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BARNEY CONNECT

ISSUE 08
TRINITY 2021

Magazine for
Barnard Castle School
alumni and supporters



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Stay Connected

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

School

Twitter: @barney_school

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Instagram: Barnardcastleschool

YouTube: Search: barnard castle school

Website:

www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk

Old Barnardians

Twitter: @barney_ob

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Old Barnardians Club

Old Barnardians Womens Sports Teams

Old Barnardians Rugby

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A series of inspirational talks
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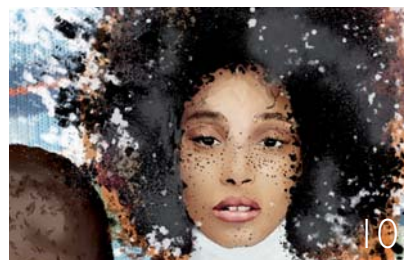
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Welcome

JOHN HUNTER

Chair

Old Barnardians' Club



What a year it has been since I last wrote my piece for Barney Connect! First and foremost, my biggest hope is that everyone is safe and well and that your work environment, be it your own business or not, is secure. Our LinkedIn group has certainly come in to its own during this time and we hope that the jobs advertised on this platform have been helpful. Please do use this group to promote jobs, businesses etc.

I am pleased to report that School is thriving. So highly thought of was the learning@home programme that word of mouth became a very successful marketing tool, and at the time of writing, many of the year groups are almost full for September. The governors, senior management team and staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure the smooth running of the school and I'm sure that as OBs (including OB parents) we are grateful to, and thank them for, their dedication to Barnard Castle School.

As I have mentioned in the past we have a strong network. We like to touch base with you at least twice a year, in the summer with Barney Connect and in the winter with a Christmas card. We post/share news on our FB page, LinkedIn and Twitter throughout the year, and we may email occasionally with important news or reminders. It is, however, impossible to keep up with everyone's news, so please don't be shy – make sure you share your news with Dot.

Talking of Dot, she is doing a real push on the database and, at the risk of nagging, has two requests:

Firstly, that you keep your contact details current. We are moving towards electronic communications only, so an email address is essential, but in order to organise regional

events we still need a postal address. Your details are not shared with anyone else, either within the OB network or outside parties.

Secondly, that you let her know what line of work you are in so that she can help our current Barnardians use our network for careers advice.

I'll finish with a few of thank yous. Firstly, to the members of the OB Committee. We've managed a few online Microsoft Teams meetings, but look forward to meeting again face to face in September. We welcomed Andy Kinghan on to the committee this year and look forward to working with him. Secondly, to you, our OB community, for your continued support of the network and School. Finally, it goes without saying that the biggest thank you should go to Dot who works tirelessly on behalf of the OB community and I, and I am sure that you all are, very appreciative of everything she does.

Now it is 'allowed' again please do drop into school if you are in the area.

Wishing you all well

John Hunter

Chairman of the Old Barnardians' Club

WELCOME HEADS OF SCHOOL

As we reflect upon the past two years, we can safely say it has been quite the rollercoaster. Never did we think that our final years of school would be so badly affected by a virus no-one had ever heard of; but with Barney being Barney, we were determined not to let the pandemic impede our education or our enjoyment of this wonderful community. The staff at school have worked so hard over the two years to give us a sense of normality throughout the school day, ensuring that we were happy, healthy and safe. When the world pressed pause, Barney pressed play. The learning@home programme showed just how involved and resilient our community really is. Barney flourished online and the pride that we and the students felt in our school was immense.

Having said that, as Heads of School, we were concerned about how we would stay connected and form relationships with the younger years, as linear integration with students in Houses is imperative to our way of life. Luckily Barney was quick off the mark to introduce online house competitions, clubs and monitor-led assemblies.

As Heads of School we were set the task of calling as many students as possible during the remaining time of home learning, to check on their well-being and to talk about anything and everything. We both thoroughly enjoyed this task and saw it as an amazing opportunity to strengthen old connections and create new ones. The calls meant that when we finally returned to school and started taking on our monitor duties (masked and socially distanced, of course) we already knew the new faces, and it became a lot easier for younger students to approach us and follow up the conversations that we had online.

We both started at Barney in Prep School. We feel we have grown and flourished alongside Barney as we have witnessed the academic and the pastoral sides of the school thrive. Driven by Mr Jackson, there has been a huge change in culture:

inclusion, kindness, bravery and compassion are all aspects that we celebrate as a community. Under his guidance we have been encouraged to be brave enough to be open to new ideas and perspectives. There have been structural changes too. We grew up watching the older boys playing cricket and football in the quad and now we have seen that space transform into our home for the past two years - the Sixth Form Centre. Mrs Beadnell as Head of Sixth Form has guided the way this past year and has taught us indispensable life skills that we will take far beyond our time at Barney.

This community has allowed us both to grow and thrive in a supportive and safe environment. It has given us the tools to develop independence and confidence and to become wholly decent individuals with a strong moral compass. We are proud to be Old Barnardians and we thank the school for everything.

Emily Kelly
Head Girl

Joseph Gibbons
Head Boy



SIXTH FORM LECTURE SERIES



Kineta Kelsall (B,'07)



Sam Allen (L,'84)



Alexander Taylor (Da,'94)

They say every cloud has a silver lining – well, for our Sixth Form, the cloud of the pandemic was lined by the silver lectures of OBs, who, in ‘normal’ times would not have been able to travel to give the lecture in person, but were pleased to spare 40 minutes via Microsoft Teams!

The breadth of career paths taken by our OBs is impressive and, as such, they were able to deliver lectures on all manner of industry and business. Friday afternoon at 2pm is possibly not the easiest of times to engage teenagers after a hefty lunch of fish and chips, but our current Barnardians were captivated by their stories; from **Laura Mason** (B,'06), who during her graduate management training with Lidl was cleaning the toilets at 3am before the grand opening of a new store in London, but whose passion is to help those around the world less fortunate than herself, to **Alexander Taylor** (Da,'94), award winning designer, who worked with Adidas and Parley for the Oceans to design and produce the footwear for Team GB at the 2020 London Olympics.

Another example of a motivational lecture was from **Sam Allen** (L,'84), who built her own recruitment company from scratch, having given up a career in nursing, as well as **Chris Loughran** (Da,'97), who is a Senior Policy Advisor at The HALO Trust (an international humanitarian NGO working in 25 countries affected by conflict, instability and humanitarian crises) and Honorary Fellow at the University of Manchester's Humanitarian, Conflict & Research Institute. Students also heard from **Rachel Metcalf** (B,'11), a lawyer with a special interest in Dispute Resolution, and on another week, **Kineta Kelsall** (B,'07), who is a Senior Director of Training (social media) at Jellyfish, having worked with multiple global organisations on their marketing strategies and recently featured on Channel 4's *The Money Maker*. There is no doubt that their achievements so far have come as a result of their hard work, determination and resilience; all qualities they said they acquired at Barney.

We thank everyone who contributed to this year's amazing breadth of lectures.

BARNARDIAN NEWS

OLD BARNARDIANS' CLUB NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Andy Kinghan (N'01)

I joined Barney as a Preppie, moved on to Junior House and finally to Northumberland House. I made some lifelong friends many of whom I am still in touch with to this day. In 2010 I was commissioned into the Educational and Training Services (ETS) branch of the Army. I had a great time, but a couple of career highlights worthy of special mention were

mentoring Afghan National Army soldiers in Afghanistan and redesigning and delivering Gurkha Selection in Nepal.

Currently, I live in south Somerset, married to Catherine, and we have a toddler called Miles, who certainly keeps me on my toes! I am a management consultant working within UK Defence and Securities.



DR OWEN WALDIN (Du'10) LIFE ON THE COVID FRONTLINE

Owen was working as a Senior House Officer at South Tyneside Hospital at the beginning of the first wave of Covid-19. This is his account of having the virus himself and of the difficult emotional side of his work:

On 21 April 2020 I was diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus. I hadn't experienced any of the usual symptoms of cough, fever or loss of taste or smell, just a light-headedness on standing. Working on a ward at South Tyneside Hospital which was designated a 'clean' ward ie if someone was suspected of having the virus they should be moved to a 'dirty' ward to hopefully limit the spread of the virus. Concerned that I may have the virus and could therefore be a risk to elderly patients and older colleagues I contacted the Trust's Covid-19 testing team, but they were adamant that I did not require a test. At the time tests were hard to come by and were only used for patients and those displaying the main symptoms. My symptoms continued throughout the day and my concerns grew. Thankfully, I eventually persuaded them to do the test which came back positive 48 hours later and I was instructed to self-isolate for a week. To be

honest I wasn't surprised as we were wearing paper masks, the proper FFP3 masks which were measured to ensure a good fit, were reserved for those involved in aerosol generating procedures. As a young(ish) male with no co-morbidities I wasn't too concerned about myself, but I found it extremely difficult to think that I could be a vector for serious harm, possibly even death, to elderly patients and my senior colleagues. I was left questioning my decisions. Should I have left the wards earlier that day? Should I have been more 'forceful' in my conversation with the Trust Covid Team? At the time though, I did what was expected – with hindsight that may have changed.

After my necessary isolation I went back to the wards on night duty. I think these shifts were the hardest emotionally I have ever done or hopefully will ever have to do. Obviously the patients on Covid positive wards were extremely ill and there was a strong possibility that some would die. At that time there were no known treatments, but we tried everything we could. Sadly, decisions had to be made about whether to invasively ventilate the very sick. If this was not possible then, at this point, increasing

the oxygen to maximum levels was the only option. Often the patients and their families had not been made aware of the seriousness of their condition and I remember speaking to an elderly gentleman who felt he had been improving, but whose oxygen saturations had unfortunately been falling and who was likely to die. The look of disbelief in his eyes will never leave me. Despite being trained to deliver bad news the fact that he was unaware of how ill he was, and he was on his own without family support, made it an even more upsetting task. The phone call to his family, late into the night, was no easier either but at least they were able to visit once his care was deemed to be palliative. I wish I had only had to do this once but unfortunately that was not the case, and it never got any easier.

Although some of the experiences I have described have been upsetting and difficult I have found the opportunity of working in the NHS over the past 18 months to be the most fulfilling of my career. I am so proud of the togetherness on the wards between doctors, nurses, HCA's, cleaners, receptionists, porters and all other staff. It was unbelievable and I think it has shown what an incredible organisation the NHS is.

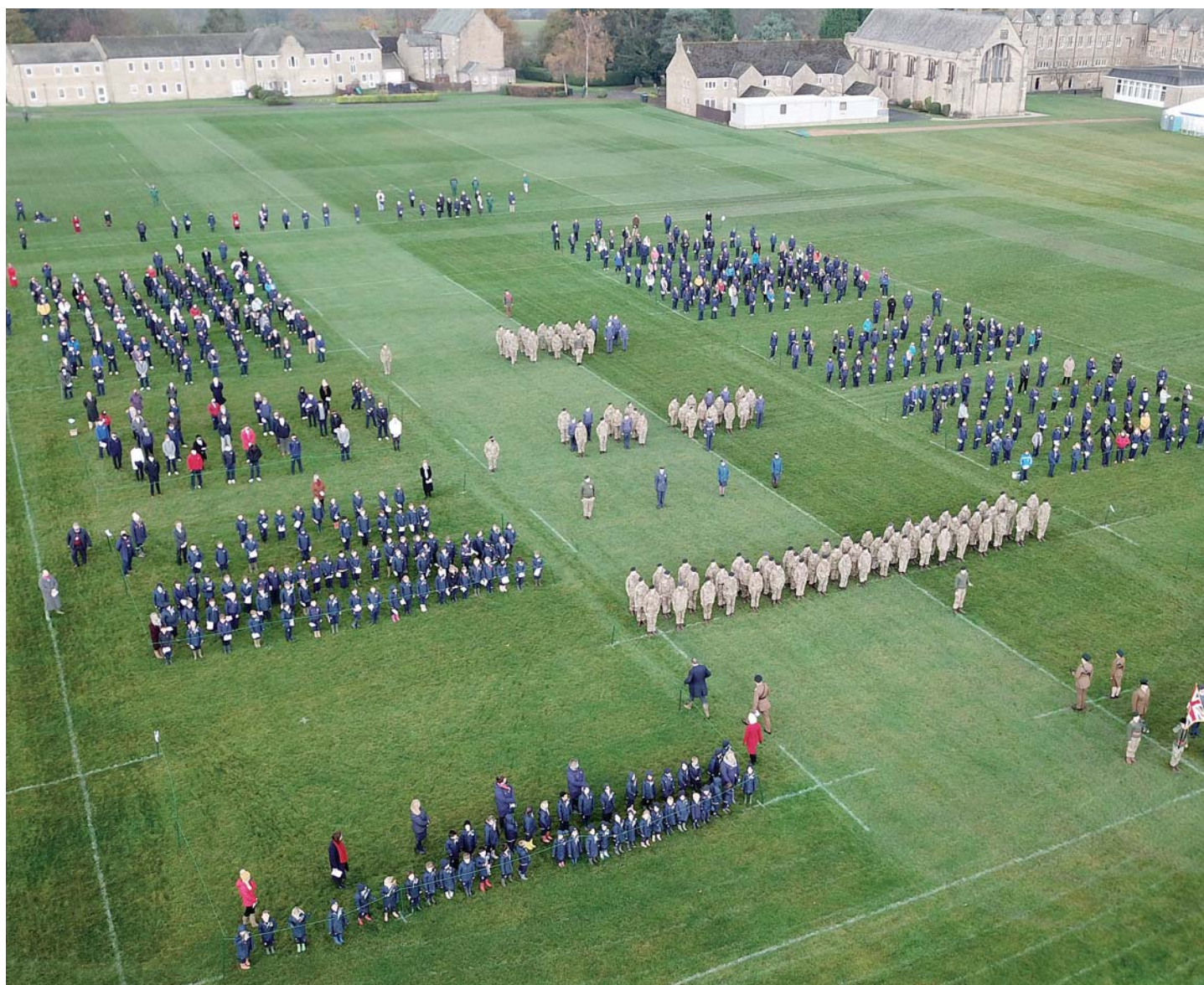
REMEMBRANCE DAY

2020

On a cool but fine morning the whole School community from prePrep to Year 13, and all members of staff, gathered for the first time in eight months, socially distanced, on the school fields to honour all those lost in conflict, but in particular those from our school. 209 crosses were placed on the bank underneath a huge red poppy painted onto the grass and 3 wreaths, one from School, one from OBs and one from the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Sue Snowden. The CCF were magnificent and the trumpeter led us in the two minute silence.

In his address the Headmaster, Tony Jackson, said *'Our strength is our community and this year the Remembrance Service has been like no other. But while lockdown and the pandemic have been tough on families, on income, on mental health, this time of year helps bring us a sense of perspective. Not too long ago former pupils, not much older than you, were being sent to war where they made the ultimate sacrifice, never to return. We must remind ourselves that we remain incredibly fortunate and it is important that we continue to remember and pay our respects to those who sacrificed themselves to leave the world a better place.'*

This year marked 75 years since the end of the Second World War and although we weren't at School for VE or VJ day the research has continued and we have been able to add four more names to the panels in the Chapel. They are John William Ernest Ross, Kenneth Cazaly, Richard Haseltine Jones and William Brown Ewan who were, by coincidence, all members of Northumberland House.



HEADMASTER'S REPORT



This wonderful annual publication usually reflects upon the plethora of alumni events that have occurred over the course of the year, and flicking through my previous comments, I have made reference to the wide range of exciting and memorable OB occasions that have dominated the year. Reflecting on those events, it feels almost like from another time, when perhaps the number of opportunities to socialise and congregate were occasionally taken for granted. I for one will embrace and cherish those moments when they eventually return.

Without the ability to regale in depth on my engagement with alumni events this year, and an offer from Dot to fill 1,200 words in this edition to make up for an absence of material elsewhere, it has been left to me to reflect upon the role of the alumni throughout this most extraordinary of years. When I host prospective parents in my study when they are deciding whether or not to apply and make such a financial and emotional investment, I talk about the sense that, whilst their child may be joining for five or seven years, they are, in fact, joining a lifetime community; Once a Barnardian, always a Barnardian. This means very little to the young child sat there, but the parents understand the importance of being part of a community and network.

Even in this year of all years, I have witnessed this with my own eyes. The breadth and depth of support has helped



ensure that as a School and a community, not only have we endured this time, but we will emerge even stronger. This would not have been the case without Old Barnardian support.

As referred to in my report last year, one of the biggest and boldest decisions we undertook at the start of this pandemic was to make a significant IT investment. This investment saw each teacher provided with a portable device and each classroom fitted with a state-of-the-art interactive display which linked up wirelessly to the portable devices provided. This gave the School the ability to deliver two vital aspects of the new educational setting we found ourselves in. The first was the ability to reduce the flow of students around the school by keeping them in set classrooms, and having the teachers move between classrooms with their portable devices. This did not apply to those subjects which required specific classrooms, such as the sciences or Art and Design & Technology, but it did mean that all other subjects had single teachers moving around the corridors at the end of every lesson, as opposed to hundreds of children. The devices also meant that should a national lockdown be reimposed (which in September appeared very unlikely – how wrong everyone was!), we would be able to transfer to our online learning programme seamlessly and swiftly. This investment was only possible because of the generous legacy gift of an OB who had died the year before. It is not an underestimation to state that this investment revolutionised how the School was able to handle the seemingly endless impact of the pandemic.

The gifts have not stopped, with a further donation being made to invest in the Music School, and in particular the purchase of an electric organ to help bolster our Young Organist Scheme, which currently sees eight young organists learn for free. We are also in the process of potentially being awarded 'Accredited Institution' status by the Royal College of Organists, an honour bestowed to only 12 schools in the country. Again, this would not have been possible without the generosity of the OB community.

One final gift to mention was the heartfelt and impulsive generosity by a group of OBs who, upon reading of news of international boarders being stuck in their boarding houses over the festive period, cobbled together a princely sum to ensure the students received a hoard of gifts at a time when they were separated from their families. The impact on those students (and the staff looking after them), was immense and will not be forgotten.

The gift of time has also been noticeable, with a range of Old Barnardians taking advantage of technological advancement and delivering Sixth Form lectures and career advice via their webcams, and this engagement has allowed our students not to feel as isolated as they otherwise may have felt.

Elsewhere, I am proud to state that, with the support of the entire community, the School has continued to adapt and demonstrate flexibility. Some examples of this are as follows:

The existing House spaces at the back of the School were simply not fit for a COVID world, with small rooms meaning lots of young people gathered in enclosed spaces. As such, a marquee was pitched and the first half of the Michaelmas term was spent socialising in the 'Big Tent' as it quickly became known, although the pleasant weather meant much time was spent on the beautifully kept grounds. Whilst the children were housed in the Marquee, builders set to work to transform the Day House spaces, knocking down walls and creating a far more open environment, which allowed the students to return in a far more COVID-secure fashion once the refurbishment and demolition was complete.

The growth in boarding numbers, which has seen Old Courts expand to 34 beds over the past two years, has also seen another seven beds added to Longfield, taking the capacity of the house to 50 beds, all of which are already filled for next year.

Restrictions also meant Barnardians spent the year in sports attire owing to initial concerns by the government that blazers and ties could spread the virus. This serendipitously coincided with the conclusion of a contract with the uniform supplier, and so the decision was taken to revamp the uniform. Whilst always a contentious topic, we are proud of the end result and very much hope you will be.



These are all material developments, but you should rest assured that the main reason the School has navigated these choppy waters in the way it has is as a direct result of the care, commitment and compassion of the staff, both teaching and support. Regardless of what was thrown at them, they placed the needs of the children first, and it is down to them that the whole School community has fared as well as it has.

Whilst it is always invidious to highlight any individual in a report such as this, it would be remiss of me not to highlight the end of an era in the retirement of Mr Gary Bishop.

To give you a flavour of his tenure, there have been ten Headmasters of Barnard Castle School, and Gary has worked under five of them. He has given 41 years his life to the Barney cause, and there can be very few who have matched his dedication and commitment to literally hundreds of young people. He will be sorely missed and we wish him and Hilary all the best in a thoroughly deserved retirement. COVID has meant we have not been able to say an appropriate farewell to this titan of the Barnard Castle Common Room, but we have arranged a day to say those farewells and very much hope many of you will be able to join us on Saturday 6 November for GB's farewell lunch.



Until then, I sincerely hope this finds you and your families well in these times. Whether or not you have been in touch with the School regularly in recent years, or not at all, I hope that when this darkness lifts, you will return and be assured of a very warm welcome.

Tony Jackson
Headmaster
Barnard Castle School

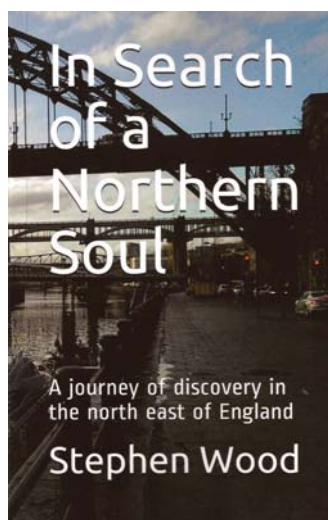
BARNARDIAN

NEWS IN BRIEF



Congratulations to **Molly Nixon** (B,'17) who has just experienced great success at the end of her fashion degree course, for which she was awarded first class (Hons). She won the National W1 Curates x GFW Competition, was shortlisted for the H&M and Old Navy Live Briefs, and the Drapers Magazine Award, and was awarded a top 10 place in the Digital Portfolio and Illustration Awards at Graduate Fashion Week, resulting in the display of her design portfolio on London's Oxford Street. As a fashion student Molly specialised in womenswear contemporary pattern-cutting and knit design. We wish her continued success.

Congratulations to **Alex Tait** (T,'06) who this season made his 250th appearance for the Newcastle Falcons.



Stephen Wood (N/T,'72) took advantage of the lockdown to finish his book *In Search of a Northern Soul*. It is a journey of his memories of the North East, not only from his childhood, but back in time to his immediate ancestry in the coalfields of County Durham and then farther back to the north east Northumbrian coast.

School gets a mention here, in particular for an amusing anecdote – dealing with the subject of the northern accent – when he auditioned for the leading role in a school play (about 1969). He didn't get the part because the other person to audition was none other than Kevin Whately! The book is available on Amazon.



Congratulations to **RJ Thompson** (Du,'01) whose debut album *Lifeline* entered the download charts at Number 5.

Ross Batty (Da,'05) has retired from professional rugby on medical grounds. He made over 170 appearances for Bath during his 11 years with the Club. We wish him well for the next chapter of his career.



Ross Tones (T,'01) has composed, in partnership with Hannah Cartwright, the music for the newest Sir David Attenborough documentary *Breaking Boundaries*, which can be seen on Netflix. He also produced a sound-tracked walk around Teesdale for BBC Radio6Music which aired on 16 May. Ross uses his professional name of Throwing Snow and the piece is titled *England's Last Wilderness*.

Roger Levie (Y,'68) retired last year having been in dental practice in Scotland since qualifying in 1973.

It has been a championship year for **David Hamilton** (N'97), who has been the Director of Performance Science at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers since 2019, as his team became NFL champions earlier this year.

During the Christmas break **Hazel Oakes** (L,'08), known professionally as Nocciola the Drawer, painted a bright, colourful mural on the wall in Longfield House and in the Easter break she came back to brighten up the walls of S block. Following this she was due to paint an elephant (not a real one) for the 'Big Trunk Trail' fundraising event in Luton during the summer.

Anna Kelly (née Hodges, M,'06) is a broadcast journalist working for the BBC and during lock down, produced a documentary for radio investigating the effects of the pandemic on mental health called *Life on Hold*. It aired on Saturday 8 May at 15:30 and is still available on the BBC Sounds App. Previously Anna received much acclaim for her documentary *Breast Implant Illness* which can be seen on YouTube <https://t.co/oKLB1VpEFj?amp=1>



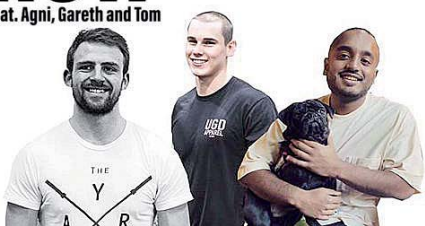
BARNARDIAN NEWS IN BRIEF

24 HOUR ROW

feat. Agni, Gareth and Tom

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Join us on Youtube on the 30th of January and help us reach £10,000. Keep an eye on the gofund me page for more info.

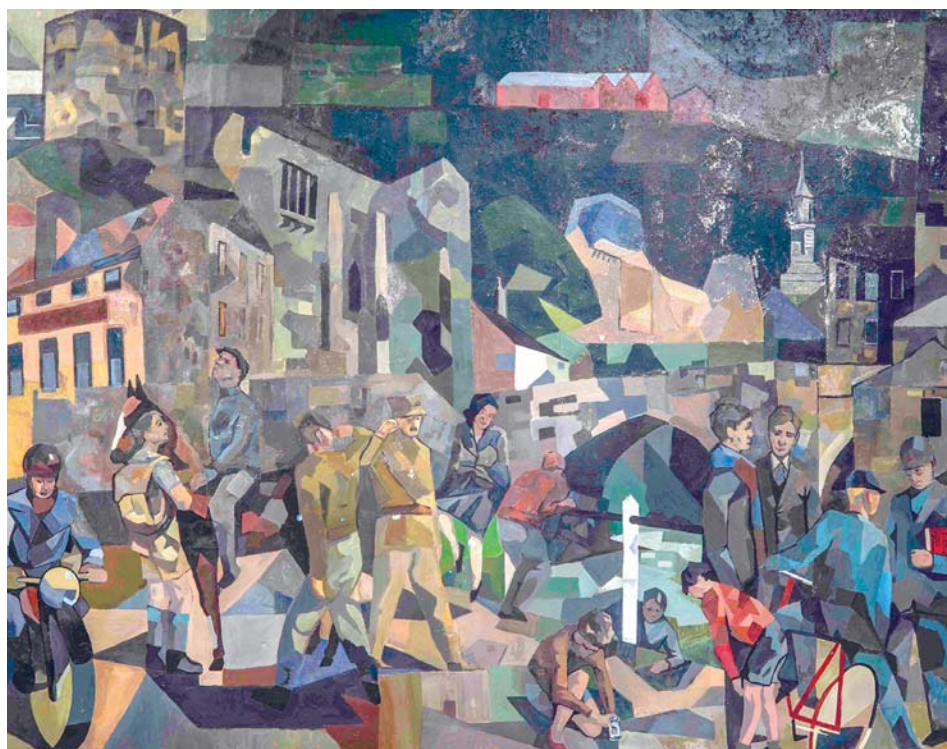


Tom Leeming (Du,'18) and **Agni Ghosh** (Y,'14) were joined by their friend, Gareth in a 24 Hour Row. Their aim was to raise £10,000 for MacMillan Nurses, to recognise the support Tom's family have recently received after his brother, **Sam** (Du,'15) was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The event was live streamed and all three rowers and the Leeming family were very grateful for the banter, and donations, which smashed through their target to reach £18,000, supplied by OBs over the course of the row.

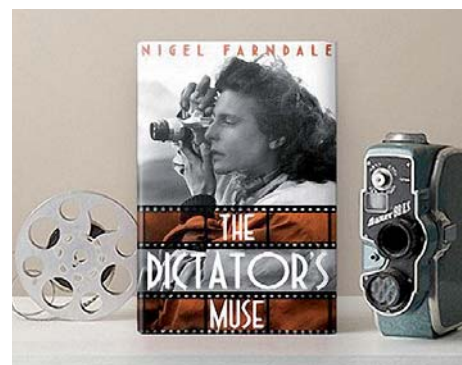
Eleven years ago, at the age of 28 years **Lisa Norris-Walton** (L,'00) was diagnosed with malignant melanoma, an aggressive type of skin cancer. Having never been a sun worshipper or used sun beds this was a dreadful shock for her. The mole, on her lower leg, was removed and apart from regular checks she is thankfully, now well. Other members of her family have also been



affected by cancer and Lisa felt she wanted to give back to the nurses who had helped her physically, but more importantly, emotionally, since her diagnosis. So, she set herself the goal of completing the Macmillan Lake District Mighty Hike – 26 miles around Ullswater Lake. Walking not only for herself, but for the relatives and friends she has lost to cancer over the years, Lisa raised almost £1,500 for the charity. Sponsored by some OBs Lisa sends her thanks for their support.



The exhibition of Douglas Pittuck's work finally went ahead on the weekend of 11/12 June. It was held in St Mary's Church Hall which was the perfect spot for it, as visitors were able to see the restored Pittuck mural.



Nigel Fardale (Y,'81) has published a new novel *The Dictators Muse*. The novel is set against the backdrop of the 1936 Olympics and is inspired by the true story of Leni Riefenstahl, star film-maker of the Third Reich.

Dr Tom Moorhouse (T,'94) has recently published a non-fiction book *Elegy for a River*. This is Tom's story of eleven years spent beside British waterways researching water voles. It has received rave reviews including this 'laugh-out-loud funny - passionate, warm and full of fascinating insights into the eccentric world of the field naturalist.' - Isabella Tree, author of *Wilding*.

We welcome your latest news and photographs.

Submit via at email development@barneyschool.org.uk

Marriages

Unfortunately many of the weddings planned for the past year had to be postponed. However, Lucy Parkinson (M,'13), member of the OB Club Committee, was married in the School Chapel in December 2020. Here, in her own words, is Lucy's account of her special day:



'Getting married with only 15 people present, and livestreaming the wedding via Facebook isn't what my husband Joe and I planned back in 2018 when we got engaged, but our December 2020 'Covid wedding' ended up being perfect. As most readers will know, the chapel is absolutely magical at Christmas, and we're especially grateful to Father Darren for making it feel full and welcoming even with so few people there, and to Richard Dawson for staying to play the piano for us whilst our photos were taken. Covid rules did not permit a reception or party of any kind, but

Champagne and a takeaway at home was more than good enough for us! It was a short but sweet wedding by necessity, but it ended up being the unique, cosy and intimate day we'd wanted all along'.

Lucy and Joe were the last couple to sign the current legal Marriage Register as the government has now changed the way marriages are recorded. The register began in 1961, when the Chapel was first licenced for marriages. Over 60 marriages have taken place in the Chapel and even more are booked in for next year.

And just before we went to press **Elizabeth Gorman** (M,'13) married Oscar Tysoe in the School Chapel, with the reception in a yurt at back porch. There were a number of OBs in attendance including Calum Matthews, Hugh Carter, Imogen Ridley, Lucy Catterson, Brian Hick, Tom Evans, Chris Moore and Will Barnes.



Births

Our very best wishes go to the following OBs who have welcomed a new little bundle of joy to their family in the last year:

Andrew (Du,'07) and **Emily Seddon** (née McMillan), in October 2020, a son, Archie Bacon.

Stephanie Clemons (L,'09, née Turner) in October 2020, a son, Harry James.

Charlotte Burford (L,'10) in November 2020, a daughter, Evie Grace.

Eleanor Dinnes-Woodcock (M,'11), in December 2020, a daughter, Florence Grace.

Alex Tait (T,'06), in January 2021, a son, Charlie.

Mike Moss (Da,'01) in May 2021, a son, Charlie.

Lia Spark (L,'07), in May 2021, a daughter, Florrie Delilah.

Tim Sedgewick (T,'07) in July 2021, a son, Harry Thompson.



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

Barney welcomes all financial support through donations, regular giving and legacy pledges.

Please visit
www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk
 for details or contact the Development Office in confidence

DATES FOR THE DIARY

We are planning to hold several events over the course of the coming year. Fingers crossed we can go ahead. As always more details available from Dot.

September



Hockey vs School

Friday 10 September, 6:00pm, Astro

Girls/Mixed - depending on who would like to play. Drinks and a meal afterwards.

City Drinks

Wednesday 29 September from 6:00pm, Golden Fleece, 8-9 Queen St, EC4N 1SP



Golf

OB Golf @ OB Golf Course!

Friday 17 September at 1:30-2:00pm, Dinsdale Golf Club

We are delighted to announce this event and offer our support to OBs **Max** and **Perry Alexander** (T, '06 & '10) the new owners of this venue. 18 holes and a two course meal afterwards. £40. Please let Dot know you intend to play and pay on the day at the Club.

November



Gary Bishop Day

Saturday 6 November at 12 noon at School. More details to follow.

Remembrance Day

Sunday 14 November at 10:45am, School Chapel followed by the service at the cenotaph (Bowes Museum Grounds)

December

Nine Lessons and Carols Services

Wednesday 8 December at 7:30pm

Thursday 9 December at 7:30pm

Friday 10 Dec at 5:30pm

April

London Dinner

Friday 22 April. Save the date. Details to follow.

October

125th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Saturday 30 October at 7:00pm. Black tie.

This event postponed from March 2020, has been planned to celebrate 125 years of the Old Barnardians' Club. In 1895 the former pupils, of then North Eastern County School, were so keen to create an Old Boys Club that 100 of them joined up immediately. We are pleased to say that there are now over 5,000 OBs on the database.

The evening will consist of a drink on arrival, a four course dinner with wine on the table, live music and a bar. Speeches and toasts.

All of this for an unbelievable £50 a head or £30 for the under 25s. Partners are most welcome, as are OBs who are not members of the Club.



OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM



John W Renney (Du, '46) died in hospital in September 2020. He followed his interests and recreations, which had been nurtured at Barnard Castle School, vigorously into his mid-eighties. His family sent the following obituary:

Born in Sunderland, the son of a solicitor who founded the firm known today as Longden, Walker and Renney. At the age of ten, he came to board at the School, perhaps because the Luftwaffe's bombing of Sunderland had started a few months earlier. He relished the opportunity to swim in the School pool, and could still outswim his sons into his 70s. But it was the School organ which gave him his most important opportunity. As a schoolboy, he spent Saturday evenings practising it. It was a foundation for his holding a major church-organist's position for almost the rest of his life.

At the age of 16, he gained a place to read law at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, then a division of Durham University. He travelled there daily from Sunderland, simultaneously working part-time in his father's practice as an articled clerk. Despite that, he graduated with a first.

After National Service, he returned to his father's practice, also studying the organ with Conrad Eden, then organist and choirmaster at Durham Cathedral. Feeling the need to fledge from the family practice, he advertised for legal work in the local paper. The wife of the Chief Clerk at Durham County Council showed her husband the advertisement, and thus started his career in local government.

He married Margaret Lonsdale, a neighbour in Sunderland, also a talented musician, and established a home in Durham. He then climbed the local-government tree, moving to Leicester, Hereford, and, to work in Worcester, Malvern. Despite having three children and a demanding job, he continued his organ studies, and gained the Fellowship diploma of the Royal College of Organists, an achievement rare amongst amateur players.

At Hereford and Worcester County Council, as County Secretary and Solicitor, he proposed to the chairman of the Council's education committee that they challenge the lawfulness of a half-day teacher's strike in the late 1980s. The council was the only local authority in the country to do so, and its action culminated in a victory in the High Court, with costs of £50,000 awarded against the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers. He was never afraid to be the odd one out, particularly when he knew he was right.

He enjoyed his retirement, pursuing his interests in music and history, playing tennis, working as a guide in Worcester Cathedral and as a volunteer driver for old people often much younger than he was. He loved holidays with his family. Barnard Castle was one of his favourite destinations for them, and his happy memories of being there at school were always woven into the holiday conversations. His wife, Margaret, died nine weeks after he did. His sons, David and Paul, and his daughter, Joyce, survive him.

Joseph Reed (N, '48) passed away in late 2020. He married Margaret in 1955 and had three children. He worked as an Insurance Surveyor for The Royal for 40 years and enjoyed a game of golf at Eaglescliffe Golf Course in his retirement.

Dr Timothy H Parke (N, '66) died in February 2021 aged 72. A lifelong academic Tim read French language and literature at the University of Reading where he gained a PhD. Initially teaching at Sedgehill Secondary School he moved to what is now the University of Hertfordshire. His final post was as Principal Lecturer in Linguistics, a role from which he retired in December 2019. He leaves behind three daughters, Jessye, Héloïse and Phoebe, four grandchildren as well as cherished lifetime friend Jascint.

OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM



Peter W Ogden (T,'66) died on 1 January 2021. Always a cheerful character he could brighten any room with his infectious happy smile, an attribute which served him well in his career as a school teacher in the Newcastle area and latterly with sterling service in the Care in the Community Service Section. Whilst at teacher training college Peter met and married fellow teacher, Susan, and together they raised two children. As the archetypal 'man with a shed', he would despatch Susan to the nearest DIY shop for yet another tool! As recompense he would take her on many foreign holidays including to Russia and Israel, where his outgoing personality helped them to make new friends. Sadly, in latter years, the onset of dementia would curtail these trips but undeterred, his loyal wife Susan would take him to local points of interest, including a memorable trip back to Barney which brought back many happy memories. He was a great character and friend to many who miss him greatly.

A Kellett (N,'63)

Neville Hogarth (T,'63) died peacefully in September 2020, in Chelmsford after a long degenerative illness. At Barney, Neville excelled at athletics, becoming Captain of School Cross Country running, winning the Mutimer and Richardson Cups and becoming Victor Ludorum in his final year. He took up a career in electronics with Marconi to design and build bespoke very high-power amplifiers for the BBC. Later, he worked for the Allen Organ Company and so enjoyed this work that at one point he had almost a whole organ (in bits!) in his garage – no room for a car, of course! Neville's passion and delight was music. An excellent pianist and organ-player, he transformed the musical landscape at his local church. A committed Christian of deep faith, Neville was modest, humble and kind, with a great interest in, and deep love for, his family. He is survived by his wife June, son Alasdair and four grandchildren.

Peter Dunn (Du,'52) – Peter's health had deteriorated and after a few spells in hospital he passed away in April 2020

Robin Blagburn (Y,'68) joined Barney aged eight years as a boarder. Whilst at school he developed a love of sport, particularly cricket and squash. On leaving he became articled to a chartered accountancy company in Newcastle and after qualifying he spent many years travelling the world. In 2002 he settled back in Jesmond where he, and his wife Liz, lived until his ill health caused them to move to Warwickshire to be nearer to family, especially his much loved grandchildren. Always an enthusiastic supporter of Newcastle United FC, Robin was a season ticket holder for several decades. He was a dedicated member of his local church St. George's in Jesmond, serving as treasurer for many years and a proud Barnardian. He died in April 2020 and will be much missed.

R Levie, (Y,'68)

Elmar W Nave (N,'55) died peacefully, at home, in October 2020. His family told us that he often spoke of Barney with much fondness and he told lots of wonderful stories about his time at school. Barney always held a special place in his heart.

2019

John Braithwaite (Du,'54)

Jim Burn (N,'52)

2020

A David Hill (Y,'50)

David Dargie (N,'44)

John Edward Horseman (Du,'51)

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



Captain James Simpson, Royal Navy (N,'92) we received the following obituary from James' brother, George (N,'95): James joined Prep School in 1984 moving into North House and leaving Barney in 1992. James crossed the bar on 1 July 2020, aged just 44.

After leaving Barney, James wrote his A-Levels in Shropshire before studying Manufacturing Engineering in Herefordshire. He joined the Royal Navy in 2000 and enjoyed a meteoric rise through the ranks obtaining the rank of Captain in just over 18 years. James started his career as a Warfare Officer but quickly transferred to the Submarine Engineering branch. He was assigned as a junior engineer to HMS Vanguard where his high calibre and strong work ethic separated him from the pack, and he was selected to rotate straight from the junior position to that of Senior Engineer HMS Vigilant and later HMS Vanguard. His abilities continued to shine, and he was specially selected for the Sea Training Organisation before undertaking a second operational tour of Afghanistan. He was then assigned back to Sea Training as the senior Marine Engineering sea rider. James' career then took a turn inshore, and in true form he picked the most challenging shore jobs available to a Submariner in Nuclear Propulsion Safety and Future Submarine Procurement.

Claire, James' wife and partner of 27 years, clearly remembers the day in 1992 when they met – he was wearing his characteristic 'James' t-shirt, black Levi 501s and a pair of 'cherry docs' [liberated the previous weekend from his little brother's trunk]. She was hooked from that moment; they enjoyed a long marriage and



had two children together Fraser and Georgia. James was a calm parent with an easy going and approachable nature. So many of the letters and calls we have received since his death have testified to his inhuman levels of patience and ability to be calm under pressure. There were, however, two well-known triggers that would receive the full wrath of the decorated veteran: any McDonalds drive through on the face of the earth, and Ben Fogle. For reasons we will never know, as soon as Ben Fogle came on the TV, James would rant.

James was always a man of many talents, approaching his hobbies in the same way he approached his working life with dedication and commitment. If Jim wanted to do something, he would teach himself and practice until he was an expert. This included teaching himself to play many musical instruments, woodturning, restoring classic cars, and painting. James maintained the love of books and poetry he gained at Barney and was never happier than when he was browsing a second-hand bookshop or poking through other peoples' bookshelves when they weren't looking.

James' family would love to hear from any Old Barnardians with photos or stories of James. Please contact his brother George on a_g_simpson@hotmail.com.

Many OBs will be saddened to hear of the death of **Mrs Yvonne King**, wife of Kenneth King. Kenneth and Yvonne met during the early days of Kenneth's retirement and were married for 20 years. She shared Kenneth's pride in Barnard Castle School, and in particular, York House.

Paul Harrison, former Director of Music, our dear friend, teacher and former colleague, died on Sunday 25 July at the age of 56. He was admitted to hospital earlier this month for organ failure and sadly, he never recovered.

Paul was Director of Music at Barney for many years and he appointed me as his Assistant Director of Music in 2001. We became great friends, for he was a superb mentor and I owe much to him. He expected and promoted very high standards which set me up well as a young novice, and he inspired many of his students. The Music School became a centre of excellence and audiences would travel for miles to hear the Choral Society and Chapel Choir.

Paul left Barney for Colfe's and had only recently retired after steering the musical ship for 13 years at City of London School with great distinction. Among his many musical accolades was directing the choir of The Chapel Royal, during an interregnum, for the Royal Maundy Service.

Paul was an outstanding musician, teacher, mentor and examiner. He achieved things only others can dream about yet he was extremely modest. He loved to travel and was at his happiest among friends. Those of us who were close to him cannot remember a scene when he was not smiling, for he was always the life and soul of every occasion. Paul certainly knew how to live to the full and that is how I think he would like to be remembered. He understood the real value of music and of true friendship, and we will miss him. May he rest in peace.

Keith Brown, Asst Director of Music '05

2021

Keith Herron (Du,'57)
Peter Nutman (N,'67)
Kenneth Savage (N,'42)
Keith Pearson (Du,'49)

OB MERCHANDISE

2021



OB Club Tie
Silk

OB Club Bow Tie
Silk Self-tie

Barnardian Tie
Silk

Barnardian Bow Tie
Silk

Scarf
Wool/Fleece



Hoodie (Embroidered front and reverse shown)

Socks
Cotton

Rugby Shirt
Cotton



Cufflinks
Enamelled

Lapel Badge (Top)
Silver Charm
Hallmarked

Tankard
Etched

Whiskey Glass
Etched

Mug Full of History
China



Top Tree Coaster

Top Tree Round Edge

Top Tree Live Edge

Top Tree Paddle (Large/Small)

ORDER FORM

& PRICE LIST

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OB Club Bow Tie	Silk self-tie	£15	£2	
Barnardian Tie	Silk	£20	£2	
Barnardian Bow Tie	Silk	£15	£2	
Socks	Cotton, Fit Size 7-11	£7.50	£2	
Scarf	Wool/Fleece	£28	£3.50	
Cufflinks	Enamelled	£15	£2	
Lapel Badge	Enamel	£4	£2	
Silver Charm	Hallmarked	£35	£2	
Tankard	Etched with School badge	£15	£3.50	
Whiskey Glass	Etched with School badge	£12	£3.50	
Mug Full of History	SALE China (was £18)	£15	£3.50	
100 Not Out	Prep School history	£5	£3.50	
Chapel History		£5	£3.50	
Top Tree Coaster	SOLD OUT	—	—	
Top Tree Small Paddle	SALE (9 remaining - was £20)	£15	£5.50	
Top Tree Large Paddle	SALE (2 remaining - was £30)	£25	£5.50	
Top Tree Round Edge	SALE (12 remaining - was £40)	£30	£5.50	
Top Tree Live Edge	SOLD OUT	—	—	
Size (Chest)	S (40) M (42) L (44) XL (46) 2XL (48) 3XL (50)			
Hoodie		£30	£3.50	
Rugby Shirt		£40	£3.50	

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