

STAY CONNECTED WITH  
THE OB COMMUNITY

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# BARNEY CONNECT

ISSUE 09  
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Magazine for  
Barnard Castle School  
alumni and supporters

## 1990s REUNION



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL



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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

**Facebook:** Barnard Castle School

**Instagram:** Barnardcastleschool

**YouTube:** Search: barnard castle school

### Website:

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

### Old Barnardians

**Twitter:** @barney\_ob

### Facebook:

Old Barnardians Club

Old Barnardians Womens Sports Teams

Old Barnardians Rugby

### LinkedIn:

[www.linkedin.com/company/barnard-castle-school](http://www.linkedin.com/company/barnard-castle-school)

**Instagram:** barneyob1883

**YouTube:** Search: old barnardians

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# Welcome

## PETER HODGES

Representative Governor  
Old Barnardians' Club



**I am very pleased to have this opportunity to reflect on the activities of the Old Barnardians Club as it recovers from the restraints of the last two years. Recent months have consistently demonstrated the resilience of our school community to overcome adversity and use it as a learning process. There is no doubt that Barney has emerged stronger from the experience, thanks to the dedication and leadership of Tony Jackson and his team. I have been privileged to witness a resurgence in all aspects of school life and to see the Barney spirit shining through. It is clear that those values and lifelong friendships forged during our school days define the bond that exists within our broadening network of Old Barnardians. As the school's success pushes the school roll to well over 700 pupils, our Club is also enjoying a surge of interest and engagement both between members and with the school. This has created a very strong and sustainable platform for lasting relationships and mutual benefit.**

Some of the highlights of our OB year include an excellent and well attended London Dinner in April at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall. It was our first OB event at this venue where we received a very warm welcome. A superb meal was enhanced by the lively company of a wide range of OBs. The Headmaster's informative and amusing address was enjoyed by all and the occasion gave opportunity for those present to pay tribute to the hard work of Dot Jones before her pending retirement. More recently we welcomed the return of our OB Weekend at Barney, incorporating a very successful 1990's leavers reunion. The School

provided excellent hospitality for visiting OBs, for which we record our thanks. A broad spectrum of sports were played in the OB/Barney Challenge. An overall draw was declared during the only heavy rain shower of the day at afternoon tea. Tony managed to endure a drenching by this downpour during his welcome address in true Barney spirit! The weekend concluded with a very popular golf event at Dinsdale Golf Club which was, for the first time, open to all Barnardians, young and old, along with parents and friends of Barney. This format was hugely successful and is likely to become an annual addition to OB weekend.

In addition to the regular annual events, OBs have enjoyed numerous informal reunion dinners and drinks soirées, both regionally and internationally. The OB network spans the world and is increasingly reconnecting as social media continues to improve connectivity.

Many OBs have freely given up their time to assist the sixth form in their career awareness by delivering both virtual and face to face insights into their own career experiences. These have been very well received and have much more potential to broaden the range of career opportunities. Please contact the school if you are willing to offer your services.

In order for us to fulfil our objectives as a Club, it is necessary for there to be a strong committee of willing OB volunteers to discuss and agree strategy, organise events, provide links to our network and assist the school in its development plans. In recent times it has been notoriously difficult to recruit committee members to represent younger age groups and female OBs. We need the Club's identity and activities to be relevant to all. Consideration is being given to the formation of small sub-groups to





Peter Hodges presenting a retirement gift to Dot Jones

cover specific aspects of the Club's potential to help both our membership and the school. Are you able to contribute by joining one of these groups or as a committee member? The commitment is not extensive, involving just 1 meeting each term with a few actions in between. Please let us know if you are interested.

At our Annual General Meeting, which was held during OB weekend, **Geoff Hetherington** (N,'77) was elected as our new Chair. Geoff has served on the committee for many years and we wish him a very successful term of office.

**Jane Jordan** (M,'95) was elected as Vice-Chair and **Les Dodds** (N,'72) re-elected as Treasurer.

We thank John Hunter our outgoing Chair, for his long tenure and wish him well. He has also decided to retire from the Club committee. I recall handing over the Chair to John in June 2015. His enthusiasm for modernising processes and linking members to school has been infectious. During his term he has shown complete commitment and dedication to Club affairs

and led the transformation of communications with OBs. We are very grateful for his input and look forward to seeing him at future events.

For the past 15 years our Secretary, Dot, has tirelessly dedicated her time and energy into our Club, gradually expanding and reinforcing our network across the world. Her ability to raise friends, maintain links and establish contacts has been extraordinarily successful. This is not surprising considering her extremely affable demeanour, exuding friendship and helpfulness at every turn. Many will have first experienced Dot's warmth as pupils and subsequently developed a lifelong friendship with her. Regrettably we now have to say goodbye as she retires from Barney. To mark the occasion I felt honoured to have been able to present Dot with a very substantial cheque during afternoon tea at OB weekend. This demonstrated the high regard within which Dot is held by so many of us. I understand that Dot will use this to help furnish her new home with reminders of her time as our truly remarkable Secretary.

Dot has quietly managed OB business during her time with us in a multitude of ways. The common thread running through all that excellent work is that she has kept us all in touch with each other, and our school, in a most welcoming and friendly manner. Planning and hosting events, producing Barney Connect magazine, organising OB weekend, recording the achievements of OBs, being our focal point and promoting everything Barney, are just a few of the tasks that Dot has dutifully carried out on our behalf. We have been extremely fortunate to have had her as our Secretary, but more importantly, as our friend.

I am very pleased to confirm that Dot has now earned honorary lifetime membership of the Club! That means she has no excuse for attendance at future events. I feel sure that we will see her at many of those and that she will return to Barney regularly. She will always be welcomed with open arms. Many thanks Dot.

**Peter Hodges** (Y,'72)

Geoff Hetherington





# BARNARDIAN EVENTS

## HOCKEY

The hockey is planned for the first Friday of the school year to give the 1stXI some match practise, but also to capture OBs before they go off to university. It was looking a bit precarious, as by Weds we only had an OB team of six. Thankfully **Georgie Rhodes** (L, '20)) came to the rescue, rounding up enough to make up a team and the game went ahead. Afterwards curry and a few drinks were enjoyed by both teams.



## GOLF

The week after the hockey OBs met at Dinsdale Golf Club, owned and run by **Max and Perry Alexander** (T, '06 and '10). Much fun was had by all. The longest drive was won by **Henry Carver** (Du, '06) and the overall winners of the Graydan Cup were Matthew Forster, Tony Jackson and David Rickard, who had travelled up from Surrey for the game. After the golf everyone enjoyed a very fine meal and plans were afoot for another competition soon.



# BARNARDIAN EVENTS

## LONDON DINNER 2022

On the 22 April, Old Barnardians, Heads of School and staff gathered at the Army and Navy Club for the OB dinner after a three year gap. Ex-pupils ranged from those that left in the 1950s to last year's leavers. As always, it was wonderful to see OBs come together and reminisce. The food, venue and company were all wonderful. For me, and friends who joined me that evening, conversation often reverted back to how it felt as if no time at all had passed since our school days. There is a special kind of warmth that you feel at an OB reunion, a feeling of being home. This year was particularly special for many as it was Dorothy Jones's final dinner as OB secretary. Dot has been the glue that has held us all together for the last 16 years and we wish her a happy and (very!) well deserved retirement.

**Rachel Pratt**, Head Girl 2014.



## GALA DINNER

It was a joy to greet so many OBs back to school for this event after such a long time away. Postponed from March 2020, the Gala Dinner, to celebrate 125 years since the founding of the Old Barnardians Club, finally went ahead in November 2021. Our catering staff enjoyed the opportunity to produce one of their lavish meals once again and our thanks go to them. There was lots of laughter, a little bit of dancing and some upcycled balloons.

I bet the founding members never thought that there would be such an evening celebrating their Club!



# OB WEEKEND



After a very heavy downpour on the Friday afternoon the netball, unfortunately, had to be cancelled, as the courts were deemed to be too slippery. Thankfully, by the time we were ready to go ahead with the cricket, the weather had improved, the covers were removed and the OBs went into bat.

Manager, **Guy Pepper** (Da,'21), sent in his openers and so began a light-hearted T20 game with some fine batting, questionable fielding, and a win for School.

The 'crowd' was a bit thin on the ground, so we hope that next year more will arrive to cheer on the OBs.

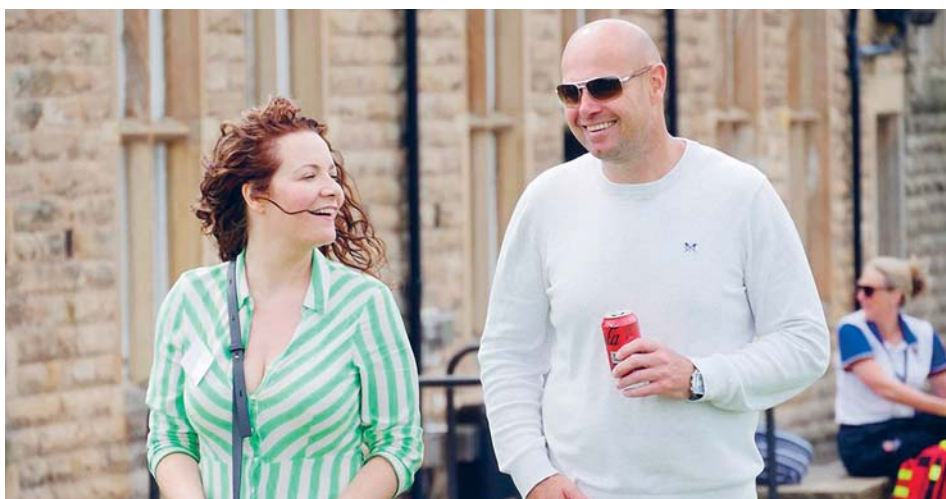
The sport on Saturday afternoon was outstanding and great fun. The footballers used the long walk up to the top pitch as their warm up! The game was pretty equal in the first half, but obviously the OB team talk during the break worked and we won the game.

The tennis players moved from the Astro court to the tarmac surfaced court behind the sports hall, as the ball wasn't bouncing high enough! Another win for the OB team ensued.



# OB WEEKEND

The Alan Lumley Touch Rugby tournament was well attended, both in terms of teams and supporters. Many thanks to all who played and to those who sorted out the teams for me. If you haven't played for an OB team, please do think seriously about taking part – it's good fun and I haven't met anyone yet who wished they hadn't! We must also thank Lizzie Heward from the teaching staff, who did some face-painting for the little ones, and to Martin Pepper and his band of helpers for running the bar.







On Sunday, a number of OBs entered the inaugural Barney Golf Day, which was a huge success. Starting with a hearty breakfast and ending with an even heartier Sunday lunch, over 60 OBs, parents, staff and students enjoyed a shotgun round of golf.





# BARNARDIAN

## 1990S DECADE REUNION



Of course, a huge part of the weekend was the reunion of OBs who left school in the 1990s. We followed what has become a traditional format of meeting for coffee in the Sixth Form Centre, followed by a short Chapel service, this time conducted by the Rev. John Moore.

After the service, it was time for the official photo and then to wander around the school looking at the changes. Those OB boarders who went up to York and Northumberland couldn't believe the changes! Laura Turner, Head of Prep School, kindly took OB preppies down to have a look at the changes there.

Lunch in Big School was followed by a look at the archive photos etc from that era. The reunion years then joined the rest out on the fields to play, support or just to carry on catching up.



# HEADS OF SCHOOL REPORT

**Having been separated for so long, we are delighted to say that Barney life is now back to normal (if there ever is such a thing at Barney), and we have been grateful for the opportunity to lead our School through what has been a jam-packed year. It has been a real pleasure to work alongside a strong senior management team and a teaching staff, who never fail to encourage us to challenge ourselves and to have fun each and every day.**

As we mentioned it has been a busy year, but there are a couple of stand-out occasions for both of us. Firstly, the annual Remembrance Day Service. For the last few years, initially as a result of the pandemic, the whole School has met on the rugby pitches where a service is held and the names of those OBs who gave their life for us are read out, as poppies are planted, and wreaths laid. It is a very poignant event and one in which the CCF play a huge part. At the other end of the scale we were thrilled that the House Singing competition could go ahead, as the excitement and House camaraderie it produces cannot be beaten.

The Sixth Form Centre committee has done a magnificent job in providing social events throughout the year and we have certainly made up for all those missed over the previous year. Specifically for monitors there was a black-tie dinner, which we hope will be the start of a new tradition.

On a more serious note, this year the monitors have been heavily involved in the delivery of our Feel, Be, Share, Go programme. This is probably best described as a goal setting/self-reflection exercise for all pupils and along with tutors, monitors have helped to deliver assemblies based on the word of the week – such as humour, resilience, courage and curiosity. Reflecting on our time as Heads of School, we feel that the last year has been a steep learning curve, not least in learning to understand Mr Jackson's sense of humour (he's actually quite funny). We have become close friends, who trust each other and have worked well to our individual strengths, having lots of fun along the way. We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside a teacher, a leader and a friend in Mr Jackson and we are also so lucky to have had Dot, Miss Jones, to also accompany us along the way. She has played a massive role in connecting us with OBs. We don't know how those in the next years will cope without her!

**Anna Coyle**  
Head Girl

**Will Gibbons**  
Head Boy





# HEADMASTER'S REPORT



**As I sit in my study at the end of another successful year, it is great to be able to reflect on a year in which we wholly and fully reconnected with our alumni. Whilst attention understandably has been focused on the current Barnardians, it is a testament to the alumni community, and to Dot, that we have reconnected so quickly and in such style.**

Before I recollect the joy of these reunions, a quick word about your School. Following two years of adversity, in which the whole community bonded together to face the pandemic and its affects, the message at the start of the year was to come out of the blocks. A little like Nadhim Zahawi (the new PM by the time you read this?!), we believed we had a 'good COVID', and we wanted to build on this sentiment and momentum. All year we have continued to demonstrate a 'can do' attitude, although the effects of the pandemic were still being felt at Christmas, with some fixtures and social events cancelled following intervention from Public Health. Since then, we have forged ahead, and done what we can to get children playing, singing, studying and laughing together.

A genuine highlight was the ambition and delivery of a first ever Whole School Gala Concert. Over 700 pupils, aged from 4 to 18, took part in a concert hosted in the main concert hall at Sage Gateshead. It was the most remarkable event I have been involved in in 15 years in education and a testament to the engagement and passion of the pupils and staff, led by our inspirational Director

of Music Richard Dawson. The concert hall was full with 1,400 people and those involved will never forget it. This whole school event was matched on the last day of the academic year when, for the first time in memory, we combined Prep and Senior School Sports Day and added a range of activities for parents to be involved in, from Congregational Practice to listening to Lectern Club speeches, to attending a range of academic activities such as rat dissection and re-enacting the killing of Thomas Becket! It was a memorable and successful way to conclude another strong year, which included supporting two year groups through the first exam sitting in three years, and Equestrian and Rugby teams that reached and performed strongly in National Finals and Semi-Finals (Hickstead and Natwest Trophy/Rosslyn Park respectively).

As we emerged from the pandemic we, like you, have had to come to terms with war on our continent. We have been fortunate in being able to provide support to some families who have managed to escape Ukraine, and by September we will have five students enrolled from Ukraine. Having met and spoken with them and their families, it is immensely humbling as well as a genuine privilege being in a school that can offer such support.

As we look ahead to the next academic year, we have much to look forward to and, like you, there is a strong sense that the pandemic is behind us. We can begin to look at exciting overseas trips once again, and we also hope to be able to arrange some overseas alumni events in the coming 12-18 months. On the boarding front we currently have all beds filled in all the houses, which is the first time for some time, and this has been possible owing to the incredible quality and care of those running those houses. It is also wonderful to be welcoming back an increasing number of OBs with their children, although upon hearing one or two anecdotes I do have to occasionally reassure the children of these OBs that the school is different to when their parents were here!

On the alumni front we could not have started back with much more of a bang than with the 125+1 Gala Dinner in October 2021. To have an 18-year OB to deliver grace, and an 88-year-old OB to remember old friends, with some 150 plus OBs in between, it was everything that makes Barney so special. This was quickly followed by a return to the London OB Dinner, hosted at the Army & Navy Club, and the year concluded with the return of the 90s decade OBs and the Summer OB







Dionne Saville

weekend, which was a huge success. In between this we hosted not one but two golf events at Dinsdale Golf Club, owned by, you guessed it, two OBs! I won't mention who won...

It is incredible when thinking about this, how much we were able to cram in such a short period of time after the pandemic, and I do not know many schools who were able to deliver like that for their alumni in the way that we did. I put this down to two main reasons. Firstly, you are a sociable bunch! Jokes aside, your love and support for your School is strong and we are so very grateful for it. Secondly, it reflects both the attitude of, and appreciation of, Miss Dorothy Jones. The last time I spoke about Dot, the heavens opened on me at the OB Summer Gathering (and then the sun shone when Dot spoke – somebody is trying to tell us something!), so I fear what may occur as I sit and type this. However, she has been an incredible OB secretary, conduit, organiser, empathiser, cajoler, colleague and, to so many of us, friend. She will be greatly missed but she deserves the most wonderful of retirements. The formalisation of her

transition to Honorary OB was a poignant and touching moment, and we look forward to welcoming her back in the years to come.

The beauty about these types of places is that as one door closes, another opens, and we are thrilled to welcome Dionne Saville as our new Development Director and OB Secretary. Dionne joins us from Ampleforth College where she has worked for the past seven years, and she cannot wait to begin at the start of the new academic year. She will be in touch then but, for now I wish you all a wonderful summer and remainder of 2022, and very much hope to see many of you at forthcoming events over the next year. Even if you are passing, please remember there is always a warm welcome awaiting you, and you will forever be Barnardians.

**Tony Jackson**  
Headmaster  
Barnard Castle School



# BARNARDIAN

## NEWS IN BRIEF

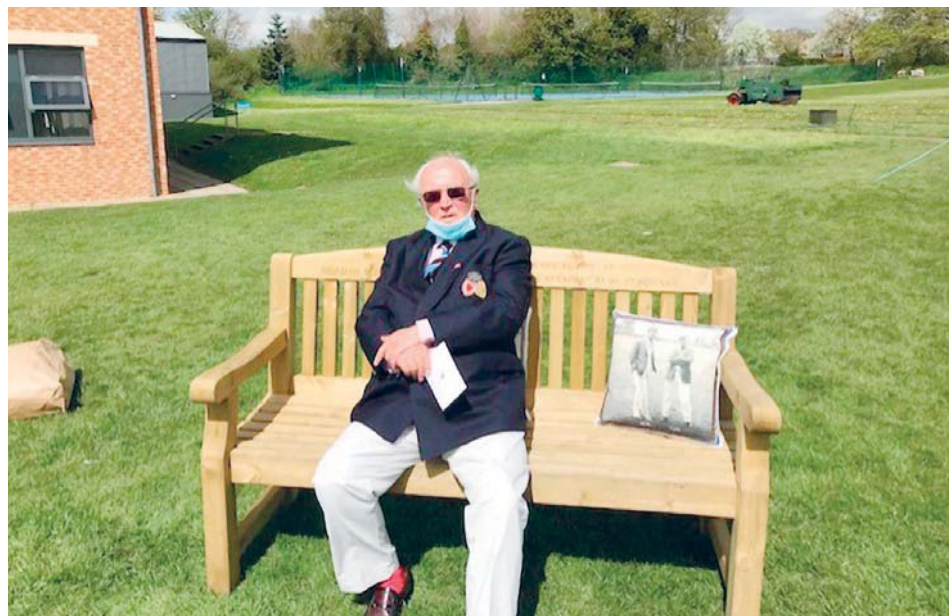


**Eleanor Dinnes-Woodcock** (M,'11) has just purchased Blagraves restaurant in town. I know that many OBs have eaten there in the past, and Eleanor hopes that you will continue to call in to the new Blagraves, which will become an antiques and interiors shop with a lounge café bar, opening late summer 2022.

At the other end of town **Paul Million** (T,'89) has taken ownership of Il Palazzo (formerly the Beaconsfield pub). He intends to create a boutique aparthotel – look out for a place to stay when you come back to Barney.

**W 'Bob' Knight** (T,'63) left BCS for Nottingham University to play 1st team rugby and cricket and to read Chemical Engineering. Subsequently, while teaching in India (VSO) he played cricket with the Maharaja of Jamnagar, Ranjitsinhji's grandson. Thereafter, he joined Shell then ICI, pursued a career in the chemical industry and was later sold off with the assets to form a separate soda ash company. Married with three children and three grandchildren, he still play cricket for Cheshire over-70s, reaching (and losing) the National Final for the second time in 2021. This is the only national seniors title that Cheshire have not won, but are hoping to lift the trophy in 2022.

Since the days in BCS Chapel he has enjoyed Christian fellowship in a variety of churches and currently worships in an Anglican church in Chester. Fortunately, this is not at odds (usually) with my favourite aphorism: "You are never too old to play cricket" – even on Sundays!



**Nick Willings** (N,'63) kindly donated a bench in memory of his great friend John Wakefield, who passed away in 2019. This photograph was taken as Nick sat on the bench for the first time. Nick also had some cushions made with a photograph of the two of them on it to keep spectators comfy as they sit through school cricket matches.

Congratulations to **Jamie Adamson** (Du,'18) who has received a contract with England Sevens and is in the squad for the Commonwealth Games this summer.





**Organ Recital** – In February this year we celebrated the 100th (+1) anniversary of the Chapel organ which the School purchased in 1921. Originally built in 1860 by Henry Willis the organ came to Barney after the death of its third owner Mr Jennings, whose son was an OB. Throughout its time the organ has been refurbished on a number of occasions but is still going strong. In celebration, the School's Director of Music, Richard

Dawson invited two guest organists, Anna Lapwood (Director of Music Pembroke College, Cambridge) and William Fox (organist St Paul's Cathedral, London). Whilst being advertised on social media Richard Dawson received a message from Mike Batt, the composer of Bright Eyes and Remember You're a Womble who was able to tell us that the Mr Jennings who sold us the organ, was Mike's great-grandfather!



### Exclusive Luncheon Club

The Club was started after the 1960's leaver's event in 2017. Trevor Wardle, a US resident, suggested to Peter Smith the idea of a biannual lunch to coincide with his trips to the UK. The first lunch, in Oxford, was attended by four OBs and Maddy, Kevin Whately's wife. The last one in April had 12 attendees all late '60's leavers. The food has to be good, the wine flows and the banter is light-hearted and convivial. It is as if we have never been apart! Obviously we had a take a break during the pandemic, but at our first recent event we invited Dot to join us, as we held it at the Devonport in Middleton One Row, very close to the temporary school rented in 1883 whilst waiting for the building in Barney to be completed. We even found Pemberton House, which is now part of a housing estate! (Peter Smith, Du,'67)



**Jo Wilkie** (L,'87) invited **Danino Smith** (Du,'66) to spend New Years Eve with her and her family as they live close to each other in Barcelona.

Congratulations to **Julie-Anne Shield** (L,'86) who recently competed in the Ironman World Championships in St George, Utah having qualified for the competition by coming second, in her age group, in Ironman Arizona in November last year. Julie-Anne took up triathlons 10 years ago and has progressed from there.





# BARNARDIAN NEWS IN BRIEF



In November 2021 we welcomed a visit from Mrs Larbey and her son. Mrs Larbey's father, grandfather and great-uncles built the Chapel. She lived with her family on Park Terrace, just down the road, as it was being built, but never got the opportunity to see it. Not long afterwards she moved away so only now, in her 90s, was she able to visit. She couldn't believe how big it was, she said she thought it would be half the size. She was very proud, and quite emotional.

**Richard Wakefield** (Du,'97) and **Matthew Hodges** (Du,'97) were thrilled to catch up after four years when Matthew, as a pilot for Emirates, had his last stop-over in Vienna.



## OBs raise money for their favourite charity.

In the last few months three OBs have taken on some amazing challenges to raise money for their favourite charities:



In June, **Calum Matthews** (T,'13) ran the Race to the King 100km Ultra Marathon raising over £3000 for the Disasters Emergency Fund, having been horrified by the images coming out of Ukraine of the indiscriminate bombing of civilians and the deliberate targeting of hospitals and civilian buildings. He completed the ultra-marathon in 11 hours 55 minutes and came 21st out of 293 runners.

In May **Stuart Croxford** (N,'03) cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats which he described as 'the toughest endurance challenge I've taken on as an amputee.' He took the Great Britain Divide route, which certainly isn't direct, and instead takes you on everything from road, gravel to single track with some sections so bad that he had to carry his bike. This route is 2000km long, with an elevation of 32,778m (that's nearly 4x up Mt Everest).

Although testing his own resilience Stuart wanted to raise vital funds for @blesma to support other veterans adapting to the challenges of living a fulfilling and independent life with limb loss. Stuart has left his Just Giving page open should anyone wish to help.



[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuartcroxford](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuartcroxford)

Also in May, **Tom Catterick** (Du,'09) joined with a group of riders to cycle the Gallagher Road to Twickenham covering 770 miles in seven days for Wooden Spoon Charity which hopes to positively transform the lives of vulnerable children across the UK and Ireland through the power of rugby.





# DATES FOR THE DIARY

## September



### Hockey vs School

**Friday 9 September, 6:00pm, Astro**

Mixed team. Drinks and a meal afterwards.

### City Drinks

**Wednesday 31 August and  
Wednesday 26 October from  
6:00pm, Golden Fleece,  
8-9 Queen St, EC4N 1SP**



## November



### Remembrance Day

**Sunday 13 November at 10:45am,  
School Chapel followed by the  
service at the cenotaph (Bowes  
Museum Grounds)**

## Save the date

### Annual Dinner

**Saturday 25 March 2023  
Details to follow.**

## December

### Nine Lessons and Carols Services

**Wednesday 7 December at 7:30pm**

**Thursday 8 December at 7:30pm**





# FROM THE OB SECRETARY



**To receive so many messages of thanks and good wishes for my retirement, which by the way, is early retirement, has been very special and I would like to thank you all. I must also thank Peter Hodges and Tony Jackson for their kind words at OB weekend and in this issue of Barney Connect. I tried very hard to reply and dazzle everyone with a funny but heartfelt speech – unfortunately, I didn't quite make it and the tissues had to come out. A very big thank you to all those who came specially to wish me good luck – it was really kind of you to make a special trip.**

What I was trying to say, whilst holding back the tears, was this: being OB secretary has meant a lot to me. It's been such fun, frustrating at times (read your emails and reply!) and so interesting – what a diverse lot you are. I feel as though I have a huge group of friends both near and far. To be fair, I have struggled with the technology, but you have been very patient with me – I hope all those 'oops' emails made you laugh! Thankfully, as an honorary life-member I will still be able to stay in touch and catch up with you at an event every now and then – perhaps even a Midlands dinner?

For those of you who don't know, I am going back in live in Nottinghamshire, near my family, in a little townhouse I bought some years ago. For the first time in my life I will be living in my own home – very exciting, if not a little daunting! No doubt by the time you read this message I will be either

covered in paint or up to my knees in manure (garden needs a lot of TLC too).

The Club needs to continue to move forward and if you can help, please do. The technology allows for mixed-economy meetings (!) so you don't even have to travel to School to attend committee meetings. It has been a pleasure to work with the Committee members. Their love for, and commitment to School and Club is evident. I have worked closely with several Chairmen, Gerry Camozzi, Les Dodds, Stuart Everall, Peter Hodges, John Hunter and I thank them for their support, enthusiasm and for putting up with my bossy ways.

Our Headmasters David Ewart, Alan Stevens and Tony Jackson have always supported and encouraged me. David Ewart wasn't wrong when he said, 'I've got just the job to keep you busy.' Little did we know then that I would be 'in post' for so long!

Last, but most definitely not least, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your very kind gift of a substantial cheque. As I mentioned there is much to do to make the house my home and I shall use your gift to make sure that happens. The fuchsia bush, my very first plant, will go nicely in my new back garden.

Take care everyone. Please keep in touch with School and with each other.

*Don*

**'Don't be dismayed at good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends.'**

**Richard Bach**



## We welcome your latest news and photographs.

Submit via at email [development@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:development@barneyschool.org.uk)

### Marriages



**Lottie Holmes** (M,'13) married Ben at Northside Farm, Northumberland in July. The couple were ably supported by OBs Chelsea Wilkinson and Sarah Sanderson as bridesmaids. Emily Smith, Evie Kennedy and Will Grundy were also in attendance, along with Sophie Brown from Australia and Georgina Lea from Abu Dhabi, much to the delight of the bride.



**Andrew Pettler** (Du,'03) married Emily in April 2022. They met in Sydney, Australia but were finally married in the UK, once the restrictions were lifted. The groom's brother, Simon, was best man.



**Kimberley Haques** (L,'15) and **Ben Spratt** (Du,'14) were married in August 2021 at Hazelwood Castle, near Leeds. OBs Jamie Spratt and Ben Earl were groomsmen whilst Tilly McAllister and Sophie Spratt were bridesmaids. Other Old Barnardians in attendance were Emma Robson, James Raper, James Watson, Lucy Knightley, Connor Hagues, Lizzie Clouston, Sarah Stephenson, Fiona Matthews and Matthew White.



**Laith Haboubi** (N,'85) married Lanain April 2022 in Abu Dhabi where they met. They had both been living in the UAE for a number of years. It is a second marriage for them both. They have two children each and now have two dogs.

### 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:**

**Sarah Blanshard** (née Moss, L,'04) a little sister for Ollie, Emily Elizabeth, in September 2021.

**Susannah Handley** (née Carroll, M,'99) a daughter, Betty, in March 2022.

**Alex Smith** (née Thomas, B,'07) a daughter, Amelie Elizabeth, in April 2022.

**Luke Kelton** (D,'05) a daughter, Eleanor Anna, in April 2022.

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

**Jack White** and **Vicky White** (née Barwood, L,'05) a daughter, Grace Susan Jennifer, in April 2022.

**Ricky Hopwood** (Da,'07) a daughter, Beatrice Lily, in May 2022.



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

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

Please visit  
**[www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk)**  
for details or contact the Development Office in confidence



# OBITUARIES IN MEMORIAM

## 2019

**Francis Jermy** (Du,'39)

## 2020

**Logan Colbeck** (N,'64) died in October 2020. Logan loved his life at Barney. His escapades there encouraged a sense of fun and mischief which stayed with him all his life. After Loughborough University where he gained an undergraduate and Masters degree he joined British Rail Research Department working on then ill-fated Advanced Passenger Train. After a short stint with The Knitting, Net and Lace Training Board he joined BOC LTD and progressed to become their European Safety and Quality Director. He had a successful working life and after retiring set up a consultancy company. He enjoyed maintaining our 20 acres and looking after our animals. He loved practical tasks tragically falling to his death whilst repairing tiles on the roof of our house. He was a devoted father, grandfather and husband. He is sorely missed by his family and friends.

## 2021

**Norman Sims** (T,'53) passed away peacefully in a nursing home aged 85 years.

**Eric Shortridge** (T,'44) died in December, 2021 in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand at the grand age of 94 years. His daughter wrote to us that Eric had had an amazing life. 'After leaving school in 1944 he went to the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in Edinburgh. After that, he worked in agricultural practices in the Scottish Borders for 2 years and then in 1952 he emigrated to New Zealand where he has had a very successful veterinary career. He used to regale us with stories of his rock climbing trips he and friends when on with their Barnard Castle school biology master, Bentley Beetham. He was in the school rifle team which came second in the Country Life Magazine small bore shooting competition and in the Home Guard team, which won the North of

England Field Firing competition using American .300 rifles.' His sister Pat Shortridge married Ron Gotts (Y,'47).

**Bruce Turnbull** (N,'70)

## 2022

**Brian Hodges** (Y,'67) passed away suddenly in September 2022 after developing complications following heart surgery. He spent most of his career at Richmond planning department, enhancing and preserving the architecture of the North Yorkshire dales. Brian enjoyed many hours playing village cricket to a particularly high standard, a skill he developed at Barney thanks to Kenneth King's coaching. Following retirement Brian's planning expertise remained highly sought after, so he was kept busy with consultancy work, whilst assisting his two sons with their business initiatives. On recovery from surgery he was looking forward to full retirement and spending time with Barbara and his four beautiful grandchildren. Tragically that has been cut short, but his memory shines brightly within the hearts of his family and all those who knew him. Peter Hodges (Y,'72).

**Harry Dodds** (N,'66) died in January 2022. After graduating from New College, Oxford where he studied English, Harry had a very successful career in education – first as a teacher, then as a lecturer at Oxford Brookes, and finally as a teacher training examiner. A columnist for the Times Educational Supplement he was also an early advocate of IT in schools. Although he wore his knowledge lightly, Harry could always be relied upon for an apt literary reference or quote. Calm and authoritative, but with a ready smile and dry sense of humour, it was easy to see that he would have been a very effective and encouraging teacher.

Gradually retiring from work commitments, he took on several voluntary roles in Long Compton, principally as a Parish Councillor, Editor of the local

magazine and as the man who wound the church clock. He had a reputation as one whose words it was always wise to listen to, for hard work, diligence and for researching his facts thoroughly. The resulting impact of his contributions was all the greater for the unfailingly courteous and measured manner in which his points were made.

The breadth of his interests was wide including being an avid collector and restorer of old woodworking tools, having a keen interest in the countryside and a sound knowledge of all matters agricultural. He is survived by his wife, Caroline, whom he married whilst still an undergraduate, and their only son, Rupert.

**Richard CW Stainthorp** (T&Du,'92) passed away suddenly in March this year. After gaining a BA (Hons) in Art, specialising in sculpture, Rich became an extremely successful sculptor. His work consisted mainly of figurative sculptures made from steel and copper wire. Initially supplying galleries Richard's work was so highly regarded that he had spent much of his time latterly working on commissions that can be found all over the world. A huge character, charming, caring, funny and full of life, he will be much missed by his family and friends.

**Andrew Angus** (Y,'75)

**Frank Ayton** (N,'53)

**Lawrence Finlay** (Y,'55)

**Teddy Liu** (Y,'99)

**Mahbood 'Naz' Mehrazad** (Da,'01)

**John Foster Richardson** (Y,'48)

**Michael D Robinson** (Y,'71)

**Jamie Stewart** (Da,'06)



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.



**Ron Gotts** (N,'47) passed away peacefully in Sydney, Australia in May 2022 aged 93 years. Ron came to Barney as a prep boarder in 1938. A very talented athlete, Ron represented the school for three consecutive years on the rugby field, played 1st XI cricket and broke the athletics records for the 100 yards, 440 yards and high jump. In his final year he was captain of cricket and Victor Ludorum. Immediately on leaving school, Ron travelled to India to commence work for Remington Rand. He spent the next 25 years with the company and was involved in establishing offices in East Africa, before moving to South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. Ron married Pat Shortridge, his childhood sweetheart from Barnard Castle, in Karachi in 1954. The two had 58 wonderful years together, and raised three children, Elisabeth, Tim, and Jennifer. The family returned to live in the UK from 1967 until 1972, during which time Tim also attended Barney. The family then resettled in Australia for good.

Ron remembered his years at Barney very fondly indeed. Many of his school friends became life-long friends, including Dixon Asquith, Keith Nodding, and Colin Hardy, who captained the 1st XV in their final year. Ron and Pat made many visits back to Barnard Castle over the years, and the town held many cherished memories for them both. Ron last visited Barney with his granddaughter in 2006 and took enormous pride in showing her the old Dining Hall, where his name still adorns the honour boards. Subsequently, his three grandsons have also visited Barney, and the school has become a part of all planned trips from Australia.



**James Millward** (Da,'84) After a painfully short illness James passed away peacefully on 14 April 2022 aged 53, at home surrounded by his loving family-husband to Lucy, sons Oliver and Harry and daughter Beth. Taken too young from us all. He was a wonderful father, friend, and mentor to so many. Always putting others first, kind-hearted, funny, hardworking, he had so much energy and love for life. He is deeply missed by so many, and it was a testament to him that 100s of family, friends, colleagues and Old Barnardians attended his funeral in May. James' advice to us all "Eat the frog"!



**Andrew J Dolan** (Da,'96) died in April 2022, much too soon aged just 42 years. Lovingly remembered by his family and friends.



**Paul Johnson** (Master, 1981-2015) A much loved schoolmaster and colleague Paul passed away in March of this year. Having been appointed as Head of Modern Foreign Languages in 1981, Paul went on to complete 102 terms (34 years) before retiring. He was the quintessential school master, who not only had a passion for his subject, leading trips to Europe to help students with their studies, but who threw himself in to both the sporting and Arts life of the School. As coach of the 1st XI Cricket team Paul he engendered a commitment and team spirit second to none and many of his former students sent messages to Paul's family about the friendship they still held with him after being in his team.

Not only could Paul be seen out at the wicket but also in his Director's chair in Big School booming out instructions to the cast of the four plays he produced. His 'actors' wrote of the fun they had during the hours of rehearsals and performances. A loyal man of Tees 'Johne' or 'Jonners' could be relied upon to find just the right song for the juniors to sing in the House Singing Competition – anything from 'Tulips from Amsterdam' to 'Nellie the Elephant' but more than that, he was a tutor who gently guided his boys through their early years with patience and kindness.

It was Paul's wish that his funeral be held in the School Chapel. It was well attended but also broadcast to all those who were unable to attend in person. Paul's wife Sheila, and son Mark, were very touched by the messages they received from OBs and former colleagues.



# 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)



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