers during the afternoon round. We always seem to do well after a good lunch!

At the beginning of October, Ian Powell captained and organised a select team of eight - David Greenhouse, Andrew Parffrey, Guy Mucklow, Mark Merton-Jones, John Dillon, Ian Mellor, David Carter and Ian himself - for the Welsh Public Schools' Edward Harris Cup, held once again at the magnificent Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. We came in a gallant 5th place.

In August, we held our OB invitational event at Ombersley Golf Club. It was played on a lovely day and was, as usual, well attended. David Hawkins, an OB and longstanding member of Ombersley, generously presented a prestigious Shield as the main prize, which was won for the first time by a team consisting of Adrian Powell, Adrian's guest, Hugh Furber and Felicity Furber (guest and wife of Hugh).

Our final Old Bromsgrovians' fixture of the year took place at Blackwell, which is also combined with the AGM.

If anyone would like to join the Old Bromsgrovians Golf Society, please contact us through the Bromsgrovian Office in the first instance. You don't have to be a superstar golfer but on the other hand, young, enthusiastic and low handicap golfers are very welcome. We have had a number of new members putting their name down to join and we hope to see them at our matches next year.

Anthony Webb (Lyttelton 1955-1959)
Hon. Secretary for the
Old Bromsgrovians Golf Society

Reciprocal Benefits

We have recently been approached by the Old Edwardian Club, who wanted to let Old Bromsgrovians know about the benefits of joining their Clubhouse in Stourbridge, West Midlands.

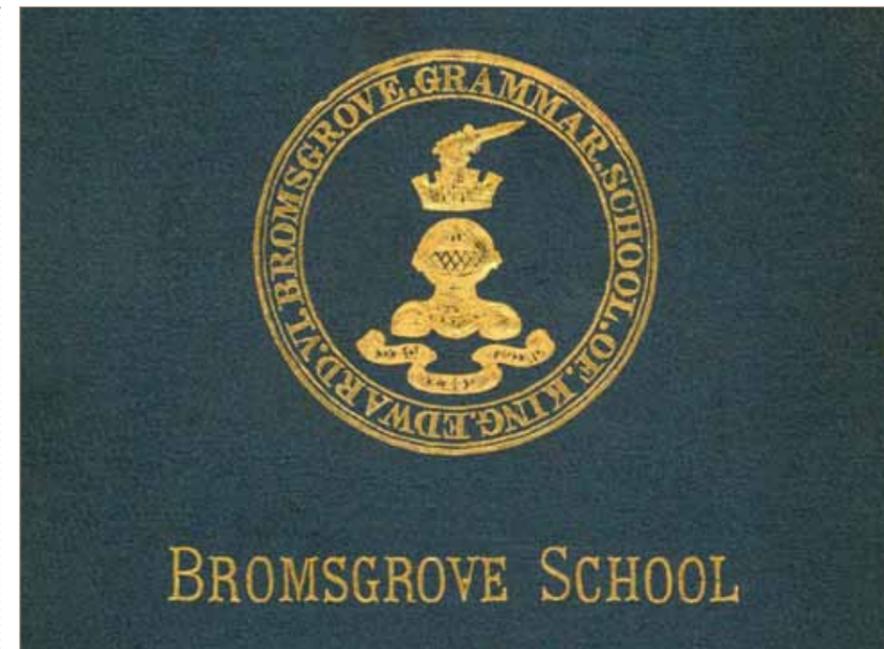
The Stourbridge Old Edwardian Club was originally set up for ex-pupils of Stourbridge Grammar School, with membership available to any pupil who had been a student there or at any Old Edwardian school foundation, this also includes Bromsgrove School as we were originally a KEVI school.

Unusually, the Old Edwardian Club has its own premises in Stourbridge with catering, snooker and social events. Former Bromsgrove pupils have joined and some have been President. Old Bromsgrovians are entitled to be members, which may be helpful to anyone who lives local to Stourbridge.

For further information, please visit www.oldedclub.org.uk

The membership section, including fees, can be found at www.oldedclub.org.uk/members

The Bromsgrovian Office is unable to answer queries regarding membership of the OE Club - please use the 'contact us' section on their website.



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.

Despite the circumstances of COVID-19, **Nii An** (Mary Windsor 2004-2006) and her partner, Florent Vassaux, were able to carry out an intimate wedding ceremony amongst friends and families at the Old Marylebone Town Hall in London in October 2020. It has been an extraordinary year in so many ways and they were grateful for this beautiful day marking the beginning of their next chapter of life together.



We were delighted to speak to **Nigel Sisson** (School 1946-1950) earlier in the year - he told us about his Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 5th April - a very special day for him and his wife, Jackie.

Due to the circumstances of the pandemic, they were not able to celebrate as much as they would have liked but special prayers were held in the church where they were married in London, and at their local church at Sandringham, Norfolk.



Amber Capewell (Mary Windsor 2005-2006, Thomas Cookes 2006-2009) and James Watson were married in the School's Memorial Chapel on 24th July 2021 by Reverend Paul Hedworth.

In attendance was Harry Capewell, Amber's brother who was in Lyttelton from 2007-2011.



The Reception was held in Amber's parents' garden, with a marquee and street food vans.

Many congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Watson!



Would you like your wedding featured in the next issue?

Contact the Bromsgrovian Office
oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk
or Tweet us @OldBromsgrovian

Charity Skydive

Emily Gittoes (Hazeldene 2012-2021) and **Tilly Giles** (Hazeldene 2004-2020) completed a skydive on 5th September 2021 for The Giles' Trust, a brain Tumour charity. We recently spoke to them about their experience.

Tell us more about The Giles' Trust...

TG: The Giles' Trust is a charity created by my parents, Ashley and Stine Giles, to raise money for Brain Tumour research and funding for equipment, staff training, as well as patient and staff welfare. The charity is very close to my heart as my mother, Stine, has suffered from three Brain Tumours since 2006.

EG: The charity has already done so much in a short time, but it knows it can do so much more for patients, their families and for the experts who are continuously seeking new treatments.

Why did you choose a skydive as a means to raise money?

EG: Tilly and I had never skydived before, this was our first time! We wanted to do this as it is something completely out of the ordinary, pushing us out of our comfort zone - we felt this would also raise the most amount of money for the charity as it is something many people dream of doing but will never have the opportunity or not feel safe to do so. We wanted to do something spectacular for the charity.

We raised £1,600 between us all and all of the money will go towards research and innovation.

What are your future plans?

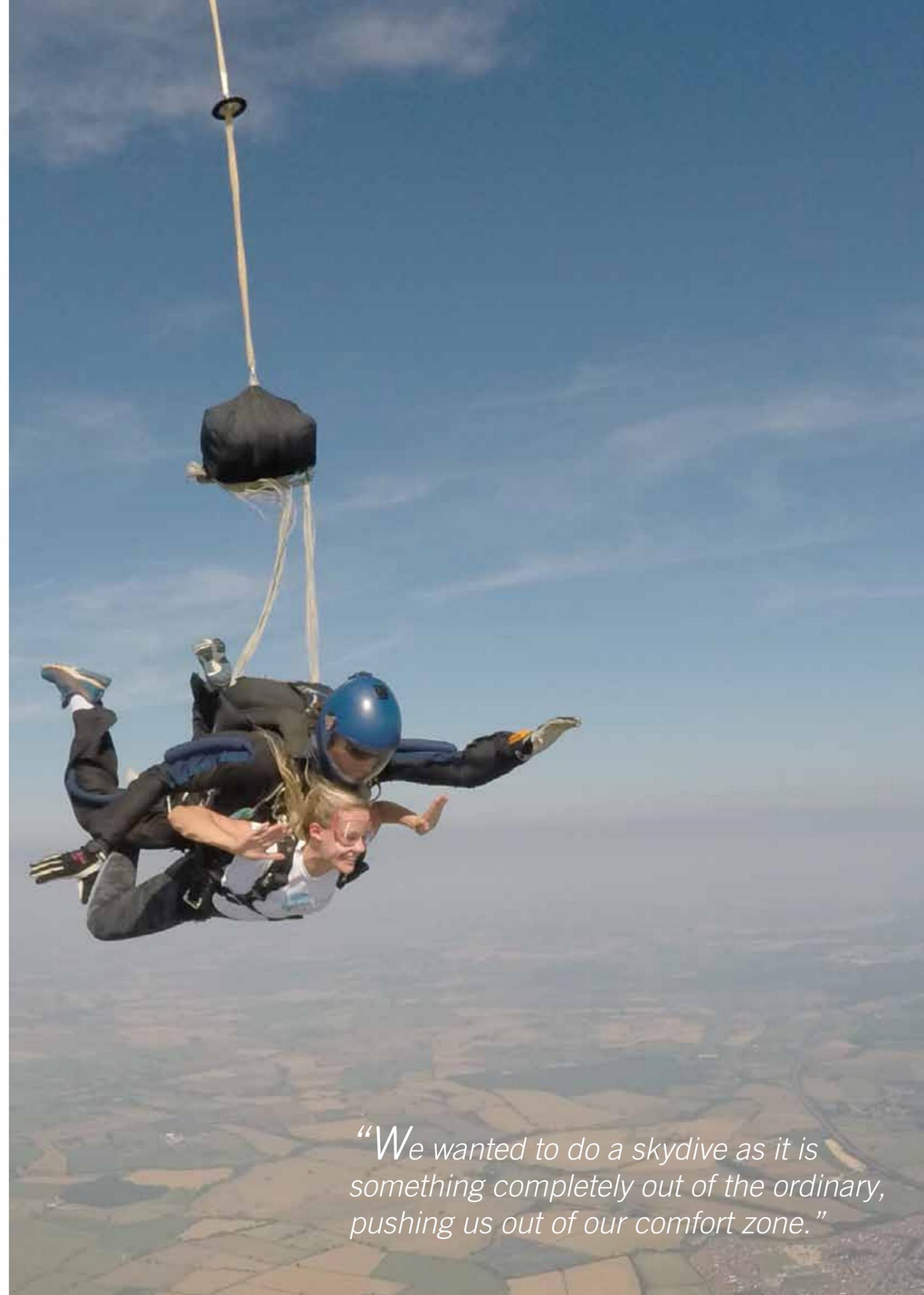
TG: I'm hoping to do more fundraising in the future, I just need to find more challenging and exciting ways to do that. And next year my parents are running their annual ball (which hasn't been able to run since COVID-19 hit).



Do you think any of the Service and Community activities you took part in at Bromsgrove helped you in these charitable endeavours?

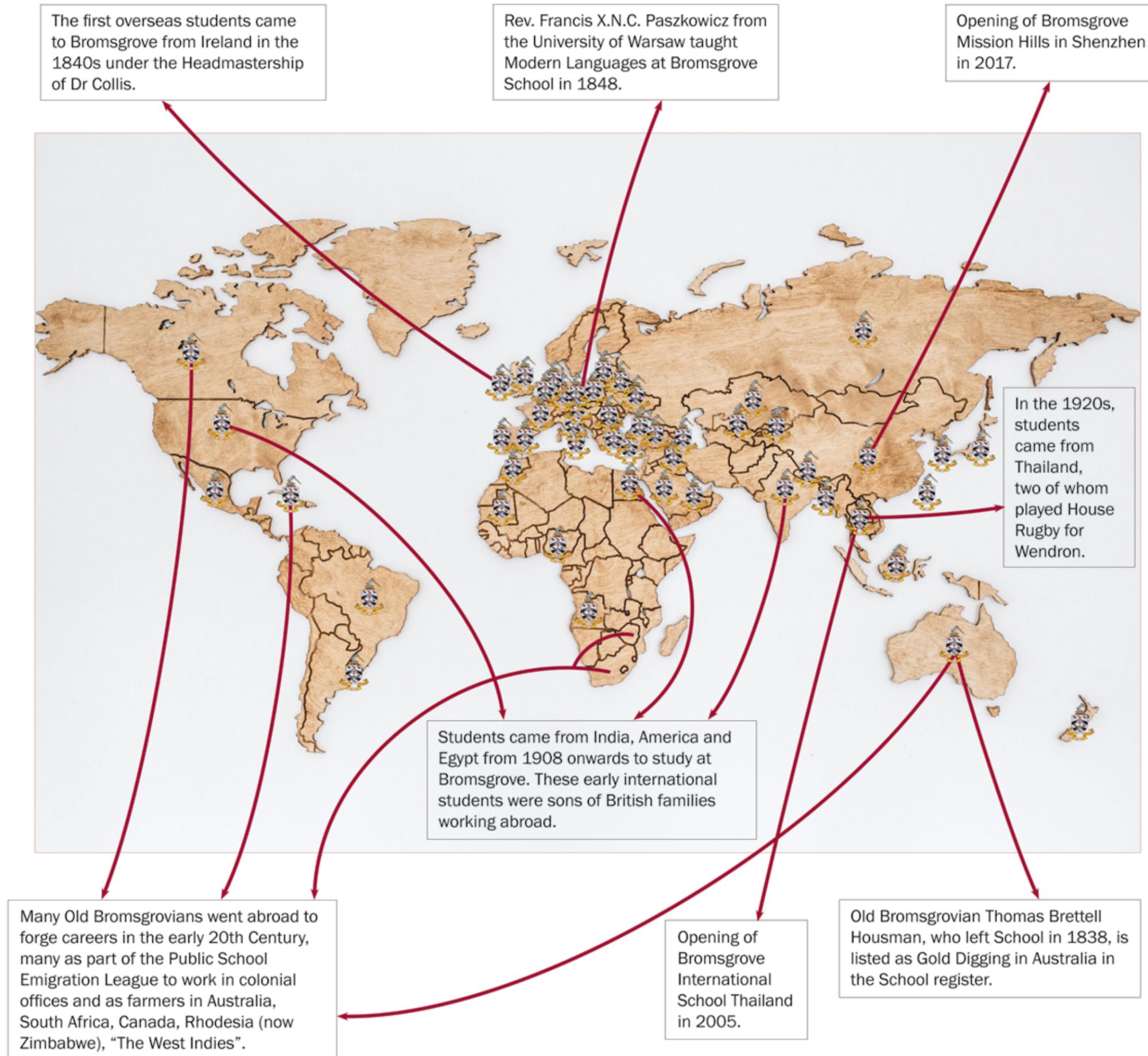
EG: I took part in lots of service activities - Residential Homes, Prep School Reading and Crafting for charity so this definitely helped.

After leaving School, Tilly took a gap year due to the pandemic and will now commence her Sports Science degree at the University of Birmingham. Emily is currently studying Geography at the same university.



"We wanted to do a skydive as it is something completely out of the ordinary, pushing us out of our comfort zone."

BROMSGROVIANS AROUND THE WORLD



There are now over fifty nationalities represented at Bromsgrove School. These are indicated on the map using the School crest.

'Proud to Be'



It was wonderful to return to Bromsgrove School recently to speak on a topic dear to my heart and to give my perspective on what I believe is really important in the beautiful world we live in.

By reflecting on my life's journey, talking about my heroes, examining the word 'Pride', thinking of our origins, and pondering over difference, I communicated the importance of celebrating, respecting, and embracing difference. I related our biases, our cultural differences and advocated a journey together.

We must acknowledge that the past is gone. We can learn from the past, but the way forward is together.

The theme of this year's Black History Month is 'Proud to Be'. Pride and to be proud is to feel assured that you stand firm on solid ground regarding the beliefs, actions, thoughts and wellbeing of yourself and others. It is to be accountable and to give one's best. It is to accommodate, respect, show compassion and empathy. It is to reflect on opportunity and appreciate that the luck of the dice is a reality of privilege. It is to understand that diligence, hard work and perseverance may fall as casualties if the world is unfair.

Many men and women of Pride have impacted my life at different times and the lives of those I hold dear. In the famous book, *Roots* by Alex Haley, we learned of Kunta Kinte, who was sold into slavery in the United States where he and his descendants lived through major historic events. I remember Rosa Parks, who in 1955 refused to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Alabama. Her courageous act of protest was considered the spark that ignited the Civil Rights movement. Martin Luther King, in his energising speech, "*I have a dream*", stated that all men are created equal and should not be judged by the colour of their skin but by their character. Nelson Mandela fought against apartheid and was jailed for twenty-seven years. He had many famous quotes, such as one that speaks of the passion to do what is right, the perseverance in all we do and to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. Barack Obama, the first Black American president, was definitely a dream come true.

Acknowledging the essential truth of adaptation explains the visible observed differences in mankind. God, through evolution, gave people in warmer climates more melanin than others. As a result of our different climates, our dressing is also different. The resulting vegetation and our foods are also different.

We speak different languages, and our cultures and etiquette are different too. So, our English may not be Queen's English, but our ability to communicate remains sound.

Often due to limited exposure, the richness of culture and difference is not celebrated, and many are left to use the media, innate prejudice, fear, and anxiety as their benchmarks. The resulting bias has been qualified in many ways as conscious and unconscious. To my mind, the missing links are respect, care, love, compassion, sensitivity, and empathy.

The bias is often the result of ignorance. I am respectful as it is our culture. It is therefore a little uncomfortable to address seniors by their first name. The pronunciation of names of many from ethnic minorities is also said to be difficult and many will not attempt to pronounce our names. We can all pronounce Gary Lineker, Paul Scofield, Diego Maradona, Sylvester Stallone, Lord Voldemort, and Prof. Dumbledore. So, I continue to wonder why our names are ridiculed and we are sometimes asked to offer an alternative.

I was born at the University College Hospital in Ibadan in Nigeria. I moved to the United Kingdom in 1989. As a black woman living in the United Kingdom, I have gained what is now known as Lived Experiences. These include the experience of being left out of conversations, not invited to parties, not getting an interview, not getting a promotion, not spoken to politely, being the last one chosen to be on a team, assumptions regarding my role, assuming I must be the secretary and not the Doctor, being followed by the security man in the shop and not being accorded a second chance. This is the daily experience of many black men and women in the United Kingdom.

I go to work daily carrying a load of fear, anxiety, frustration, stress, and acceptance of my fate. This often becomes an illness. One gets tired and fatigued. We show resilience for a long while but eventually a disability sets in. This is the story of many. It is my wish that we all work together to lighten my load and to enable me and all Black men and women to come to work and live daily together without the need for us to wear a mask and bear it all with a resignation to fate.

We are the Human Race, all borne from two cells, all with red blood running through our veins. It is time to work and journey together, holding hands... A time to embrace, celebrate and respect difference... A time to be bold enough to say a word when we see or hear injustice... And a time to go the extra mile when we offer a helping hand. It is time to let opportunity knock for everyone.

I am therefore 'Proud to Be' a Black woman of substance, a leader by example and a mother of two wonderful young men. George Floyd has not died in vain.

Dr Olayinka Monisola Ajike Fadahunsi-Oluwole (proud parent of two former Bromsgrove pupils, Femi and Jimi)



Dr Oluwole with her eldest son, Femi (Lupton 2002-2008) during their visit to the School in October 2021

"I am 'Proud to Be' a Black woman of substance, a leader by example and a mother of two wonderful young men."

Our News to You

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE BROMSGROVIAN OFFICE.



Class of 2021

A warm welcome to our most recent leavers, the Class of 2021, who we look forward to welcoming to OB events in the near future.

Usually, the Headmaster hands out an OB tie or label pin to each Upper Sixth leaver in a special ceremony during their final Routh Assembly, but with the enforced School closure, these items were posted to each pupil instead.

We urge all leavers, if they haven't already, to log on to Bromsgrovians Connected and update their contact details, particularly with a personal email address so that we can stay in contact.



Graduation News

Happy Graduation to all our OBs who received their degree classification results over the Summer.

Do let us know what you are up to now, so we can include your news in the next Alumni magazine.



OB Visits

It was so lovely to welcome Tom Walters back to the School to view his father's work, which we hold in the School Archives. E. H. Walters was an Art teacher and printmaker at Bromsgrove. Tom was pleased to see the Albion Printing Press in the Art department as he remembers his father using this with the pupils in the 1950s. You can see a copy of E.H. Walters' hand drawn map overleaf.

We are delighted to be able to restart our OB tours again - if you would like to visit the School, please contact Jessica Lomas - email oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk or telephone +44(0) 1527 579679 ext 357.

Archives on Instagram

Our Archive now has an official School Instagram account - if you would like to stay up to date with the latest acquisitions into our new Heritage Centre and enjoy looking back at the School's history, please follow @BromsArchives.

Don't forget to follow 'Bromsgrove School' across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube too.



The Official Opening of the Heritage Centre

Our magnificent new Heritage Centre was officially opened on Thursday, 30th September 2021 by Judy Skelton, granddaughter of OB Reginald Skelton who served as chief engineer and official photographer of the 1901-1904 Discovery Expedition to Antarctica.

The Heritage Centre is now home to Bromsgrove's vast archive collection, including one of Scott's sledges. Visits are very much encouraged - if you would like a tour of the new Heritage Centre or have any specific archive enquiries, please contact the Archivist, Nikki Thorpe - email nthorpe@bromsgrove-school.co.uk or telephone 01527 579679 ext 365.



From the Archives...

I was delighted to be able to have Archive Club back on this year with small groups of students learning a range of archive skills. Students interviewed and recorded Head Groundsman, Richard Hare about his work and his vision for the future as he toured us around the grounds and the new orchard at Prep School, and the bee hives. Students also interviewed and recorded the reflections of houseparents who had cared for students during lockdown when they were unable to return home, a memorable and moving experience for all of us.



In the Archive room, students continued to de-frame and repackage photographs as well as catalogue new deposits and select material for the displays in the Heritage Centre. It is invaluable to have this student input in the selection of material to ensure that it will be engaging and interesting to their peers.



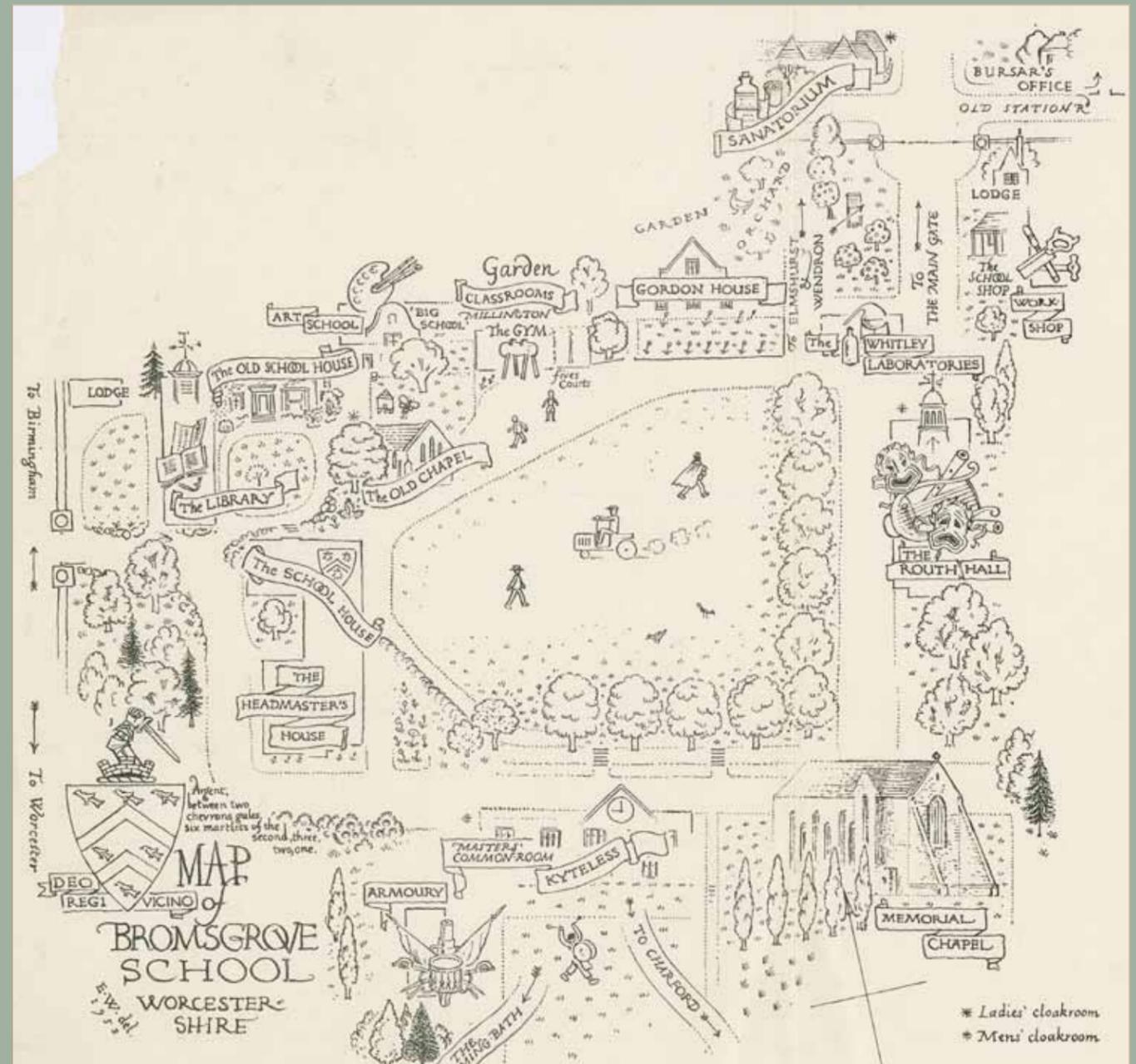
One of our archive volunteers has worked remotely using a digitised version of our oldest book, 'The Schoole Booke', 1693, and made comprehensive notes on it, a very useful task which adds much meaning to our knowledge of the early history of the School, especially its links with Bromsgrove town. At times, our palaeography skills have been challenged and helped by an online course run by The National Archives. The course helped to meet these challenges as it included looking into scribes and their writing practices for letter formation. This in turn led to looking at the ink used in 17th Century documents and we had a go at making oak gall ink, the ink most likely used in our oldest book, with archive club students. It was a fun, interesting and useful activity and really brought home to students the age and rarity of this volume in their school archive.



We have continued to receive donations from Old Bromsgrovians and their families and had some fascinating communications with OBs on their memories of their school days. Some of these memories have been incorporated into the new Heritage Centre displays and recent deposits from OBs David Harrison, Brian Massey and Stanley Shortt spanning fifty years from the 1930s onwards will also be on display in Heritage Centre cases on 'Everyday School Life' and 'Extra-Curricular Activity'. I particularly enjoyed hearing about the "School Holiday tie" that OB Michael Taylor donated to the archive, the first time I had heard of its existence but no doubt familiar to many OBs at School in the 1940s. I am not sure how popular the concept would be with students today!



We also had an exciting communication from the Wilkinson family in New Zealand who had recently named their family home 'Bromsgrove' in memory of David Wilkinson's grandfather, Tom, an Old Bromsgrovian who played for the 1st XV in 1922-23. The family still have Tom's rugby cap and blazer pocket which he obviously treasured. David told us, "K.T (Tom) left the UK when he was 20 and moved to NZ. He met his wife Gwen on board the boat. They settled in Wellington and had four boys, James (Jim), Donald (Don my father), Ben and Jonathan. My father, Don has just turned 80 and is in excellent health. Tom passed away in 1992, aged 87." The Wilkinson family story features in our 'Bromsgrovians Around the World' display in the Heritage Centre, reflecting the far reaching community of Bromsgrovians which began more than a hundred years ago.



Restrictions on numbers of students in the Heritage Centre gave us opportunities for new and innovative ways of working. WW1 Archive workshops for Prep School students took the form of a walking tour with guidance notes, a copy of Art teacher and Engraver Edward Walters' hand drawn map of School campus and additional digitised primary sources to use on the WW1 website. We are hoping to use the tour again this year but will also to be able to welcome students in person to the Heritage Centre to view the original archive material in its new home.



Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2020/21.

John Derek Burton (Gordon 1941-1944) d. 25th April 2020



Derek Burton passed away peacefully on Friday, 25th April 2020 at Foxhunters Care Community in Abergavenny at the age of 93.

Derek was born in Bridgnorth in 1926. He attended Bromsgrove School as a boarder. His parents thought his sense of mischief could then be contained. At School, he showed an aptitude for the practical sciences and was also a very good athlete. In August 1944, he joined the Anglo Iranian Oil Company based at Sunbury, and in February 1945, volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm at HMS Gosport. Two years later, he enrolled at Loughborough College, eventually gaining a degree in Engineering, at which point he began 'work proper' at Sunbury Refinery.

In 1951, he married Patricia, with whom he shared sixty-seven happy years before being widowed in October 2018.

Derek's first overseas posting as Development Engineer and then Senior Process Engineer was in Abadan, Iran; then a primitive, fiercely hot place, against the background repercussions of the Suez War. The demands of the posting were alleviated by go-cart racing and visits to the Seaman's pool at Bawarda. Projects included replacing the top dome of Abadan refinery's Fluid Catalytic Converter.

In 1966, after a brief spell at the Iranian Oil Service headquarters in London, he was posted to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company in Zarqa as Assistant Engineer. This posting was interrupted by a hasty evacuation in an RAF Hercules during the 1967 Six Day War, which his two daughters watched unravelling, with horror, on the television news while boarding at Berkhamsted.

Derek returned to the UK to work from BP headquarters in London as Project Liaison with BP Australia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Canada. From 1973 to 1980, he managed the power station expansion and the construction of a new alkylation plant at Grangemouth Refinery.

In 1980, Derek began his final posting to Perth, Western Australia as project consultant to monitor BP's interests in the Woodside Offshore project. He and Pat ended their final overseas tour with a trip around the world, and finally settled in Salcombe, Devon for a long and happy retirement with many cross-channel sailing adventures in their Vancouver32 yacht, Pinjarra.

Derek had an exciting, busy life filled with projects and schemes beginning with the bomb he built in his childhood garden, which destroyed his mother's best bucket, an attempted solo English Channel crossing in his home-made canoe, and then dodging bullets in Jordan and container ships on the many voyages to France. In his later years, he attended some Bromsgrove School reunions, which he enjoyed greatly.

He was always the most convincing and ardent advocate of engineering as a profession, and he will ever be missed by those he left behind.

- Dr Penelope Bryan (daughter)

Brenda Joan Bywater (Librarian 1990-1998) d. 27th September 2021



Fun, charming, vivacious, clever, generous, bright, wonderful, smiling, a joy, caring, funny, fabulous, warm, cuddly, lovely, bubbly, amazing, infectiously humorous, remarkably effervescent, vibrant, superb company, intelligent, kind, a real gem, sympathetic, interested in others, able to light up a room, mischievous, a talker!

All words used in messages of condolences to describe a former Bromsgrove School parent and member of staff who sadly passed away at home, surrounded by her family on 27th September 2021.

Mum to Andrea (Oakley 1987), Chris (Walters 1989, Vicky (Hazeldene 1996), and Grandmother to Oliver Morton (Walters 2005), Brenda was a familiar face around Bromsgrove School.

Brenda was born on 25th September 1943 in St Chads Hospital, Birmingham. She lived with her parents and sister in Bearwood initially, and then Quinton. As a child she had an interest in the arts and was in choir and school productions, as well as being a lover of books and poetry. Brenda trained as a civil servant, working for the National Assistance board in Smethwick and, following her marriage on the 19th December 1964, Wallasey. With Andrea being born in 1969, the young family moved to Bromsgrove in 1970 and welcomed Chris in 1972 and Vicky in 1977.

A dedicated GPs wife, when being a GPs wife was a full time job, coupled with being a full time mum, kept Brenda busy. She also immersed herself in various local clubs and causes - Housewives Register, Thai Chi, Pilates, art class, WI, book club, Children's Society, Tommy Whites are just some of them.

As the children settled into life at Bromsgrove School, so did she. She was Chair of the PTA in the Junior School and on the PTA for Walters House in the Senior School. She loved to sing and was part of the Choral Society and in School productions. With School and outside of School, she was involved in choirs that performed at Pershore Abbey, Tewkesbury Abbey, the Symphony Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and Halle Germany - the last two of which she was conducted by Sir David Wilcox in *Messiah*.

In 1990, Brenda became a member of staff by accepting a post as one of the School Librarians - a nod to her lifelong love of books and a job she took very seriously. Many will remember her shushing and hushing, reminding everyone that there must be silence. Only for that new found silence to be broken as she herself initiated an enthusiastic conversation with a pupil or fellow staff member in her usual flamboyant manner. In fact, a piece in the Bromsgrovian published around the time she retired in 1998, paid tribute to the work she had put in to moving the library into the new resource centre but also asked the question as to "how she had ever come to like the idea of working in a silent workplace"!

Brenda had health issues in recent years but was determined not to dwell on them in life, so it would be wrong for us to do so in death. Rest assured, her bubbly nature, vivaciousness, and wonderfully mischievous sense of humour remained with her to the end. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family.

- Vicky Rees (daughter)

David Hilary Foster-Smith (School 1949-1954)

Foster-Smith DH, the eldest of three brothers, was born in Llanelian, Anglesey. The son of a retired Manager of the Para Electric Company in Brazil and his wife Joan, a descendant of the founder of the Birmingham banking firm, Lloyds. Soon after his birth, his father left to manage the Frontino Gold Mines in Colombia and David and his mother followed later.

Life at the mines, high up in the Andes, was comfortable, and the staff and two brothers born there were well looked after. With war raging throughout the world, there were some difficulties but the British company continued to make a major contribution to the war effort.

Schooling was a problem and after an unsuccessful time at the American School in Bogota, David and a few friends were flown to De Carteret School in Jamaica. Christmas was spent in Montego Bay but summer holidays in Colombia.

In 1947, the family returned to Birmingham and he attended the Edgbaston Preparatory School, Hallfield before going on to Bromsgrove. He did well in sports, which encouraged a lifelong interest in tennis, squash and hockey.

He matriculated in science subjects (pre-O and A levels) and joined Joseph Lucas in 1954 as a student apprentice. He attended night school for many years and gained his mechanical engineering and production engineering qualifications.

He specialised in jet engine fuel systems for Lucas Aerospace and was astonished to find exact copies on Egyptian MiG fighter engines sent to Lucas Aerospace for refurbishment. The original RR Nene engine, developed at much cost in R&D, had been taken naively by a Labour Party trade delegation to Russia and subsequently copied by the Russians.

David spent his whole working life with Joseph Lucas, and afterwards, he thought they should have given him a cuckoo clock on retirement, for being so long with the firm and having to deal with British industrial difficulties, which were a problem at that time. Some of these were self-inflicted by a programme of fast tracking graduates through his department, and he having to sort out the chaos they caused.

He retired in 1991 after thirty-seven years and was called back as a consultant several times. The end came when he realised it was to explain and edit plans that he had devised thirty years earlier.

On retirement, he became one of the trustees of the Lucas pension scheme and, as a hobby, involved himself in tracing family ancestry. He enjoyed communicating with Steeds and Fosters all over the world. Smiths proved an interesting challenge. He joined a gym and was playing tennis pre-COVID three times a week well into his early eighties. He won the West Warwickshire Pensioner Cup in 2017.

David married Judith Dearnaly in 1961, who predeceased him in 2020. He is survived by daughter Helen, son David and step grandson Thomas who was recently engaged.

- Tony Foster-Smith

Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2020/21.

Christopher Firminger
(School 1977-1982)
d. 27th February 2021



Born 1st December 1963; Died 27th February 2021 aged 57 following a short illness. Christopher attended The Mount Preparatory School owned by Jane and Tom Boyer and then went on to Bromsgrove. After leaving School, he attended Reading University but decided that rather than carry on at university, he would leave and go to work for a firm of stockbrokers. It was here that he studied financial services. Then, having gained the necessary qualifications and knowledge, he started his own practice in Bromsgrove.

Christopher was a very keen mason and was a member and Past Master of The Old Bromsgrovian Lodge and several other lodges. He also received London Grand Lodge recognition. In addition, he was a member of Bromsgrove Court Leet and was a Past Bailiff.

On 10th July 1999, Christopher married Helen Bennett, a farmer's daughter from Caersws, Wales. They had two children - a boy, Joshua and a girl, Jessica.

Christopher's great passion was sea fishing at Borth on the Welsh coast and playing golf.

The ultimate host for his innumerable friends - Christopher was a great personality, known to many and will be sorely missed by all. He lived respected and died regretted.

- Paddy Firminger (father)

John Gunton
(Academic Staff 1957-1992)
d. 18th June 2021



Father was born on 3rd March 1932 in Norwich and was named John as his father had been, and his grandfather, as was his son and grandson. He lived in Cringleford for the next eighteen years. Attending Norwich School as a Scholar and with which he maintained a firm connection until only recently.

Whilst at school, he was quite the sportsman, being captain of athletics, running for the county. He also represented the county at rugby and chess (where he was twice county champion), and some time later, represented Worcestershire at hockey. His ability at chess was something he brought to Bromsgrove School - many pupils tried, but all failed this particular challenge.

While at Norwich School, he took a keen interest in scouting with his brother, Robert. Robert became a Queen's Scout; my father earned the relatively new 'Wood Badge' for those senior scouts who had successfully passed leadership trials.

He left Norwich School for Nottingham University where he studied mathematics, graduating three years later with honours. From there, he moved to take his BEd at Downing College, Cambridge, a period which he remembered with huge affection and was justifiably proud. He earned his hockey colours there and his Downing College tie was always one of his favourites.

Following College, he had a brief period as an actuary for the Norwich Union on a starting salary of £3 a week and he remained a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society for 35 years. I cannot think anyone who knew JAG could possibly imagine him staying in that role for long and so, it was in 1956 that he applied for and was appointed to the role of House Tutor at Bromsgrove School.

Academically, the next thirty-six years were spent in various guises of teaching. Dad taught maths from Kyteless 2. He was responsible for getting over 1000 pupils through 'O' and 'A' levels. He would transport himself around campus seamlessly on his bike, often not using the pedals whilst shouting best wishes to all his pupils and charges.

At Bromsgrove, he would, with his wife, Elizabeth, undertake the pastoral care of the boys too, for seventeen years being a House Tutor, then as Housmaster of three Houses over a period of nineteen years. Well in excess of the maximum allowed at the time.

Being a Housemaster, he, of course, dragged his family behind him. From Orchard House on the School premises to a brief stay in College Road, followed by Broom House (Boarding House number 1). Broom House had a tennis court and it was here that JAG developed his serving technique, admired by many and copied by none.

From Broom House came a move to Wendron, then outside of the School campus, and shortly after to the new Wendron House, also christened 'the H block' due to its endearing 1970s design. It was all part of Bromsgrove's plan to move things within the School boundaries. In the late 1980s, JAG undertook his final House project, a combination of two former Houses - Gordon and Wendron, caused by the change in School dynamic from full Boarding to Day pupils aplenty.

Perhaps it was for his extra curricular activities that JAG was best known. Hockey has already been mentioned of which he was justifiably proud.

He looked after the 3rd team for many years. A team which never lost more than a handful of home matches in two decades due to the quaint custom by which JAG was referee. He played squash at School level, always choosing his opponents closely. His diversionary tactics were similar to those he employed whenever he dabbled in table tennis, which continued for many years post-retirement in Oxfordshire.

When he joined Bromsgrove, JAG participated in the Scouts, organising many camping and hiking trips and taking the boys for weeks at a time abroad into Germany and the Czech boarder. Through the enterprise of himself and other members of staff and experienced pupils, the Expedition Club was born. Pot holing, camping, mountaineering, climbing and sailing taught pupils to acquire skills they might not otherwise have encountered and for my father, this became a lifelong passion. They found that on trips, pupils who had left the School turned up anyway and so in 1977, the Old Bromsgrovian Expedition Club was born. On an OBEC trip, some things were certain. If JAG was driving, there was a heightened level of tension from all. If my father was a passenger, the driver had a heightened level of tension.

In 1992, he retired and tragedy struck the family in 1999 with the death of his son, John. JAG and Elizabeth relocated to the sunny paradise known as Lower Brailes in Oxfordshire. Here, he carried on his lifelong pursuits and even participated with mixed results in the Brailes choir.

He leaves behind his wife, Elizabeth, his son, Mark, his daughter-in-law, Helen, his daughter, Eleanor and two grandchildren, John and Charlotte. On 25th September 2021, JAG's ashes were spread by Mark and John Gunton, assisted by 30 members of OBEC at three strategic points in Snowdonia. These were three of JAG's favourite mountains and happen to form a perfect equilateral triangle.

- Mark Gunton (son)

Catherine Freer (née Hancox)
(Hazeldene 1990-2000)
d. 20th February 2021



Cath attended Bromsgrove Lower and Upper Schools from 1990-2000 where she was in Hazeldene House. After A levels, she went to Aberystwyth University attaining a Geography BSc and subsequent PGCE in early years teaching.

She represented Bromsgrove School in tennis and hockey teams, regularly took part in School and family ski-trips and gained her silver Duke of Edinburgh award. She was a very keen swimmer and continued to swim regularly completing a sponsored swim for Macmillan Cancer in 2019.

Cath was known to have a go at anything, she played cricket for a local boys' cricket team before it became fashionable for girls' teams, she had no fear of trying out black ski runs and was in goal for hockey. She took part in the netball and hockey tour to Australia in 1998 and upon leaving School wrote "live life" something she continued to do, forging ahead in life with passion and pace.

Teaching was a career Cath had wanted to follow from an early age and after leaving university, she worked at Dawley Brook Primary School in Kingswinford before re-locating to Somerset where she taught at Danesfield School, Williton before taking the role of Head of School at St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Williton.

Her final teaching role was at Eastover Community Primary School, Bridgwater where she chose to take a class teacher role, which allowed her to spend more time with her children.

Cath married Steve in 2011 and their family was completed with Tom in 2013 and Lottie in 2017. She continued to put her passion and zest for living and education into family life and taught the children how to enjoy nature and the great outdoors. She was known for always lending a helping hand to anyone needing it, her amazing teaching skills and encouragement, her love for her family and in true "Cath" style, the positivity she portrayed with her cancer diagnosis in 2020. She wrote a blog with frankness, warmth and humour to document her experience and took a positive and pro-active stance in an effort to help people understand the process of going through cancer treatment.

In January 2021, she suddenly became unwell and passed away on 20th February 2021 at St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton with her husband Steve at her side.

Cath was a teacher, a wife, a mother, a daughter, a sister and a friend to so many. She said "I am too positive to be doubtful, too optimistic to be fearful and too determined to be defeated", which was something she aspired to during her illness - sadly, she was unable to get her final wish. Cath was a strong minded, loyal and caring woman and is profoundly missed by her family, her brother Jonathan and her parents, Sue and Joe Hancox.

Cath's blog can be read at: cancerundercovid.com

- Sue Hancox (mother)

Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2020/21.

**Anthony John Horton ‘Tony’
(School 1955-1959,
Winterfold 1950-1955)
d. 21st June 2021**

The death of Anthony Horton (otherwise known as ‘Ant’ within the family, or the more familiar ‘Tony’ to friends and colleagues) was reported to Old Bromsgrovians on the 23rd June last. Tony died suddenly of an aortic aneurism whilst on holiday in Menorca on the 21st June. He had just celebrated his 79th birthday with his wife, Susie and their youngest son, Philip (Elmshurst 1995-2000) and his partner, Chrissie Betts (Mary Windsor 1998-2000).

Tony was the eldest member of the Horton family whose direct family line to the School’s alumni date back to the late 18th century. Tony remained a lasting supporter, benefactor and admirer of the School.

Having forged close ties with many of his contemporaries at School, he maintained life-long contact with them, including Patrick Foster-Smith, David Kitchen, David McMullen, Rob Pruden and Richard Wallis.

As a boarder in School House during the tenure of the then headmaster, Lionel Carey, he became Hon Sec of the Pathfinders Club and a keen member of the CCF. After School, he received a commission in the T.A. and remained on the army reserve list for a number of years. He was also appointed a Chapel warden and member of the Chapel committee. The processional cross in the Chapel was donated by him as a leaving present to the School and bears his name.

His time at School, however, was not entirely devoted to such saintly activities and he fostered some early money-making enterprises. Amongst others, these included buying Vimto and lemonade from Spencer’s Pop Works in Worcester Road and selling them to his classmates, undercutting the School’s tuckshop’s prices.



As the School in those days offered rather meagre fayre from in-house catering, another enterprise involved persuading his mother to make rock cakes by the dozen which were sold to hungry pupils.

A slightly more questionable side-line was running a book on the horses with a friendly bookmaker in the town. All went well until Tony collected his winnings one day, only to be spied by a master who reported him to Mr Carey. Tony left School a year early, and eschewing the family legal practice, pursued a career as a stockbroker. His chosen path was encouraged by the senior master and family friend, Mr Wallace-Hadrill who saw Tony’s potential in such a vocation.

He began his articles with Ryland Smith and Pritchett in Birmingham and then spent 30 years broking from Wolverhampton. Tony was very proud of his business career which lasted fifty years and forged lifelong friendships with his clients and acquaintances. Even after retirement, he maintained a keen interest in the market, meeting with various company managements and attending AGMs. That his sons followed in their father’s chosen career made him all the prouder.

He was a keen member of Wolverhampton Rotary Club and its fundraising charitable enterprises and, in particular Rotary International. He was appointed a Paul Harris Fellow for his work and efforts with the Polio-Plus campaign. The family home often hosted overseas students through the Rotary-Exchange programme.

Whilst working at Wolverhampton he was a keen supporter of football taking his

sons to Molineux to watch the Wolves. Later, he changed his allegiance to the Baggies at West Bromwich, much to his sons’ confusion!

Tony was a life-long churchgoer and Christian. He gave much time and support to the churches and local communities at Elmbridge and Rushock and the local diocese, where he was a churchwarden and chairman of the PCC for nearly forty years.

He was an enthusiastic apiarist all his life, a hobby he inherited from an aunt and which he has passed on to his eldest son, Edward and daughter in law Hen. His bees made a presence at his funeral wake after his internment next to the family grave of his parents and grandparents at St. Mary’s Elmbridge.

Those mourners who continued to the wake at the family home in Rushock were hindered by a swarm of bees that had gathered and collected in the road, thereby blocking the entrance. The old apiarist tradition warns of the importance of telling the bees with the passing of a keeper for fear of his charges forsaking the hives and was duly upheld. Notwithstanding, the bees remained in situ for several hours as if to bear witness to the many glasses that were raised in celebration of a long and happy life.

Tony married Susan Mary (née Tucker) on the 7th September 1968. Together, they enjoyed just short of fifty-three years of devoted married life. In all things, he was a traditionalist, whilst being a follower of the simple things in life: tending to his vegetables, walking his beloved dogs, talking to his bees. Above all things, he held dear the love of and fellowship from family and friends on any occasion appropriate to sharing a bottle of wine. He will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

Tony is survived by his wife Susie and his three sons, Edward (Elmshurst 1984-1989), William (Elmshurst 1986-1991) and Philip (Elmshurst 1995-2000) and four grandchildren (sadly he will miss the birth of an imminent fifth), his sister, Sara and brother Matthew.

- The Horton family

**George Robert Houston
(Gordon 1959-1963)
d. 8th March 2021**

George sadly passed away in Paisley Hospital in his 75th year.

On leaving Bromsgrove School, George graduated in Chemistry at Bristol University and followed this with a teaching degree prior to joining the teaching staff at Glemalmond College in Perthshire. He became very involved in many of the college outdoor pursuits and cadet force activities. Later, he moved to continue his teaching career at Edinburgh Academy.

Having retired early from teaching, George followed his love of boats and sailing, and trained as a shipwright. He also assisted in the building of the training tall-ship, Tenacious, for the Jubilee Trust Charity in Southampton. Following this project, he moved to the west coast of Scotland where he enjoyed many years on and off the sea and boats.

George will be greatly missed by his elder brothers, David and Ian (both Gordon), two elder sisters, and by his son and two daughters.

- Ian Houston

**Peter Lee-Smith
(Prep Headmaster 2002-2008)
d. 13th February 2021**



It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Peter Lee-Smith, former Headmaster of Bromsgrove Preparatory School (2001-2008). During Peter’s time, the Prep School underwent significant improvement and growth – pupil numbers increased and the long-awaited Maple building for Years 3-5 was opened. He was also one of the driving forces behind the Saturday activities programme.

His colleagues will remember him as a leader with great determination, care and consideration for all. His sense of responsibility for the welfare of the children was always a priority and he took great pride in greeting children every morning and supervising their departure each evening. His relationship with parents was equally impressive and he developed a rapport with the Parents’ Association.

Following retirement, Peter was never going to fully give up school life completely, so he took on a new role within IAPS, an organisation which supports and maintains the highest standards in prep schools.

We say goodbye to a true gentleman and our thoughts and prayers go to Sue and the rest of the family.

**Sheila Perks MBE
(Netball Coach 1991-2005)
d. 23rd September 2021**



We were deeply saddened to hear that Sheila Perks MBE died earlier this term. Joining Bromsgrove School as a netball coach in 1991, her teaching style was unparalleled.

Many Old Bromsgrovians benefited from her incredible passion, and even after she left the School in 2005, current pupils were able to gain so much from her coaching through Ryland, the netball club that she founded, or through the Worcestershire County Netball pathway and England Netball. Sheila leaves behind a huge legacy, not only at Bromsgrove School but in the wider community and beyond. One of her favourite quotes will stay with all those who knew her, “believe and you will achieve”.

The School Executive team echo the sentiments of everyone in the Bromsgrove family, past and present, in expressing their condolences to Sheila’s family and friends - she was a great friend of the School.

Obituaries

OLD BROMSGROVIANS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2020/21.

Old Bromsgrovians who also died in 2020/21 but for whom we have no obituary:

John Allan (Gordon 1949-1954)
d. 12 October 2021

Robin Alexander (School/Lyttelton)
d. February 2021

Paul Bryan (Gordon 1953-1958)
d. 27 June 2021

Lionel Cartwright (School 1968-1973)
d. May 2020

Mike Clements (Lupton 1949-1954)
Deceased date not known

Roger Stafford Cooke (Wendron 1956-1961)
d. 16th December 2020

Frank Dunne (Lupton 1960-1965)
Deceased date not known

J. Myles Griffiths (School/Lyttelton 1957-1961)
d. 3 July 2021

Richard Jarvis (Gordon 1950-1956)
d. 23 May 2021

William A. Hodgetts (School 1955-1960)
d. 12 October 2019

Malcolm (David) Miles (Lupton 1951-1959)
d. 6 June 2020

Donald Munro Neil (School 1957-1962)
d. 30 August 2020

David Partridge (Gordon 1934-1938)
d. April 2020

Richard Preece (Gordon 1937-1942)
d. 9 June 2021

Mashiat Sadegh (Elmshurst 1974-1977)
d. March 2021

Richard Sydenham Smith (School 1939-1944)
d. 24 December 2020

Rev. John Withers (Elmshurst 1951-1956)
d. 20 January 2020

John Wood ('Tony') (Elmshurst 1945-1949)
d. 18 November 2020



The Foundation

THANKING OUR DONORS, LEGACY MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS.

Appreciation Lunch

The first official event after eighteen months of restrictions took place on Thursday, 30th September. Despite the fuel crisis also looming over us that week, we were delighted to welcome so many donors, legacy society members and friends of the School for the annual Appreciation Lunch.



Jackie and Kim Daniels



John and Rosalie Vine



Luke Allen and Jodie Poole

Would you like to know more about the Foundation?

Email: foundation@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

Post: Bromsgrove School Foundation,
Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7DU



Elizabeth Hemes, Ann Taylor, Susan McDermott



A historic moment caught on camera: Three Chairmen of Governors - Matthew Horton, Stewart Towe and current Chair, Paul West; Two Chairmen of the Foundation - Matthew Horton and current chair, Matthew Taylor; Two Presidents of the School - Matthew Horton and current president, Stewart Towe, and our new President of the Foundation, Richard Brookes.

Sir Thomas Cookes Legacy Society

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 or telephone 01527 579679 ext 366.



Donor Roll

THANKING OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 2020/21.

(DONATIONS & GIFTS IN KIND* RECEIVED FROM SEPTEMBER 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2021)

Cookes

Kim Daniels (1960-1965, also Lupton)
Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham Kt. (1969-1974, also Walters)
Matthew Taylor (1968-1973, also Walters, Chairman of the Foundation)

Elmshurst

Philip Baldwin (1954-1958)
Richard Cariss (1956-1959)
Hugh Furber (1952-1957)
Philip Hobson (1948-1952)
John Ruck (1950-1953)
Simon Skelding (1954-1962, also Oakley)
Tom Trow (2009-2016)
Edwin Wagstaff (2013-2020)
Topper Webb (1972-1973)

Gordon

Barry Dumughn (1950-1955)
Nevil Malin (1948-1953)
David Partridge (deceased, 1934-1938)
Graham Sim (1969-1974)
Tony Spackman (1944-1949)
John Vine (1945-1955)

Hazeldene

Grace Dieppe (2010-2021)

Housman Hall

Oluwafunbi Akinsaya (2015-2017)
Nikita Bedov (2016-2018)
Robyn Davies (2016-2018)
Tam Dinh (2001-2006)
Emma Kunstler (2016-2019)
Radu Polschi (2017-2021)
Mulan Yang (2017-2020)

Lupton

Richard Brookes (1961-1965, President of the Foundation)
Kim Daniels (1960-1965, also Cookes)
Frank Dunne (1960-1965)
David Dutton (1956-1961)
Paddy Firminger (1943-1947)
Kelvin Morris (1976-1981)
Christopher Porter (1958-1963)
Philip Powell (1962-1967)
David Reeve (1950-1954)
John Steveni (1975-1980)

Lyttelton

Brian Cox (deceased, 1942-1944)
Will Lockhart (2005-2016)
Gareth Morgan (1953-1958)

Mary Windsor

Victoria Underwood (1982-1987)

Oakley

Aisling Brinn (2004-2015)
Simon Skelding (1954-1962, also Elmshurst)

School

Andrew Clark (1947-1952)
John Cutler (1956-1961)
John Denby (1956-1965)
Geoff Godsall (1956-1959)
Tristan Hall (2003-2019)
Archie Holder (2014-2019)
Roy Hughes (1945-1950)
Garth Kenderdine-Davies (1943-1947)
Grayson Leversha (2014-2019)
Jim Page (1945-1949, also Headmaster of Junior School 1961-1989)
Christopher Price (1939-1944)
Richard Pyatt (1972-1974)
David Roberts (1953-1958)
Robert Williams (1963-1968)

Thomas Cookes

Emily Attwell
Georgia Doohan-Smith (2006-2020)

Walters

Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham Kt. (1969-1974, also Cookes)
Christopher Stiles (1990-1995)
Matthew Taylor (1968-1973, also Cookes, Chairman of the Foundation)

Webber

Eva Pavolva (2019-2021)

Wendron / Wendron-Gordon

Theo Gariazzo (2019-2021)
David Harrison (1947-1950)

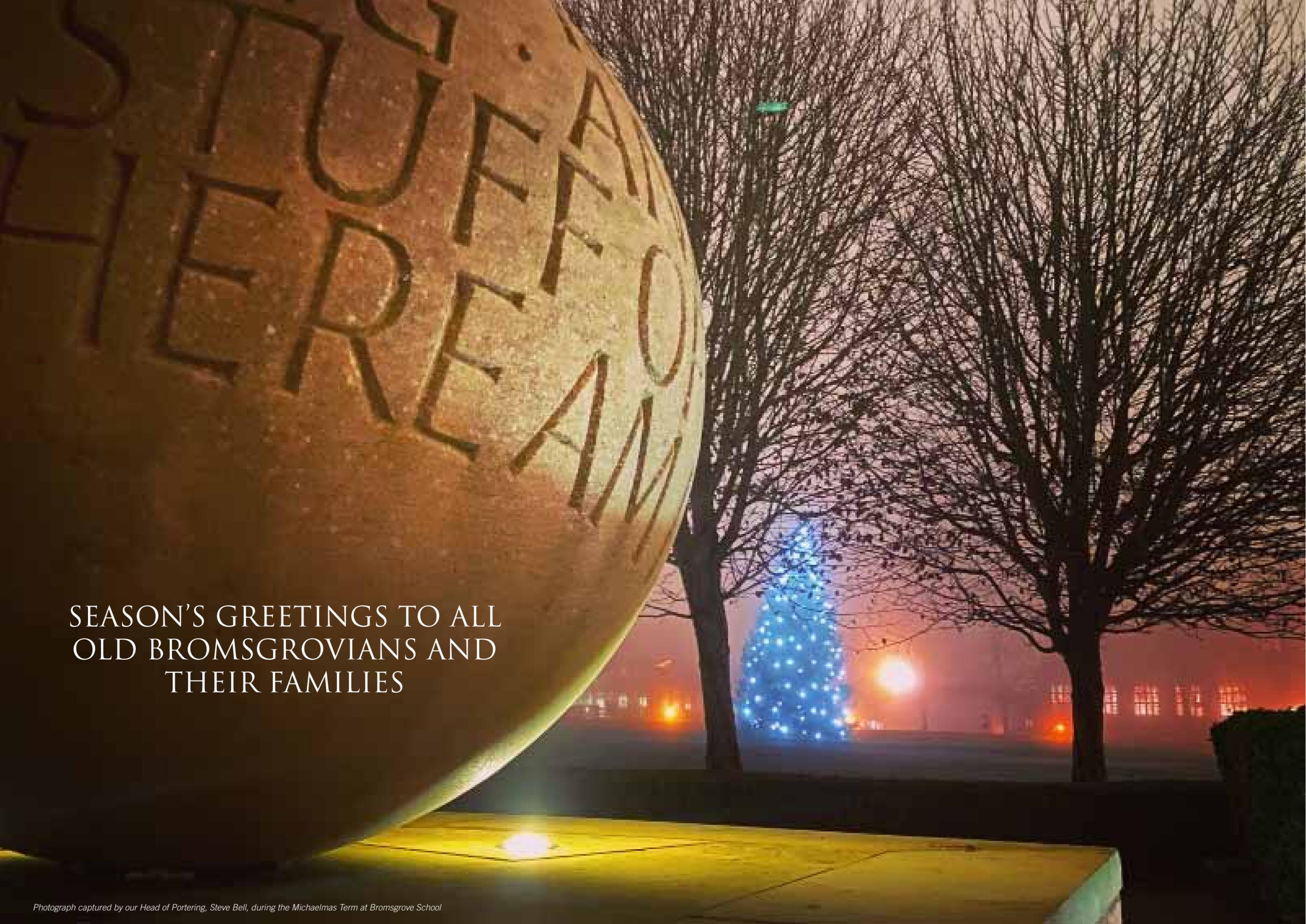
Friends of the School

Old Bromsgrovian Lodge
Alan Bellamy
Christine Bradley (deceased)
Shirley Cheevers (deceased)
Judy Dennison
Chris Edwards
Anthony Finn
Paul Pittaway
Rachel Scannell
James Sommerville
Ann Taylor
Tim Taylor
Patricia Whistance

Parents

Felix Hosie
Roger Hurley
Barbara King
David Lucas
Olayinka M Fadahunsi-Oluwole
Alexey Stepanov
Andy Sutherland

* We now record monetary donations and gifts in kind, i.e. those who have offered to help students through the Futures department or have given their time to the School.



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL
OLD BROMSGROVIANS AND
THEIR FAMILIES

Events

WHAT'S ON AT BROMSGROVE DURING 2022 AND BEYOND.

February 2022

2000-2011 Leavers' Reunion

Saturday, 12th February 2022
Venue: Bromsgrove School
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Rescheduled twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we now hope to be able to invite OBs back for the 2000-2011 Leavers' Reunion in early 2022. This year, we have extended the dates to also include 2010 and 2011 leavers.

March 2022

The Eleventh Annual Foundation Lecture

Thursday, 24th March 2022
Venue: RAC Club, Pall Mall, London
Time: 7.00pm - 9.30pm
We are delighted to see the return of our annual Foundation Lecture in March 2022, with guest speaker Brigadier Simon Scott OBE (Wendron-Gordon 1980-1985).

May 2022

Appreciation Lunch

Thursday, 12th May 2022
Venue: Bromsgrove School
Donors from the current and 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.

London Drinks

Date to be confirmed
Old Bromsgrovians are invited to our London drinks reception (venue and date to be confirmed). Please make sure we have an up to date email address listed for you on the OB database and follow us on social media where the event information will be posted.

July 2022

Commemoration Day

Saturday, 2nd July 2022
Venue: Bromsgrove School
Old Bromsgrovians and their families are warmly invited to the OB Marquee on Lower Charford between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Information will be emailed in the Summer Term and posted on our OB Facebook Page. OBs are encouraged to sign up to register their attendance.

September 2022

Pre-1970s Leavers' Reunion

Saturday, 10th September 2022
Venue: Bromsgrove School
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
If you left School before 1970, this reunion is not to be missed. Invitations for eligible OBs will be sent out during the summer.

On-going

Bromsgrove Futures & OB Networking

In conjunction with the careers department, we are looking for Old Bromsgrovians who would be willing to undertake mock interviews with current pupils, typically the type of interviews you would have for university entrance or a leavers' work programme. In addition, the Bromsgrove Futures department are always looking for guest speakers to give a presentation or advice to small groups of current pupils.

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

Tel: +44(0) 1527 579679 ext 361/366

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

Box Office:
bromsgrove-school.co.uk/whats-on

Online Alumni Events Diary:
bromsgrove-school.co.uk/alumni-events

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 Pre-Prep or Prep, 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._____

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

3. 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

Where provided, we will use your email (and occasionally postal address), as given by you, to send you news, invitations and information we believe to be of importance to our Alumni. You can opt-in or out of communications yourself by logging on to www.bromsgrovians.com. To view a copy of our Alumni Privacy Notice, please visit www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/PrivacyPolicy

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

You can pass my contact details and occupation to the School Careers Department

I would like information about leaving a legacy

I have pledged a legacy to the School

Data Protection Statement: All data is held securely and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. 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/s, your year of admission, your House, your year of leaving and a photo, if you have uploaded one, is automatically made available to other alumni on the OB database. You can change any of these settings at any time to make your data visible or not visible to other alumni - just visit www.bromsgrovians.com

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

Bromsgrovian Office, Bromsgrove School, Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B61 7DU.

Or email: oldbromsgrovians@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

If you require more than one form, you can download additional copies from www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/bromsgrove-alumni

You can also update your own details instantly by logging on to www.bromsgrovians.com