



Bancroftian Newsletter Winter 2018



WW1 Centenary

Bancroft's remembering those who have given themselves in conflict for our freedom. A special tribute to the 167 members of the Bancroft's community who died as a result of the 1914-18 War.



Thinking about the past and looking forward a few thoughts on Bancroft's

Bancroft's is a school with a great history, originally founded in 1738 on the site of what is now Queen Mary University London. It first admitted boarders in 1802 and moved to a temporary home in Tottenham in 1886 before moving in 1889 to its current site in Woodford. It has seen many changes and developments. In 1981 the boarding house was closed, and the school had become fully co-educational. The most recent change was the addition of a Prep School in 1990. Quite a history and heritage over the last 280 years!

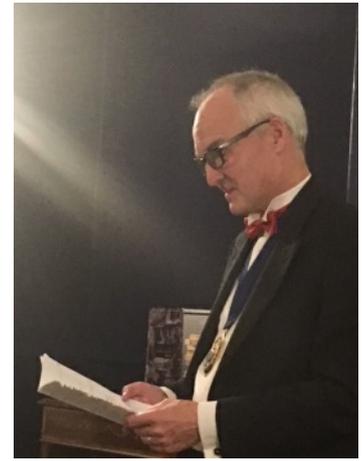
| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 x Life Peer | 18 x Oxford Academics |
| 11 x Knights | 20 x Cambridge Academics |
| 10 x DSOs | 4 x Ivy League Professors |
| 31 x CBEs | 53 x Professors |
| 6 x Sherrifs | 39 x MBEs |
| 57 x OBEs | 13 x Professors (other) |
| 2 x Deputy Lieutenants | Chief accountants |
| Armed Forces awards | Bank of England Cashiers |
| 2 x VC's | Judges |
| 5 x DSC and 2 Bar | Clergy and Bishops |
| 56 x MC and 2 Bar | Politicians |
| 16 x DFC and 2 Bar | Foreign office and Civil |
| Police | Servants |
| Journalists | Art |
| Education | Music |
| TV Movies and entertainment | Sport |
| | Royal Household |

Bancroft's has always been a place of inclusion, where children from all backgrounds have had the opportunity to benefit from a great education, learn new skills and develop personally. After leaving school many have had the the opportunity to contribute significantly to society and they have been duly recognised. Of course in addition to those that have received such recognition there are thousands more who have led equally fulfilling lives as parents, partners, professionals, lovers and I dare say even one or two rascals and vagabonds along the way.

Notwithstanding this history, a quick look at wikipedia - that font of all knowledge - only highlights around thirty or so of those that might deserve merit for their contributions to society. On noticing this limited acknowledgement, Andrew Cremer (OB 1972-79) has undertaken the monumental task to identify some of the notable individuals from the last 280 years of Bancroft's history. The panel above shows a list of awards given across a wide range of occupations, military and public service.

Northern Dinner October 2018

The Annual Northern Dinner 2018 was a great success although attendance was a little lower than hoped. Those that did make the trip to Llyndir Hall Hotel in Rossett were not disappointed. There was great conversation all evening, anecdotes of memories past, a touch of the Monty Python what did the Romans ever do for us – the closeness of Chester might have played a part. A wonderful conversation at breakfast the next morning when Keith Perch wondered why the doctor he had spoken to (Mary Boulas's husband) couldn't help his knee problem, perhaps it was because he was a Gynaecologist! Nevertheless a great evening was had by all and when asked who had been good over the last 12 months, all the former school house boarders raised their hands – always ones to claim innocence. Ed Sautter (OBA President) closed the evening with a summary of what the school OBA and the wider Bancroft's community are doing and we finished all looking forward to next year. This is a great OBA event for the those based in the regions and a good excuse for us southerners to go to the north. Thanks to all who supported a great evening.



Jeremy Bromfield MBE an upcoming Radio Star

(the honorary OBA Archivist among many other notable positions) featured in an interview on BBC radio London in May 2018 where he provided some very useful insights into the history of Bancroft's in the Woodford area BBC Radio London - well done - we all learnt some more history! Thanks to Karen Rogers for organising.



OBA President Ed Sautter shares his feedback on a couple of big events to close the academic year

Vis Day; an excellent showcase for the school. Starting with a lovely prize giving at the Prep School, interspersed with solo and choral performances by the children. A great lunch, meeting members of staff, and then the senior prize-giving, and a chance to acknowledge the contribution of our retiring chair of governors, Philip Ogden (who has also become Master of the Drapers' Company). OBs' Day; a very busy and successful day. I had the chance to meet a lot of OBs and their partners. Great to see such a strong reunion group attendance. A plaque to Peter Scott was dedicated during the chapel service, attended, as was the lunch, by his daughters and their partners. Simon Marshall took the opportunity at the lunch to explain to the OB community his vision for the school, and also clarify some of the intentions around future development. In the afternoon, as well as the cricket, netball and crazy golf in the Quad, there was a moving event remembering Tony Duncan, the former Prep School Head. I think I finally paused for breath (and a couple of beers at the bar) at about 4pm. Big thanks to Susan Day, who was tremendously helpful to me in the run up and on the day.



50 years on at OBs' Day 2018



60 years on at OBs' Day 2018



70 years on at OBs' Day 2018

OBs' Day 2018 at Bancroft's School



OBs' day 2018 was a great success, I am sure helped in part by great weather and an excellent representation from all age groups and their families. As well as the traditional events, cricket, netball, football, swimming pool and of course the ever popular lunch, this year saw mini/crazy golf in the quad. A great chance to walk on the hallowed grass without fear of detention or lines. Thank you to all the organisers.

OBA Dinner 19th October 2018 - Ed Sauter OBA President

The Annual OBA dinner at the School on 19 October was a most enjoyable evening and thanks are due to Marc and his wonderful catering team who once again delivered the goods, and of course to Susan. Thank you Jeremy for proposing the toast to the School and thanks to everyone who came (I hope I'll be forgiven for singling out my pals from the 1970 - 1977 vintage, Siggy, Malcolm, Trevor and Stephen).



The dinner although less well supported than normal was a wonderfully social occasion and a great time was had by all with toasts and speeches from Simon Marshall, Jeremy Bromfield and Ed Sautter



GOLF NEWS

Old Bancroftian Golfing Society Third Summer 9-hole event 15 OBs, Bancroft's parents and pupils played our third and final 9-hole competition at Wanstead GC in August. The winners were Malcolm Fleet, Hitesh Mody and Lucy Fox. Autumn Meeting in Suffolk Instead of the usual trip through the Eurotunnel to Northern France, 8 OBs and guests ventured along the A12 and A14 to play at Felixstowe Ferry, Thorpeness and Ufford Park.

We stayed and dined at Ufford Park, consuming adequate amounts of beverages! On the first day in windy conditions at Felixstowe Ferry the President's team beat the Captain's team. On the second day at Thorpeness, Adam Kodish won the Woodford Bowl and Tony Burgess winning the guest prize. On the third day at Ufford Park the winners were John Seabrook, Paul Clarke and Lionel Smith. Unfortunately we weren't able to field our strongest team and as a result finished last in the Essex Scratch Foursomes at Thorndon Park.

Crofton Singers

With the very kind support of the Drapers' Company, the Crofton Singers was able to celebrate its 70th Anniversary Year in the exceptional Drapers' Hall.

A number of former singers and friends enjoyed a varied programme from their repertoire including Christmas music from the 16th to 20th centuries. Three pieces from this concert have been put onto youtube: which can be seen via the choir's website www.croftonsingers.org.uk

Sadly, this was also the final event for Simon Pusey, who had been the musical director since 2009. The singers had greatly appreciated Simon's musical skills – and his unique family connections with the choir. In January the choir welcomed Jonathan Rathbone as its new musical director, who brought with him a wealth of experience, not least his many years as director of the Swingle Singers. The singers were thrilled to have attracted his interest and are really enjoying his new inspirational leadership.

The choir has been fortunate to secure funding to give some free concerts in Bow over the next couple of years, but still plans to sing locally – including for the Woodford Festival in October.



U3A Buckhurst Hill From OB Anthony Young (1967-1973)

We are a very friendly, social and learning organisation, if you are over 50, not in full time employment then you are more than welcome to join.

Our membership is £20 p.a, runs from April to March, and allows you access to all our groups and events. We meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month, with a guest speaker, from 2pm -4pm at Roding Valley Hall, we currently have around 20 groups and organize outings on a regular basis.

For more information please e mail buckhillu3a@gmail.com or visit our website

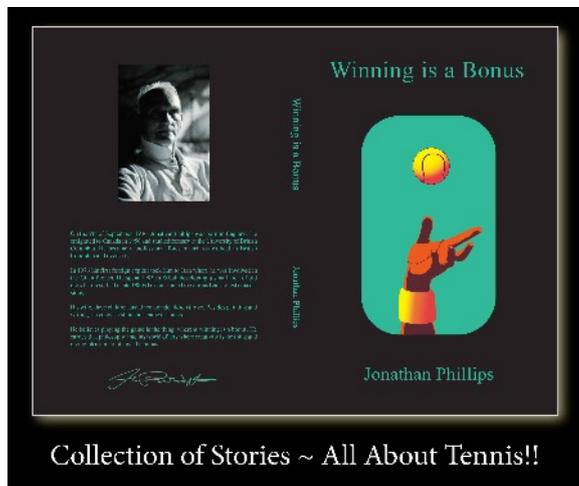
<https://u3asites.org.uk/buckhurst-hill>



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

“Winning is a bonus” a new book by Jonathan Phillips (OB 1947 - 1953)

I am wondering whether OBs (or perhaps others) will be interested in my book, *Winning is a Bonus*, that I am about to launch at Hager Books, Kerrisdale, in Vancouver. Every now and again, I hear news from you regarding the 1947 batch - some of which have had full lives and contributed enormously. Living in a far-flung place, I rarely manage to visit England but memories dwell. It is encouraging to learn how well the school is holding its own! Contact the OBA office for details.



Colin Matthews OBE (OB 1957-1964)

Colin visited Bancroft's in October, Colin was Associate Composer with the London Symphony Orchestra between 1992 and 1999, and Composer-in-Association with the Hallé from 2001-10, now their Composer Emeritus. The workshop was a fantastic experience for pupils in our flourishing music department.



Educational Development Fund

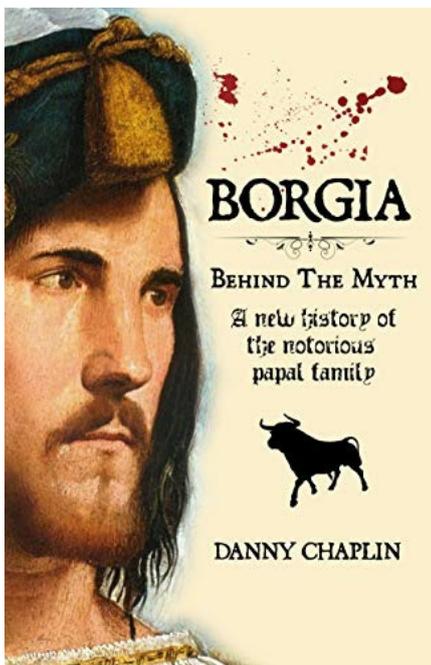
Welcome Rish !

As mentioned in Facebook post, Rishabh Shah is expected to be elected to the Committee of the OBEDF at the up-coming AGM. Rishabh has already been involved, as a co-opted member, for the last year. He shared the follow-ing thoughts and also a couple of photos of one of the school tours that he attended with the OBEDF's support. He is turning to face the camera in the centre of the first photo. Also in these photos is Jack Lewis, another com-mittee member and previous recipient of an award from the OBEDF.

"I attended Bancroft's between 1999 and 2010 and was fortunate enough to have received two grants from the OBEDF, without which I would not have been able to take the opportunities presented to me. This left me with a great sense of gratitude. The school trips I was consequently able to attend were fantastic experiences and I have no doubt contributed significantly to my personal development as a student.

As a co-opted member of the committee over the past year it has been fantastic to be involved in providing support to both current and former Bancroftians in taking up opportunities they might not otherwise be able to. The OBEDF plays a great role supporting talented applicants to continue pursuing a wide range of opportunities and activities and I very much hope to continue to play a part as a committee member."





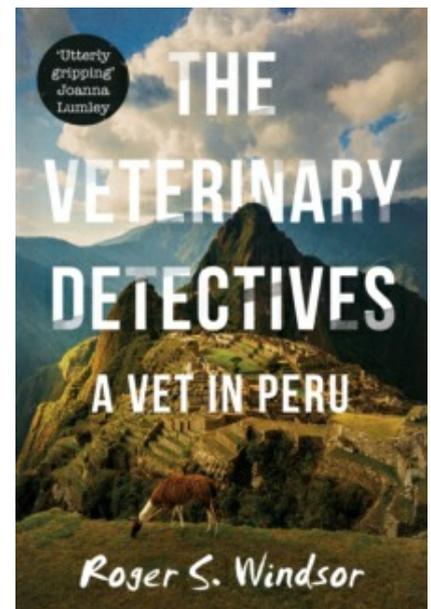
Roger S Windsor

(OB 1950-58)

In the second volume of his memoirs Roger tells the story of a pioneering British veterinary aid project, established in conjunction with a local farmers' co-operative, to bring self-financing veterinary services to thousands of dairy farmers and llama and alpaca keepers in the high Andes in southern Peru.

Danny Chaplin (OB 1981-83)

Danny has just published his latest book Borgia - Behind the myth - London-born Danny Chaplin (b. 1965) is a Singapore-based author, magazine journalist and public relations consultant.



His PR and journalism work has taken him to every corner of Southeast Asia and North Asia representing such clients as Land Rover, Qatar Airways, Formula One and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations amongst many others. His travel journalism has, over the years, appeared in the in-flight magazines of most Asian airlines. But aside from travel, his other abiding interest has always been history, particularly the ancient, Medieval and Renaissance periods with an emphasis on the Italian peninsula and Byzantium. 'Strenuitas: The Life and Times of Robert Guiscard and Bohemond of Taranto' was his first published book in 2015.

Raymond Sharp (OB 1933-39)

We have recently been advised that Ray sadly died on 17th September 2017 aged 95.

Ray was at Old Bancroftians' Day (2017) and was the oldest one there. He really enjoyed the day and managed to meet a few slightly younger contemporaries. During the war (1940-41) Ray was often posted on Home Guard duties at the observation point of the School Tower, rifle in hand, looking out for Germans. He joined the RAF in 1943 and saw active service in Europe.

Colin Stanford (OB 1940-47)

Colin passed away 5th April 2018.

Mike Wheeler, (OB 1939-45)

Mike was the son of 'Boss' Wheeler, the senior English master for many years. Mike had always had an interest in music, a talent he pursued after leaving School, becoming a teacher in various parts of the country, eventually becoming a Deputy Head Teacher. Shortly after leaving School he gave a presentation at one of the weekly meetings of the Music Club. Mike met his future wife Jean, a pupil at Loughton High School while they were still at school, but sadly she passed away last year. For the past 21 years Mike was organist and choirmaster at All Saints Church, Milford on Sea where he was greatly appreciated, and he recorded the Processional and Recessional organ music for his memorial service only a few days before he died peacefully at his home. He will be sadly missed. Obituary by OB Brian Kesby.

Alan Barrett (OB 1936-43)

Alan died aged 91. He had a distinguished career as a senior civil servant and on leaving school in wartime he joined the Navy and was sent to Bletchley Park as he showed academic qualities that had earned him a classical scholarship to Oxford. He was for many seasons a valued member of the OB rugby 1st XV. Obituary by David Giles (OB 1945-53)

Malcolm Pegg (OB 1957-64)

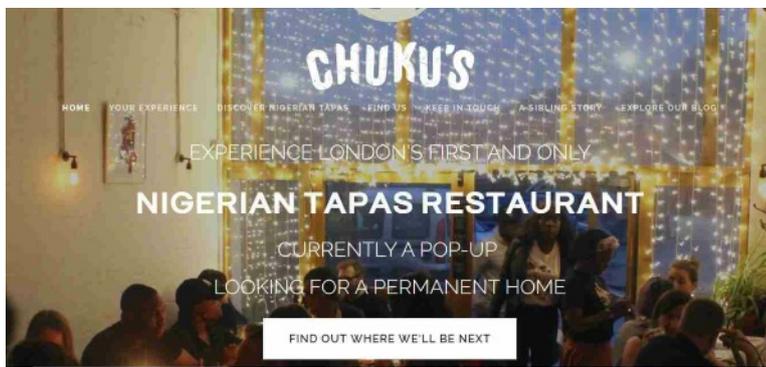
Malcolm Pegg passed away on Monday 14 May 2018 in Walmer Kent. I had fond memories of Malcolm Pegg at School — an excellent sportsman, staunch CCF member and a thoroughly nice chap. As I recall, Malcolm was one of three, in our year, who suffered the loss of a parent (his Father) during our years at School — the other two were Graydon and Heinz — yet he did not allow that loss to diminish his contribution to School life. Obituary by Brian Wainwright (OB 1957-63)

Ralph Ellis (OB 1967-74)

It is with sadness we report the passing of Ralph Ellis. His funeral was held at Weston Crematorium at 1.30pm on Monday 15th October

Martin Spicer (OB 1968-75)

Martin had been ill for sometime and was unable to attend the leavers reunion in July. Derek Corby, who was in touch with Martin and his older brother Robin, attended the funeral with sincere condolences from all Martin's Old Bancroftian colleagues.



Ifeyinwa Frederick OB (2008-10) was featured in [Forbes' list of 100 Women Founders in Europe](#) for her work with my Nigerian tapas restaurant, [Chuku's](#) - the first of its kind in London. In September she opened a 5 week pop up in Hackney.

Alan Barrett (OB 1936-44)

Alan Barrett, one of our most senior OBs, was perhaps too little known to us because he lived too far from School. For most of his life and all of his long retirement he lived in south Oxfordshire and only rarely visited School on OBs' Day. He died aged 92 following incapacity after a fall, only weeks after his wife's death. He was looked after by a carer and hoped to recover his mobility, but died unexpectedly. To the disappointment of many he declined to have a public funeral. His customary self-effacement influenced his wish not to be regarded as anyone important in the community. Today, there are not many OBs who started school before the war. However, one of Alan's pleasant early memories was being an eager junior at the opening ceremony of the brand new Great Hall in 1937. His academic career was highly successful, if governed by what seems today a narrow concentration on the classics. The Head, T G Wells, was a classical scholar who singled out promising candidates for university (when most boys left to pursue careers in the City). This resulted in Alan's studying little else but Latin and Greek, particularly in the sixth form. Wells prepared Alan for scholarship entry to Oxford, which meant taking exams in the seventh term of the 6th form. Part of this intense study meant attendance in the summer holidays with Wells in the HM's house. This in turn meant that Alan became the last pupil to see Wells alive, as the Head committed suicide immediately afterwards before term began, following weeks of depression after his wife's death.

Alan's last two terms were spent preparing for and taking the Oxford exams in addition to captaining the rugby 1st XV and becoming Head Monitor. The school was in shock at the Head's death in a difficult wartime period and was subject to a change of atmosphere with the appearance of several temporary teachers who replaced those who were called up in the forces. However, Alan's hard work resulted in his being awarded a scholarship in Classics to Worcester College Oxford, and this was to influence his forthcoming wartime career in the Royal Navy. He spent the summer of 1944 being trained as an ordinary seaman until he was unexpectedly summoned to the Admiralty for an interview. His gift for languages was recognized by his being sent to Bletchley Park to learn Japanese and listen to their coded messages. In typical modest response to inquiries about life there, Alan rested on the imposition of the Official Secrets Act to say very little even years afterwards, except that he did not really understand what was going on!

Alan was by no means the book-bound scholar. He enjoyed sport, particularly rugby, cricket and athletics. He captained the school 1st XV and postwar he played for the OBs for many years, where in the club he was known as 'Pop' because of his mature demeanor. At Oxford hard work, games and friendships took most of his time, and in retrospect he remembered the scant diet which was the lot of many students in the postwar period. His first class degree and subsequent exams earned him a career in the Civil Service, where he rose up the ladder to a senior appointment. His work took him to liaise with his European counterparts. His visits to Paris led to a love and sound knowledge of French culture, language and literature. His career was rewarding and successful but Alan was glad to offer retirement a little early, and he made another career of his long seclusion!! His considerable library covered many topics, among which were a host of classical works and French titles. Among his many activities in Goring, he was a keen gardener, and he enjoyed first being a member and then host of a French language speaking group. This dutifully met weekly to hold conversation for two hours with a French national. He kept a keen eye on the clock and the tired members were often glad to hear at the close his declaration 'C'est l'heure, Cathy!'

Alan and Gillian had long lives and strong relationships with their daughters and grandchildren. As hosts they were kind and generous and as citizens of Goring they had many friends. Alan was always glad to hear about Bancroft's and the OBA and remained grateful for his time with them. In many ways he was typical of the very English mould of scholar and modest gentleman, now perhaps seen as old-fashioned, but deserving of our affection and respect. It was a pleasure to know him. Floreat! Obituary from OB David Giles

Congratulations to Liz Ayto (OB 1994-2005)
Liz Ayto, Head of Finance at Fonix, has been proclaimed as one of the top 100 most influential Black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) leaders in the UK tech sector.



Rodney Benjamin (OB 1956-63)

Rodney died on 1st March 2018. He leaves his wife Jenny. Rodney Benjamin was one of three Bancroftians in the class of '56 who joined form 3A from Churchfields Junior School. Phil Joiner and I were in the same class as Rodney from the early '50s right through to 4A Lit from which we sat O Levels in June 1960. At first Rodney lived a stone's throw from us in South Woodford before moving out to Buckhurst Hill, where we were frequent visitors and enjoyed his parents' generous hospitality - a quality Rodney and his delightful wife Jenny also possessed in full measure.

At school, the same trio participated without huge distinction in essay football and cricket on the field. We were also instrumental in the running of the school's Chess Club (whether skilfully or negligently, this had an absolute minimum of staff supervision). Rodney was far the most influential and accomplished, and he later honed his skills at university. Many years later he delighted in showing me a game he had won against the great Russian grandmaster Victor Korchnoi in a simultaneous display.

Another area of great expertise was music: I remember vividly an erudite discussion with David Matthews, later a renowned composer, on the orchestration in a piece by Gustav Mahler, of whom at the time I had barely heard, and Rodney did much to help my musical education.

While students, Rodney and I enjoyed a somewhat adventurous trip to Greece. It turned out that my A Level in Classical Greek was not a great deal of help in 1960 Greece, and led to numerous topological challenges, but the words 'Manchester United' and 'Bobby Charlton' were an instant passport to friendship.

I attended his delightful wedding in 1970, still the only time I have been to such an event on board ship (albeit one moored in the Thames), and thereafter Pam and I and Jenny and he maintained intermittent contact, reduced for a number of years to seasonal exchange of family news after his glittering actuarial career took him to Guernsey, where he was joint senior partner of the Channel Islands-based actuaries and consultants association BWCI Group. Clearly, he and Jenny rapidly became extremely strong pillars of the island community.

However, the irregular contact took a dramatic turn for the better in 2006, thanks to a brilliantly-organised reunion (in which the late and greatly lamented 'Dickie' Dyke played a huge part) of the 'class of 56'. A superb turn-out led to many delightful re-acquaintances, none more so than with a group of once very close friends in the sixth form, linked partly by the chess connection - a group dubbed by others present as 'Swots' Corner', with an irony that Rodney appreciated even more than the rest of us. The next decade saw a magical succession of group events, none more memorable than the weekend on the isle of Herm, where the warmth of the reception from the hotel (yes: *the* hotel) management owed much to the fact that Jenny and Rodney had recently held a family wedding in the same location. Despite the rather obvious changes in the look of the group, the missing 40+ years melted away, and Rodney's magnetic and charming personality was a great contributory factor. I was reminded quickly of the unusual combination of gentleness and mental toughness which must have been highly effective in his business life as well as in his rich life as husband, father and grandfather. He was also blessed with a strongly distinctive, often whimsical, sense of humour and a beaming smile that lit up the room; and he was a skilled and witty raconteur. Throughout the period from that first reunion in 2006 his health was, alas, erratic because of an extremely stubborn and persistent myeloma. Not only did he bear it with great fortitude and cheerfulness, but it also spurred him into a fierce *joie de vivre*: most dramatically, this surely contributed to his decision in his late sixties, when most of us were beginning to think about sinking into retirement armchairs, to buy with his son a light aeroplane, take flying lessons and gain his pilot's licence.

Pam and I enjoyed enormously our visits to Jenny and Rodney's delightful island home, where we became more and more aware of the fascinating and varied life they lived and the depth of family love that pervaded it: he was father to Paul, Louise and Sophie, the father-in-law of Marta, Gérard and Thilo, and the adored granddad of Pierre, Jean-Louis, Edouard, Clara and her soon-to-arrive brother. In the end, the myeloma had the last word, but not before all who knew Rodney had been inspired by his courageous demonstration of the indomitability of the human spirit at its best. 'Swots' Corner' will never be the same again, but we shall have many wonderful memories. With thanks for the notes to David Taylor ('Class of '56') and D W Taylor, 1956-63, MA Oxon, PGCE, FRSA.

Ronald Lindsay (OB 1929-37)

Ronald died on 20 August 2018

He attended Bancroft's from 1929 to 1937. We celebrated his 100th birthday in June where he was delighted to receive an old boys' tie and a copy of the programme from Prize Day in 1937.

Bancroft's instilled in him a life-long love of cricket, amongst many other sports and he died surrounded by his family, listening to the test match on the radio. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Thank you very much for all your help in putting him back in touch with the school after so long. It meant a great deal to him. With thanks **Paddy Lindsay** (Ronald's Grandson)

Tim Bateman (OB 1973-80)

It is with sadness that we report that Tim passed away on 13 October in hospital. He had suffered from a Glioblastoma multiforme Grade 4 (brain tumour) for almost 3 years. Tim stayed positive throughout his illness, he was loved by everyone who came to care for him, the staff at UCLH and the carers in the nursing home he went to in mid-July. He inspired love and loyalty amongst his friends and colleagues at Redbridge Council, his comic collecting friends and his friends locally. He was involved with supporting green initiatives in his community in Ilford including helping organise the Green Fair in Valentines Park and will be much missed by his friends and family. With thanks to his sister Philippa Bateman (OB1981-83)

John Dalton (OB 1946-53) - a life remembered by John Terry

EARLY DAYS John was born in Welwyn Garden City and moved to Woodford where he won a scholarship to Bancroft's School when he was 9. John played rugby, hockey and cricket at school and after leaving he was admitted to A A not Automobiles or Alcohol but the Architectural Association School. There he studied a 5 year course where he won a scholarship and also met his wife Mary. He left with an Honours Diploma, equivalent to Masters Degree and then went to Cambridge University School of Architecture to do post graduate research After leaving Cambridge he moved back to London to work in a Kensington practice but found it an expensive to live so moved to Bosham near Chichester where he worked on a project building a new quay. He then moved to the south West and worked for Plymouth City. Council Architects Department advising on future expansion town planning schemes. After this he then moved to large architectural practice in Plymouth.

PRACTICE John Terry and John decided to form their own practice in 1969 which lasted until 2009. Initially both working from home they had some interesting projects interspersed with quiet periods which led them to take part time lecturing jobs at the School of Architecture to supplement our income. Eventually we managed to obtain sufficient work to employ staff and open an office. John suggested we utilise the ground and basement for a sandwich bar which eventually grew into a bistro called The Walrus and Carpenter. We used to spend our lunchtime serving food and drinks to the customers which kept us out of the pub. In those days we all drew on tracing paper and a technique was introduced to apply all our lettering required on an adhesive clear film which we typed on to save a lot of time. John decided to go on a typing course to improve his ability to type with more than 2 fingers. At the end of the course he was obliged to take an exam. He arrived in the office waving a certificate pleased with himself because he had failed all three parts of the exam and had a certificate to prove it. This was framed and took pride of place with the other awards we had for our architectural work. He always had a great sense of humour including laughing at himself. John was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of arts not for his typing skills but for his drawing and painting skills. He always said that architects need patronage from their clients to get the best work out of them and we were lucky to have this on some of our better projects. John was for quite a period involved representing our local area of architects at the Royal Institute of Architects in London. He was eventually recognised for his good work and he and Mar were invited to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. 2 of our large projects were cancelled after we had expended weeks of work on them and we were forced to sell up and make our very loyal staff redundant. They were all like family and we were heart broken to lose them.

CRICKET-This was one of Johns favourite words when he wanted to change the subject or pause to gather his thoughts. Cricket was his favourite pastime away from work. He was a member of Mount Edgcumbe Cricket Club and renowned for his skills at bowling and close in fielding. He was a right handed batsman but a left hand spin bowler with an action around the wicket which is a technical cricket term I'm sure a lot of you will know.

Apparently he delivered the ball in a very high ark which mesmerised the batsman so much he forgot to hit the ball when it eventually landed. His friend Rob has been looking back through the clubs records and back in 1986 Johns best batting performance in an innings was 39 but he took 6 wickets in an innings which is spectacular. John was a member of the MCC and made an annual visit to Lords for the test match there. He was always accompanied by family and friends' One particular year his legs were not so good so he was pushed to the ground in a wheelchair by his chums. Going through the members entrance he had a walking stick on his lap to be used to get into a seat in the stand , this slipped onto the ground and a member stooped down and picked it up and handed it back. Who should this person be but no other than Mike Gatting the former England Captain. After this it was always my chum Mike.

CONCLUSION Anybody who met him would say what a fine and knowledgeable gentleman John was and I am truly honoured to be his friend. I should like to thank in particular Sami, Emma and Dan and all the family for their help through this difficult time. And thank you all for coming to say farewell to John

Obituary delivered by John Terry and kindly provided to OBA by Brian Youd OB 1946-52

Jim Chant (OB 1939-44)

Leonard James Chant (always known as Jim) died on June 15 2017 at his home in America with his family around him after a short illness. Jim and I joined Bancroft's at the beginning of the War in 1939 after a short delay while the shelters were completed. We were both boarder scholarship boys from similar backgrounds and quickly formed a friendship that lasted until his last days. We both left in 1944 for further education , Jim to become a Chartered Electrical Engineer while I became a Chartered Surveyor. Jim first came to notice for work designing an automated process for sheet steel production and he was brought to the USA in what we called the "brain drain" . He was one of the designers of the Human Centrifuge used in the training of the first astronauts and began a career of invention and problem solving leading naturally to consultancies and forming his own company, Chant Engineering Inc. With a substantial factory in his home town, New Britain PA. This firm has a formidable reputation in designing bespoke testing equipment and for fittings for wire rope fabrication or any job that requires the precise manipulation of metal etc. His son Philip took over running the business in 2000. Jim and his wife Barbara donated a piece of wooded land to the community for general public use which has been officially named Chants Woods . He was well liked and respected and was survived by his wife and five children and ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Obituary by William Haigh (OB 1939-44)

Diary Dates

OBA City Drinks Old Doctor Butler's Head 28 Nov 2018
Lord's Lunch Long Room, Lord's Ground 30 Nov 2018 £140.00 (Sold Out)
OBA General Committee Meeting Drapers' Hall 14 Jan 2019
OBA AGM 2019 Drapers' Hall 25 Mar 2019
5 and 10 years on reunion Bancroft's School 03 May 2019
OBA General Committee Meeting Drapers' Hall 17 Jun 2019
OBs' Day Bancroft's School 30 Jun 2019
OBA General Committee Meeting Bancroft's School 09 Sep 2019
Northern Dinner 2019 Rossett Hall Hotel 05 Oct 2019 (£ TBA)

More information on the OBA website www.bancroftians.net

Bancroftian is Edited by Steve Dodd (1972-79) if you have any articles you would like to share email them to susan.day@bancrofts.org

Message from the Editor - Volunteer Required

If any OB would like to assist in producing the OBA News and has the use of a DT publishing programme please contact Steve Dodd and Susan Day by email oba@bancrofts.org

