



# Bancroftian Newsletter Sept 2017



## Half way point - a message from Nick Bowman OBA President 2017-18

As the school term is well under way now, I reach the half way point in my Presidency. That seems very grand, and it's an honour to have been elected to the role. It has been great fun to spend time with OBs at events such as the 5 and 10 year reunion, OBs' Day and the recent Leavers' event, where I also met many parents. I took the opportunity to listen to them and take on board their views on how the OBA can develop. I have endeavoured to make my time as President worthwhile by driving change where I feel the OBA can benefit. It is already a very vibrant community, but nothing stands still in this day and age, so we must always be looking for ways to change and improve. With my background in PR and marketing it is no surprise that my initial focus has been on ensuring that we have developed the events calendar to make it more interesting and engaging – in particular we will be holding events that will appeal to Bancroftians in their early career years as well as purely social functions.



The recent wine appreciation and tasting event organised by Amanda Campbell was a great success. If anyone has an idea for an event that would interest other members of the OB Community, please let us know.

In addition there is a need to broaden the Bancroft's community and make it more inclusive. We are making great strides in establishing the best way for parents of past students to remain in touch with and contribute to the life of the School and OBA. Watch this space.

Finally, my passion for cycling has encouraged me to set up a Bancroft's Cycling club. It's in the early planning stage. The first cycle will be in the New Year, and it would be great to hear from anyone who would like to come along for a gentle ride around the Essex countryside, or who would like to be involved in running the club. The aim is to make it an ideal gathering for people whatever their level of cycling proficiency. If you are interested, please get in contact through Susan Day at the OBA Office. Hope to see many of you at the President's Dinner on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## 5 and 10 Year on Reunion

On 5<sup>th</sup> May the classes of 2006 and 2011 returned to Bancroft's for their 5 and 10 years on reunions. More than 100 Old Bancroftians gathered in the Dining Hall to listen to the Head, Simon Marshall who gave an update on the School and OBA President Nick Bowman who spoke about how the alumni can get involved with the OBA and the School. This was followed by a selection of canapes and drinks and gave everyone the opportunity to catch up with their contemporaries and teaching staff. A great evening was had by all.



## OBs' Day 2017 - some memories from the day....



**40 years on** - the first year of girls in the 3rds at Bancroft's  
 Back row L - R: Debbie Wilkinson, Joanna Robinson, Emma Dods, Tim Rutter, Gabrielle Hass, Jane Macmillan, Sanchia Claydon.  
 Front row L-R: Alison Evans, Amanda Khan, Ruth Batten, Lisa Berkin, Sabina Gardiner



**50 years on**  
 Back Row L2R: Dick Summers, David Riddle, Julian Blake, Jon Ransley, Geoff Morgan  
 Front Row: Jon Paul, Roger Leake, Gordon Brown, Paul Corney, Anthony Young, Peter Benton



**60 years On**  
 Back row: Brian Tora, David Lush, Alan Hines.  
 Middle Row: Dick Grant, Barry Wilkinson, Brian Wainwright, Roger Smith, Robin Butler, Richard Wallden, David Holland, Martin Sumner.  
 Front Row: Colin Bareham, Steve Thirsk, Ian Cormack, Clive Callahan, Neil Smith, Graham Bartram, Ken Drake (Geography Master & Scout Master 1960 onwards), Andrew Kimber.

Also attended, but missing from photo: Don Beresford — had to leave early; John Seabrook & Alan Paul — Saturday only



**65 Years On**

Back Row: Jon Sanders Michael Bewick, Roger Northwood, Frank Mumby, Peter Fordham, Alan Johnson, Robin Sjoberg.

Middle Row Adrian Hill, Alan Knight, Garry Garrard, George Higinbotham, David Shillito, Andrew Naylor, Richard Baxter, Marcus Richardson, Peter Tero.

Front Row: Geoffrey Smeed, Roger High, Richard Barrow, John Webber, Russell Webb, Robert Ellisdon, Gordon Burch, Raymond Camlet.

**70+ Year Group**

**Wally Johns + Partner  
 Ryder Dines + Partner  
 George Hart  
 Brian Tierney  
 Richard Timms + Partner  
 Iain Wallace**



## **A message from Ken Drake Bancroft's Teacher 1960-70**

Dear Old Bancroftians

Boys can usually look back on their school days and recall one member of staff who had a great influence on them. I wonder if you can help me? I am keen to find a boy who gave me a hobby which has played such an important part in my life that I would like to thank him and tell him how grateful I am that he has given me an interest that has given me and many others a great deal of enjoyment. I taught at the school from 1960-70 and was Head of Geography and taught most of the geography in the school. As part of the curriculum I encouraged the boys to write some essays for an external competition which had a geographical slant. I asked the boys to write down at the end of their essays the sources they had used. One boy quoted a book called "A Camera on Unknown London" by E.O. Hoppe published by Dents and cost 5/- (or 25p in today's money!). I borrowed it from the public library. It was a book of sixty photographs of odd and unusual items in London and opposite each page it stated where the object was, how to find it and what was unusual about it. The book was published in 1936. Armed with the book I set off on my bicycle with the book and my camera to look for some of these objects but between the book being published and me seeking to find them the second world war had taken place. The result was that some of these objects had been moved, some had been destroyed and some were still there. That mission, based on that boy writing that essay started me on an interest that has continued ever since. Armed with a camera when the weather forecast suggests there will be plenty of sunshine I still love to go to London to take photographs.



The Pentax single lens reflex I had then has now been replaced by a Canon digital slr and many of the old slides have been scanned and transformed to digital images. I regularly give PowerPoint presentations on London, selecting many odd and unusual aspects of the selected area which is usually in the City or in Westminster. The wide variety of audiences include men's clubs, women's groups, church groups, retired groups, Probus, Round Table, Rotary, History Groups and indeed anyone who wishes to invite me and pay my fee which I donate to a local charity which does a wonderful work for those with mental health problems. I am a speaker on the Cambridgeshire Association of Local History list. Having given these talks at my own church they wondered if I would be prepared to lead a party on one of these walks and since then I have led parties over twelve different full day tours. These walks usually include some of the very interesting City Churches and recently I took my group into St Mary Abchurch and we suddenly realised that one of the people on duty in the church that day happened to be Chris Dolan, who had been Head of Music towards the end of my time at Bancroft's. We had not seen each other for 40 years.

I have now given hundreds of talks and raised thousands of pounds for mental health charities. Yes I love walking in London, talking about London, photographing in London and all this is as a result of this particular boy writing this project and quoting this book. I would love to get in touch with him and let him know how grateful I am to him for getting me hooked on London. Please contact [susan.day@bancrofts.org](mailto:susan.day@bancrofts.org)

## **LADIES EVENING**

The second of our series of Ladies Evenings took place at Bancroft's School on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September and oh what fun we all had!

A big 'thank you' to OB Rosamund Hall (92-99) who delivered a superb and very entertaining talk to approximately 40 OBs and former staff, together with the delights of scrumptious cheese and biscuits and some excellent 'natural' wine tasting.

The evening was so successful that we will be looking to arrange a Jazz Evening at Rosamund's wine bar in E7 in the very near future!



# Hugh Oxlade OB 2006-13

## University Challenge 2017

The w/c 17 Sept instalment of University Challenge saw Hugh Oxlade as Captain of Fitzwilliam College Cambridge. Hugh comes from South Woodford and is studying History and his team ran out worthy winners against Leicester



**The Winners!!!**





## **LEAVERS' EVENING**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September the school held an informal drinks evening in the Dining Hall for the U6 leavers of 2017 and their parents/guardians. The evening was a great success and very well attended. Our leavers were officially welcomed to the OBA by our President Nick Bowman and were presented with OBA Ties and Ladies OBA Pins. We were delighted welcome back OBs from the classes of 2015 and 2016 who came along to help with a new incentive to offer mentoring and support to our new Old Bancroftians, sharing their university and work experiences. We wish you all every success for the future. If you have not already officially registered with the OBA please contact [susan.day@bancrofts.org](mailto:susan.day@bancrofts.org) at the OBA Office.



## **Open House 2017**

Bancroft's opened its gates to visitors as part of London Open House weekend on Saturday (16 September) from 12 to 3pm. Promoted as the world's largest architecture festival and now in its 25th year, Open House gives free public access to more than 800 buildings of notable architectural interest, walks, talks and tours throughout London over one weekend in September each year.

## **GCSE Joy for Bancroft's Fifth Form**

Fifth Form (year 11) pupils received their GCSE results. Trepidation gave way to smiles as pupils saw that their hard work had paid off in an excellent set of results. A huge number of pupils exceeded their expectations and we were delighted to see so many individual success stories.

Over half the exams (54.4%) taken were awarded an A\* and 89% of all GCSE exams were graded at A\* or A. In total fifteen pupils achieved a magnificent clean sweep of 10 A\*s, with 47, more than a third of the year group, achieving 7 or more A\*s.

Head, Simon Marshall, said, "This is an excellent set of results from a year-group which has been perhaps a little slow to realise their academic potential. It was great to see so many of our pupils express real joy (and relief) with their achievements. I am sure that this is a year-group which will now grow in intellectual confidence on the back of these great results and approach their A Levels with real ambition. This is the final year for this type of GCSE exam, and it is great to see our Fifth Form sign them off so well."

There are so many pleasing individual success-stories – from those students who have worked exceptionally hard to achieve As and Bs to those who have managed to gain nine or more A\*s.

## **Stellar A Level Results at Bancroft's**

We are delighted to report its highest ever number of A\*s achieved at A Level. 37.9% of all exams taken by our U6 pupils were awarded the top grade, making A\* the most common grade achieved by Bancroftians this year. A fantastic 68.6% of exams were graded at either A\* or A. Twenty nine pupils claimed 3 or more A\*s each, with 14 of these gaining 4 A\*s and an ecstatic two being awarded an amazing 5 A\*s.

Although it is too soon to have a complete picture of the university acceptance rate, as things stand today the majority of pupils have achieved places at their chosen universities. Congratulations must go to Rebecca Leung who has a piano scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music. Two of our artists have places for art foundation courses, Tyler Ward-Bagnold is off to the Royal Drawing School while Nina will continue her studies at the prestigious Central St Martin's School of Art.

Apart from their undoubted academic success, this is a year group which has always thrown itself wholeheartedly into the co-curricular life of the School. Throughout the past seven years, they have made an invaluable contribution to music, sport and drama. School productions, such as Sweeney Todd and Les Miserables, have been enriched by their talent and enthusiasm. Twenty two of the U6 have achieved their Gold Award in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and are looking forward to having their awards presented at St James' Palace. The members of the School Combined Cadet Force have shown fantastic examples of leadership with Tom Walton, the Head of Contingent, and Josh Sekhon, Head of the Army Section, both awarded Sixth Form Army Scholarships.



## **Bancroft's School CCF Review & a Flying Visit from the Navy**

The school's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) held its Biennial Inspection on Tuesday 28 March. For many the highlight of the day was a "surprise" visit to the School by a Royal Navy Merlin helicopter.

Thanks to Old Bancroftian Nick Teece (1997-2004), who is stationed at RNAS Yeovilton, Lt Andy White was able to land the 22m long chopper on the School field watched by thrilled pupils and staff. Everyone was relieved when it missed landing on the cricket square! Prep School pupil James Hitching described the noise as phenomenal saying "We heard it before we saw it!" The helicopter caused much excitement in the School as pupils, not just those in the CCF, were keen to climb on board, have a good look round and find out more about how it is employed by the Navy. The parent of one year seven pupil commented "My son did say it was the best thing to happen at school today!" The two hundred members of the CCF spent the day in Epping Forest practising various skills – for example, first aid, observation, casualty evacuation – they have learned over the past year. On returning to School they had the formal part of the Review when they were inspected by Group Captain David Tait the Station Commander of RAF Honington, who has seen active service in Belize, Northern Ireland, twice in Bosnia and Afghanistan. The Guard of Honour, under the command of year 13 student CSM Josh Sekhon, had been practicing their moves for several months. Their hard work was worth it as Group Captain Tait described the parade as first class with a "tip top" Guard of Honour. I have been impressed by the quality of the young men and women I have seen today. Their commitment to the Cadets shows a willingness to succeed and a level of motivation which will stand them in good stead.

The Biennial Review is a formal requirement from the MOD to ensure that the training the School's CCF undertakes is good and the kit and equipment are in order. The day acts as a showcase for the cadets, from both Army and Air Force contingents, and demonstrates the range of activities which the members of the CCF regularly enjoy and the skills the cadets develop. Group Captain Tait commented on the excellent organisation of the day.

## Rainbow Murray (OB 1989-96)

Congratulations to Rainbow on her appointment as Professor of Politics at Queen Mary University of London. Rainbow said "Word must have spread via Facebook (which I'm not on) - I think my Mum must have been telling the world! Anyway, I'm happy for you to share the news - I hope it will inspire other OBs, particularly women, who are very underrepresented at this level in academia."



## Rama Muraleetharan (OB 2002-09)

### The Embassy Cinema Restoration Project - an update

Dear Old Bancroftians,

I trust that you are all well. I have been working on a restoration project, these past few months, for the Embassy Cinema of Chadwell Heath; a former 1930s art deco cinema, that hosted sophisticated entertainment. It is one of the only historic buildings left in my hometown. My team (Chadwell Heath South Residents' Association) are currently working with our Council (London Borough of Redbridge) to locally list the building, and grant it "Asset of Community Value" status. We then plan to acquire the building and restore it to its former glory. Many of its original features still exist; from the art deco lights and door frames, to the original Proscenium Arch, Stage and Orchestra Pit. Even the old Projector Room has endured after all this time.



[www.architecture.com/image-library/ribapix.html?keywords=embassy%20cinema](http://www.architecture.com/image-library/ribapix.html?keywords=embassy%20cinema)

We intend to use the Auditorium as a Repertory Cinema and Theatre. Old classics, cult movies, themed screenings, viewings with live soundtracks, and arthouse productions can bring generations of people together. Local schools, colleges and communities can host amateur dramatic productions. Jazz, Swing, Big Band, Blues and Classical Orchestras can bring nights of refinement. The Dance Hall can be brought alive again, with late-evenings of Ballroom and Latin dancing. Keeping the building authentic to a retro/vintage era will easily make it stand out in East London, and give it some personality.

We have obtained the original blueprints, and plans of the building, in order to restore it to exactly how it used to be. Many other art deco cinemas, in the UK, have either been demolished or converted unimaginatively into flats and supermarkets. They were not properly protected, and now they are gone forever. We want to protect the building, repair the damage, and make this landmark culturally significant again. A place for film and theatre to co-exist for those with a mutual appreciation of the Arts; a rejuvenation of our area that can have a lasting impact for generations.

We have been in touch with 'East Brook Studios'; the major, new film studio developing in Dagenham (approx. twelve minutes away from the Embassy Cinema). Since the area is being cultivated into a new British home for film, the two projects could work in tandem; thereby creating a multitude of jobs and services for the local community. From hosting philanthropic events, to premieres and screenings - all in a vintage, glamorous setting – the opportunities are limitless. We are looking for architects, historians, benefactors and those in the film/cinema industry who have a knowledge of:

Art Deco Architecture - Building Restoration & Heritage - Retro/Vintage Features of the 1930s -Repertory Cinemas - Historic Decades such as "The Roaring Twenties", "The Prohibition Era" and "The Great Depression"

If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact me via [chs.ra@outlook.com](mailto:chs.ra@outlook.com)

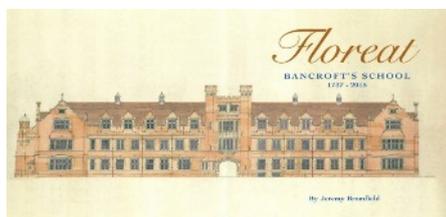
You can be a part of these ambitious and exciting plans.

## In memory of OBs who have recently passed away

A J (Tony Perrin OB 1944-50 Oliver Sim OB 2004-15  
Terence Victor Harris OB 1952-59  
Peter Salisbury OB 1960-66, Peter Fowles OB 1951-1953  
Basil Taylor OB 1936-1940, Comm Peter Frederic Gladwin RNR OB 1940-46, Dennis Powell OB 1936-42  
Also we remember Sheila Ferrari



**Floreat, Bancroft's School 1737-2015** the much anticipated history of Bancroft's School. Written and compiled by Bancroft's Archivist Jeremy Bromfield, MBE, this beautifully illustrated volume covers the whole history of the School, with an emphasis on the period post-1931. Jeremy Bromfield has served at Bancroft's since 1973, as Housemaster, Deputy Head Master, Master in Charge of Cricket, CCF Commander, and even taught some History! His considerable knowledge of the history of the School supplemented by the extensive Bancroft's Archives, as well as memories of Old Bancroftians and of staff past and present, form the basis of this new history. This handsome book will appeal to anybody with a connection to Bancroft's School. Please contact Susan Day at the OBA Office [susan.day@bancrofts.org](mailto:susan.day@bancrofts.org) or call the office on 0208 506 5714 to purchase your copy at £30 plus p&p.



## Retiring Bancroft's Staff 2017

**Chris Bates – Head of Modern Languages, 35 years service**  
**Penny Thompson – Head of Junior Maths, 28 years service**  
**Maria Perez – Modern Foreign Languages, 23 years service**  
**Pat Morton – Maths Department, 6 years service**

### Angad Nijjar (2017 leaver)

Angad was last season's captain of cricket and was presented with an MCC engraved shield by Matthew Fleming, this year's President of MCC. . Each year MCC recognises outstanding performances by school cricketers in the annual match between MCC and the School side. A player who scores 100 runs or takes 5 wickets in the match is invited to Lord's Cricket Ground for a special presentation which takes place on the field of play in front of the Lord's pavilion during the tea interval of a test match. This year the ceremony took place on the Sunday of the test match between England and South Africa. This year 14 cricketers from Schools around the country were recognised by MCC for their achievements in 2016. Angad Nijjar took 6 for 49 for Bancroft's v MCC in 2016, a great performance. Bancroftians Gareth James and Nigel Jacob were recognised for their achievements in 2010 and 2011, however Angad will be the first Bancroftian to be recognised twice. He will return again in next summer as in the 2017 match v MCC he scored 130 for the School. Angad is about to start at Cardiff University reading Geography.



## Julian Anani-Isaac (OB 2002-9)

This picture of Captain Julian Anani-Isaac of the Royal Lancers was featured in the *The Times* on the 30th August as a finalist in the Picture of Britain competition

Julien left Bancroft's in 2009, and was awarded a British Army Sixth Form Scholarship, which guaranteed him a place at Sandhurst after graduating. He read French & Spanish at Worcester College, graduating in summer 2013 and going straight to Sandhurst where he was commissioned on 8th Aug 2014 into the Queen's Royal Lancers, an Armoured Cavalry regiment based in Catterick, North Yorkshire

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Bancroft's Business Breakfast - Gherkin Building, 30 St Mary Axe, London  
27 Sept 2017 £10.00 **SOLD OUT****

### **NEW EVENT OBA City Drinks – Tuesday 5th December - 6pm**

The OBA would like to invite you to an informal drinks evening at the Walrus and Carpenter 45 Monument Street London EC3R 8BU from 6pm. An ideal opportunity to network with other OBs and the first drink is on us! Please save the date.

**OBA Northern Dinner 2017 Llyndir Hall, Rossett 07 Oct 2017 £30.00**

**OBA Annual Dinner Bancroft's School 20 Oct 2017 £50.00**

**Lord's Lunch Long Room, Lord's Cricket Ground 01 Dec 2017 (£ TBA**

**OBA General Committee Meeting Drapers' Hall 22 Jan 2018**

**OBA AGM 2018 Drapers' Hall 06 Mar 2018**

**OBA General Committee Meeting Drapers' Hall 18 Jun 2018**

**Old Bancroftians' Day 2018 Bancroft's School 01 Jul 2018**

**Eastern Dinner in Cambridge 17 March 2018 - Details to follow**



**DON'T FORGET !!**

Your news is of interest to the OBA membership and we hope you have enjoyed this September 2017 E-Newsletter.

If you have any news items, perhaps a recent promotion, new job or career, or you would like to report on an OBA event or anything else that you feel would be of interest to the OB community for publication on the website or for inclusion in the e-newsletter or for the printed newsletter, then please do not hesitate to send it to me Steve Dodd [srdodd@ntlworld.com](mailto:srdodd@ntlworld.com) (OBA e-news and web editor) or to Susan Day [susan.day@bancrofts.org](mailto:susan.day@bancrofts.org) at our School office.