

The Old Bancroftian



NOVEMBER 2015



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is with pleasure I can report that the OBA is in excellent health. We recently welcomed the 2015 leavers into the OBA in September at an event at the School hosted by Mary Ireland and Amanda Campbell.

They are clearly a very clever group, recording record A Level results and places for university entry. Over a fifth of the year group (25 in total) achieved 3 A*s or more. 34% of all A2 exams were graded A* with 92% at grades A*-B. Ten Bancroftians confirmed their Oxbridge places and twenty-one Bancroftians secured places to study medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. This year, the School has also sent its first student to RADA with a number of OBs going to music conservatoires and art school. Well done to all the staff at the School.

This year's OBs' Day was very well attended by all year groups; never let it be said a little rain would dampen

spirits! At the time of writing I have just returned from the Northern Dinner in Rossett; an excellent evening attended by more than forty individuals including OBs and their guests from across the country. We brought the start time of the meal forward so we could watch the England – Australia game (enough said). Despite the result we all had a good evening watching the match on a time lapse large screen display – broadband has not yet reached Rossett! In the bar at the end of the evening, we had the pleasure of chatting with another group also holding a dinner at the hotel; a group of allotment holders from Bristol holding their annual onion-growing prize giving! They provided an amusing end to the evening and I now know my shallots from my onions!

The OBA continues to be extremely successful in maintaining contact with and engaging alumni through communications and events. The



The Chairman in his new chair in Rossett

efforts of previous years have enabled success and this is something that we will aim to continue with an ongoing review of our activities. Indeed this success is perhaps well-reflected in that this year's annual dinner sold out early!

I hope to see many of you at OBA events during the year.

“Floreat Bancroftia”.

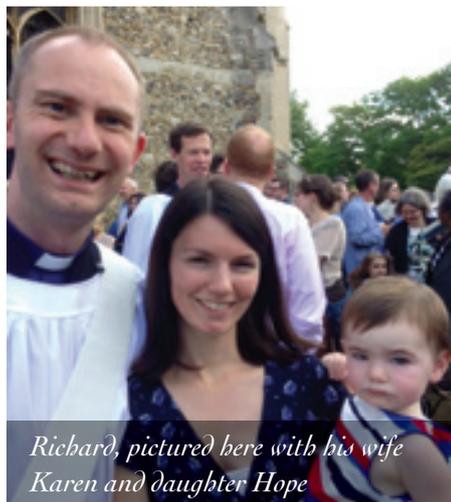
Stephen Dodd
(OB 1972-79)
OBA Chairman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 March 2016	12 March 2016	3 July 2016	17 September	1 October 2016
AGM	Cambridge	OBs' Day	2016	Northern
Drapers' Hall	Dinner	Bancroft's	OBs v School	Dinner
	Trinity Hall,	School	Ladies' Hockey	Rossett
	Cambridge		OLHC	

OB NEWS

Following three years of training at Ridley Hall in Cambridge, **Richard Attew** (OB 1993-2000) was ordained at Chelmsford Cathedral in June. He is serving his curacy post at St. Stephen's Church, Harlow. He says that being a vicar is wonderful - and means that (among other things) he technically gets paid to drink tea and eat cake!



Richard, pictured here with his wife Karen and daughter Hope



Photograph courtesy of Dan Charity.

The Council of the Royal Institute of Navigation has conferred an Honorary Fellowship of the Institute on **John Hasselgren** (OB 1949 – 56) in recognition of the work he has done over the years for the Institute. Elected to Fellowship of the Institute in 2005, John was surprised at this further honour. A search to find out who else might hold this distinction revealed three persons, the late Michael Richey – a founder member of the Institute, the late Sir Patrick Moore and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston. Noting that, of these three, two had been knighted and two were dead, his original conclusion was that he was not yet qualified, although time would eventually resolve this.

Elizabeth Bloomfield (OB 1994-2005) married Josh Ayto on the 18th April 2015 in the School Chapel; Reverend Moore conducted the ceremony and Mr Bluff played the organ. They met whilst at the University of Leeds.

There were lots of Old Bancroftians in attendance: Moria Hitchcock, Sophie Higgins, Andy Hales, Robin Fisher, Andy Hibberd, Jordan Rowland, Rev Moore, Matt Barrett, James Newton, Rachel Walls, Liz Turner, Lucy Hughes. All the OBs were in the Class of 2005, with seven of them having come right through the Prep School having started in 1994.



John was, however, assured that there were other holders of this grade of membership and that it was necessary to be neither knighted nor deceased.

The certificate commemorating this award was presented by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh at the Institute's annual meeting on 15 July 2015.

Alexandra Huk (OB 1993-2004), daughter of former member of staff Sally Anne, was married to Chris Watson on 11 July 2015 at Hertford College, Oxford.

Barry Matthews (OB 1952-1957) celebrated his golden wedding anniversary on 3 September.



Congratulations to **Lara Naqushbandi** (OB 1992-1999) who has just welcomed her second baby, Raiyah, into the world.

Max Pereira (OB 1984 - 1991) is the author of a newly released science fiction novel, *Second Sight*, the story of a brilliant young scientist who develops the nanotechnology to cure blindness. Max says that his love of the written word was inspired by Tim Jones, who taught him English whilst at Bancroft's. For more information go to: www.maximilianpereira.com

Eric Pinnington (1949-1956) would like to express his appreciation to the OBA for keeping OB ex-pats 'in the loop'. Having been put back in touch with fellow OB Alan Fox (1949-1956) by OBA Administrator, Susan Day, Eric and Alan are now involved in an email chess battle, having led the Bancroft's chess team from 1954-1956.

Roger Windsor MBE (OB 1950-1958) whose Sortabiography was published earlier this year will be presenting his book *More Sherlock Holmes than James Herriot* at the Books-on-Tyne Festival on 29th November at 10:30am in the Newcastle City Library, New Bridge Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He will give a talk entitled "Justifying the Title". Any OBs living in the north will be most welcome.

CANON RODNEY MATTHEWS - 50 YEARS AS A PRIEST

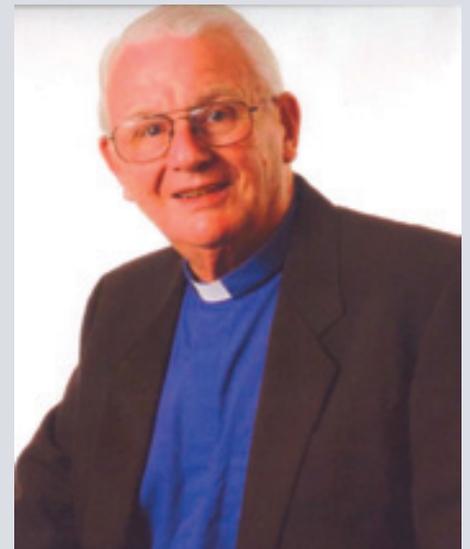
I was born and educated in Woodford Green at Brooklands Preparatory School and Bancroft's School. I was Baptised in All Saints, Woodford Green, served as a choir boy, a server, a bell ringer and was Confirmed at St. Mary's, Woodford Green. I was part of the last Form 2 to enter Bancroft's School in 1946 at aged 10. I never really shone at school; I enjoyed sport, was useless at cricket, not too bad at rugby and got my house colours for cross country running. The only academic subjects that I did well in were maths and physics.

I left school at aged 16 and went to sea as an Apprentice Deck Officer in 1952. I served a four year apprenticeship with Elder Dempster Lines trading with West Africa and North America and stayed with them as 4th, 3rd and 2nd Mate and left, with my Chief Officer's Certificate, when I felt called to Ordination in 1961. After a selection conference I had to wait for a place in Theological College so I taught at a Secondary Modern School in Walthamstow. I also married Rosemary Corp in the summer of 1961 at St. Lawrence Church, Barking.

I was at Salisbury Theological College from 1962-1964, ending up as Senior Student. I was "Made Deacon" in Chelmsford Cathedral in December 1964, and we moved

to Holland-on-Sea. I was Ordained Priest on 19th December 1965 and whilst at Clacton we had two children, Marianne and Roger. In September 1968, we moved to Loughton where I eventually became the first Team Vicar of St. Michael's Church. Whilst I was at Loughton I renewed my membership of the Old Bancroftian Rugby Club (which I had first joined in 1952) and played spasmodically and at a very low level until I was 53! In fact I have a small plaque on a brick in the club house which reads "Rodney Matthews - Joined 1952 - Scored 1987). In 1976 I was asked to become Vicar of All Saints, Goodmayes and this became a very busy period of my life. I trained three Curates, became Chaplain to The Sail Training Association and also became Assistant Area Dean of Redbridge. Whilst at Goodmayes I also renewed my love of sailing. I had a dinghy on Fairlop Waters, took my Son sailing on the Broads and also went to sea most years for two weeks as navigator on one of the Sail Training Association's Tall Ships. I even managed to arrange a short voyage for Old Bancroftians on the Malcolm Miller in the year that I was President of the OBA.

In 1987, following the tragic death of their Vicar, I felt called to the Parish of St. Paul's, Woodford Bridge, so



we moved there that December. During my time there, I continued as Assistant Area Dean and in 2000 I was made a Non-Residentiary Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral.

April 2002 brought me to retirement age and I was invited to be an Honorary Assistant Priest in the Parish Church of Ss. Peter & Paul. As well as helping out in the Parish, I am pleased to be invited occasionally to preach at local non-conformist Churches and also help out in neighbouring Parishes. Another unexpected bonus that has come my way is to have been invited to sail as a Cruise Chaplain on a few occasions. Also I am still close enough to Bancroft's to keep up with activities there, even occasionally being asked to Officiate in the School Chapel.

Our two children now both have two children of their own, so we now have four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

This year marks my 50th year as a priest and I am hoping that The Bishop of Chelmsford, The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, will celebrate with me at a special service in Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Chingford at 10 am on Sunday 20 December 2015. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Canon Rodney Matthews
(OB 1946-1952)

Rodney at sea aged 25



SCHOOL NEWS - NEW HEAD ANNOUNCED



We are sad to announce that Bancroft's Head, Mary Ireland, will be retiring at the end of this academic year after eight successful years. We will be reflecting on Mary's time as Head of the School in a later edition of the newsletter, but in the meantime, we are delighted

to announce the appointment of Mr Simon Marshall MA, PGCE (Cantab), MA, M.Phil (Oxon) as the new Head of the School with effect from 1 September 2016.

Simon is currently Headmaster of The English College in Prague. He was previously Deputy Head (Academic) at University College School, London (2007-2013) and Head of English at King's College School, Wimbledon (2001-2007).

Educated at Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, Simon graduated in Classics in 1988 from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge where he was a Choral Exhibitioner. He also gained his Postgraduate Certificate in General Education from Cambridge. He subsequently

graduated in 1995 in English Language and Literature from Trinity College, Oxford and took an M.Phil there in Eighteenth Century Studies in 1997.

Simon and his wife Eleanor are very much looking forward to joining the Bancroft's community. He says, "I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed to lead such a flourishing and successful school. When visiting the School I was struck by the friendly and purposeful atmosphere and by the great affection felt for Bancroft's by everyone I met. I very much look forward to joining the Bancroft's community next year and working with pupils, staff, parents and governors to build on the superb legacy of Mary Ireland."

OBA FOOTBALL CLUB

Now in their fourth season, OBAFC have kicked off the new campaign with 4 wins, a draw and a loss. Last year the club appointed its first coach, OB Oli Woolf (2002-2009), who had a big impact and guided the team to the play-offs for the first time. When Oli left for Australia this summer, we were quick to appoint another coach in the shape of John Hyatt, who has whipped the lads into shape with intensive training during the off-season and is looking for instant promotion to Division 4 of the Arthurian League.

The team's quick start shows just how vital those extra miles on the training pitch can be, and the



players are looking to kick on as the season really gets underway.

We now regularly attract 15-18 players on a Saturday and are in

the tough but enviable position of turning players away, which means a second team could be just a few years away...

OBITUARIES AND NOTICES

Stephen Allen (OB 1973-1980) passed away in June 2015 and a number of his contemporaries from School wanted to pass on some memories from the time they spent with him at Bancroft's and playing cricket for the OBA. Two of these are reproduced here:

Steve Dodd (OB 1972-1979) said: 'I still can't believe the terrible news. Steve and I played cricket and golf together for many years at Bancroft's and at Wanstead CCC and I always remember him as a reliable and honest cricketer (and person) who you could always

depend upon to do the right thing at the right time.'

Pete Richardson (OB 1972-1979): 'I went to the same junior school and cub pack as Steve and played cricket with him at Wanstead, Bancroft's and the OBs as many of us did. Steve was

a very good footballer and played for Nightingale Primary School and the 19th Epping Forest cub group before joining Bancroft's in 1973 through the 11 plus direct grant system, which brought many of us into the School from Redbridge. At Bancroft's he excelled at cricket and played in the School first team from the Upper 4ths. He was a wonderful bowler and a quiet unassuming boy who had a wickedly dry sense of humour.

David Bottomley (OB 1951-1958) sadly died earlier this year on 5 April. He was always very proud of having attended Bancroft's and very much enjoyed his time at the School.



Matthew Giles (OB 1976-83) died suddenly on 17th June 2015 aged 50 as a consequence of complications from malaria.

Matt was the son of David Giles and Jean Giles and brother of Will Giles (OB 1973-80). Here we share some extracts of Will's tribute to Matt, spoken at the funeral service:

Matt was a man of Essex – born in Chelmsford, brought up by our wonderful parents in Matching Green and Loughton, living his whole married life with Julie in North Weald, Leaden Roding and Great Dunmow, and passing on in Chelmsford. Despite the millions of miles he travelled he was never happier than when he was in the Essex countryside.

Our childhood in Matching Green was idyllic – and that was where his wonderful, easy-going, gregarious and big character was forged. He could get on with anyone. We both went to prep school at St Aubyn's and then secondary school at Bancroft's where we had the unusual situation of Mum and Dad as teachers and us boys as pupils, all under the same roof. He liked History, Classical Civilization and

English but liked playing in bands and new romantic music more.

At School Matt met his life-long friend Andy Cole. They had several things in common – music, Triumph motor cars, but most of all a passion for coarse fishing.

It was after leaving School that Matt's love of cricket grew and he played regular village cricket and a few games for the Evening Stars, the staff team at Bancroft's. I remember one match in particular when all three of us played – Dad, Matt and me, at Willingale.

After school Matt attended North East London Polytechnic and obtained a Higher National Diploma in Estate Management, and started working at the estate agents and auctioneers Ambroses in Loughton. But a career as an estate agent was never going to satisfy Matt and it was around this time he caught the flying bug.

Our cousin Tim had become an instructor at Stapleford Flying Club and took Matt up in a Cessna on a joyride, and that was it. Matt obtained his private licence, then his instructor's licence and embarked on the massive task of obtaining enough flying hours to qualify as a commercial pilot.

He was extraordinarily dedicated to his goal because it was something he absolutely loved. He was one of those very lucky people whose passion combines with their careers. When it came to aviation exams he would sail through and The Civil Aviation Authority described him as a pilot with 'exceptional skills'. He flew all sorts of planes, from the Boeing 737 for Ford Motor Company, to Gulfstreams and Bombardier Challengers in the private jet market for Twinjet and recently for Arrac in Nigeria. He flew millions of miles and kept his thousands of passengers (including celebrities, billionaires and politicians) safe. He saw places we will never see and some we would never want to see. His stories of adventure and derring-do always captivated us.

Away from flying Matt was happiest at home with his beloved family. He loved his garden where he had the greenest of fingers and would produce anything

from the hottest chillies to the most succulent tomatoes. And he loved his fish pond stuffed with carp.

Matt truly loved England. He loved the English countryside, English institutions, and England's history. Recently he shared some of his detailed research on Old Bancroftian pilots from the 2nd World War with Jeremy Bromfield and the Old Bancroftians' Association for their newsletter.

Matt had a positively profound effect on us all. He packed an awful lot into his 50 ½ years. As a much-loved son, husband, father, my brother, brother-in-law, uncle, nephew, cousin, and dear friend of so many, he will live on in our spirit.

David Grigson (OB 1948-1953) passed away in January earlier this year.

David Miller (OB 1944-1949) passed away in May this year.

Brian Terry (OB 1946-1953) died in July this year. A full obituary will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.

LETTER FROM JACK SIMMONS

I read with great interest the obituary of Ian Spurgeon by Dennis Collinson in the June issue of the Old Bancroftian. However Dennis's recollections of Ian's time as a Boarder Monitor are a little different from mine. One particular incident can illustrate this. When I was in the Lower Fourth, boarders had been given permission to go to Loughton in order to attend a concert. It had been stipulated that we had to walk there but, after a short while, I was tempted by a passing bus. Unfortunately I was seen by Ian who, the following day, told me to report to the Boarder Monitor's personal room that evening. This was the routine for those who were about to be formally caned. I cannot now recall who actually administered the punishment, but there was no question of a refusal to use the cane. Ian reminded me of this incident when we met again at OBs' Day two or three years ago.

Jack Simmons (OB 1945-52)

BANCROFT'S BUSINESS BREAKFAST



On 11 September, more than forty Old Bancroftians, parents and friends of the School attended the latest Bancroft's Business Breakfast. The event was generously hosted and supported by Mayer Brown and the guest speaker was Old Bancroftian Simon Winman (OB 1974-1981), Head of Club Development at the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

Simon spoke on the topic 'The Rugby World Cup 2015: what will success look like?' and gave an interesting insight into his integral role for the RFU in working with clubs around the country in the lead up to the World Cup to ensure a lasting legacy for rugby; focusing on the benchmarks for success both on and off the pitch.

An interesting Q&A covered a wide range of topics including selection, the impact of injuries, the role of clubs and sponsorship of the game, followed by a networking breakfast.

The events also gave guests an excellent opportunity to meet and network with other professionals in the Bancroftian community.

Thanks to the support of Mayer Brown, all ticket monies were directed to the Bancroft's Foundation, which supports means-tested scholarships at the School to enable children to attend, regardless of their financial background.

If you would like to suggest a theme, venue or speaker for a future Business Breakfast event, or to find out more about the Foundation, please contact Gemma Wicks at gemma.wicks@bancrofts.org.

OBS VS THE SCHOOL LADIES HOCKEY MATCH

The third annual OBs v School ladies hockey match took place on Friday 25 September at Old Loughtonians' Hockey Club.

Unfortunately, the OB team was a little short in numbers this year, as the late start to term meant that a number of regular team members had already returned to University. However, we were delighted to welcome back four recent leavers as well as OBs who left a little longer ago and the age of the team ranged from 18 to 47!

As usual, the game was played in very good spirit and whilst the School raced to a 3-0 lead at half-time, having made their set pieces count, the score line wasn't truly reflective of probably the best OB performance in this fixture to date. Indeed, the second half was

much closer, (once the OBs got to grips with the new rule change that means that long corners are no longer long) and was in fact a draw, thanks to a Meena Kansagra rebound from a Sue Mouat strike, cancelling out the School's second half-goal. The game finished 4-1 and with a number of pupils in their final year of School, the OBs

have already got their eye on the trophy for next year. Both teams enjoyed teas and a catch up in the clubhouse afterwards. Thanks to Danni Jewell and Richard Hay for umpiring and Jo Fryer-Green for coaching the School team.

Gemma Wicks (OB 1991-1998)



© Peter Joarder Photography

THE CROFTON SINGERS

We are delighted that four Old Bancroftians, who have not sung since leaving the school, are now looking forward to singing in our Christmas concert at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 12th December at St. Mary's Church, South Woodford, E18 2PA.

All are from the class of 2010, and all are former Bancroft's Singers. Singing soprano are Sarah Davis (who went on to Warwick University and is now a trainee chartered accountant) and Emily Walker (who went on to Leeds University and is now working for Watkins Gray International architectural company). Singing alto are Rachel Pennicott (who went on to Hull University and is now working for Associated British Ports) and Saranja Sivachelvam (who went on to Oxford University and is now working for Merrill Lynch).



It has been an equal pleasure to welcome Karen Gibbon, wife of former Bancroft's English teacher Lindsay Gibbon. Karen is enjoying singing soprano with us and says that she "last sang in a choral group over 35 years ago and is having fun wiping off the vocal cobwebs."

We have also been very pleased to hear from former Crofton Singers Roger Walmsley (OB 1951-1957) and George Moon (OB 1958-1965), both of whom have amazing memories of singing with the choir.

LADIES' NIGHT

On 18 September, around thirty female Old Bancroftians came back to the School for the first OBA Ladies' Night. Held in the new courtyard building and hosted by OBA President, Amanda Campbell and the Head, Mary Ireland, guests enjoyed Prosecco and canapes whilst catching up with and meeting other OBs from a wide range of year groups.

Guests were also treated to an excellent and amusing talk from OB Fiona Mountford (OB 1986-1993), Theatre Critic at the Evening Standard, who spoke brilliantly about her experiences both at School and after Bancroft's.



We have received some excellent feedback from the evening and so we will look to repeat this event next year.

Gemma Wicks (OB 1991-1998)

OBS' DAY 2015



OBA Facebook Page

The OBA Facebook page now has more than 400 members.
Join at:
www.facebook.com/groups/obabancrofts
to receive the latest news and events.

Prefer email?

If you would prefer to receive the OBA Newsletter by email, please contact Susan Day at:
susan.day@bancrofts.org or
why not update all details via our survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/obaupdate2015>

OBA Contacts

General email: oba@bancrofts.org
Chairman - Steve Dodd
chairman@bancroftians.net
OBA Administrator - Susan Day
susan.day@bancrofts.org
0208 506 5714
Newsletter Editor - Gemma Wicks
gemma.wicks@bancrofts.org
0208 506 5711