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THE OB COMMUNITY

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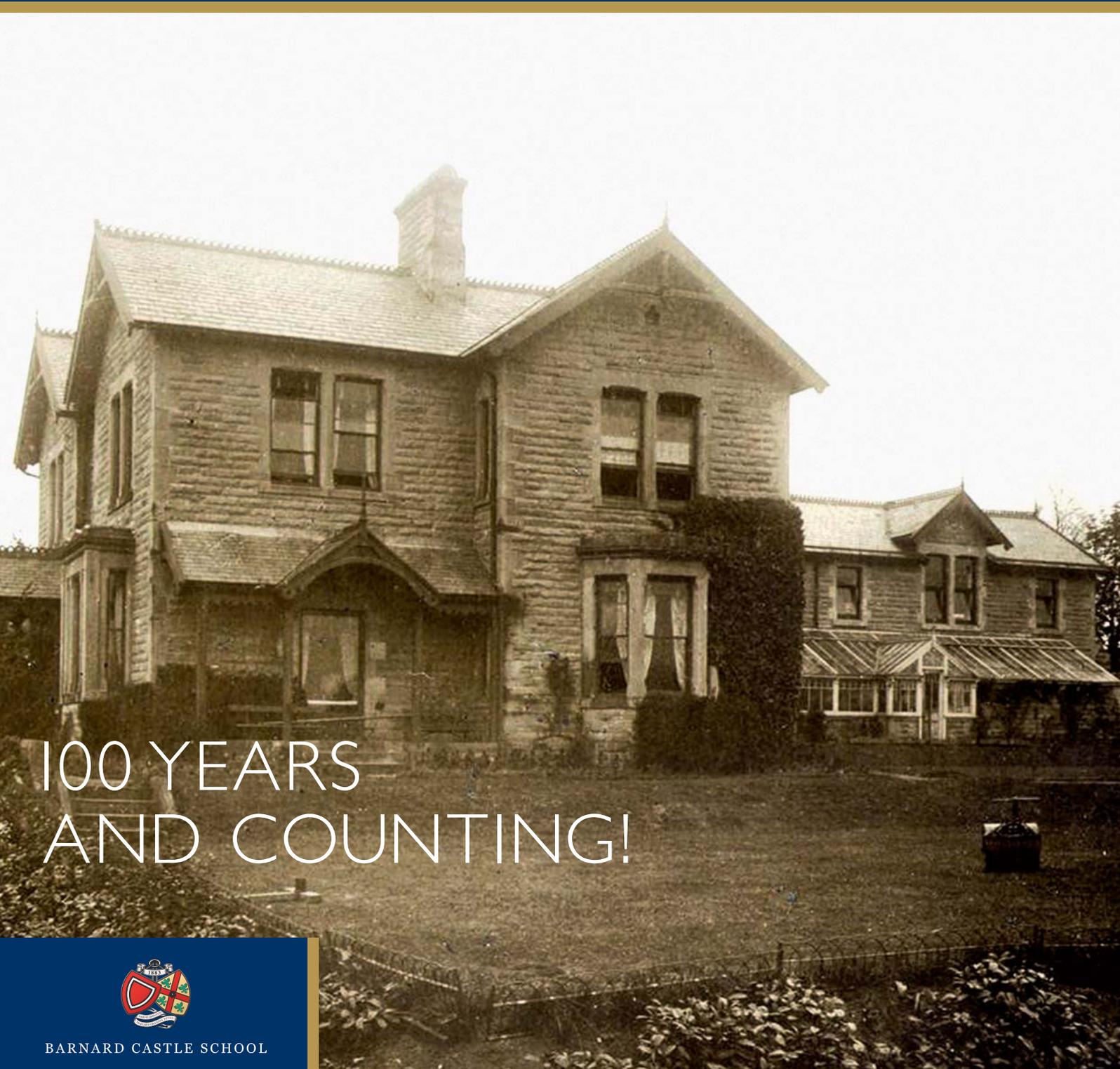
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# BARNEY CONNECT

**ISSUE 02**  
SUMMER 2015

Magazine for  
Barnard Castle School  
alumni and supporters



## 100 YEARS AND COUNTING!



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

# Contact

BARNEY CONNECT  
ISSUE 02  
SUMMER 2015



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

Alumni & Archive

**Miss Dorothy Jones:**

+44 (0)1833 696025

dj@barneyschool.org.uk

**Published in partnership with  
the Old Barnardians' Club**



OLD BARNARDIANS' CLUB

*All correspondence to be directed  
through the OB Club Secretary*

President

**Mr Alan Stevens**

Vice President

**Mr Gerry Camozzi**

Chairman

**Mr Peter Hodges (2014-2015)**

**Mr John Hunter (2015)**

OB Representative Governor

**Mr Peter Hodges**

Secretary (OB Club Secretary)

**Miss Dorothy Jones**

Barnard Castle School  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham DL12 8UN  
Tel: +44 (0)1833 696025  
Fax: +44 (0)1833 638985

# Welcome

## ALAN STEVENS



**Headmaster**

Barnard Castle School

**Recently, I was fortunate to spend an evening in the good company of many Old Barnardians in London at our Rugby World Cup Dinner, a celebration of Barney's contribution to the sport.**

I was asked if I would compete for the Old Barnardians as they prepared to take on the School in umpteen sports in which legislation and good sense still allow adults to play boys and girls. In a moment of mid-term torpor, the famous closing lines of Tennyson's *Ulysses* came to mind when:

*"We are not now that strength which in old days moved earth and heaven."*

With youthful eagerness for competition on the square, in the pool, on the range or the courts, and the added incentive of giving their elders – and their Headmaster – a good thrashing, the School will relish the opportunity to turn out on Barnardian Weekend again.

As the summer shadows lengthened along with reminiscences of distant school days and heroic feats from York House dorm to Top Tree, the rest of the poem came to mind:

*"that which we are, we are;  
One equal temper of heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."*

I'll be there, and I hope that many of you will also take the opportunity, whether on Barnardian Weekend or another time, to revisit your old School over the coming year. Like the School, the OB Club is thriving with a wonderfully active membership from the positively youthful to the more experienced. Visit Barnardians Reconnected and be part of it.

Best regards

**Alan Stevens**

Headmaster and President of the Old Barnardians' Club

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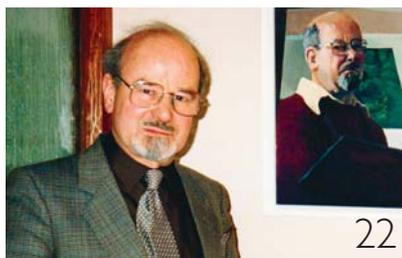
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## 'STAY CONNECTED'

There are a number of ways you can keep up-to-date with OB news and events

### Facebook

There are currently three active Facebook groups

- Old Barnardians Womens Sports Teams
- Old Barnardians Rugby
- Old Barnardians Club

### Twitter

**OB Twitter**

@barney\_ob

**Banard Castle School Twitter**

@barney\_school

### Website

[www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk](http://www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk)

- View forthcoming events and register online
- Join groups online by geographical location or sporting interest
- Update your OB profile



# WELCOME MESSAGES



## Message from the Chairman

**I feel privileged to have a second opportunity to lead the Old Barnardians' Club and would like to thank you for trusting me with the reigns of this long established institution dating back to the early days of Barnard Castle School. It was formed just 12 years after the School's foundation and has, through the generosity of many Old Barnardians, provided support for the School and its pupils throughout that period. Long may it continue.**

On behalf of the Club Committee and all Old Barnardians I must begin by recording our gratitude to the Immediate Past Chairman, Stuart Everall, for his dedicated service to the Club. During his four year term as Chairman, previously as a committee member and of course long-time supporter of all OB events, he has worked tirelessly to promote ongoing contact with and between all Barnardians. He has ensured that our special affection for Barney and the community of friends that we enjoy has been maintained and enhanced. Thank you, Stuart, for all your hard work.

We are in exciting times for the School which is going from strength to strength under the exceptional leadership of our Headmaster, Alan Stevens. It is a real pleasure to work with him, both as Chairman of the Club and as a Governor. His passion for the School and its' pupils is infectious and spills out throughout the school community giving it a consistently wholesome and vibrant feel. I never cease to be impressed by the talent and confidence amongst the pupils and recall a very enjoyable lunch with some of them recently when they were full of chat about how many activities they are engaged

“There seems to be a very welcome resurgence of interest in the Club, most particularly as a catalyst for Old Barnardians to stay in touch and participate in reunions of many different forms.”

in and how enjoyable their school life is. I have to say, their experiences are a far cry from my recollections of Barney in the 60's!

The highlights of my Chairmanship to date include the many conversations I have had with Old Barnardians of all ages. There seems to be a very welcome resurgence of interest in the Club, most particularly as a catalyst for Old Barnardians to stay in touch and participate in reunions of many different forms. This goes straight to the core of the Club's objectives which have never changed since its formation in 1895. Our ability to maintain this contact is, in large part, due to the dedication of our Secretary, Dorothy Jones, (Aunty Dotty to many!) who is the mainstay and focus of all our activities. We owe her a great deal and I thank her for her commitment and the affection she clearly holds for all Barnardians, wherever they may be.

Another core Club objective is to support the School in its endeavours to maintain and enhance the broad, well-rounded education and life experience it has consistently offered to its pupils. We all have our own memories of what that means.

I would like to encourage you all to keep in touch and be involved in the multitude of activities that take place both at Barney and elsewhere. These include sporting fixtures, concerts, lectures, career forums and numerous social events. For instance, the Chapel choir recently performed in St. Pauls Cathedral. The week before that a Gala Concert was staged at Durham Gala Theatre which showcased the enormous wealth of talent both the Prep School and Main School have in their musicians and singers of all ages. It was truly spectacular!

The Headmaster and staff are always



Peter Hodges and John Hunter – Best wishes go to John Hunter as he takes over as Chair of the Club

keen to welcome Old Barnardians back to school for any of these events or indeed just for a visit. A call or email to Dot is all you need. I would like to formally thank the Headmaster for his warm hospitality afforded to me and all OB's making every visit special.

Turning to this year's Club activities I had the privilege of addressing a very well attended London Dinner last October. This has now returned to its former status as a 'must attend', annual, OB event. We had a most enjoyable evening with old and new friends in the convivial surroundings of the East India Club. The Headmaster gave us a very entertaining and informative update on school successes and the exciting plans for future capital developments. This venue has been an established favourite of the Club over many decades and still provides a great atmosphere for all to enjoy.

At this point I must pay tribute to my House Master and fellow Old Barnardian, Kenneth King. I recall Kenneth sitting beside me as Club Secretary and Chairman Elect at the 1994 London Dinner also held at the East India Club. It was my first term as Chairman and I recall his quiet words of advice just prior to me nervously rising to make my speech... *'as a Yorkist you carry the pride of House invincibility during the 60's and 70's. Sheer determination and belief achieved that so don't let us down now!'*... Strangely this thought calmed my situation and sums up Ken's passion for success but this was quickly followed by... *'but I will need your encouragement next year when it is my turn.'* This reflected his desire to stay out of the limelight and as a fine schoolmaster and mentor who always put the achievements of others before his own.

We held a very moving memorial service for Kenneth on 27th September 2014 in the School Chapel with many of his family, friends and colleagues present. It was an intensely moving tribute to a highly respected Barnardian having served the OB Club as Secretary for 29 years. We will miss him greatly.

I am very pleased to report that we have enhanced the Club Committee with a number of new faces during the course of the year. I welcome Nicholas Crowe, Brian Hicks, John Hunter, Geoff Hetherington Julia Doig and Andrew Bockett. I look forward to working with them all to ensure that the OB Club meets the expectations of our members. It is most encouraging to have Julia with us to represent the girls but we could do with a few more to create a more balanced view. Please contact me or Dot if you are interested.

Finally I would like to thank all of you for your interest and participation in the various gatherings and communications we have had and look forward to seeing you soon. It is through this networking that we can improve the vitality and wellbeing of our Club.

Kind regards

Peter Hodges (1965-72)  
Chairman of the Old Barnardians' Club



## Message from the Heads of School

**Taking over from Sam and Rachel was an overwhelming prospect. Pulling on our robes for the first time was a bit scary and it took a while to settle in to being the second ever joint heads of Barnard Castle School. However, we were soon in to our stride and enjoying the challenges we faced. Our final year has definitely been the most memorable and rewarding time at school despite the demands of balancing our academic lives with our duties as Heads of School.**

This wonderful school has supported our transition from childhood to adulthood, encouraging us to value all of the time we have spent here, from the dreaded Barney Run in freezing cold conditions to the countless hours spent in French lessons. As we venture forth to university, hopefully with the academic qualifications we have strived to gain, we will never forget how fortunate we have both been to be Heads of School and to be part of this community. Soon to be "Old Barnardians" we hope to attend as many OB functions as possible including the OB London Dinner at the East India Club and we look forward to sharing our own memories of this undeniably fascinating school with those still here and our fellow OBs.

We have both cherished our time here from that first day when everything seemed so strange and we knew no-one to our last. We are thankful for all we have learned both inside and outside of the classroom and we wish the School well.

Tom Adamson  
Head Boy

Holly Appleby  
Head Girl

# BARNEY CONNECT COMMITTEE



Julia Doig  
(L, 1987-89)

I was lucky to be at Barney for my Sixth Form years (87-89) when it was just Longfield House for the girls and there were 28 of us! In fact we were the first to move into the building. My two brothers were already at school (Peter and Ian Stevens, Tees 85-90). I relished playing lots of hockey and doing DofE. And I guess I took both interests with me to Oxford Poly and afterwards into the Army. I definitely wouldn't have had the career I've had in the Army, retiring as a Major after 16 years of service, if it weren't for Barney School.

Now I am living very near Stonehenge, married to Andy (a Kiwi I met at Sandhurst, also retired), a Mum at home with two children and mad spaniel and running a local charity. Not having been involved with the School previously, due to serving overseas and living in the South my gang of friends have always kept in touch well and so we decided to attend the OBs London Dinner last September and it was a fantastic night out. It was the perfect combination of being with great friends, seeing old faces not seen since school days and meeting new folks with a common interest.



John Hunter  
(Da, 1980-87)

I joined the school in 1980 with my brother Adam and cousin Jamie, following in the footsteps of my father David Hunter (1958-62). Never fast or large enough to make too much of an impact on the rugby pitch I focused on cross country and swimming for which I received my colours. I left the school in 1987 and after completing an economics degree at Portsmouth I ended up in the world of banking and currently work in the City as director in charge of financial risk for a major investment bank. When not commuting to London during the week I live with my family a few miles outside of Barnard Castle which is ideal as my three children Tom, Alice and Will are all at the School.



Brian Hick  
(Da, 2011-13)

It is often said that people make their mind up about buying a house within the first ten seconds of walking through the door, 'It just felt right'. I suppose that was the same for me during a visit to Barnard Castle School, it just felt right. I joined the Sixth Form as a day pupil in 2011 and was appointed both Head of Dale House and a Deputy Head of School the following year. Despite being a bit too skinny (and lacking talent) to excel in contact sports, I was a keen runner and have many fond memories of both the Barney Bash and the Barney Run. I became an active member of the Lectern Club and assisted the Charity Club with several events, an activity I still keep up today as a Volunteer Fundraiser for the Great North Air Ambulance. On leaving Barney, in 2013, I took some time out to travel (the Oktoberfest, courtesy of an ex-Barney boarder was too good to pass up) and gain valuable work experience. Having secured sponsorship from a leading UK construction and civil engineering company, I am currently studying towards a BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying at Northumbria University whilst in employment. Being on a good career path and no student debt means that I am now enjoying the best of both worlds.

## Welcome our new committee members

In our first edition of Barney Connect we put out a call for more OBs to join the Committee The following rose to the challenge and are already hard at work on your behalf.



Nic Crowe  
(Da, 2003- 11)

I attended Barnard Castle School between 2003 and 2011 and was an active member of Dale House before going on to be Head of School in my final year. Now studying British Politics and Legislative Studies at the University of Hull, but I have spent the last year working in Parliament for the Ministers of State for Europe and Energy and Climate Change. I am a keen rugby player. Whilst at school I represented the 1st XV and I continue to play now and am keen to encourage others to play in an OB side.



Geoffrey Hetherington  
(Da, 2003- 11)

An itinerant early life following a Royal Navy father around the country and the world was meant to end with a settled family home in Northumberland, but passing the 11-Plus whilst living in temporary accommodation in a part of Northumberland deemed too remote to be able to go to grammar school in Morpeth, resulted – courtesy of funding from the county council and the Royal Navy and an Entrance Exam pass – in my arrival in Northumberland House in 1969. I so loved Barney that I decided to stay for an additional year to resit A-Levels – the deluxe course! Actually, I didn't enjoy my earlier years very much and avoided or evaded any and all sports until the Sixth Form, when I discovered that social rugby and cricket in the 3rd teams had much to recommend it. That interest has continued throughout my life with 3rd team standard participation at college and at club level. I did, though, thoroughly enjoy the CCF and one of my great "what ifs" is about not applying to join the army on leaving school. As it is, I made do with 30 years' TA service, having joined up at 27 years old. My experience of careers guidance is such that I have a great interest in making it as good as it can be for today's pupils. There then followed 31 years of disengagement with the School, other than reading the occasional OB Newsletter, assisted by living in London, Wales and presently Kent, whilst getting on with the business of living, until the question of a secondary school for our son came up and I found myself seeking out contemporaries to reconnect with. With my son tracking my ghostly impressions through the school 40 years afterwards, I have been pleased to be able to indulge my "joiner" and "belonger" tendencies by being part of the OB Club Committee and I look forward to helping the Club facilitate connectivity between OBs and to helping the Club support the School.



Andrew Brockett  
(Da, 1994-01)

I was at Barney from 1994 until 2001 and was Deputy Head of Dale House in my final year. People often look at me quizzically when I say that my school years are my fondest memories (even above university!), but there can be no doubt considering the wonderful opportunities afforded to me at our wonderful school. I tried to take full advantage of them as a member of the school choir, orchestra, jazz band and string quartet and by playing in the first teams for squash, golf, football and tennis (the last two of which I had the honour of captaining) as well as running out for the 2nd XV (but mainly the mighty 3rds, if I'm being honest). I studied Law at Durham University and immediately moved to London where I worked as a commercial real estate solicitor for eight years before deciding to move to North Yorkshire to be closer to home. I'm in the process of getting married, and the future prospect of starting a family (should we be so fortunate) is almost too exciting to handle!

# BARNARDIAN

## THE GREAT WAR

Throughout the history of this School the day has begun with a Chapel Service and every day for the last 100 years the boys and girls of Barney have been surrounded by the names of those OBs who went to war but never returned. Although we have seen their names we have known little about their lives. Thankfully, some years ago, Mrs Pat Burgess, mother of Chris Burgess (Da, '95) felt compelled to begin to research these important OBs. She has spent countless hours doing research and has also visited their graves and memorials leaving, on our behalf, a note to say that they are always remembered by their school. Of course in November our thoughts were focussed on the 144 OBs and four Masters who were lost in the Great War.

To complement the research which Pat had already completed she and Mrs Christine Hick, mother of Brian (Da, '13) spent many hours in the dusty archives room reading through the Barnardian magazines of the time and they were able to include the boys' school history in their profiles.

During the course of the research however, we discovered that two names were missing from the panels. Firstly William Sheel who went down with his Merchant Navy ship the SS Ludgate in 1917 and Joseph Watson. Joseph lived in Barney, was a father of four and employed at the School as a 'boot boy'. One assumes that he was missed off the panels because he wasn't a member of the teaching staff and William because he was in the Merchant Navy rather than Royal Navy. This has been corrected and both names are now where they should be, with their peers, on the panels, in perpetuity 145 boys and five staff. The research is on-going but we are very grateful to Pat and Chris for their work so far.

“During the course of the research however, we discovered that two names were missing from the panels. Firstly William Sheel who went down with his Merchant Navy ship the SS Ludgate in 1917 and Joseph Watson.”





**Chapel Books of Remembrance**

Those OBs who were at School in the 1940/50s will remember that there were Books of Remembrance at the back of the Chapel on a carved shelf. Sadly over the years the books have become worn and their condition has deteriorated but we felt they should be displayed once again. An oak cabinet was commissioned; the books are safely encased in it and are once again on show. In the case with them is a poppy from the 'Blood Red Land and Seas of Red' the war memorial at the Tower of London.



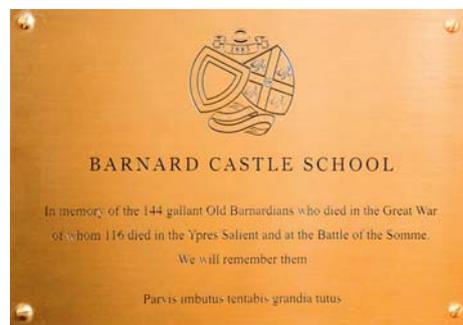
**Banner Dedication for CCF in Centenary Year**

This year for the first time (we think) the CCF has commissioned its own Banner which was dedicated by the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, Mrs Sue Snowdon, at the Ceremony of Remembrance Crosses early in November. The Banner is blue with the School crest in the middle surrounded by a wreath. This is known as the Union Wreath and features on British Army Regimental Colours. It consists of shamrock, thistle and roses as these are the national flowers of the kingdoms that make up Great Britain. At the beginning of the ceremony the Banner was presented for dedication by Colour Sergeant Tom

Adamson. The Lord Lieutenant then read the following words:

“I dedicate this banner as a symbol of Barnard Castle School’s Combined Cadet Force. May it serve to remind all who stand behind it of the values of proud and faithful service, leadership, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance”.

The CCF marched proudly behind their Banner for the first time as they led the parade through Barnard Castle to the Cenotaph in the grounds of the Bowes Museum on Remembrance Day. Coincidentally Joseph Watsons name is carved on the cenotaph and is facing the School.



**Memorial Plaque**

Earlier in the year the OB Club arranged for a plaque to be installed in St George’s Chapel, Ypres and this will be dedicated in 2016 when current pupils visit the battlefields.

# BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL NEWS

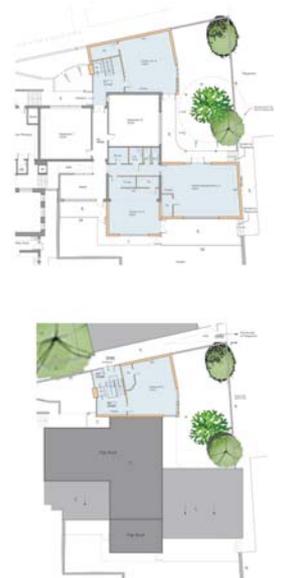
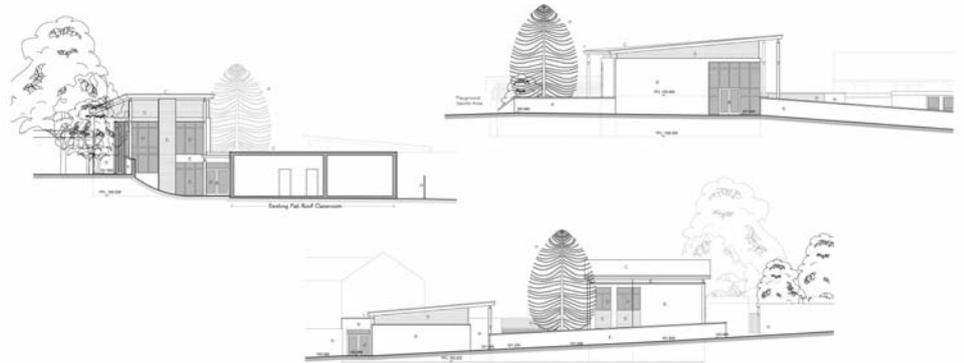


## The Prep School 100 years and counting!

The Prep School is at an exciting time in its history and development. Having completed its first 100 years, we are enjoying a year of celebrations. We have embarked on a plethora of events and activities and have spent this academic year reflecting on our history and looking excitedly to our future. That the school has grown significantly in stature, numbers and reputation over the last 100 years is noteworthy and the school has been, and continues to be, a purposeful and positive environment in which a child can spend the formative years of their education.

For 100 years, Westwick Lodge and now Barnard Castle Preparatory School has had the values of Barnard Castle School at

“When complete we will benefit from the addition of two extra classrooms and a state of the art science lab.”



Proposed new classrooms at Barnard Prep School

“For 100 years, Westwick Lodge and now Barnard Castle Preparatory School has had the values of Barnard Castle School at its heart which are endeavour, community, integrity, enjoyment, compassion and duty.”

its heart which are endeavour, community, integrity, enjoyment, compassion and duty. It has also been a school looking forward, moving onwards and we are now on the verge of significant capital development which will enhance our ability to provide the very best education. Planning permission has been gained for our plans and we intend to be in the construction phase as soon as possible. When complete we will benefit from the addition of two extra classrooms and a state of the art science lab. Following this we have further plans for development in our quest to provide the very best preparatory school education.

We are fortunate that many of our parents are alumni and it is always good to reflect and reminisce with them, as well as to look excitedly to what the future holds for

their children. Over the last year we have seen more alumni returning to look around the school, some of whom attended the school 70 years ago, as well as more recent leavers. Old Barnardians, recent and otherwise, are always welcome and I do hope that if you're in the area you will come and visit us.

**Carl Rycroft**  
Prep School Headmaster

# BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL NEWS



# The Sixth Form Centre

Building work is now underway on the new Sixth Form Centre in the Yard. Many OBs will have fond memories of playing cricket, football and fives in the yard and some may even remember running around it on a Saturday afternoon as punishment for some misdemeanour or other!

**The centre will provide areas for private study as well as collaborative space. There will be meeting rooms, quick access IT facilities, an area dedicated to Higher Education and Careers information as well a designated area for socialising and a teaching kitchen for skills sessions and social evenings. The Sixth Form will also have its own dining area. All of this should provide a university type experience for our senior students.**

The building is set to be completed and ready for the School's Sixth Formers in the Michaelmas term 2015.



# BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

## NEWS



## A SPECTACULAR YEAR FOR OUR SCHOOL MUSICIANS

**In February Barnard Castle School held its inaugural Gala Concert at the Gala Theatre in Durham. The concert gave an opportunity for pupils, parents, families, OBs and guests to enjoy an eclectic mix of music which spanned the whole school from the Prep School Harmony Choir to the Senior String Orchestra and all band and ensembles inbetween. Our 150 musicians thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to perform in this well-known public venue. Invited guests for the evening included the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham and the Mayor of Durham.**

In the second half of the year the Chamber and Chapel Choirs

reached the pinnacle of their singing careers so far, by singing Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in London. The 48 strong choir led the regular evening worship in the cathedral for over 500 people. In addition to the set psalms and responses, the Choir sang a setting of the *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* by Herbert Brewer and an anthem by Joseph Haydn, *Insanae et Vanae Curae*. During their time in London the Choir also sang Solemn Mass at the church of Our Most Holy Redeemer in Clerkenwell. The choir was accompanied on the organ by Keith Brown, a former Music Teacher at Barnard Castle School and now Director of Music at the John Lyon School in Harrow.



# BARNARDIAN NEWS

## Barnard Castle School Archive Appeal



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

The following copies of the Barnardian magazine are missing from the set we hold in the archives. If you should have a copy and would be willing to donate it to the archives please contact Dot Jones

Alumni & Archive  
Miss Dorothy Jones:  
+44 (0)1833 696025  
DJ@barneyschool.org.uk

1967 Autumn

1968 Summer

1969 Summer

1971 Spring

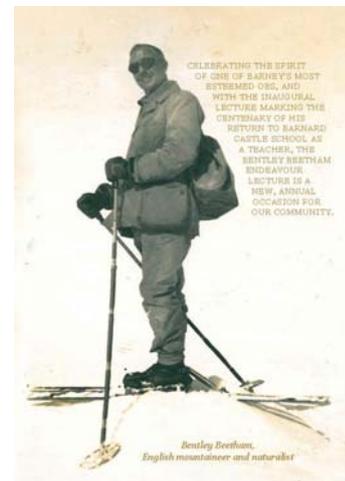
1972 Spring

1973 Spring

1973 Summer

1974 Spring

1974 Summer



## Inaugural Bentley Beetham Endeavour Lecture

**Bentley Beetham came to the North Eastern County School in 1897 as a boarder in Northumberland House. He left school in 1903 but came back in 1914 to teach Natural History. He was an accomplished climber and was chosen as a member of the Everest Expedition in 1924 with Mallory and Irving. Unfortunately due to illness he was not able to accompany them to the top.**

Last year, the 100th year since Bentley Beetham came back to Barney as a teacher, saw the inaugural Bentley Beetham Endeavour Lecture celebrating the spirit of endeavour and courage as shown by Bentley in his climbing.

Our guest speaker was Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson Britain's greatest Paralympic athlete, winning 16 Paralympic medals in five Paralympic games, including 11 gold and she was six times winner of the London Wheelchair Marathon. Now retired from competitive sport, Tanni's current roles include membership of the boards of London Marathon, Transport for London and the London Legacy Development Corporation. In March 2010 Tanni was made a crossbench peer becoming Baroness Grey-Thompson of Eaglescliffe in the County of Durham.

She delivered her speech titled 'Seize the Day' to a packed Big School. Tanni began by discussing the importance of education and her father's advice that education gives

you choices. She then spoke of the highs and lows of her career in sport, the importance of aiming high and surrounding yourself with positive, encouraging and supportive people. We also heard examples of the struggles Tanni experienced in dealing with those who were prejudiced against those with disabilities – all of which made Tanni more determined to achieve to the highest level possible.

At the end of the evening Dame Tanni stayed to chat with members of the audience over drinks and canapés.

Also during the evening our guests were able to view a number of items belonging to Beetham, not least his wooden skis, boots and climbing belt. These had been restored by a group of senior students under the direction of the Regional Conservator for the Conservation Advisory Network, who is based at the Bowes Museum.



# BARNARDIAN NEWS

## Rugby World Cup Dinner

Over 70 OBs, parents, staff and guests enjoyed an evening of rugby stories and tour reminiscences from Rory Underwood, Rob Andrew, Tom Catterick, Mike Ellery, Alex Gray and Martin Pepper. That well known saying of 'what goes on tour stays on tour' did, of course, prevent the most outrageous of these but thankfully one or two stories could be shared during the two Question and Answer Sessions.

Rory acted as MC for the night and hosted the event with his usual aplomb and our thanks must go to him and to all those who supported this event.

Since Leicester, Northampton, Saracens and Bath were to play in the semi-finals of the Aviva Cup the next day Mat Tait, Lee Dickson, Calum Clark and Ross Batty were unable to join us and Karl Dickson had to cancel at the last minute as he needed to be with his wife who was due to give birth to twins at any moment!

Only a couple of weeks later Mathew and Lee played together for England XV vs Barbarians at Twickenham.

👁️ View photos from the Rugby Dinner. Visit [www.flickr.com/barnardcastleschool](http://www.flickr.com/barnardcastleschool)



### 'Barnard Castle School 1st XV' By Ed Williamson

**Old Barnardian Ed Williamson a former Newcastle Falcons player who is currently playing in France has painted this scene from the 1st XV pitch.**

Ed represented the 1st XV for three seasons and gave the painting to the School for it to be auctioned at the Sportsman's Dinner January 2015. The money raised will assist those students going on the rugby/hockey/netball tour to South Africa in July 2015.

If you would like to purchase a print please contact Martin Pepper 01833 690222 or [mtp@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:mtp@barneyschool.org.uk)

**Print only:** £30.00 – P&P £3.00

**Framed:** £55.00 – P&P £5.00

**Mounted and Framed:** £75 – P&P £7.00



## Brute Force 100 miles over five days



**In 2014 Andrew Mason (Du, '07) set himself an amazing challenge in memory of his close friend Natalie Kate Moss who died of a brain haemorrhage aged 25. He carried a full cask of ale on his back for five days, over 100 miles to raise money for the Trust set up by her parents in conjunction with Manchester University to support students who have suffered a brain injury finish their degree.**

Andrew trained by pulling and carrying various objects around Yorkshire and Teesdale to build up his stamina and mileage. Andrew was ably assisted by his sister, Laura (Bo, 2006), who worked tirelessly to plan the whole challenge. His journey began at the Force Brewery in Cirencester and finished at Harper Adams University with a huge party to celebrate the end of his journey and to complete the fund raising. The full cask and the refreshments at the party were supplied by Force Brewery who created a special ale for the event called Brute Force.

## NICK TALBOT SURVIVES AVALANCHE



**Last year we reported that OB Nick Talbot (Da, '94) was attempting to be the first person with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) to climb Everest. Unfortunately there was an avalanche which killed 16 sherpa guides and the Nepalese Government closed the mountain for the season.**

Nick however was undaunted and spent the following months securing sponsorship to fund a second attempt. After two weeks at Base Camp becoming acclimatised to the conditions Nick and his group were ready to attempt the climb to Camp 1 when the powerful earthquake, which killed over 8,000 people, hit. Nick describes hearing what sounded like a loud crack and the ground shifted. Having been in earthquakes before he knew what was happening, but was shocked when he looked outside of his tent to see a 100ft tsunami of snow heading towards him. Knowing he just had seconds to act, Nick began running to lower ground but was engulfed.

Nick was hit by a rock and flattened by the snow but managed to stagger on. He suffered broken ribs,

cuts and bruises but was obviously just glad to be alive. He was on the mountain for 20 hours before being rescued and in this time he suffered hypothermia. Nick was in the same climbing party as American Google executive Dan Fredinburg, who lost his life in the avalanche.

Despite fearing he would not survive, Nick is undaunted and is already looking for corporate sponsors to fund his next attempt. His passion to raise funds for the CF Trust (he is hoping for £100,000) and his desire to raise awareness of this condition is what drives him.

Whilst on the subject of Everest in June 2014 *The Lure of the Mountains* the only biography of Bentley Beetham and written by Michael Lowes (Y, '48) was finally launched by his family. Unfortunately Michael passed away before the book was finished so it has taken some time to finish it ready for publication. With a forward by Graham Ratcliffe MBE (N, '73) it is well worth a read and we were pleased that it launched around the same time as the inaugural Bentley Beetham Endeavour Lecture. The book is available from Amazon.

## Barnardian Weekend 2014

**For the second year running the weekend began with drinks in the Old Well on Friday night. Hosted by John Hunter, Geoff Hetherington and Brian Hick the numbers were low but enabled a session of wonderful story telling!**

On Saturday the OB teams turned out for the sports challenge and the final result was a win for the OB teams 3-1 with the School winning... Sadly we weren't able to provide teams for men's or ladies tennis or netball so if you are keen to play next year do please let us know.

At tea the Headmaster accepted a rugby shirt from Chris Wearmouth (Du, Y, '02) who had played for England Counties. The shirt will be added to those already displayed in the Fitness Suite. Our congratulations and thanks go to Chris.

Our thanks go to Chris Wayman (football) Stuart Everall (cricket) and Caroline Connor (shooting) who organised the OB teams.

The evening buffet proved to be a success once again and we of course look forward to a busy and successful weekend this year.



# BARNARDIAN NEWS IN BRIEF

**Chris Burgess** (Da, '95) and his wife, Marianne have moved back to the UK after spending two years in Sydney. They have two daughters, Lorna and Esme.

**Edwin Bartlett** (Yo, '91) has had a very exciting year attending a reception at Buckingham Palace for the UK Technology Industry and 10 Downing Street where he pitched his company, Kykload, to leading UK technology and business leaders. Edwin co-founded the venture capital backed technology business in 2011 which has developed building surveying and asset management software which is used across the globe.



In last year's Barney Connect it was announced that **James Close** (Te, '98) of the Raby Hunt Inn, Summerhouses, had been awarded a Michelin Star. His restaurant has been re-awarded the star and is included in top 50 restaurants in the UK. Well done, James.

**Dominic Sewell** (Da, '83) was the White Knight on the occasion of the reburial of Richard III at Leicester Cathedral earlier this year.

**Roddy Teague** (Du, '83) wrote to say that he is now living in Azerbaijan. This photo was taken with his wife Katie whilst they were on holiday in India in March 2013.



**Tom Passmore** (Da, '03) recently became engaged to Sophie and in February they set off to cycle the Americas. Tom thinks that the trip will take about two years but they haven't actually set a timetable. We wish them good luck and a safe trip. You can keep up with their exploits on his website [www.DetourtoMooseJaw.com](http://www.DetourtoMooseJaw.com)



**Simon Naylor** (No, '71) wrote to inform the Club of his father's death and mentioned that after a decade of regular business travel to the Middle East, plus two spells living in Bahrain and Dubai, Simon is now enjoying a settled life near to Derby. He works as a Sales Manager for Power Generation with AEG Power Solutions. His brother, **Peter Naylor** (No, '71) continues to enjoy the climate and life in Cape Town where he has spent the last 18 years managing a veterinary practice. Peter has enjoyed running marathons and has successfully completed over 50 races.

**Robert Wilkinson** (Te, '67) shared this wonderful story: 'To celebrate my wife Lois's birthday in style we decided on a sailing holiday around the Greek Islands but because the Greek waters and sailing in Europe is unfamiliar to me we decided to join what is called a flotilla cruise. This is where a group of boats sail together and in the company of a lead boat with a captain who knows the waters, a hostess who knows the restaurants in the small ports and an engineer who can fix things. When the lead flotilla skipper came on board our boat to introduce himself, I immediately detected a Northern accent. 'Where are you from?' I asked. 'Bishop Auckland', he replied. I laughed with it being so close to Barnard Castle. When he asked why I was laughing I said when I tell you where I am from you will recognise it and understand. I told him I was from Barnard Castle. He laughed and said, 'I went to school in Barnard Castle'. I said that

so did I and that I went to Barnard Castle School. He laughed and said that he did as well. In over 35 years of living in the USA I have never once run in to another old boy and here we were on this special trip to Greece and our lead skipper was an old boy of the School. We were both surprised and delighted. His name was **Tom Romaines** (Te, '11). So 40 years separated our times at the School but nonetheless we were both delighted to have met each other and we had the most fantastic holiday cruising the Ionian Sea islands in the company of Tom who did a fantastic job'.



**Scott Carpenter** (Da, '06) is now living in Australia where he is playing water polo for the Victoria Tigers in Melbourne and this year Scott will become eligible to play for Australia which is regarded as one of the leading water polo nations in the world. Scott is rated as one of the best players in the world and has played in the top professional leagues in Italy and Spain before committing to Australia where he was the highest paid player in 2013. As captain of the Victoria Tigers in Melbourne last season and he led them to the double in National competitions, seen here in the centre of the photo accepting the prize. If everything goes to plan, and injuries permitting, Scott should be playing for Australia in the Rio Olympics, 2016. Even though Scott trained for over 20 hours a week he also had time to complete a degree in Corporate Management at Manchester University.



## We welcome your latest news and photographs.

Submit online at [www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk](http://www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk)  
or email [development@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:development@barneyschool.org.uk)

22 year old ex-Preppie **Anatzia (Tayzy) Inkster** has recently become a 'Mountie' (Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer) and will initially be based in Saskatchewan. The application process for the RCMP takes 18 months to two years, with many tests and challenges to pass before being invited to become a cadet at the RCMP depot in Regina, Saskatchewan. The training is very intensive and not all cadets make the grade, especially female cadets. Tayzy passed out with a 'pistols crossed' distinction for outstanding marksmanship. Tayzy credits her time as a boarder at Barney for providing her with the life skills to cope with life as part of the RCMP family.

Congratulations to **Ian Proud** (Yo, '63) who was elected a Councillor in the London Borough of Ealing on 22 May 2014. In addition to being one of the three ward Councillors for Cleveland, he is also the Conservative Group's Deputy Whip, vice-chairman of a scrutiny panel and a member.

In February 2015 **Rory Underwood** (Te, '81) flew out to Brunei having accepted an invitation to support the Garrison rugby team; the Flying Kuhkris RFC. Whilst there he happened to meet Lieutenant **Ed Grundy** (Te, 2011) who is currently stationed there.



**Matthew Noble** (Da, '09) was at Barnard Castle from Year 3 until Upper Sixth. On leaving school he went to the University of St Andrews to study for a BSc in Physics, followed by an MSc in Nuclear Fusion at the University of York. He is presently at the University of Oxford doing a PhD in Materials Science (Investigating the Bubble Lattice Phenomena in Nuclear Materials).

**Aidan G.W. Turnbull** (N, '79) is being used by English Heritage as the 'bad boy' image for its online 2014 Castles and Stately Homes promotions on Facebook. This was a picture taken by an English Heritage photographer during one of the combat weekends featuring Pelican in her Piety, Aidan's Living History group, at Dover Castle. Aidan is a Grade One Combat Fighter specialising in the arms and armour of the 15th Century ('Wars of the Roses' period), fighting with six other armoured fighters. In his regular 9-5 job he heads a team as Managing Editor for the Power Division of Global Media Publishing of Horsham, West Sussex, where he is responsible for producing six different international energy magazines circulating in 153 countries worldwide ([www.gmp.uk.com](http://www.gmp.uk.com)). The rest of his time, he says, is spent in the combat arena making sure he 'doesn't end up as an organ donor'.

**Ian Nuttall** (Yo, '64) has been on an adventure! Early in 2015 he cycled, along with two friends from Land's End to John O'Groats. Here is his report of the trip: By the time we reached John O' Groats we'd notched up 1,045 miles from Land's End, although our total was over 1,100 once we'd added in the bits to get to the start, back to Thurso and then down Skye to meet our wives for a holiday which I think was well deserved, especially at my age. One thing I can say is that our rear ends were well and truly battle hardened! Our day through Barney was one of our most tough as it was long – nearly 90 miles, and the hard climbs came at the end, when we were tiring, but we never got off. The pull up over the moors to Stanhope is not calf cripplingly steep, but it does go on for ever as it is 12 miles to the summit, ten of which are uphill and then we had the 1:6 up out of Stanhope to reach our accommodation for the night, The Punch Bowl Inn at Edmundbyers. What a great pub, and boy were we glad to get there. I've attached my few photos of when we called in; do use any in a newsletter if only to prove that there is still life in my generation, and it might inspire others to take to cycling, or would it put them off for ever!?, I hope not.



**Alex Gray** (Du, '09) was named Player of the Year for England 7s.

**Olivia Metcalfe** (Bo, '13) has had a very exciting time since leaving Barney. Having deferred her entry to college she spent a term in the Prep school helping with sport followed by five months at the Cannes International Language School. Whilst in Cannes Olivia went to see the film stars at the Film Festival and it was during this time that she realised she had a passion for fashion and she began to research internships. She was able to secure a week with American designer Zac Posen. His team were so impressed with her work that Olivia was asked back to help with another fashion week later in the year. This experience along with her references have enabled Olivia to secure a last minute place at Leeds College of Art to do a Fashion BA (Hons) degree.



**Robert Sloan** (Du, '94) now lives in New Zealand and was present at the Cricket World Cup – suitably dressed of course!



# BARNARDIAN NEWS IN BRIEF

**Tom Moorhouse** (Da, '94) recently visited School to talk to pupils in Years 5, 6 and 7 about his new fictional book, a gripping and moving tale about a family of water voles. Offering anecdotes from his book, whilst also informing the children about water voles and conservation, the morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Following this talk he then spoke to Sixth Form scientists, offering them a masterclass in Biology.

Tom is an ecologist at Oxford University's Zoology Department – part of the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit – and completed his DPhil on water vole conservation ecology in 2003.

He said of his visit "It's very odd going back to a school you haven't visited for 20 years or so. I was struck by two things. Firstly, everything seemed to have shrunk, slightly. The distances were all smaller than I remembered. That terrible, colossal hike (or mad sprint on disorganised days) from the main school to the teaching blocks turns out to be an easy casual wander. Secondly I was struck by how happy the kids seemed to be. The atmosphere was bustling and contented and the children were engaged and intelligently responsive to my questions. And I suppose, looking back, that's kind of how I remember it when I was a pupil."

Tom was a pupil at the School from 1987 to 1994 and his father, Andy, was a teacher at the School for over 30 years up until 2007; during that time he was Head of English and he and his wife Sue welcomed the first female boarders to the School.



## Births

Congratulations to the following Old Barnardians who have welcomed new little ones into their family:

**Martin Burgess** (Da, '95) a daughter, Jessie Annie – born November 2013

**Jane Johnson**, nee Ewart (Ma, '99) a son Samuel James – born February 2014

**Claire Cox**, nee Ewart, (Ma, '01) a son James Benjamin – born March 2014

**Mathew Tait** (T, '04) a son Elian

**Adam Cowie** (Du, '02) a son Ashton Adam Cowie – born September 2014

**James Sheild** (No, '89) a son Robert Henry – born May 2014

**Patrick Murray** (Te, '96) a son Gilbert Scott Murray – born January 2015

**Gemma Pearce**, nee Hodges, (Ma, '00) Isabella – born August 2014

**Karl Dickson** (Y, '00) twin daughters Bella Louise and Amelie Rose

## Marriages

**James Carver** (Du, '04) married to Helen in June 2014

**Henry Carver** (Du, '06) to Ashley in August 2014

**Tanya Buckingham** (Ma, '04) to Huw Lloyd in December 2014

**Catherine Challen** (Ma, '04) married to David Lichfield in June 2014. There were a number of other OBs at the wedding including Charlotte Wilkinson, Jenny Wilson, Catherine Challen, Josie Lewis, Sarah Moss.

**Matthew Brown** (No, '03) to Beth in August 2014

August 2014 **Natalie Robson** (Lo, '05) to Paul Patterson at HMS Nelson. Ashleigh Nixon was Matron of Honour. Annabel Dixon, Sarah Jones and Chris Robson were guests.



**Laura Walton** (Lo, '00) married Wellington Oaks at St John's Chapel, County Durham in May 2014



# OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM

## FRANK MCNAMARA

**Frank McNamara came to Barney as Headmaster in 1980 from King William's College on the Isle of Man. He had a vision for the school and through careful guidance and planning, brought stability and success to Barnard Castle School. He modernised facilities, embarked on sizeable building projects, introduced girls, at first in the Sixth Form, then lower down the school and he lowered the age range of Prep School. It would be fair to say that the school he left in 1997 was far different from the one he inherited.**

Frank had the ability to silence a room, just by entering it. It was always clear that he was "the boss" and in moments of crisis, both staff and pupils were relieved when Frank took charge. He displayed fairness, a sense of humour and wisdom. He also had the uncanny knack of motivating not only the leading lights but those perhaps less keen on pursuing their academic studies or in towing the line. Many Old Barnardians will remember Frank's love of rugby, but it is important to say that every success and achievement mattered to him and he was able to inspire and cajole in equal measure.

With their children Claire, Duncan and Jane living on site and attending school, Barnard Castle was very much a family affair for Frank and his wife Aylsa. Aylsa was always by his side, providing support for members of staff and pupils and legendary dinners. Her little black book ensured that no-one received the same meal twice. Even Monty, Frank's beloved chocolate Labrador was the doyen of the campus canine community.

When Frank retired in 1997, Alan Wilkinson summed him up in the Club newsletter of 1998 saying, 'Whether as Headmaster, or as President of the Old Barnardian's Club, Frank was approachable, understanding and (usually at the right time) humorous. He also had great perspicuity when following the points in a discussion – and had the rare gift of being able to change his mind and say so without embarrassment to himself or offence to others. If this sounds like a reference letter to a prospective employer, I can only say that I am glad that, until his retirement, Frank never did leave his job at Barney'.

At his memorial service in the School Chapel, in the months after his death in April 2014, it was clear that his family mattered to Frank, as his brother, son and grandson spoke so fondly of him.

Chapel was full and many Old Barnardians sent messages of condolence to Aylsa and her family, speaking of Frank's charisma, his ability to inspire and the respect they had for him. It was clear to everyone who knew Frank that he had Barney in his heart.

**Sue and Nick Seddon**

## KEN GORMAN



**Ken Gorman, who died on November 18th last year, was the Head of the Art Department throughout the 1980's until his retirement, at the end of a long teaching career, in 1993. He was a lively, generous colleague, and the Art Room was open and welcoming to all. It was a little haven for the many pupils who knew they would always find a happy, creative atmosphere there.**

Ken always had a sketch book in his pocket and loved producing mini portraits and impressions of people and events around the school. My favourites were those from Speech Day. At that time the staff and dignitaries sat on the stage in Big School, facing the audience, and Ken would appear to be paying very close attention to the speakers. He was, as his perceptive and often humorous thumbnail portraits showed. We were all keen to see them afterwards.

Yet his commitment extended far beyond teaching Art. Always an enthusiastic and vocal rugby supporter, he umpired U12 cricket, painted scenery for dramatic productions, and was a tutor in Junior House from its inception in 1982. More surprisingly he had a special talent for cutting the hair of boarders, which he volunteered to do, and made a good job of it!

Ken also had a lovely tenor voice, being involved in the Chapel Choir, the Choral Society and school operatic productions, sometimes taking a solo part.

He was a good dancer too, and liked nothing better than whirling ladies around the floor in a waltz or foxtrot at a Summer Ball. He mourned the demise of ballroom dancing.

What a decent chap he was; courteous and charming, and always generous with his time. He was, to me, the epitome of a 'Barney Master', and the fine turnout at his Memorial Service in January in the school chapel, was witness to the affection in which he was held.

**Howard and Mary Charlesworth**



# OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM

## KENNETH KING

Pupil, Y, 1942-48. Master 1958-1990



**Address for the Memorial Service for Kenneth King, given by The Right Reverend Reverend Mark Sowerby, Bishop of Horsham, York House 1980. Barnard Castle School Chapel, Saturday 27 September 2014**

Any Old Barnardian given the privilege of a 'speaking part' in Kenneth King's memorial service must be tempted to add a few recollections of the man. Surely, we all have our own Ken King story to tell! We all have our own individual memories of the York House Master, the geographer and the sportsman. We all recall his distinctive tones, mannerisms and idiosyncrasies that over the years saw him nicknamed among other things as *Bisto* and *The Buzzard*.

My job, I think, is to resist the temptation to tell the tale of how I got my first ride in his orange Opel Manta or what he said after I had been 'booked' for 'fraternising with the kitchen staff', a crime of which I was secretly rather proud at the age of 14, since it seemed to have undertones of illicit liaison with an older girl. My job, coming after the amusing, poignant and thankful contributions of others is to set our memories into a context.

In the first instance, of course, we are set here in Barnard Castle School, where

Mr King, the son of an Old Barnardian, spent so much of his own long and full life – man and boy.

More particularly, we are set in this Chapel where staff and pupils have gathered daily to begin the working day, for just a few minutes on weekdays and for somewhat longer on Sunday mornings. Kenneth King was as much a part of that as any of us, be-gowned on Sundays and wearing the hood of his Oxford MA, taken at Keble College. However ill or well we may have taken to Chapel at Barney, it has always sought to place our lives in a context.

It has always sought to provide not simply a moral framework, but a world view in which we acknowledge our place as created beings in a world that belongs not to us, but to God.

Ken King was here in the School Chapel regularly enough and as an Oxford man he studied at a college founded to commemorate one of the 19th century's most distinguished Anglo-Catholic clergymen but I will pretend to no knowledge of Kenneth King's personal faith or religious convictions. Those of you who were privileged to know him better than me may know more, but I shall content myself by recognising that he did not dissociate himself from this School Chapel or its worship. He participated in that part of school life which sought to instil in us some understanding of God, some sense of our place within the created order and some sense of our responsibility in the world, particularly to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Pursuing the religious context of this memorial service and the broad Christian tradition in which this school stands, let us recall for a moment that part of the book of *Ecclesiastes* that was read to us a little earlier on:

“Kenneth King's own life was one of seasons or phases and his lengthy periods at Barney were distinctive and distinguished.”

*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven. a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh...*  
I will not read it all through again.

This scripture is frequently used at memorial services, to set human life in as broad a context as possible and to remind us of the 'normality' of death, which comes to us all.

Amidst the trauma of bereavement, we are reminded of the 'normality' of death, we are reminded that in earthly terms, we live our lives from beginning to end amidst the cycle of seasons. Kenneth King's own life was one of seasons or phases and his lengthy periods at Barney were distinctive and distinguished. The next season of his life, less well exposed to most of us, was that of a married man and rooted miles and miles away from Teesdale – but just as real and as much a part of the man as anything we knew here.

From our perspective in Barnard Castle's School Chapel – and predominantly as associates of the School, in one way or another, we try to see and to acknowledge each of the seasons of Kenneth King's life and see it as a whole. In this chapel, as we have been encouraged, we give thanks for Kenneth King's life and for all that he brought to the lives of other people, whether as a fellow pupil, a student at Keble, a Geography Teacher (or Latin if Ken Emberton was hard-pressed), as York House Master, squash and cricket coach, husband and companion.

That earthly life, shared with so many people and purposefully formative for so many people, has drawn to its close. We are grateful for what we have gained from

The thoughts and prayers of the whole Barnard Castle School community are extended to the family and friends, and of those Old Barnardians who are no longer with us. May they rest in peace.

Ken King, for all that was good and healthy and enriching... but to whom? We are, in a sense, grateful to Ken King himself, of course – but he is dead and there is a danger of gratitude being nothing more than sentimental reminiscences of a good man. Real gratitude, I suggest, should be directed at the one who made it all possible and by whatever means sent Ken King our way as he later sent him to Yvonne.

The reading from *Ecclesiastes*, especially when turned into a pop song, (The Byrds, 1965) makes God's creation sound like a never ceasing cycle of seasons... but in Christian teaching, the created order is not simply a life of endless repetition. In Christian teaching, creation has a beginning and a purpose, a goal, and each of us makes our contribution, in partnership with God, to attaining the goal. Whatever his own understanding of it, we give thanks for Kenneth King's distinctive contribution to the building of the goal, the Kingdom of God and with countless Christians, we can look forward to sharing in that fully created, fully restored kingdom for which we were all created in the first place.

So, in the hope of sharing more life with him yet and in the company of his beloved wife, Yvonne, for all that was and all that is Kenneth Charles Norman George King let us humbly say: Thanks be to God.



“Kenneth did a lot of good for many people. He was someone who always demanded that one did the right thing and he was very even handed and scrupulously fair.”

## A Tribute from Nick Williams (Y, '70)

**When the Chapel is thronged with over 200 visitors for an Old Barnardian's Memorial Service and he ceased to be a Master, Housemaster and Secretary of the Old Barnardians Club nearly a quarter of a century ago it tells you that the OB in question must have been exceptional. Kenneth King was Head Boy for six terms, took a Geography degree at Keble College, Oxford and later a teaching qualification at Cambridge. He returned to Barnard Castle School to teach Geography in 1958, became York Housemaster in 1963 and OB Secretary in the same year, positions he enjoyed for 27 years but it is not these facts, but the man himself which influenced the congregation to come together to give thanks for his life.**

Kenneth's study, which was also his home, was at the front of School and had that amazing view over the River Tees. His door was always unlocked and welcoming with the fire on low to keep the chill at bay.

Apart from a full teaching load and being a Housemaster Kenneth spent a large amount of time coaching. In winter it would be rugby, in summer cricket and then of course there was squash. Several of his protégés reached international standards, but he gave his time and expertise to all. York House had an outstanding record in inter-house competitions during Kenneth's leadership, and won the Barnard Run 11 times in succession but how things were

won was always as important to Kenneth as winning. A typical team talk would end 'now you need to go out there and work together as a team. Do your very best. I saw in earlier rounds that someone did such and such – well that is not how we are going to behave'.

Of course, in being a Housemaster, Kenneth had to deal with misdemeanours and punishments. If you had been reported in the House Book then you would be summoned to stand outside his door until he had time to see you. I always found that he would listen to your side of the story before deciding whether or not you should be punished. **Martin Sinclair** (Y, 64-71) said in his message of condolence 'Kenneth did a lot of good for many people. He was someone who always demanded that one did the right thing and he was very even handed and scrupulously fair'.

Many generations heard him say: 'when you shake someone's hand, do it properly. Don't do it like a wet fish. Look the person in the eye. Shake hands firmly. Do it as you mean it'. Yvonne's grandson gave me such a handshake after the funeral.

In the short space available it has been difficult to give more than a flavour of the man, especially to those for whom he is a name and not a memory but he has made a difference to generations of Old Barnardians and none of us will ever forget him.

# OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM

**Geoffrey M Wilson** ('44) Geoffrey's daughter informed us that he passed away on Christmas Eve 2013 and wrote 'he loved to tell stories of his years at school and he always had fond memories of his time there.

**James Newbigin** (N, '36). Jim passed away on 5th March 2013, aged 93. He always spoke of the happy memories of his time at Barnard Castle School. He was a very enthusiastic sportsman excelling at both team games and racquet sports. After leaving school he qualified as a Quantity Surveyor, founding a highly respected partnership based in Newcastle on Tyne. It was in this capacity that he renewed his connections with the School, working on a number of projects (including the Science Block), along with architect Ronnie Farrer, another Old Barnardian. Jim continued with his passion for sport playing tennis, badminton and golf until well into his autumn years. In his professional capacity he was honoured as the Chairman of the FRICS. Jim was the second of three generations of the Newbigin family to attend Barnard Castle. William Johnstone Newbigin (b. 1874 – d. 1927) was one of the very first pupils at the school. Jim's younger son **Keith** (N, '76) also attended school. He is survived by his wife Nell, to whom he was married for over 60 years, his daughter and two sons.

**Denys Briggs** (N, '45), was a long serving member of the Old Barnardians Committee, and one time Chairman. Denys passed away suddenly on Friday April 2014. Father of **Chris** (N, '86) and **Andrew** (N, '82).



**Geoffrey W Naylor**, who was a teacher at Barnard Castle School during the late 1950's, sadly passed away in April 2014 aged 89 at his care home in Auckland, New Zealand. After graduating from Durham University, Geoff taught at various schools before joining the RAEC where he reached the position of Major. A very keen sportsman, he gained high recognition within the RFU for his refereeing. After retiring from the Army in 1980, he returned to teaching at Bishop Stortford College but sadly lost his wife Lois to illness in 1990, shortly after his full retirement. At the age of 76, Geoff emigrated to New Zealand to live close to his daughter Andrea, whilst enjoying the visits from his two sons **Peter T W Naylor** ('71) and **Simon G W Naylor** ('77).

We have been informed of the death on Easter Saturday 2014 of **Eric Pankhurst** who came to teach history at Barnard Castle School in 1956. A scholarly historian his real passion whilst at Barney was in Debating. Soon after his arrival he became involved with the Sixth Form debating society and at the same time successfully formed a fourth formers debating group. He also encouraged those less confident in public speaking to participate in less formal discussions. Mr Pankhurst moved on from Barney to Marling School where one of his responsibilities was for the Oxbridge candidates.

**Frank L Dowsland** (Y, '56) died suddenly but peacefully after a short illness in May 2014 at the age of 75. Dearly loved husband of Barbara, Dad to Paul and John, father in law to Nikki and Anna and grandpa to Zander.

**Sir Ben Gill** (Y, '67) passed away in May 2014 from a form of blood cancer. He is survived by his wife, Lady Carolyn and four sons. After school Sir Ben studied agriculture at St John's College, Cambridge, before working in Uganda for three years where he established a working school farm. On returning to the UK he gained some experience as a farm manager in East Yorkshire before taking over the family farm in Easingwold where he farmed for almost 30 years. In 2006 he sold the farm but kept

the house and outbuildings to create the Hawkhill Consultancy, which advises the agrifood industry and the renewable energy sector. Sir Ben later moved to Herefordshire and became chairman of Visit Herefordshire. From 1998-2004 he was President of the National Farmers Union. He was appointed a CBE in 1996 and knighted in 2004.

**Eric Leeming** (Y, '50) passed away in May 2014, on the evening of Sports Day. It was a very poignant moment as his grandson Sam had been awarded the Bayles/Blackett Cup for the 800m. Roy Bayles and Eric Leeming were great friends and Roy was at Sports Day to present the Cup.

**David J Hunter** (Du, '62) passed away on 10th June 2014 after being in poor health for some years. A keen sportsman, David took part enthusiastically in a variety of sports and was a particularly strong swimmer, representing the school in the Bath and Otter Cup and after leaving school playing rugby for both Darlington and Mowden Park. David joined the family hairdressing and travel business in the early 1960's where he continued to work until retirement as the proprietor of John Hunter & Sons Travel. He maintained a keen interest in life at the School which his children John (1980-87) and Adam (1980-89) also attended. More recently he was a regular fixture on the touchline on a Saturday afternoon braving the weather in his wheelchair to watch his grandchildren play rugby and hockey. His last trip out of the North East was fittingly his attendance at the 2013 Six Nations dinner in London which was hosted by the school. He is survived by his wife Grace and two sons.

**Geoffrey Thomas Blagburn** (Y, '63) passed away in June 2014 from pneumonia. In 2010 Geoffrey had suffered a stroke which left him unable to walk or talk. He had been cared for at home by his wife Pauline.

**Dr D C Lambert** (Du, '57) passed away recently. After studying at Newcastle University he went on an expedition up Annapurna with Chris Bonnington. This was his dream as his great hero was Bentley Beetham. He leaves a very young family in Ontario, Canada.

The thoughts and prayers of the whole Barnard Castle School community are extended to the family and friends, and of those Old Barnardians who are no longer with us. May they rest in peace.

**John Hunter** (Y, '51) has passed away aged 80. He was the father of two, grandfather of three and older brother of **Robert** (Y, '59). Robert wrote the following obituary 'John was at school at a time when the Headmaster was Mr H Birkbeck, his Housemaster was Bentley Beetham, and KCNG King was York House Captain. These were the quite desperate times after WWII with a shortage of teachers, shortage of food due to rationing, and coal for the heating boilers and 110 volt electric lighting, when the warmest place for boys to relieve the bitter winters was either standing near the glowing ash heap outside the boiler house or in the swimming pool! He matriculated and left at the age of 17 to join the Merchant Navy as a Midshipman with Mersey based Blue Funnel Line sailing regularly to the Far East. After studying for and obtaining his Masters Ticket he left the sea and joined Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in order to spend more time with his wife Kathleen and their two children Jonathon and Diane, and they all moved to Formby which became his cherished "home port" where many retired seafarers choose to retire. As his younger brother he went out of his way to teach me all sorts of skills, and of course I had to follow him to Barnard Castle School myself in 1952.

**Stephen Blackett** (T, '64) we were advised by his cousin Roy Bayles that Stephen passed away in June 2014.

**Dr M Geoffrey Holmes** (Du, '67) Geoff's wife Kay wrote the following words 'Although born in the UK Geoff spent most of his early childhood in Nigeria. He started school in the UK aged seven and after Barney he went onto Nottingham University where he graduated in Plant Sciences. He continued his work as a research scientist in Germany, the USA, then back to the UK (Reading), and finally Cambridge University. In 2006 Geoff was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and given 'less than six months' so at that time he retired. However, he was delighted to beat the odds living another eight years coping courageously with many complex surgical and other treatments, whilst also managing to travel the world. He died peacefully at home: Christmas morning 2014 – Bah Humbug!

**J C (Euan) MacFarlane CBE, FRES** August 2014, Chairman of Governors 1988-2008. On his retirement from the governing body David Ewart who was Headmaster at the time wrote 'how fortunate this school has been to secure the services of so distinguished and erudite a man. How fortunate have I been to work for a Chairman of such stature and wisdom'.

**Professor R B (Barrie) Dobson** (Y, '49) died aged 81. He was a medieval historian with a particular interest in monasticism and the northern Church, in particular the diocese of York; he was also an authority on the legend of Robin Hood. After school Barrie did his National Service in the Army serving in Malaya during the Emergency. He then went up to Wadham College, Oxford. Barrie spent 25 years as lecturer, Reader and finally Professor of History at the University of York after which he occupied the Chair of Medieval History at Cambridge. His publications included *The Peasants' Revolt of 1381* (1971), *The Jews of Medieval York and the Massacre of March 1190* (1974); *Church and Society in the Medieval North of England* (1996); and a collection of essays, *The Jewish Communities of Medieval England* (2010). He was also editor of *The Church, Politics and Patronage in the Fifteenth Century* (1984). In the early 1990s he was president of the Jewish Historical Society of England and of the Ecclesiastical History Society and Chairman of York Archaeological Trust. Barrie was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1972 and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1979. He was also a Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, and was elected to the British Academy in 1988. During his spare time Barrie was a keen fell-walker, enjoyed cinema and listening to modern jazz. He married, in 1959, Narda Leon, with whom he had a son and a daughter.



**Michael (Mike) Millar** (Y, '51) passed away peacefully in his 81st year in Barrie, Ontario in October 2014. He is survived and dearly missed by Dorothy, his wife of 56 years, and daughters Mary (Brian Kell), Ellen and Elizabeth. His friend David Pickering sent the following obituary: 'Mike's life-long love for trains, outlined in his memories of the School's Railway Club in the January 2012 issue of the *Old Barnardians Newsletter*, contributed to his joining the Railway Division of the Royal Engineers. Mike emigrated to Canada in 1955, where five of his 27 years with the Post Office were spent in the Railway Mail Service. He ended his working career with a decade at the Simcoe County Court House, first as a Sheriff's Court Deputy and then as a General Division Court Registrar. He was proud to have served the Crown for 40 years. A passionate philatelist, Mike served on the Board of Directors of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada for nearly 30 years. In recognition of his service, he was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1981. A special note of interest, and an item of pride for Mike and his family, was the acquiring of a fine portrait painted in oils by D F Pittuck (Art Master then). Finished in 1949, it portrays Mike as a young teenager proudly dressed in his army cadet uniform whilst a pupil at Barney. (See the Jan '11 issue of the *OB Newsletter*.)

Mike had fond memories of his time at the School and had strong bonds with other Old Barnardians in Canada. He attended two games held during the touring rugby team's trip to Canada and thoroughly enjoyed cheering Barney on.

**James Jameson** (Du, '54) November 2014

**Steve Golledge** (N, '75) November 2014

**Mr Patrick Braham** (1974-94) Staff

**Ian Nuttall** (1961-78) Staff March 2015

# DATES FOR THE DIARY



## BARNARDIAN WEEKEND 2016

**Friday 24 June to Sunday 26 June**  
Barnard Castle School

A weekend which provides an excellent opportunity to join fellow OBs, both young and old, for a weekend of socialising, sport and a general catch up. Meet in the Old Well for drinks on Friday night. On Saturday play for one of the OB teams or support

from the sidelines and then finish off the day in Big School at the buffet supper.

On Sunday the day starts with the Chapel Service with a number of OBs singing with the choir, followed by refreshments. The whole weekend ends with the OB Club Annual General Meeting.



## OB Golf Day

**Sunday 13 September 2015**

The Graden Cup was first presented in 1933 to the winner of the Golf Day and apart from the years of WW2 has been presented annually. Nowadays however, our golfers also compete for the Tony Parkinson Trophy for the longest drive and nearest pin 18th. The Golf Day is held at Barnard Castle Golf Club. If you are interested in playing in this competition please contact [gnj.parkin@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:gnj.parkin@dsl.pipex.com)

## Barnard Castle School Open Day

**Saturday 3 October 2015, 9.30am-11.30am**

For those of you considering Barney for your child or grandchild Open Day provides the opportunity to meet the Headmaster and to see the latest developments at the school and this year in particular you should be able to view the new Sixth Form Centre and Prep School classrooms.

## City Drinks

**Thursday 30 July, 6pm**  
**Wed 30 September, 6pm**

The Golden Fleece – 8 Queen Street, EC4N 1SP (just off Cheapside).

All events are listed online. For further information and to register your attendance, visit [www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk/events](http://www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk/events)  
 Alternatively email: [development@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:development@barneyschool.org.uk)



## Remembrance Day

**Sunday 8 November 2015, 10.45am**

All are invited to this service to remember those Old Barnardians who lost their lives in both World Wars and conflicts since. The Chairman of the OB Club lays a wreath at the altar during the service.



## Old Barnardians' Club London Dinner

**Friday 16 October 2015, 7pm**

This thoroughly enjoyable evening attracts OBs young and old from far and wide and is held at the East India Club, St James's Square, London.

## Old Barnardians' Club meeting dates

### All Barnard Castle School

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**Committee Meeting**  
 12 September 2015

.....  
**Committee Meeting**  
 16 January 2016

.....  
**Committee Meeting**  
 16 April 2016

.....  
**Annual General Meeting**  
 26 June 2016



## HERITAGE WEEKEND 2015

**Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September, 10am-4pm**

For the past two years our Chapel has been open to the public as part of the National Heritage Open Day Scheme. A steady stream of visitors have wandered through

during the course of the two days and we are happy to announce that we are participating in this event again this year. *The History of the Chapel* book written by former Chair of Governors, Malcolm McCallum will also be on sale.

## PROPOSED EVENTS

### Rugby at Christmas

The Sports Committee are hoping to arrange a similar event to the one held against Yarm during the Christmas break 2014. All details are yet to be confirmed. Please check the Old Barnardians Rugby page on fb or contact Dot Jones nearer Christmas.

### Bentley Beetham Endeavour Lecture 2016

This is likely to take place in June and we are pleased to announce that OB Nick Talbot will be our guest speaker. Having attempted to climb Everest on two occasions but each time being thwarted by natural disasters Nick will be speaking to us after his third and this time hopefully successful third attempt. More details will be published nearer the date.



OLD BARNARDIANS' CLUB

# The Old Barnardians' Club Merchandise

Contact Dorothy Jones,  
OB Club Secretary if you  
would like to purchase  
any merchandise.

Email [dj@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:dj@barneyschool.org.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0) 1833 696 025

[www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk](http://www.barnardiansreconnected.org.uk)

