

- 2024 -

# BRENTWOOD SCHOOL TIMES & THE CHRONICLE



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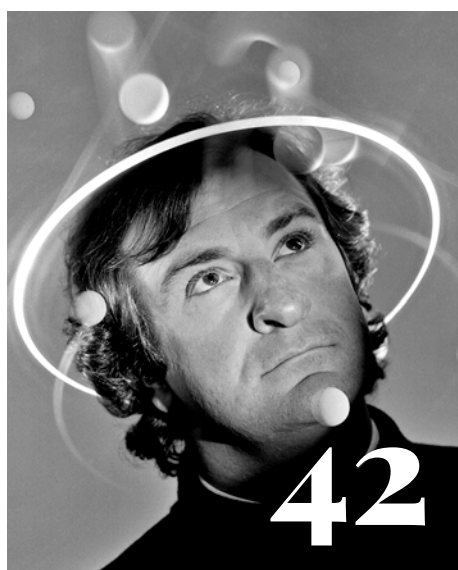
*Sam Mason*  
Director of Development



*Karen Faulkner*  
Development and Alumni  
Relations Officer

For the latest news, events,  
careers information and  
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## BST contents

Headmasters notes	04
Prep Headmasters notes	06
Prep School achievements	08
Development	10
Academic overview	12
Results	14
Performing Arts	16
Sport 2022/2023	18
CCF	20
New learning initiatives	22
The Association	24
The Foundation	25
1622 Corporate	28
Careers	32

## The Chronicle contents

The OB publication	34
Society of Old Brentwoods	35
OB sport	38
Ashwells development	40
Society Officers	41
Alumni stories	42
History of the School	48
Chapel	50
OB celebrations	51
OB Obituaries	54
OB events	59



Welcome

# Michael Bond, Headmaster

*Welcome to the 2024 edition of the Brentwood School Times, the purpose of which is to celebrate the stories and successes of our students and of Old Brentwoods, from those who left their formal education behind many moons ago to those who are just starting their life beyond the school gates and the Old Red Wall. We also want to highlight the increasing number of ways OBs can connect with each other as well as the School; to showcase some of the (many) highlights from the past twelve months; and, perhaps above all, to remind all readers of what a special community we belong to in the form of Brentwood School.*

For someone who has spent much of the past three decades teaching History to anyone who would give me their attention (and some who tried to resist doing so), the story of Brentwood's past is fascinating: when we began work on our long-term vision and strategy for the school in 2019, we looked backwards to understand what has enabled the school to survive (and thrive) as a place of learning for almost five hundred years.

Our delve into the archives was useful: we found a speech from the very first Old Brentwood dinner (in 1682) that extolled the benefits of learning for learning's sake:

'Those things which are most beneficial to the world which really conduce to the comfort and welfare and happiness of mankind, are best carried on with the help of the truest learning.' William Payne, priest and Old Brentwood.

Headmaster William D. West - largely credited with the revival of Brentwood School in the 1800s - promoting the value of fair play and physical activity:

'Join social games with spirit keen, nor loitering round the porch to be seen; No angry word invade your sport, nor malice prompt the quick retort; When older grown protect the young, and be not sharp with hand or tongue'

...and Evelyn Heseltine, Chairman of Governors, writing to all pupils on the school's 350th anniversary with the exhortation to do good in the world, not just well in their exams:

'I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore I can do now, or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.'

You will read in these pages about the Brentwood School Association, which seeks to better connect the many individuals and groups of people who support our School, and the Brentwood School Foundation, which enables talented children from disadvantaged backgrounds to benefit from the education that has helped so many generations before them.

Standing still isn't something we do at Brentwood and the Foundation is no different - we have established the first Corporate Bursary Partner - OB luxury travel company Winged Boots - who will fund a Sixth Form student from September 2024, and a team of eight colleagues raised money and awareness for our extensive bursary programme with a Hike-and-Bike challenge in the Lake District last August. The political and economic landscape is changing and challenging but our School - with your help - is ready for whatever may come our way. If you would like to learn more about how you can support us in this endeavour, further information can be found on page 27.

My role - and that of all those who currently hold the baton in our school's story - is to preserve the very best of what has helped Brentwood thrive for so long whilst embracing the world in which our students will move when they leave us. To do that we need to turn challenges into opportunities, and to do that we need the strength that comes from belonging to an unbroken line of those who have gone before us and those who will follow.

Thank you to the many OBs who already support us in so many ways. If anyone who would like to do so, please get in touch and arrange a visit; you can be assured of a very warm welcome and you will find your school in excellent shape.

A man with a balding head and a friendly smile is standing in front of a large, multi-story brick building with classical architectural features like columns and decorative stonework. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light pink shirt, and a dark blue tie with small pink polka dots. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

**Prep Headmaster to retire**

My story at Brentwood will come to an end next summer, but this institution goes from strength to strength.

It is often said that schools which stay still will inevitably go backwards. There has been no chance of this happening in the past 13 years or so, as the Prep School has undergone a huge amount of change, growth and development that has been truly transformational.

It has been a phenomenal journey which has now placed Brentwood Prep at the vanguard of Prep Schools in the UK, and the facilities and resources available to the children are the envy of many. The children are the rightful beneficiaries of these changes, and it is their energy and zest for Brentwood life that continue to inspire me.

At the heart of it all have been a massively committed Senior Leadership Team, teaching and operational staff, and a supportive governing body who fully understand the need for the strongest possible Prep School within a 3-18 structure. We now have state of the art learning spaces where great things happen. Our curriculum is broader and more ambitious than ever, and opportunities knock at every turn.

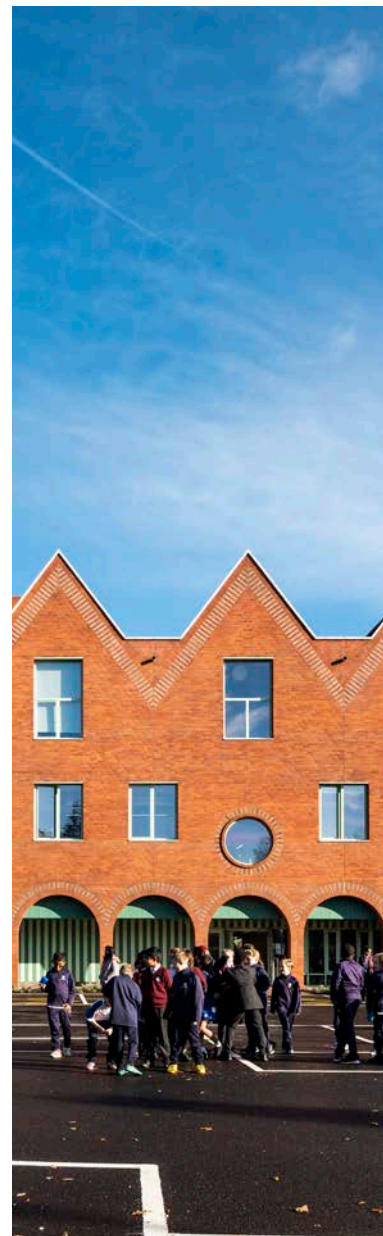
Continued high standards have resulted in the demand for places remaining strong, and this same demand allowed us to grow the school

on either side of the two enforced lockdowns. Our ability to respond rapidly to the changes in the educational landscape gave us impetus and structure when putting together a vision for remote learning and the benefits of strong digital infrastructure at a time of unprecedented challenge and uncertainty. In short, Brentwood Prep went forward during Covid which was no mean feat.

We now have around 575 pupils at the Prep and, as I often comment, one of our central pillars in this growth has been to ensure that the children are all known to us. As such, we have improved staff-to-pupil ratios, developed a new leadership structure with heads of year, additional deputies and directors as well as two new houses - all within a Prep School that operates as one cohesive unit.

My story at Brentwood School will come to an end next summer, but this wonderful institution goes from strength to strength. Finally, on behalf of my family (including three proud OBs), I would like to say a huge thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime, and I wish all of the staff, parents and pupils (past and present) the very happiest and healthiest of futures.

*Jason Whiskerd - Prep Headmaster*



Our curriculum is broader and more ambitious than ever and opportunities knock at every turn.



## Young tech entrepreneur inspires the next generation

In March 2023, we invited Mr Joshua Lowe, developer of a coding program called EduBlocks, to the Prep for our grand opening of the Da Vinci Suite - the new IT Suite in North Prep. Joshua created the 'drag and drop coding programme' at the age of just 12. Now 19, he is working as a Senior Software Developer for the company that acquired Edublocks and has a mission of making technology and coding more accessible to children and educators.

He kindly ran a workshop with Year 6 pupils and our Digital Leaders, sharing how the program works, and answering questions about his experiences in the 'tech world'.



## Brentwood U11 girls crowned District Champions

In March, we hosted the Brentwood District Football finals. Our girls, were crowned District Champions lifting the Whiskerd Cup for the 2022-23 season with a 3-1 victory against St Thomas. Although a fairytale ending was not to be

for our Brentwood boys with St Peter's winning the Langhelt Cup, the standard of football was incredibly high across all four teams.



## Staff and students "brave the shave" in memory of much loved pupil Aaron

In February, Prep pupil Aoife B, said goodbye to 12 inches of her beautiful mane, donating them to the Little Princess Trust in memory of classmate Aaron who sadly died last year after being treated at Great Ormond Street Hospital

for Children. The charity provide real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost

their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. All proceeds raised through Aoife's bravery were also donated to the incredible research

the Little Princess Trust does for better and kinder treatments into childhood cancers.



After hearing about the Little Princess Trust Aoife said: 'I want to donate my hair so that a wig can be made for a child suffering with cancer. I miss my friend Aaron very much and I wish he was here to see this.'

Her fundraising target of £250 was exceeded quickly, and in total Aoife raised over £3,400.

Year 4 teacher Mrs Roberts also took the plunge in memory of Aaron. 'I am doing this in honour of a bright, happy, fun boy named Aaron, who I taught when he was in Year 4.'

On 9th June 2023, a braid for each House was cut by our pupils and Aaron's brother Jamie helped to shave Mrs Roberts' head. It was an amazing and monumental moment for all. With the help of our Brentwood community, Mrs Roberts has raised over £11,200 for Great Ormond Street.



## Young chess aficionados impress at National semi-finals

On 23rd May 2023, Brentwood Preparatory School's young chess aficionados exceeded expectations at the National semi-finals of the English Primary School Chess Championships held on a gloriously sunny May weekend at Pontins in Camber Sands.



The championship included an U9 and U11 section with 60 teams and over 350 players taking part.

Brentwood School Head of Chess, Robin Slade, said:

*"I was impressed by the level of play and application by the Prep team and also how well they encouraged each other through the weekend. They were an absolute pleasure to spend the weekend with and performed above my expectations. We only lost to the schools that finished 1st (Dulwich Prep) and 2nd in the whole competition."*

## Tennis stars win silver at National Prep Tennis Championships

On 23rd June 2023, Brentwood Preparatory School U11 tennis players had an incredible two days competing at Rugby School in the IAPS National Tennis finals, securing a silver medal - the School's highest ever finish at the nationals.

With over 160 players competing from prep schools across the country, Brentwood pupils shone throughout the event. Brentwood School Tennis Coach, Mark Simpson-Crick, said: 'Our young tennis stars produced a number of heroic performances across both days.'



## Spurs Academy offer for Year 3 pupil

Congratulations are also in order for Year 3 pupil Kaya J who has received an offer from Tottenham Hotspur football academy and will be signing as a Spurs Academy player next May for the U9 season. We look forward to watching his journey with Tottenham.

## Young Voices

In January 2023, Year 5 pupils travelled to the O2 arena and had a wonderful day at Young Voices. This prestigious event is one that the Prep takes part in annually, giving pupils the opportunity to sing with other pupils from around the country, and they even provided backing vocals for Heather Small as she wowed the audience with her hit "Proud".



## A day at Wimbledon

On the 4th July, some of our Year 5 Brentwood School Tennis Academy pupils had the fantastic opportunity to visit Wimbledon for a fantastic day on Centre Court.

The roof was drawn to shelter from the rain but that didn't dampen their spirits whilst they enjoyed clapping Federer into the Royal Box. What a fantastic opportunity!



# What a difference half a century makes

*Readers of the Brentwood School Times who have not been back to the School for some time may be unaware of just how much it has changed. Here, School Bursar and Clerk to the Governors Jeremy Blunden CBE LVO shares an overview of recent developments and a look at plans for the future.*

*Jeremy enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the Royal Navy, being awarded a CBE. Jeremy's last role in the Navy was as Director of Joint Services Command and Staff College at the Defence Academy of the UK before joining Brentwood School in 2019.*

## Then and now...

A comparison of aerial pictures of the School site shows huge differences between 50 years ago and now as, the School has expanded in size and additional facilities have been provided.

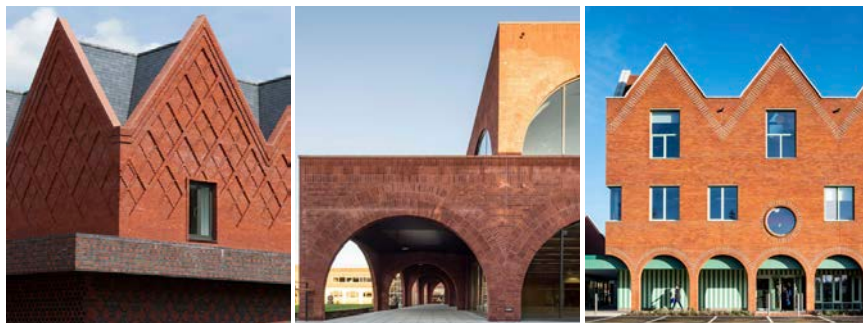
Significant developments on the Senior School site in recent years have included construction of the Wessex Hall, the Bean Academic Centre and Cunliffe buildings; as well as the refurbishment and expansion of the Ashton Building and Headmaster's Reception; and the recent extension of the Lawrence Building to provide five additional Maths classrooms.

The £15.5m investment in the Prep School site in 2020 transformed the School and means that our 3-11 year olds now benefit from one of the best resourced schools in the country.



## What lies ahead

The size of the pupil roll in the School will not grow substantially in future years but the School will continue to invest in improving the site, so that today's pupils can benefit from the best facilities available, and future pupils can continue to gain from the very best that Brentwood has to offer.



Award winning buildings:  
Wessex Hall, Bean Academic  
Centre, new Prep buildings

The next major project, already emerging from the ground behind Courage Hall, is a new combined home for our expanded boarding community and a modern social space for Sixth Form students. The new building will accommodate both boy's and girl's boarding houses in state of the art facilities, providing c120 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. On the ground floor, each house will have separate facilities and a shared central section will provide for dining and recreation which will be used during the day as a 6th Form cafe and social space. The enclosed courtyard will provide pleasant gardens in which pupils can work and socialise.



In 2024, the Queens Building will be extended to provide additional science teaching facilities and additional classrooms.

## A sustainable future

The School has a responsibility to maintain and improve our existing stock of buildings and, in particular, to improve their sustainability and efficiency. We are investing in updating heating and control systems and in reducing energy usage, and are improving the appearance of our outdoor spaces. Many have commented in recent months that the School site is looking the best that it has ever looked.

There are other exciting projects on the drawing board. The Hough site, where the boys boarding house is now, will be redeveloped to provide another significant expansion in facilities for use by the School and the wider community. There are plans to co-locate the School's welfare facilities in the heart of the School and to improve residential accommodation for teaching staff. Mill Hill House, which houses the girls' boarding, will continue to play a role in the future of boarding at Brentwood. Other plans over the coming years, include redevelopment of the Courage Hall car park to provide a separate entrance and exit and an improved layout to ease congestion in Middleton Hall Lane during peak periods.

We hope you will agree that this is an exciting period in the life of the School. Please take the opportunity to join us at one of our School events and witness the progress first-hand. (*Stay connected, page 2*)



**Sienna Singh (OB 2012-2023) (with her father)  
on A Level results**

## A LEVELS

**14.8%** of A level results were A\*s

**42.7%** of all grades were A\*-A

**72.5%** of all grades were A\*-B

## BTEC

**All 19** students, who studied the BTEC, achieved at least the equivalent of AAA

**10** students gained the equivalent of A\*A\*A or better



**Scott Adeyinka (OB 2021-2023), who studied  
BTEC Sport, achieving a place at University of  
Kent**

## IB

**36 point average**  
(equivalent to AAA at A Level)

**17%** of all students  
achieved 40+ points

# BEYOND BRENTWOOD

## Universities chosen

- Bath
- Birmingham
- Bristol
- Cambridge
- Durham
- Exeter
- Leicester
- Loughborough
- Manchester
- Nottingham
- Oxford
- Reading
- Royal Holloway
- UAL
- UEA
- Warwick
- York

## Top university courses

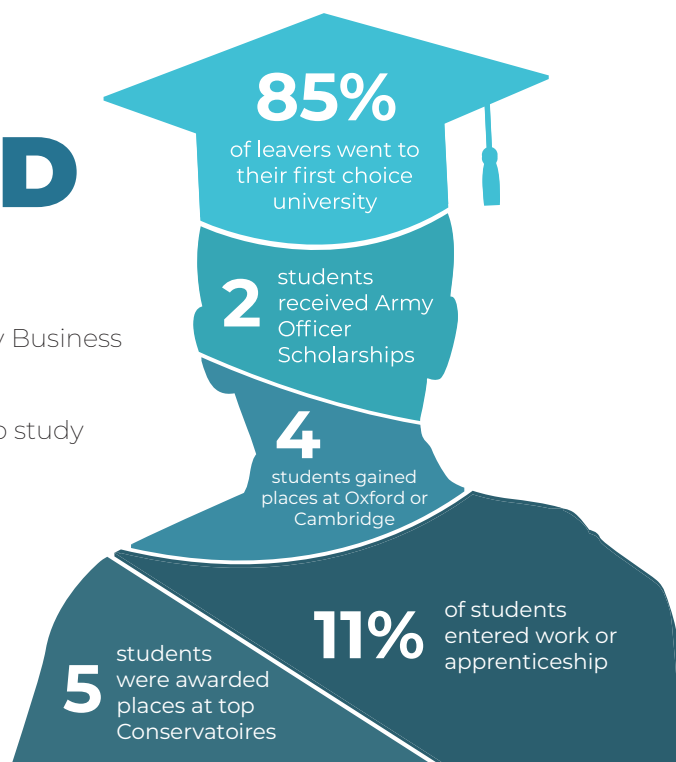
20 students went onto study Business and/or Economics

15 students gained a place to study Law or Criminology

9 students are now studying Politics or International Relations

## Bursary students success

2 bursary students gained places at Cambridge and another **17** at Russell Group Universities



## Other Pathways

### Sector Roles

- Content Apprentice
- Data Analyst
- Finance and Accountancy Internship
- Junior Oil Broker
- Junior Trade Support Analyst
- Trainee Insurance Broker
- Trainee Underwriter

### Companies Joined

- Aon
- Amazon
- AFI Insurance
- Barclays
- DCL
- Gallagher Reinsurance
- GCore
- Leading Edge Flight School
- Markel Group and Insurance Company
- Marex Spectron
- Schroders



# GCSE high achievers embody School values

*Brentwood School students demonstrated how academic ambition, co-curricular endeavour and a spirit of community service offer a winning combination as they collected their GCSE results.*

Joseph P proved himself to be the epitome of the School's values winning this year's Society of Old Brentwoods Prize for Virtue, Learning and Manners and securing a clean sweep of top grades: 9s/A\*s. A feat made even more remarkable given his achievements as a footballer with Colchester United FC and the school's 1st XI, which he represented despite being two years younger than the majority of his teammates.

Despite offers to turn professional, Joseph said studying A Levels in Economics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Further Mathematics in Brentwood's Sixth Form 'guaranteed his future and gave him a backup plan.'



His achievement was matched by fellow Speech Day prize winner Achinta K who also scored 72 points (9s/A\*s). Achinta, a keen charity advocate who spends time working on behalf of various food banks, was recently awarded the school's Year 11 Food and Nutrition Prize.



Joseph, Achinta and many of the GCSE top performers were among Brentwood's first group of Peer Mentors, a programme which sees older students supporting younger pupils with strategies to improve academic and motivational outcomes.

**Headmaster Michael Bond said:**

*'...such success proves involvement in the community actively helps students academically.'*

# Exam success ‘Icing on the cake’ for Brentwood’s versatile U6 students

Despite having their GCSEs cancelled in 2021 the Class of 2023 outperformed the 2019 benchmark in terms of academic results, and did so alongside a wide range of extraordinary co-curricular successes. This illustrates the school’s commitment to a holistic education. Many top performers included stand out musicians and sports stars.

Bursary holder, academic and Music Scholar, Benjamin O’Riordan (OB 2016-2023) secured A\*A\*A grades and places both at St John’s College, Cambridge and Guildhall School of Music and Drama. “This Shool has done this for me and the bursary has transformed my life,” he said.

Classical guitarist extraordinaire Tom Hodgkinson (OB 2016-2023) was awarded AAA and a place at one of the world’s leading conservatoires, the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz in Austria.

Fellow musician, Scholar and Bursary award holder Sammy Li (OB 2013-2023), (A\*A\*A B), has accepted an offer to read Maths and Philosophy at Bristol. Sammi, has also been awarded the Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship in Music at Bristol, said her bursary had changed her life.

*“I would not otherwise have been able to do all these amazing things, being part of the community that is the Music Department, making music and spreading joy.”*

Three students achieved 40 points or more. Abigail Rice (OB 2016-2023) scored 44 points, (with 45 the maximum)



which puts her in the 99th percentile of IB students worldwide and secured her place at Queen’s College, Cambridge to read Economics.

Abigail, a Senior Praepostor who served as an Officer in the RAF cadets, has been part of our Model United Nations group, 1st clarinet in the symphony orchestra, ensemble director in House Music and editor of the IB Magazine.

BTEC student Alex Bagley (OB 2021-2023) achieved the equivalent of A\*A\*A\* at A Level and a place at Plymouth to study Physiotherapy. Also proving that BTEC qualifications are not just a gateway to Sport or Business pathways, Iqra Malik (OB 2021-2023) (who achieved the equivalent of A\*AA at A Level) is using her Business BTEC as a stepping stone to study Architecture.

Eight students will be taking up much sought-after Apprenticeships at institutions ranging from Amazon to Barclays, including Olivia Argent (OB 2012-2023) (A\*AA) who will be joining the Markel Insurance Group.

# Raising the level of what is possible

It has been another memorable year in the Brentwood School Music Department. We have been delighted to see continued growth in the areas of student leadership, student arrangement and ambitious programming that is industry-leading. Our talented and committed young musicians have performed in over 100 concerts, services and shows throughout the year, continuing to raise the level of what is possible in a School music department.

Lent began with the Battle of the Big Bands Concert, which saw the Brentwood School and Seven Steps Big Bands side-by-side in the Wessex Auditorium, with performances from soloists and close-harmony groups. Particular highlights were the performance of a song written in an hour by Beth Agett, a professional jazz vocalist, and our musicians, as well as the astonishing number of student arrangements and original compositions. The term continued with bi-weekly concerts ranging from a collaborative approach to jazz and poetry, Chamber Concerts, a drum concert and a series of lunchtime recitals and evensong services.

Without a shadow of a doubt, this year has been dominated by Rachmaninov's 2nd, performed by Sammy Li (OB 2013-2023) accompanied by a full symphony orchestra in Brentwood Cathedral in March.

The audience was moved to two standing ovations (and many tears) following joint choral society performances of Bernstein's masterpiece 'The Chichester Psalms', this culminated in Sammy demonstrating musical and emotional mastery in a performance that no-one in attendance will ever forget.

Despite study leave and public exams, the Trinity Term continued at full steam with performances in Upminster and a set for the coronation in King George's

Park, Brentwood from the Big Band - featuring a Brian May-inspired solo rendition of God Save the King from Tom Hodgkinson (OB 2016-2023). The Chamber Choir performed evensong services in the School Chapel and at St. Peter's Church in South Weald to celebrate the founder of the School, Sir Antony Browne. The programme of Chamber Concerts were dedicated to the juniors, Year 10 and the Lower Sixth.

Over 300 students were successful in ABRSM Exams this year as well as the highest-ever number of students gaining places at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Junior Department as our partnership continues to flourish.



Ore F-S and Owen R (pictured above) were accepted into the National Youth Orchestra, performing in the country's finest concert halls. Many students have had success in regional and national music competitions. The future is very bright for the departing U6 students, Thomas Hodgkinson gained offers from many of the best conservatoires in Europe; Sammy Li won the Vice Chancellor Scholarship at Bristol University for artistic

excellence; Cameron Davies was appointed Director of Music at St. Chad's College, Durham; and Ellie Williams (OB 2016-2023) and Penelope Wood (OB 2013-2023) gained places in the country's leading Performing Arts schools. The final foray of the academic year, as is our tradition, involved 60 musicians from across the school embarking on a wonderful tour of Dorset in August, which saw the students perform four high profile public concerts and services to public audiences well into the thousands.

The return to school in September, saw the resumption of House Music. The partsong this year was 'Danny Boy' – a great choice and each of the House pairings brought something different to the interpretation of the words and singing. House Music is always tremendous fun with the whole of Year 7 involved and students working together across the Year Group.



Thorndon and Merrymeade scored highest in the Partsong, Weald and Hampden highest in the Ensemble and East and Hartswood highest in the Unison. The overall winners were Thorndon and Merrymeade.

*Florian Cooper (OB 1995-2009)  
Director of Music & Performing Arts*

## Brentwood School musician scoops prestigious award for the second year

Cellist extraordinaire Alex L was crowned winner of the prestigious Essex Young Musician of the Year 2023 competition - the second year in a row the accolade has been awarded to a Brentwood School musician. Brentwood School guitar phenomenon, Tom Hodgkinson, had scooped the title in 2022.



A delighted Brentwood School Director of Music and Performing Arts, Florian Cooper said: 'This competition is open to young musicians living or working in Essex up to the age of 28 and the majority of finalists were either young professionals or conservatoire students.'

## Brother - sister double act

Congratulations to Bursary students Owen and Anna who recently performed as part of the prestigious English School's Orchestras at the Cadogan Hall, and to Owen for winning the John McIntosh award for musical excellence.



The orchestra was conducted by Old Brentwood and former Head of School, Lewis Gaston (OB 1995-2009), pictured with Anna & Owen.

# Outstanding performances from football to fencing

*Brentwood has enjoyed yet another outstanding year of sport, with over 1000 students participating in 1131 fixtures played across 13 different sports and many individuals and teams competing on the national stage.*

It has been a strong year for the football programme and fantastic to see so many of our girls playing football for Brentwood. The School has taken part in a number of competitions, including both Essex and ISFA cups, with the 1st XI girls team reaching the last 16.

Other successes included our u12, u13, u14 and u15 cricket teams winning their county finals at the end of the Trinity term, with the u15 cricket team also reaching the regional final, playing in what was effectively the national cup quarter-final.

There was also success in tennis, where the u16 girls' team reached the regional finals.

As well as the team successes, we had a number of students achieving international representation in equestrian, fencing, football, hockey, netball, rugby and skiing.

Whilst we are incredibly proud of the many accolades that our students have received our biggest 'win' will always be the number of students who represent the school every Saturday, demonstrating the value that they place on sports and exercise and the sense of responsibility and commitment they have to their teammates.

*Neil Gamester, Director of Sport*



*Special congratulations to all the teams who qualified for their respective national finals including:*

- U16 girls athletics team
- U14 girls and U18 boys swimming teams
- U16 girls netball team
- U18 girls hockey team
- U18 boys golf team
- U18 fencing squad
- U18 equestrian squad

## OB Molly makes the World Cup Squad

Congratulations to recent leaver Molly Smith (OB 2016-2023) on her selection for the England Hockey Junior World Cup Squad. Eighteen players travelled to Chile for the competition which took place between 29 November - 10 December.

It's been a busy few months for England under18 goalkeeper Molly who recently won an England Hockey REPS award. She received the 'Support and Challenge' accolade in recognition of her capability to support and challenge teammates and coaches while accepting being challenged and supported by others.

Molly received the England call up in 2021 after first picking up a hockey stick when she started at Brentwood in 2016!

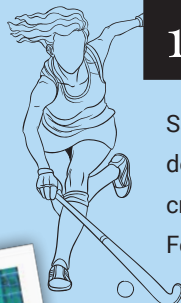


## Brentwood in the top 1% of sporting schools in the country

Brentwood was named one of the top twenty sporting schools nationally by School Sports Magazine, placed 17th in the 2022 list.

The list includes both state and independent schools, and according to School Sports Magazine, reaching the top 30 puts Brentwood in the top one percent of sporting schools in the country. The position is a significant rise from previous years, showing the huge appetite for competitive sport from Brentwood School students.

## Top team performances



### 1st XI hockey team

Saw their hard work, commitment and dedication pay off when they were crowned 5th at the national finals in February.

### 1st XI cricket team

Won the prestigious 'Adrian Gale cricket festival' in July, for the first time in a decade.

### U19 1st VII netball

Created a small piece of history as the first group of Brentwood students to win the U19 Essex Cup in March.



### 1st XV rugby team

Showcased their quality by retaining the U18 Essex Cup in March. They emerged deserved winners 29-8 against a spirited and talented Coopers and Coburn team.

### 1st XI football team

Played in the Elgin league final and reached the last eight of the ISFA cup. A strong performance saw the team win 3-1 to win the plate for the 3rd time in the schools' history. Brentwood now have three cup wins and three plate wins.

## Captain Chris Parry inspects CCF

Biennial inspection : On 17th October the CCF were delighted to welcome back OB, Captain Chris Parry MBE (OB 1987-1992) for the CCF Biennial Inspection. Chris was invited to see the training happening on site including; scuba diving by the Royal Navy section, Fieldcraft skills by the Army section and Shooting and Leadership by the RAF section. The day culminated with an Inspection of a tri-service Guard of Honour, a ceremony that showcased our top cadets. Whilst at school, Chris was a Boarder in Hough and he took the opportunity to take a trip down memory lane, remarking that it hasn't changed much!



## Navy

We have been chosen as the 'flagship' school to deliver the new Navy Cadet training syllabus. This has meant that our cadets are better aligned with what the Royal Navy delivers day-to-day and now follow a more structured system, ensuring they are aware of the promotions they are working towards. Students benefit from a wider range of topics from the history of the Royal Navy to the Alliance (perhaps proving that the Navy doesn't just learn about knots!).

In October, the Royal Navy section took part in the National Trafalgar Parade, which involved hundreds of Sea Cadets from all over the United Kingdom. We were the only school taking part in this event. Some 18 cadets

(selected from all year groups), led by Lt Clark and SLt Clark had the opportunity to parade in front of thousands of well-wishers in Trafalgar Square, down Horse Guards Parade to Buckingham Palace and into Wellington Barracks. This was an experience which the cadets said they would never forget.



The Lower Sixth and some Upper Sixth NCOs visited Chatham Dockyard, taking part in building aeroplanes, touring a Cold War submarine 'Ocelot' and staying on board the WW2 destroyer HMS Cavalier overnight. The remaining Upper Sixth and Year 10 cadets took part in sailing, kayaking and raft building at Fairlop Waters. Year 11 cadets embarked on a trip to the National Maritime Museum, visiting the Cutty Sark.

## Army

The CCF Army cadets have had yet another excellent year. I am pleased to say that our cadets have been recognised locally and nationally for their excellent leadership skills. L6th student Emily P was awarded Lord Lieutenant's Cadet of Essex for 2022/23. Emily will accompany the Lord Lieutenant on various civic and military events across Essex. Sixth Form students Lewis Harknett (OB 2016-2023) and Scott Adeyinka (OB 2021-2023) were offered Officer Scholarships to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst upon leaving school. These scholarships are only awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional leadership potential.

During Lent term we purchased new Archery and Archery Tag kit, allowing us to deliver an even more engaging programme for our cadets. We held two Skill at Arms weekends to ensure our Year 10 cadets were competent on the weapon system ahead of the field days.



The Trinity term saw 20 cadets ranging from Year 10 to L6th participating in the return of the June range day and firing the L98A2 Cadet GP 5.56mm rifle on a live 25m range. As part of the Trinity field days, 140 cadets travelled to Mersea for a morning of adventure training. Year 10 cadets embarked on an overnight exercise in Friday Woods, Colchester whilst the L6th worked towards gaining a leadership qualification, practised their archery tag skills and took part in an indoor obstacle course.

## RAF

The abundance of awards this year has been striking, celebrating our section's strongest cadets. Special mention must go to Jonathan D and Elsie P (year 11) for their CADRE awards, as well as Fergus C (year 10). A handful of cadets gained BTEC level 2 qualifications in teamwork and leadership, taking their instruction to a new level by becoming accomplished leaders.

The cadets also showed enthusiasm for the two field days in June, visiting Wattisham and exploring different aircrafts, including Apache helicopters, learning about their mechanical function and partaking in a weapons workshop. The cadets returned to school to practise shooting, team building and drill.

For many cadets their passion stems from a love of 'all things aircraft', so being taken up in an RAF glider is an experience many will never otherwise undertake in their lifetime, let alone doing barrel rolls and inside loops as part of aerobatic training! The feeling of being in and controlling an aircraft was unforgettable. Some were even inspired to consider a career in the RAF.

## Pioneering Pupils



Sophia W (U6)

In March 2023, we launched our first edition of Pioneering Pupils, our student version of the school staff research Journal The Pioneer, with pupils, parents, staff and Governors in attendance. Being a research-engaged and informed organisation is at the heart of our education philosophy. As our then Head of Research & Development Dr Iona Ross wrote "The Pioneering Pupils Journal is a window into Brentwood School's students' experience as independent, engaged and enthusiastic researchers." Across the Prep and Senior School, we facilitate a multitude of opportunities for students to develop their skills of asking probing questions, posing hypotheses, investigating and extending their ideas in an evidence-based approach. The Pioneering Pupils journal spotlights the full range of pupil R&D, from Year 3s investigating plant growth and how technology can enhance production, to Lower 6th students selecting their own personal inquiry foci such as Chloe's IB Extended Essay 'What role do experts play in influencing our consumption or acquisition of knowledge?'.

*Alice Goodfellow - Deputy Head Staffing, Co-Curricular & Operations*

## The Brentwood Learner Profile

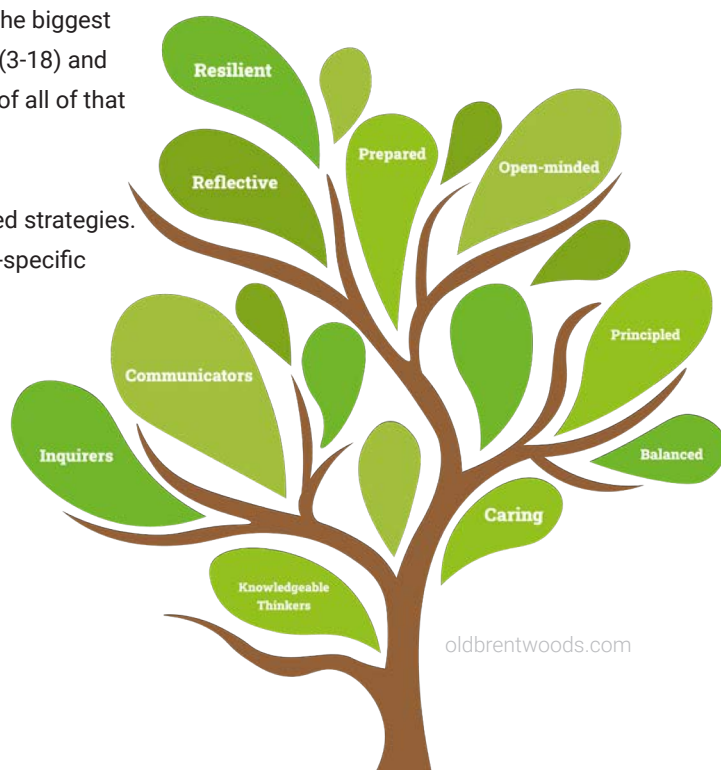
At Brentwood School we have a responsibility to develop the pupil's ability to learn, think and interact with the world so that they are successful and happy. We cannot define what success looks like for each of them but we can equip them with attributes that will enable them to do that intelligently, ethically and in relation to their societies. Educators are increasingly aware that the specific technical skills required for work are more susceptible to change and so while we continue to dedicate time to disciplinary and substantive knowledge, we focus our efforts on developing pupils' approaches to learning and their ability to work with others; ensuring that they are resilient to changes and setbacks.

This rationale underpins our Teaching and Learning Policy where the key attributes and attitudes that we want to develop in pupils form our Brentwood Learner Profile. We use ten specific attributes to give clarity to everyone who works at Brentwood School and to the pupils themselves, ensuring we can deliver tangibly on this promise.

The Development of the Brentwood Learner Profile has been the biggest teaching and learning initiative undertaken across the school (3-18) and the first part of the September 2023 INSET was a celebration of all of that work which is presented in the Interactive Flipbook.

This Interactive Flipbook is a dynamic collection of staff-owned strategies. It is full of examples of ways in which teachers can apply trial-specific strategies that work within their context. The Flipbook includes the work and voice of the pupils themselves, teacher explanations, and teacher reflections on particular strategies. The strategy sheets provide a recipe card for how staff could pick up and use these strategies.

*Hattie Barfield Moore - Director of Pedagogy*



## Helping to close the digital divide for local deprived youngsters

Cllr Louise McKinlay (OB 1989-1996) visited Brentwood School in September to collect a selection of donated digital devices including 63 desktops and 65 iPads that would otherwise have ended up in recycling. These devices will be wiped and undergo any minor refurbishments before being re-distributed across Essex. Sarb Singh (OB 1990-2001) Head of ITSS at Brentwood said "it is great to see these devices having a second lease of life that will have a huge impact on those in need in our local community".

Cllr McKinlay, who is Essex County Council's Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Communities and Business Engagement, said:

*"The scheme is called 'Closing the Digital Divide' and is aimed at local deprived youngsters. We work with them to make sure they can use and have access to technology. Loneliness is a crucial problem, so to support this we encourage learning online to help develop key skills."*



## Charity fundraising excels again

It was another fantastic year for student fundraising with almost £30,000 raised for charitable causes. The Michaelmas term saw the House Christmas Fair back where it belongs in the Memorial Hall, raising a fantastic £5415 for House charities.

In the Lent term, over £8000 was raised for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Humanitarian Appeal for Ukraine. South House Week saw House Captain Alex Mead swimming 100 miles in March for St Francis' Hospice, and raising £3,547.

The Trinity term focus was on the House Track and Field charity stalls with £4050 raised for House Charities through popular initiatives such as 'soak the teacher'! Rev. McConnaughie took part in the RideLondon challenge and managed to raise over £1000 for Dementia UK.

The above are just a small snapshot of the fundraising initiatives led by Houses, year groups, individuals and the school community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved.

# OBs at the heart of the network



In 2023, we launched the Brentwood School Association and you may well have seen the communications and the changes to the Old Brentwood portal. Most independent schools with the great reputation of Brentwood have close relationships across their external network of alumni, parents, local community, connected businesses, and friends. The Association reflects our ambition to create a thriving network for Brentwood. It exists as an umbrella Association with the purpose of bringing everyone together to promote all the organisations and people that make up our community:



## Brentwood School FOUNDATION

The School Foundation's sole function is to help raise funds for transformative bursaries - creating places for talented and worthy young people who would otherwise be unable to attend. Changing lives through a Brentwood education.



## FoBS Friends of Brentwood School

FoBS serves to enrich School life while supporting this cohort of parents.



## The Society of Old Brentwoods

The Society will always be at the heart of the Brentwood School Association, welcoming all those graduating Brentwood School to the Old Brentwood alumni community.



## Old Brentwoods SPORTS · FRIENDSHIP · COMMUNITY

We are very lucky to have the OB Clubhouse on Ashwells Road, with modern social and sports facilities and a network of thriving sports clubs. For OBs and local residents, the club is a hub for socialising, networking and fun.

Beyond the formal groups and societies, there are many sports teams, events, businesses and individuals who make up the Brentwood School Association. Please contact the Development Office if you want to share news, promote something, start a new club, organise a reunion or discuss anything else involving our community network.

The Association approach opens up great opportunities - from supporting the careers of young OBs to helping maintain the valuable friendships and network stemming from a Brentwood School experience.

Please sign up to the Brentwood School Association website, keep up-to-date with news and utilise the growing functionality to connect with the School and the network.





# Brentwood School

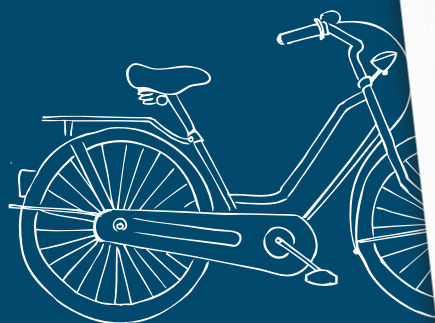
## FOUNDATION

### *Celebration of our bursary awards*

Brentwood School has a long and distinguished history of philanthropy. Every year we offer means-tested bursaries to provide access to a Brentwood School education to talented children whose financial circumstances mean it would otherwise be impossible. We have supported almost 1 in 10 of our Senior School pupils with 93 students receiving a transformational bursary of at least 70% of the fees.

We have the privilege of seeing first hand the positive impact these bursary awards have on both individuals and Brentwood as a School. Each bursary recipient contributes to the collective academic ambition of their year group and their participation in co-curricular activities enriches School life.

There are numerous examples of how our School community supports the provision of bursaries. One such case is the special Hike and Bike challenge taken on by a group of intrepid staff including Headmaster Michael Bond with the aim of raising awareness and funds for the Brentwood School Foundation. Our inspiring staff hiked 170.5km and cycled 193km this August, gaining nearly 20,000km in elevation - equivalent to two Everest ascents! Thanks to their efforts and our wonderful Brentwood community, we raised nearly £4000 for transformational bursaries that will change young lives through education.



Our Bursary award holders are at the heart of this story: they appreciate the opportunity they have been given to study at Brentwood and help us raise awareness of the School Foundation so that we can generate the funds to provide future bursaries.

The Foundation would like to thank last year's Bursary Ambassadors for their brilliant work championing bursaries in our School community.

### The 2022-23 Bursary Ambassadors:

*Afolabi Akeju (OB 2021 – 2023)*  
University of Leicester (BA Business and Management)

*Dominic Cunningham (OB 2021 – 2023)*  
King's College London (BA Religion, Politics, and Society)

*Daniel Elayaraja (OB 2017 – 2023)*  
University of Nottingham (BSc Industrial Economics)

*Luke Farrow (OB 2017 – 2023)*  
University of Surrey (BSc Economics and Finance)

*Sandra Laur (OB 2021 – 2023)*  
King's College London (BA International Relations)

*Sammy Li (OB 2013 – 2023)*  
University of Bristol (BSc Maths and Philosophy, with a Vice Chancellor's Scholarship in Music)

*Benji O'Riordan (OB 2016 – 2023)*  
Guildhall School of Music and Drama

*Martha Treston (OB 2021 – 2023)*  
University of East Anglia (BA Drama)

The number of bursaries we can provide is determined by the generous support we receive for the Brentwood School Foundation, the sole purpose of which is to enable more talented and deserving children to benefit from joining our community.



**Brentwood School**  
FOUNDATION

## Your details:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM (HOWEVER  
YOU DONATE) TO:

**Brentwood School  
Development Office  
Middleton Hall Lane  
Brentwood, Essex  
CM15 8EE**

If you have any queries about the form,  
please don't hesitate to  
contact us on 01277 240451.



To find out more by  
scanning here.

## Gift Aid your donation

Boost your donation and make it worth an extra 25% at no extra cost to yourself. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

☐ In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Brentwood School.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify Brentwood School if you: • want to cancel this declaration • change your name or home address • no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

## Making a single/regular gift

I would like to make a single/regular gift of £ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If you wish for your donation to the Foundation to remain anonymous, please tick the box.

I am making this payment via:

☐ BACS Direct Credit

Please use your banking app or online/telephone banking to make a one-off (or regular) payment.

**Natwest Brentwood**  
**Account Name: Brentwood School CIO**  
**Account Number: 20622597**  
**Sort Code: 60-03-25**  
**IBAN: GB07NWBK 600325 20622597**  
**Swift/BIC: NWBKGB2L**

Please use Reference: 'BSF/[Your Surname]' and advise the Development Office of your donation.

☐ Cheque

Please make payable to 'Brentwood School' and enclose with this form.

☐ Debit/Credit Card

Please visit our website to donate securely

☐ Legacy

Please visit our website for more details or contact the Development Office.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



**From bursary recipients to corporate partners:**

**Old Brentwoods Daniel and David  
Ox discuss the importance of  
'paying forward'**



*The 1662 Corporate partnerships allow companies in the Brentwood School community to directly support the provision of a full bursary place each academic year. This initiative has only just been launched and we are proud to confirm Winged Boots as the first 1622 Corporate sponsor.*

Winged Boots is a personal travel management company that services luxury leisure and corporate customers. It spans flights, hotels, yacht charter, private jet charter, villa rentals and more. The luxury travel company is part of the Ocean Holidays Group which employs 175 members of staff across the UK and USA, generating revenue in excess of £100 million. It's one of the fastest growing travel companies in the UK and a real success story of an Essex based company.

It is owned by two sets of brothers: Harry and George Hastings and Daniel (OB 1989-1998) and David Ox (OB 1990-1997). We sat down with the Ox brothers to discuss their time at Brentwood and the 1622 scheme. We think you will agree it's a wonderful story of accomplishment and philanthropy.

### **Q: Daniel and David, you were recipients of bursaries. What did these awards mean for you?**

**Daniel Ox:** The bursaries gave us the opportunity to attend a school that, due to financial circumstances, we would never have had a chance to go to.

In our experience, everyone in that school was there to try their hardest and to work their hardest. Everyone's mindset was that they wanted to do something with their lives. They wanted to be someone. And I suppose the transformational bursary gave us the opportunity to be part of that mindset.

**David Ox:** From a personal perspective, I found that the extracurricular opportunities that Brentwood had to offer were unrivalled. They were totally unmatched compared to what you would find in a state school. And that's something of which we both took big advantage. We played for the school in multiple sports throughout our time at Brentwood. What that gives you is a strong team ethic and a great work ethic which has helped us start and run our own business.

I'm still friends today with the same boys I made friends with when I was 11 years old. I played football with those boys until I was in my mid-30s and I now do business with them, fulfilling their corporate travel needs as well as booking their personal holidays. Many of my school friends have gone on to create successful businesses and careers for themselves. It's quite unique, and that says a lot about the school and the education that it offers.

### Q: How would you describe your time at Brentwood?

**David Ox:** We were middle of the road in terms of academia. But sports was really strong for us, especially for me. I played football for the first team and I was given full school colours for cricket. It's all about the opportunities we were presented with and the confidence we gained to allow us to go on and do whatever we wanted with our lives.

**Daniel Ox:** Sports – particularly football and cricket – were highlights for us. We had a great coach called Brian Hardy, and I just remember him treating us like men as opposed to kids.

Also, the school trips. They were such a great experience. Our mum would have never imagined that we'd be going skiing in Canada or the USA or even visiting the Ford factory in Genk for business studies. The trips allowed us to travel the world and open our minds to a range of opportunities.

It's not a coincidence that a lot of kids who come from that school go on to do transformative things and have interesting careers. The growth mindset of the individuals at Brentwood School is essentially the same. It's not necessarily about academics or the highest grades. But you're not being held back in any way so you find a lot of young adults who come out of that school go on to be entrepreneurs or achieve their industry or personal goals.

I've got two children. One's attending the prep and the other is in the main school, and I have found that a high percentage of the children at Brentwood today, have Old Brentwood parents. That's a reflection on the good times and experiences that we had as kids. There's no higher compliment we can give to the school than wanting to put our children through the same fantastic experiences and give them the opportunities that we had.

### Q: How did your Brentwood experience help shape your current success?

**Daniel Ox:** I think it goes back to a growth mindset. I wouldn't say that the school trips made us go and start a travel company! But the school certainly gave me confidence to start a business and develop that entrepreneurship which you might not ordinarily have had in other circumstances.

It's not just the education; it's the network that goes with it. Whilst Winged Boots is a nationwide company, and part of Ocean Holidays, a global business, a significant amount of our customer base is from Essex, including Old Brentwoods. So I can confidently say that the mindset Brentwood School gave us - plus the networks - means our time at the School has absolutely helped the business get to where it is today.

*Winged Boots was awarded Luxury Travel Retail Business Of The Year in the Luxury Travel Award 2023.*

**Q: You are now “paying forward” the support you received by funding a transformational bursary as the School’s first 1622 Corporate partner. Why was that so important to you both?**

**David Ox:** Our mum was a big advocate for us going to the School. It was all thanks to her. She really pushed for us to go there. Our dad had a fruit and veg stall in Romford Market at the time, so it was something that they could not afford. And the bursary and education we received from Brentwood has opened so many doors for us.

That’s what we’re supporting with this bursary. All being well with their Brentwood School application, we are hoping the Winged Boots bursary can go to a talented student from a school in Romford, which is just 200 metres from our office, and we’re going to support them by paying for an education that they may never have had.

*“Funding a bursary place aligns with what we stand for.*

*As a business, to do the responsible thing and deploy capital or profits into schemes that support our local community is at the top of our agenda and aligns with our ESG programme. And this particular opportunity just made perfect sense: to give someone the same amazing opportunity that we were lucky enough to have.”*

**Daniel Ox:** It’s not just the funding. We’ve also had two students from Brentwood School’s sixth form enjoy work experience at Ocean Holidays. We’re supporting the business studies department and we will continue to open our doors to students who want to learn about business entrepreneurship across all departments from accounts and digital marketing to product and sales.

We give them personal airtime. As part of the programme, they spent the day with me where we talked about the transition from Brentwood School, how it feels to leave school, what mindset they might go through and how we started our business.

As former Brentwood students ourselves, we feel we have a bit more resonance with those individuals. If I am honest, when I did my work experience, it went in one ear and out the other... but if just 10 minutes of their time on our work experience programme sticks with them and makes a difference to their lives, that’s enough for us.

### **Thank you**

The Foundation would like to extend a huge thank you to Daniel and David - not only are they leading the way by funding a 1622 Corporate bursary - their story shows the exponential impact of providing a quality education. Brentwood changed the lives of the Ox brothers and they are now using their success to create that opportunity for others. This exemplifies the Foundation mantra of ‘changing young lives through education’.

*Brentwood School aims to ensure that all students have outstanding career guidance, to enable them to make informed decisions about the options available to them. Our guidance is embedded within and supports our whole School values.*

By helping students to recognise their own strengths, we hope to support and empower them to make informed decisions and ultimately succeed in adult life. We provide a planned programme of activities, including regular career seminars, access to online resources and one-to-one advice, extending from Year 7 through to Upper Sixth. Our new Head of Careers, Mrs Charlotte Monk, replaces Jan O'Connell who retired in August 2023. Charlotte joined Brentwood School in 2022 having been in the education sector for more than five years. She is responsible for coordinating the Careers Programme and is committed to ensuring that our students are fully aware of the wide range of options and opportunities available to them. If you or your company might be able to support our careers programme please get in touch with Charlotte: [monkc@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:monkc@brentwood.essex.sch.uk)

## Brentwood's 'excellent careers provision' recognised by prestigious national award



Brentwood School has been awarded the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard (QiCS), one of only 719 English Secondary Schools to have achieved this. This award is one of the highest a school can receive for excellence in careers provision and demonstrates Brentwood School's commitment to providing outstanding impartial, independent Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG) for all our students.

## Let our students benefit from your experience

There is an impressive range of experience and influence in our Brentwood School Association network. Please let us know if there are any career opportunities, work experience, or industry connections you can help make available to our students. For further information about how you can get involved please see the Association website.



*"The Brightstar Group has been delighted to work with Brentwood School on a number of projects; all of which have brought benefits to our business and team, as well as providing us with the opportunity to support young people in gaining a taste of the working world. We have hosted students from the school for work experience for the last 4 years. These students have spent their time working with different teams across the business to gain insights into the mortgage industry. Brightstar continues to support Brentwood alumni who return to do work experience while they are at university."*

*Our Young Learners Programme has been hugely successful in finding new team members for us, with 7 staff appointed following a work experience placement with us.*

*In summary, we believe that the partnership between business and school provides endless benefits and opportunities for all involved and as such, we would recommend other businesses to explore these avenues."*

*- Brightstar Financial*

# THE CHRONICLE

- 2024 -



[oldbrentwoods.com](http://oldbrentwoods.com)

# Welcome to the Chronicle

The Chronicle of the Society of Old Brentwoods was last published as a standalone publication in 2018. Since then it has become part of the Brentwood School Times, and in 2021 The Chronicle started being presented as a separate section within the BST. This year we have enlisted the help of more Old Brentwoods to pull The Chronicle together, and we hope the result is an informative and engaging read. A special thanks must go to Martin Rowland (OB 1951-1961) - the former editor of The Chronicle - who has provided some great articles and cast his editorial eye over the whole publication.

This joint effort seems very apt as the Society and School work closely together to provide more opportunities to network and socialise. There is huge opportunity in the wider Brentwood School community, and the Old Brentwoods are at the heart of that network.

In September 2024 the Society of Old Brentwoods will celebrate its 125th anniversary. You can read more about that in this edition and enjoy contemplating the past ('Why Brentwood School's Foundation took a decade to build a schoolhouse'), updating yourself on present day OB news, and looking to the future with Chairman, Christian Cooper (OB 1981-1992), talking about the exciting and ambitious development plans.

It was an unexpected honour to be elected and installed as President in September at the AGM. My first meeting in my new role was with the Headmaster and Sam Mason of the School's Development Office; it was encouraging and refreshing to hear their combined enthusiasm for strengthening links between the School and Old Brentwoods.

At Ashwells Road Clubhouse the long-awaited lift, servicing the first floor has been installed, which now makes the Club truly accessible to all. We are planning an event where we can celebrate this and thank those people who made it happen, so please look out for the date and support it if you can.



Old Brentwoods Day in September was a great success and I am keen to have a reciprocal event held at Ashwells Road in the Spring which will showcase what a spectacular venue we have to play sport and socialise. Look out for the date!

## A structure suited to ‘the next 25 years and beyond’

The Restructuring Sub-Committee comprised of Chris Cooper (OB 1981-1992), Sarb Singh (OB 1990-2001), Richard Owers (OB 1964-1974) & Keith Fenwick (OB 1965-1976) sent a letter regarding the structure of the Society to members in August of this year.

We would like to thank the many Old Brentwoods who have taken the time and effort to reach out to the Board’s Restructuring Sub-Committee. We are pleased to say that initial feedback suggests the majority of Old Brentwoods support and have long expected some modernisation of the structure and trading entity. Having taken legal and accounting advice, we are in a period of consultation with all the key stakeholders, and as we develop our plans we will again engage with the membership. There are many different aspects to consider in this process including that:

- **The property and assets must remain under the control of the Society of Old Brentwoods and we must act within the boundaries of the Trust Deed.**
- **The identity of the Old Brentwoods must be maintained and former students should still see this as the place to play Sport and Socialise.**
- **The Clubhouse must be self-sufficient and make a surplus to cover any future Capital expenditure, and must fairly respect the support and contributions of non-Old Brentwood supporters and club users.**
- **The Society should work in Partnership with the School on common goals.**

Your Board is now recommending that the constitutional structure of the Society be updated over the next 12 months to support and encourage current activities and to match the aspirations and wishes of the current Society membership. The Board would like your input into this review so that the foundations created by the good work of Society members over the last 125 years is built upon for the next 25 years and beyond.

We will start the formal consultation in the next few months and we will write to you with the full recommendations of the Board. Your input into this consultation will help to set the future direction for the Society. We hope that you will ask the Society to continue to support the School and the new Brentwood School Association and to provide opportunities for former pupils to meet. We hope that you will support our plans to encourage sport in the local community at the Old Brentwoods Club.

To encourage your participation in this consultation process - and after having taken professional advice - here are some of the ideas:

1. **Change the Society into a Registered Charity**
2. **Register the Old Brentwoods Club as a limited company**
3. **Draw up a formal agreement between the Old Brentwoods Club and the Society of Old Brentwoods so that the Society remains the owner of the clubhouse and grounds at Ashwells Road**
4. **If the OB Club ceases to exist then the subscribing members of the Society will donate the remaining assets of the Society to the School**

We look forward to working together to place the Society on firm foundations to thrive for ‘the next 25 years and beyond’.



## Treasurer's Report 2022/23

The new management team and the two new focused committees have been very successful in turning around the club's fortunes. A loss for the year ending 2022 of £40,000 had been turned into a £30,000 profit by the end of 2023. Whilst there are many projects and improvements we would like to achieve; the first aim has been to restore a sustainable bank balance to allow for future projects and eventualities. The grounds are in excellent condition and the grounds committee has done an excellent job of maximising the work needed to host the various clubs whilst keeping costs under control.

The accounts for the first four months of the year are on track to achieve our budget and this will enable us to press ahead with further ambitious projects, such as padel courts and changing

room improvements. This continues to be a very exciting time for the OBs and their clubhouse with use remaining high and likely to grow. All user clubs are engaged for the common cause.

*- Phil Loader (OB 1972-1982)*

## Secretary's Report



The Clubhouse, managed by Kevin Curry, has expanded into the wake hospitality business which we hope will provide a regular and profitable source of income. A wide variety of regular users include a Brentwood super league darts team, an Essex metal detectors club, and Brentwood Eels rugby league team. As we continue to recover from the COVID years we are investing in our Club to increase revenue streams and profitability through:

- **The lift installation, one of the largest projects ever undertaken, with a budget of £65,000. Funds have been raised through generous donations and an interest free loan from an Old Brentwood heavily involved in the Club.**
- **We have also purchased a mobile horse box bar which adds greater flexibility (and increased revenue) for outdoor events. A Club member has kindly lent us the funds on favourable terms.**

After six years as chairman, Keith Fenwick is stepping down. He has been a strong leader through some of the Society's most challenging times, and we are all very grateful for his hard work and service. Keith has been succeeded by our outgoing President, Christian Cooper.

Overall, I'm pleased to report that we are very much heading in the right direction to have both a thriving clubhouse and a society ready for the future. It has been a pleasure to be the Hon Sec for the Society of Old Brentwoods but I will now be handing over the reins to Sarbjeet Singh (1990 - 2001) a former Registrar of the Society.

*- Bernie Sharpe (OB 1968-1979)*

## Clubhouse

The Old Brentwoods Club has had another successful year in 2023 supporting sport, friendship and community.

The clubhouse and grounds was officially opened in June 1978. In the last 45 years the 22 acres of grounds and two story clubhouse has become 'home' for 9 sports clubs playing 7 different sports at both senior and youth level. There are now around 600 members of the Old Brentwoods Club, 90% of whom are regularly participating in sport.

The purchase of the first Old Brentwoods sports ground took place in 1938 and was led by Headmaster James Hough. His belief that the playing of competitive sport was a cornerstone for a thriving community was the foundation for the Old Brentwoods Club today. Membership of the Old Brentwoods Club is made up of sport loving people from across the local community, a fitting legacy for James Hough's vision.

In spring 2023, we started the Access For All project at the clubhouse, to install step free access and a lift to make sure that the main club room and social area on the first floor would be accessible for everyone including those less mobile past players and members, disabled family, friends and supporters and parents with the next generation of players still in their pushchairs.

The £60,000 project required one of the biggest fundraising efforts we have ever attempted. By the end of 2023 the project was complete. Over 200 members and supporters donated well over £27,000 through a Crowdfunding site, which included an impressive video with Katie Boon (OB 1998-2013 ) taking us on a walk



through the clubhouse and the proposed improvements. We were awarded a Sport England grant of £10,000 from their Spaces and Places Fund and a generous interest free loan from a member took us to our target.

Under the careful supervision and co-ordination of Pat Stroud, the Society now boasts: a new lift in the entrance hall, refurbished and modernised first floor WCs, mobility impaired persons (MIP) WC at the ground floor, a new disability ramp and dedicated parking at the entrance, new lighting and signage.

The Old Brentwoods Club now offers 'access for all' and is more than fit for purpose to host sport and community events for everyone. In commercial terms it opens us up to offering new services, such as our growing funeral wake business.

A huge thank you to all those that donated and helped with the fundraising especially **OBRFC and Rob Jupp, Christian Croll (OB 1977-1988), Jos Hollington (OB 1972-1981), Katie Boon (OB 1998-2013), Chris Cooper (OB 1981-1992) and Ian Crispin.**

## Rugby



Old Brentwoods RFC currently field two adult teams. Our 1st XV team, who have played competitive rugby for 62 seasons, won the London Counties Essex League Shield last season and have a decent mix of youth and more experienced players. Our 2nd XV has more of an 'experienced feel' and is ideal for players who don't want regular commitment or such a competitive standard. We have another 12 youth teams and are one of the fastest growing clubs in the South East. We play our home games at the Old Brentwoods Sports Ground and have excellent playing facilities.

New players of all standards are very welcome. Please contact **Rob Jupp, OBRFC President** at [president.obrfc@gmail.com](mailto:president.obrfc@gmail.com) for further details.

## Cricket

Did you play cricket at School but gave up because of exams / university / work? Would you like to take up the game again? If so, you would be in good company. We are a club which has a mixture of teams which will suit players of all standards and which comprise a mixture of OBs and those from other sporting backgrounds.

We offer friendly, but competitive, cricket. We are based at the Society's ground at Ashwells Road with:

- 3 teams in the Essex League on a Saturday;
- A team in a Sunday League;
- Top cricket square, artificial pitch, nets and other facilities;
- Four match tour to Hampshire each August;
- Social events such as an annual dinner, where recent speakers have included James Foster, Ryan Ten Doeschate, Matthew Hoggard and Gordon Greenidge.

If you think your playing days are behind you, do you have young family members who would be interested in experiencing the game? We run colts for girls and boys from early April to early September on Friday evenings from 18.00 to 19.30. Those from Year 1 upwards are welcome.

If you are interested in joining as a playing member, or finding out more about the Colts, please contact **President David Wasley (OB 1965-1971)** [davidwasley@yahoo.com](mailto:davidwasley@yahoo.com) or 07740 923257 or **Dan Longden (OB 1998-2013)** [Daniel.longden@hotmail.com](mailto:Daniel.longden@hotmail.com) or 07756 961500. We look forward to welcoming you to the Club!

## Football

The Old Brentwoods 1st XI have just had their best season for 12 years and, with a few additions, are hoping to do even better this season.

All four Old Brentwood's teams welcome new players and recent leavers wishing to play football at all levels are invited to get in touch with **First Team & Club Captain Peter Brooking**: [pbrooking@hotmail.com](mailto:pbrooking@hotmail.com)

# Croquet

The inaugural Old Brentwoods Croquet Championship took place on Saturday 17 September. It was a fabulous afternoon filled with excellent company. For those who think it's just about whacking a wooden ball through a hoop, think again. This was a hotly contested afternoon that defied the laws of geometry.

Our President and keen amateur meteorologist, Richard Hoyle (OB 1978-1989), read the weather forecast fantastically, with provisions made for a short sharp shower. This did not phase our players who had been in rigorous training for some months. After a small break in the gazebos washed down with several bottles of Malbec, play resumed and what an afternoon it was! Losing All-Comers finalist and Old Brentwoods Tennis Club Chairman, Lorraine Giles said: 'What a day - these Old Brentwoods really know how to show a gal a good time on a Sunday afternoon - lucky us!'

The esteemed and skilled winners of the early 'All-Comers Tournament' were Susan Cooper (1990-1992) and Paul Tooley (OB 1967-1973) - battling over 60 competitors to take the gold medals! On their victory, Susan Cooper commented: "Paul and I are absolutely delighted to get this win in the bag. It was a bit sticky at times but Paul's mastery of the hickory shaft and an exceptional short game saw us through to the end."



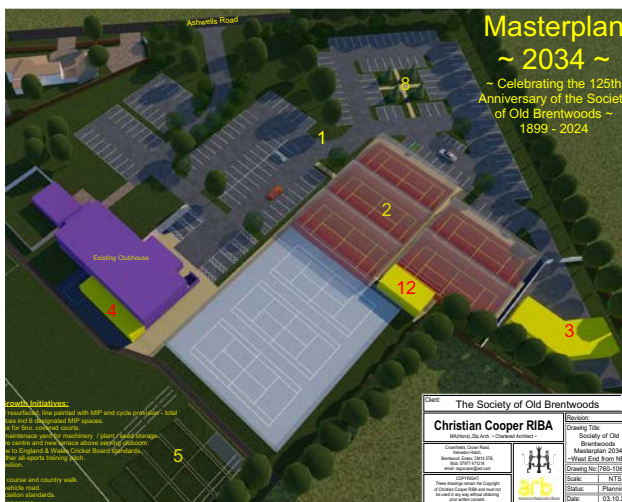
The finale to the afternoon was the Old Brentwoods Trophy. This marathon match was won by Justin Berling and Dean. Referee Paul Tooley commented: 'Who'd have thought it? Justin and Dean saw the poster with the mallets and thought it was a Polo Gymkhana. Once they calmed down their horses they played an exceptionally strategic game. They are certainly ones to watch in future tournaments.'

The event raised funds towards the Club's refurbishment, and those all important lubrications. A big thank you to Richard Hoyle for organising the event, and to the volunteers and players. Richard said in a recent interview with Croquet England: 'Such are the high levels of interest in the Old Brentwoods Croquet Team we anticipate in the future that a large part of the UK Olympics Team will be comprised of Old Brentwoods Members.'

We'd be delighted to hear from anybody in the Brentwood School community who would like to become involved. We expect to be holding monthly Sunday afternoon matches from May to September. Everybody is welcome, especially if they have non-marking white low-heel sandals and an umbrella.

**Correspondent: Christian Cooper (OB 1981-1992), Old Brentwoods Croquet Club UK Social Secretary**





# Taking the long term view

In 2021, the Society's Board co-opted a special Development Sub-Committee to focus minds on how the Old Brentwoods Clubs facilities could be maximised, and improved on for the benefit users. As we fast approach our 125th year, the committee would like to share its news, ideas and aspirations. These include:

**The 'Triangle Project'** - In 2019 it became apparent that there was an opportunity for 'planning gain' at the Ashwells Estate. A parcel of land (triangular in shape) was identified adjacent to the Ashwells Country Club car park. Formerly granted for use by our neighbours for grazing purposes, we had effectively forgotten that we owned it! Owing to the 'brownfield' status of this now disused / derelict land, it was decided to prepare plans and embark on the process of securing a planning consent for residential development. Project Lead, Christian Cooper, has submitted plans for a Pre-Application Enquiry which is with Brentwood Borough Council. The plans include for the erection of a 3 bedroom 'barn' style bungalow with a detached garage and extensive landscaping.

**The 2034 Masterplan** - We have engaged with all stakeholders and enclose comprehensive master plan drawings which show how the Society's 25-acre estate at Ashwells Road could evolve in coming years.

Key aspects are:

- **Removal and replacement of existing concrete cricket nets with 4 new nets specified to English Cricket Board (ECB) standards**
- **Designation of grassed area for croquet lawn to Croquet Association standards**
- **Erection of 5 covered padel courts for community and club use**
- **Creation of new all-weather 3G astroturf training pitch on rear field with new car park for 60 cars, and new pavilion with changing rooms**
- **Improvements to car park at front of clubhouse creating 159 parking spaces with landscaping and integrated 'garden of remembrance'**
- **Essential upgrades to clubhouse changing rooms and welfare facilities**
- **Replacement secure tractor shed and seed / general storage building**
- **New tennis / padel court pavilion with changing facilities**
- **New 'parcours' perimeter training circuit.**

**Authored by the Development Sub-Committee - Christian Cooper (OB 1981-1992) Richard Hoyle (OB 1978-1989), Pat Stroud, Richard Owers (OB 1964-1974), Ian Crispin, Christian Croll (OB 1977-1988)**

# Old Brentwoods Society Officers

**President:** Christian Croll (OB 1977-1988)

**President Elect:** Jos Hollington (OB 1972-1981)

## VICE PRESIDENTS

J. Barnes, Sir Rodger Bell, Lord Black of Brentwood, G. Born, M. D. Bradford, J. Brown, P. R. Clements, C. S. G. Cooper, D. I. Davies, T. J. Faiers, C. J. Finch, D. Fisk, J. Hubbard, J. Kelsall, M. King, N. J. Loader, P. M. Loader, J. M. May, D. J. Oldham, R.W. Owers, T. Pailthorpe, M. J. Pepper, M. A. G. Rowland, K.L. Semple, Sir Michael Snyder, D. W. Tee, I. S. Waite.

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Sarab Singh (OB 1990-2001)  
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**Membership Secretary**  
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**Elected Trustee**  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Social Events**  
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**Special Projects**  
Richard Hoyle (OB 1978-1989)  
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**Above plus:**  
President & President Elect

## Board Sub-Committees:

**Club Committee:**  
Ian Crispin (chairman), Christian Croll,  
Richard Owers

**Development Committee:**  
Christian Cooper (chairman), Pat  
Stroud, Christian Croll, Richard Hoyle,  
Richard Owers, Ian Crispin, Jos  
Hollington

**Grounds Committee:**  
Phillip Loader (chairman), Richard  
Hoyle

**Restructuring Committee:**  
Christian Cooper, Sarab Singh, Richard  
Owers, Keith Fenwick

**125th Anniversary Committee:**  
Jenni Barrett, Jos Hollington,  
Christian Cooper, Sarab Singh

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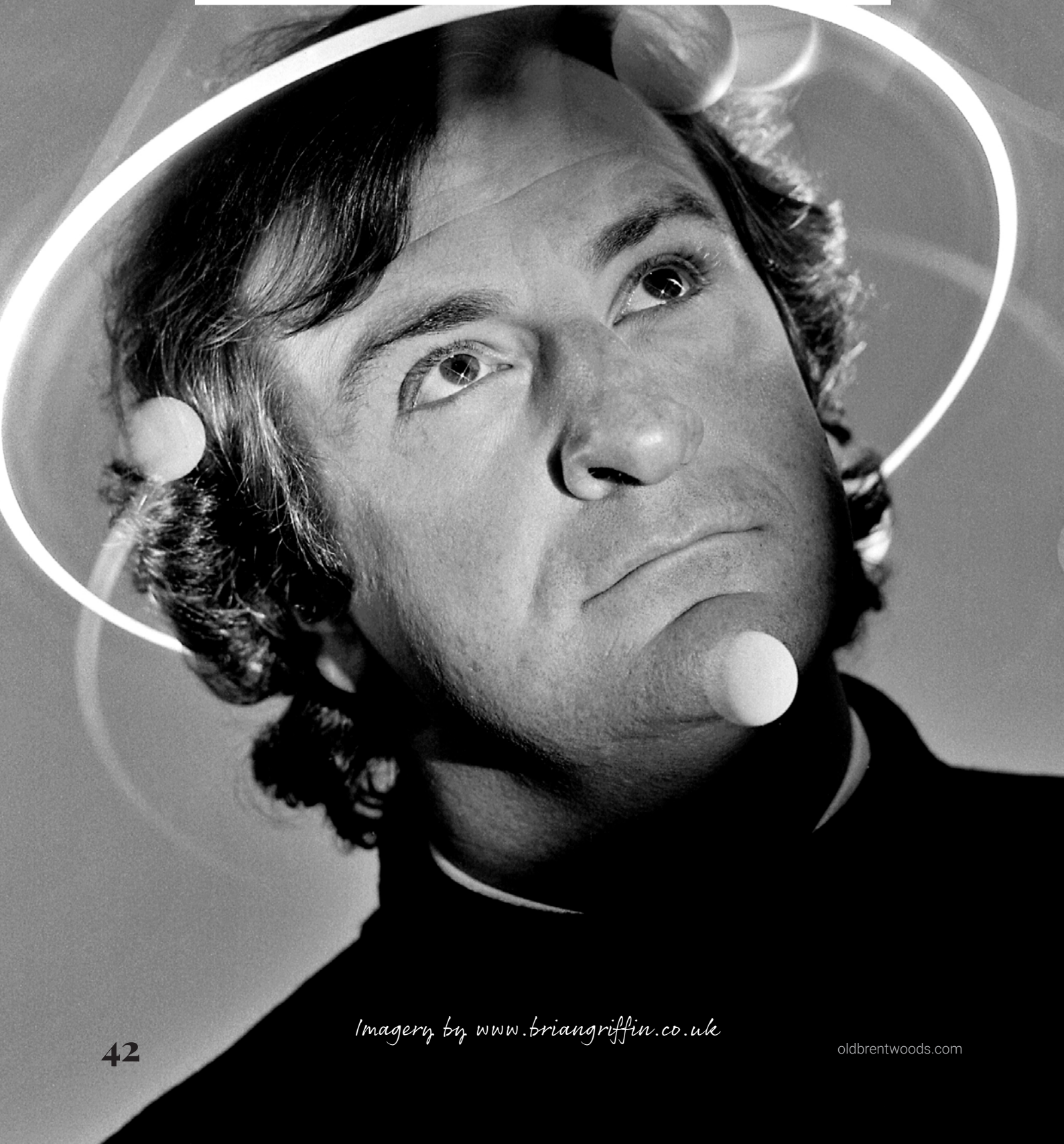
**Squash**  
Christian Croll  
christian@crollgroup.co.uk



**The Society of  
Old Brentwoods**

## **Douglas Adams**

A phenomenal mind and a real  
talent for surreal humour



*Forty five years after The Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy burst on an unsuspecting Radio 4 audience in March 1978 and 22 years after his death, Douglas Adams (OB 1959-1971) remains widely revered for the radio and TV programmes and the best selling books which emerged from his prolific pen. He was a larger than life character, whose vast imagination fuelled an extraordinary creation of fictional worlds.*

In the UK, Adams was the biggest selling author in the 1980s after Sue Townsend and the youngest million-selling author after Anne Frank. He died in 2001, aged only 49, during a workout in his gym in Montecito, California.

His achievements and popularity are relected in the newly published **42: The Wildly Improbable Ideas of Douglas Adams, edited by Kevin John Davies.**

The book is crammed with letters, photos, scripts, love poems, erotica, working notes and speeches—taken from the Adams archive loaned by his family to his alma mater, St. John's College, Cambridge where he studied English. The prevailing mood of '42' has been described by one commentator as "a joyous celebration of a phenomenal mind and a huge talent for surreal humour."

Adams was obsessed with space, scientific possibility, interplanetary travel and wealth. In the 1990s, he threw a music party at his Islington home for Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft. The guests included rock royalty, comedians, scientists, writers and TV people. He loved big sounds and owned many left-handed electric guitars. On his 42nd birthday in 1994, he played on stage with Pink Floyd.

He had joined the Footlights comedy club where he appeared in shows with Griff Rhys Jones (OB 1965-1971), Clive Anderson and producer John Lloyd. However, post-Cambridge success was slow to arrive. For years, Douglas got by as a freelance writer. The BBC turned down his suggested Dr. Who plotline because 'we need greater evidence of real talent.'

Douglas even considered giving up TV to become a P&O shipping clerk in Hong Kong but decided to keep his nose to the literary grindstone. He contributed to *Week Ending* and *The Burkiss Way*, both produced by Simon Brett. The BBC had been slow to give credence to the idea of sci-fi

comedy, so when Brett suggested Douglas write such a script, 'I fell off my chair.' The result was the first series of *Hitch-Hiker*, broadcast in 1978.

The idea for HHGTTG first came to him when he was

*"drunk in a field in Innsbruck around 1970 or 1971. I had a copy of the Hitch-Hiker's Guide to Europe and I remember looking up at the stars. I thought that somebody ought to write a Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy as well. It didn't occur to me then that it would be me."*

Despite being transmitted late on Tuesday evenings, HHGTTG proved a phenomenal success. Simon Brett recalled: 'There were all these reviews in the papers of this completely unknown person with mainly unknown actors having written this weird sci-fi comedy.' Simon Jones, a Footlights contemporary, who played the leading character in HHGTTG, explained: 'Radio is the perfect medium for science fiction because it lets the imagination run riot.' The radio show gave rise to the best selling book. In 1980, Pan Books printed 60,000 copies; by 2000, it had sold 14 million.

It was followed by four sequels, a TV series, a talking book and a Hollywood movie. Adaptations were staged at the Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Rainbow theatre, to critical but not commercial acclaim.

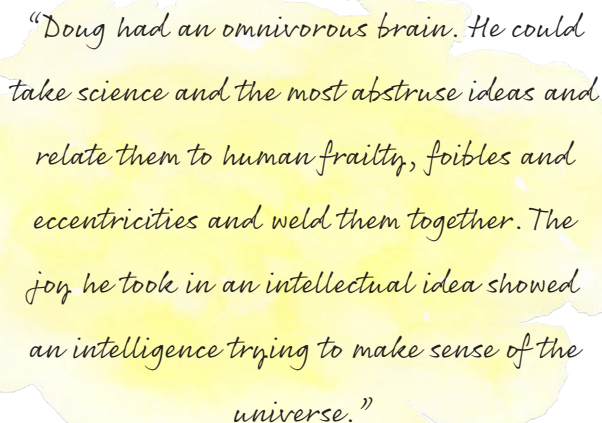
A steady stream of publications ensued, many derived from radio scripts. *Last Chance to See* was about the planet's disappearing species, a subject about which Douglas felt passionately.

Fame had arrived. His portrait was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery; fans started clubs and conventions and invited him to speak. He could afford to travel on Concorde.

Despite Hitch-Hiker's success, '42' reveals how Adams was plagued with self doubt. His notebooks show him ticking himself off and giving himself pep talks. As sales rocketed, he agonised over writer's block. He went through a very tough time when trying to make progress with *The Salmon of Doubt*.

Adams was self conscious about his height—6 feet 5 inches—but he could reach the heights of wisdom, epitomised by his detective character Dirk Gently: 'Let's think the unthinkable, let's do the undoable. Let us prepare to grapple with the ineffable itself and see if we may eff it after all.'

Mark Wing-Davey, who acted in *The Hitch*, remembered that...



*"Doug had an omnivorous brain. He could take science and the most abstruse ideas and relate them to human frailty, foibles and eccentricities and weld them together. The joy he took in an intellectual idea showed an intelligence trying to make sense of the universe."*

His great friend Richard Dawkins explained: 'Science was for him the way in which you understand the world in which you live, the nature of the creature you are, why you are here, why the world is here, what it is. I think he was searching for the answer to the riddle of life, the universe and everything.'

### Frank Halford's influence

Douglas entered Brentwood Prep in 1959 as a day boy. In his last year in the Prep, he became a boarder. Watching *Dr. Who* on Saturdays inspired him to write a spoof called *Dr. Which*. In the Main School, Douglas was first in Otway and then School House.

His school reports did not evoke unqualified enthusiasm among his teachers. 'His work shows originality,' said the geography master, no doubt referring to *Startibartfast*, the designer of coastlines. The art master found his ideas 'admirable' but concluded: 'one must regretfully classify his attitude as dilettante.' Adams was to become a science dilettante-cum-visionary of the highest order.

He joined Frank Halford's Prep school class in 1961. When Douglas was guest of honour at the Brentwood Prep Speech Day in 1992, he had not seen Frank for many years. 'I was flattered that he mentioned me in glowing terms during his speech.' The following year, Frank and Lacey stayed at the Adams holiday home in Provence. They attended the Christmas carol singing parties at Adams' London home where guests included well known figures from the literary and entertainment worlds.

'I last saw him on May 5th 2001. Lacey and I were on a coach tour in the western United States. I emailed Douglas that we would be passing through Santa Barbara and he invited us to lunch. It was a memorable occasion with his wife Jane and daughter Polly. Douglas had recently met actor Colin Firth, whose father David was once a master at Brentwood. Colin said that when six years old, he had seen Douglas in a play in the Memorial Hall.

I wish I could remember what we talked about. Of course, one laughed a good deal in Douglas' company. My lasting regret is that I had a camera in my bag, intending to ask a waiter to photograph us but I completely forgot!

Just back in England, Frank learned that Douglas had died—just six days after he and Lacey had seen him.

*"It was a terrible shock. It would be very difficult for anyone who had not actually been in his company for even a few minutes to conceive what a magnetic personality he had. He was a big man in every sense of the word. He had such a wide knowledge and yet bore his learning and his fame very lightly. He would talk so easily but would also listen. He had a wonderful sense of humour and such a ready, infectious laugh."*

Frank Halford's mark book of March 7th 1992 records ten out of ten for a story, written by Douglas a few days before his tenth birthday. This mark, turned into a frequently told anecdote by Douglas after he became famous, always remained important to him. Frank could not remember what the story was about, although Douglas thought it was a typical boy's story about buried treasure. It would have been perfectly spelt and punctuated and grammatically correct. He must have shown that he could express himself in an easy natural manner, with no awkwardness of phraseology but showing a wide variety of and evidence of a love of words, allied to a certain maturity.

*"It was the only time I ever gave a perfect mark. Of course, I had no idea of the effect it had on him or that he would remember it so many years later."*

**Footnote:** The number 42 in the new book's title is taken from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. During the Queen of Hearts' trial, rule 42 is invoked: 'all persons over a mile high to leave the court.' Typical Adams.

*Martin Rowland (OB 1951-1961)*

## Work is underway on the School museum

Work is underway on the development of onsite museum, dedicated to showcasing the history of the School and its pupils. The displays in the museum will highlight many different topics including the curriculum, sports, CCF, societies, uniform, school-life during the 1st and 2nd world wars and the history of the Society of Old Brentwoods. The museum will also house a small library of blue books (from 1946 onwards), Brentwoodians (from 1891) and School magazines. Visitors will also be able to view old film footage including the Queen's visit in 1957 and listen to audio archives such as the recording of Prep School life in 1965. The museum will be used for class visits and will be open to visitors on event days.

A small museum was first set up in Brentwood School in 1921. According to The Brentwoodian, 'the walls are adorned with Egyptian tapestry and weapons of the Australian aborigines. There are collections of moths and butterflies, birds' eggs, coins, and stones, besides many other articles of interest from different parts of the world.'



**The cast of Midsummer Night's Dream, 1908**

The focus of the new museum will of course be quite different! School Archivist Stacey Harmer, who is leading on the project, encourages OBs to donate any school photographs they might be willing to offer up for display. Please contact the Development team: [development@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:development@brentwood.essex.sch.uk) if you would like to discuss this further.

## ‘And some there be which have no memorial...’ a story of Old Brentwood footballers great and small.

As any fule kno, Frank Lampard (OB 1989 -1994) is a most distinguished professional footballer and manager. He won more than 100 England caps and trophies galore, before serving as manager at Derby County, Chelsea and Everton: achievements we can all admire. Nevertheless, there are several less famous individuals who have achieved much to be proud of.

The name Teeratep Winothai (OB) may not be at the forefront of many Brentwood minds. Indeed, some of the Old Trafford regulars may not want to be reminded that, under his nom-de-guerre “Leesaw”, he scored for the Thai TPL All-Stars in Bangkok during a pre-season tour friendly in 2013. This was the only goal in the game, and a defeat for Manchester United in the first match of the post-Fergie era: an inauspicious start for David Moyes, and a memorable footnote for Brentwood.

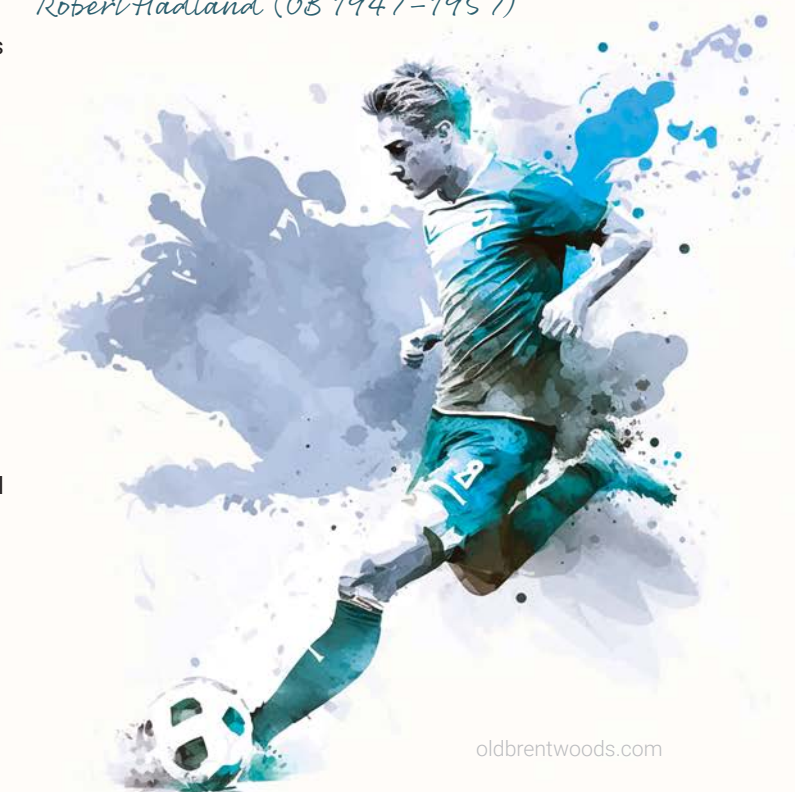
More recently, Elliot Lee (OB 2002-2011) played a crucial part in Wrexham’s exciting return to the 4th tier of the English football pyramid. Elliot is a “football journeyman”. After an early start at West Ham United, he suffered numerous injuries and played for many lower-league teams before signing for Wrexham in 2022. In two late season games, the Dragons conceded an early goal. In both cases Lee stepped up to score vital goals which contributed to victories – and subsequent automatic promotion - for a team which had struggled for 15 years to escape from non-league football.

It seems unlikely that many OBs have followed the fortunes of Gillingham FC with any great interest. Since being elected to Division 3 South in 1950, the club has moved between the lower tiers whilst exciting little national

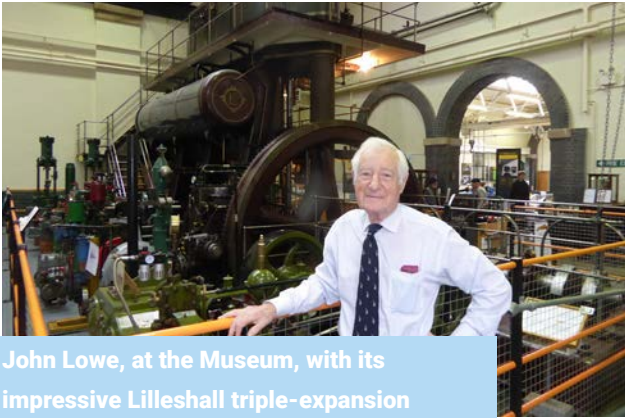
attention. In 2022 the club fell into Division 2 and began a runaway elevator descent to the bottom of that league. In January 2023 they were plumb last and in clear danger of falling into the abyss of non-league football. After a successful playing career at Millwall and managerial spells at several clubs, Neil Harris (OB 1988-1992) had been appointed manager in 2022. A new American owner provided funds for a modest recruitment programme: “The Gills” began to register an improvement in performance. Their results after January included a victory over promoted Leyton Orient and assured their place in Division 2 for next season. Gillingham finished 17th and had their revival begun a little earlier, their form would have made them promotion contenders.

Despite his undoubted success in earlier times, Frank Lampard, unemployed at the time of writing, has suffered from the toxic combination of under-achieving players and an interfering owner. Perhaps it is true that ‘the grass is always greener?’

*Robert Hadland (OB 1947–1957)*



## How the power of the past highlights the current need for engineering skills



John Lowe, at the Museum, with its impressive Lilleshall triple-expansion steam pumping engine, named 'Marshall'

A mission to extend the reach and extent of education - notably in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) - to British schoolchildren underlines an Old Brentwood's commitment to an important centre for doing so. John Lowe (OB 1944-1953) is a Trustee and Honorary President of the Museum of Power.

On its seven-acre site at Langford, Maldon, the Museum collects, renovates and preserves historic industrial artefacts, provides a community resource and, most important, sources a rich education and learning capability.

A chartered engineer and 'yet another Old Brentwood employed by Ford Motor Company', John's experiences reinforced his awareness of the importance of STEM learning. Although his early career was as a practising engineer and manager, John has seen his main success as promoting STEM careers to young people. He helped Ford's Product Development initiatives win top-level awards for Corporate Social Responsibility. This ensued partly through establishing a link with the Museum of Power and partly through leveraging the ready hearing he had from senior managers, particularly from Ford President, the late Nick Scheele (OB 1950-1962).

After Ford, John served in a number of STEM-related posts, one within the Department for Education and Skills, before focusing on voluntary work, usually wearing his STEM Ambassador hat. This earned him a prestigious national Lifetime Achievement award from STEM Learning Ltd in 2019. In parallel, John served variously as a STEM Education Committee advocate, Member of Council and

Trustee at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. IMechE remains a key player in addressing the link between the UK's commercial and technological position and the shortage of STEM skills.

At the Museum, John has served as Trustee and then Chairman of the charity, before appointment as Honorary President. The Museum is a substantial player in heritage, tourism, culture and education. Attractions include a nationally important triple-expansion Lilleshall steam pumping engine, whose restoration by Museum volunteers earned a top IMechE engineering award. Other major features include an historic overhead-belt driven workshop, important power units from industry (including some from Ford) and many hands-on and interactive displays.

There's a model village, a 7.1/4-inch gauge railway, outdoor theatre space, tea room and showground. The Museum hosts a varied programme of events, and a series of exhibitions and helps in the rehabilitation of people with special needs. Educational activities include learning days and special events with programmes and materials to help teachers deliver STEM understanding.

Some 15,000 visitors a year include groups from social organisations, professional bodies, University of the Third Age and a rich crop of schools. The Museum's annual turnover comfortably exceeds £100,000 from visitors, the tea room, events, talks, donations and other sources.

Grants, awards and contributions have come from IMechE, the Arts Council, the Essex Community Fund, Northumbrian Water Group, industry and individuals. Early in 2023, the Museum won a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £1.7 million, primarily for displays, infrastructure, specialised staffing and education.

John's work to promote STEM learning has been recognised by the award of the British Empire Medal. Still very active at 88, his principal satisfaction has been the impact of his work in helping to drive an appreciation for STEM. 'At the Museum, we can open horizons and show how Britain's past industrial achievements and modern engineering together can create better living for everyone – and that there is fun and excitement in STEM learning. I would love more Old Brentwoods to join us to help promote STEM awareness and encourage people into the careers the UK so much needs.'

For more information, visit [www.museumofpower.org.uk](http://www.museumofpower.org.uk)

*Martin Rowland (OB 1951-1961)*

## Why Brentwood School's Foundation took a decade to build a schoolhouse

When Brian Hughes MBE (OB 1946-1954) entered Brentwood's main school in September 1946, he found a cluster of acquired or purpose-built structures which had grown up over nearly four centuries. As a member of Classical IV in 1949/50, he was taught in the School's first ever schoolroom, the foundation stone for Old Big School having been laid 10th May 1568. However, Letters Patent to found the School had been granted on July 5th 1558. Why did it take a decade to build a school to teach pupils and house a master?

Brian's curiosity has led him to research the School's earliest years and the property considerations taken into account by Sir Anthony Browne who had been given a licence by Queen Mary to found a free grammar school in Brentwood. His discoveries are featured in a chapter of his new book, *Here Comes Trouble*, to be published later this year.

In 1557, Browne had purchased a house, farmyard, cottage and orchard from one Robert Nightingale. The property was adjacent to the horse and cart track which led to the hamlet of Ingrave, close to the eastern end of Brentwood's main thoroughfare and to the site where William Hunter had been burned at the stake just two years before. There is little doubt that he intended to use the land as at least part of the site for a school.

As there was no suitable building on the former Nightingale site, the project began at 'Redcross,' a house on Browne's estate at a site on Brook Street Hill upon which Honeypot Lane now stands. Redcross had a family chapel attached which was 28 feet long and 12 ½ feet wide—enough to provide temporary accommodation until a proper school house could be built. Benches placed either side of a long table in the chapel were supplied from Sir Anthony's nearby Weald Hall estate. A priest and Master of Arts named George Otway was appointed as first schoolmaster on 28th July 1558.



Old Big School, 1883

### Foundation endowed

Three days later, Browne endowed a Foundation, set up for a prospective school, with the Ingrave property as well as the Manor of Chigwell Grange. It seems likely that, as a man of wealth and a former Chief Justice, he wanted to purchase more land at the rear, endow the Foundation with it and build an impressive schoolhouse upon it.

At Redcross, the sanitary facilities would have been rudimentary. Given the distance from the town centre and a four-acre field attached to the chapel for the disposal of waste, this might not have mattered much to Brentwood citizens. However, a grammar school closer to the town centre would have to incorporate a schoolroom, a schoolmaster's house and adequate sanitation facilities, prospectively for an increasing number of boys. Sir Anthony would have been well aware of local pressure to bring an improved school into the town and of all that would be involved in doing so.

He may have wished to emulate the stated intention of Richard Rich, a former Lord Chancellor from whom he had purchased Weald Hall in 1548, to build a school at Felsted. This would surely have strengthened his view that Robert Nightingale's former property on its own was nowhere near large enough for a school and schoolmaster's house which would bear comparison with the school Rich founded in 1564.

In his will, dated 20th December 1565, Sir Anthony left Redcross to the Foundation but there were to be no more endowments. At the same time, he observed that 'as yet there is no convenient place appointed to keep the said school in nor apt place for the habitation of the schoolmaster that shall there be and remain.'

Yet it was more than seven years since the Letters of Patent had been issued. Had he made any serious attempt to buy more land adjacent to the former Nightingale property? Had he any intention of doing so? Perhaps he still hoped to, leaving it to the Foundation in a later will? One major obstacle seems clear. What Protestant in Brentwood would have sold land to the Roman Catholic who had authorised the burning of William Hunter at the stake?

## Thanks to the Huddlestons

Whatever the reasons, he had done nothing specific to further this project before he died on May 6th 1567. It was left to his step daughter Dorothy Huddlestons and her husband Edmund to use the land within the Foundation for its professed purpose---although the site was smaller than they would have wished.

The Huddlestons needed to put the work in hand before other beneficiaries of Sir Anthony's estate could register legal objections to the unfulfilled purposes of the Foundation, the statutes pertaining to which Browne had also left unfinished. (They were drawn up afresh and legally executed only in 1622).

In particular, Sir Anthony's nephew Wystan Browne, who would eventually inherit his land and property after the deaths of his widow Dame Joan and his stepdaughter Dorothy, was not to be trusted. He appeared to be intent on seizing whatever properties and rents he could from his late uncle's estate. He took the rents from the Foundation's lands for himself and created concern that the school at Redcross might have to close due "to the present decay and loss of learning to the children." Petitions to the Court of Chancery in 1569 and Conveyances in 1571 and

1573 were necessary to secure the Foundation and its endowments.

*"The foundation stone of Old Big School was laid less than a year after Sir Anthony's death."*



Construction of the schoolroom was carried through without delay. The new building measured 40 feet 8 inches by 23 feet 8 inches. No doubt it incorporated adequate sanitary arrangements.

## A room which reeked with age

Nearly three quarters of a century later, Brian Hughes remembers Old Big School, with 'the wooden desks, inscribed with the initials of former pupils, probably from the 1890s, with their ink wells and sloping tops. The rear wall of the partly wood panelled room was obscured by the massive painting of Weald Hall (which was transferred to the School dining room). The room reeked with age and reminded us constantly of the conditions in which young boys had been obliged to study during previous centuries.'

*Martin Rowland (OB 1951-1961)*



# Chapel

*The Chapel at Brentwood School remains at the very heart of this School. As Old Brentwoods, you remain very much part of this School and this Chapel and I look forward to welcoming you if you are able to join us.* – Rev. Adrian

## Sunday Chapel Worship

Over the last few years, a group of staff and parents have established a regular congregation who meet monthly in Chapel on Sundays at 10am. The services seek to celebrate many of the key moments in the Christian year and provide space for us all to discuss issues of faith in a more informal way. For many of our services, we will be joined by one of our junior choirs who will help to lead the worship.



Vicky & Edward Miller

## Weddings

It is always a pleasure to be able to celebrate a marriage in our Chapel. **Vicky Hill (OB 2002-2009)** and **Edward Miller (OB 2002-2009)** were married on Saturday 10th July, 2021. **Florian Cooper (OB 1995-2009)**, our Director of Performing Arts, married Louisa Jones on 23rd October, 2021. Two wonderful and joyful occasions which help to remind us of the centrality of love. The Chapel is available for marriages for those who have a qualifying connection to the School (typically staff and OBs).

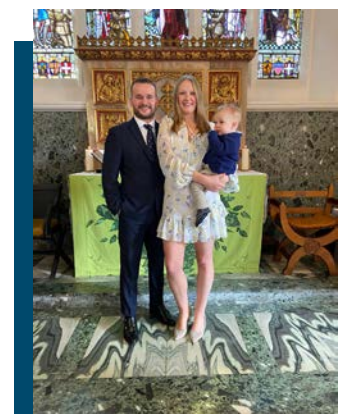
## Baptisms

Baptism marks the beginning of our life within the Christian faith and over the years, many have gathered in the Chapel to celebrate baptism. On

17th September, 2023, we celebrated the baptism of Ava Howe, daughter of **Christian Howe and Natasha Howe (OB 1998-2005)**. On 15th October, 2023, **Beatrice Downes (OB 2010-2012)** and current Languages teacher at Brentwood gathered with her husband, James, and the rest of their family and friends to celebrate the baptism of Henry.

## Memorial services

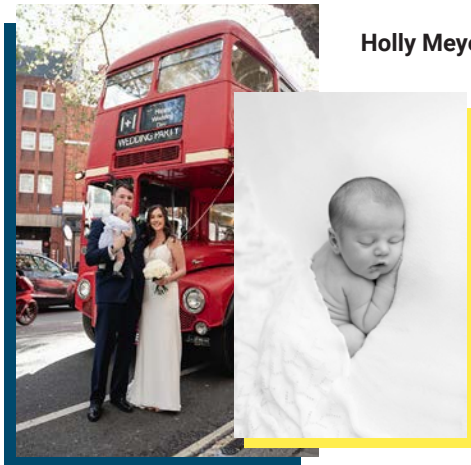
As we celebrate the gift of life and the joy of marriage, we also take time to gather to remember the lives of those who have made a significant impact in our School community. On 20th November, 2022, we held a Memorial Service for Len Bishun who served this School community for 34 years. Len brought wisdom to his students in the Mathematics Department, wise pastoral advice and support to those in his care whilst he served as Head of Year and, of course, much skill and enthusiasm as a cricket coach. Barry Palmer, our Head Porter sadly died in September 2023, having recently retired from school after 34 years of service. A memorial service to give thanks for his life took place on the 24th November 2023.



Baptism of Henry Downes

# Marriages & births

Dr. **Anastasia Garnett (OB 1997-2007)** married Mr. Samuel Heenan on 26th July 2023 at Wilde Lodge on the Welsh Borders. It was a very joyous occasion attended by family from all over the world. The bridesmaid was the daughter of Samuel Garnett (OB 1996 - 2003). The pageboys were two of the sons of Victoria Parker nee Garnett (OB 1997-2004). Anastasia was one of the first small group of girls to join the Prep School and she progressed right through to the end of the Main School. The groom's striking wedding day attire was traditional dress reflecting his Pacific Island heritage, whereas the bride wore a classic English wedding dress in ivory silk. The happy couple live in Shrewsbury.



**Holly Meyers (OB 2009-2011) and Oliver Brooks (OB 1995**

**-2010)** welcomed their son Henry Arthur Brooks into the world on the 11th June 2023 at 15:59 weighing 8lb 13oz. They married on 14th October at Old Marylebone Town Hall, followed by a reception in The Ivy. Old Brentwoods in attendance included Ashley Hall (OB 2003-2008) and Henry Owers (OB 1995-2010) as Oliver's best men. Joanne Foster (Bonner) (OB 1996-2011), Polly Norris (OB 1996-2011) and Francesca Easton (OB 2009-2011) as bridesmaids.

## Congratulations to...

**Dr Michael Tompsett (OB 1950-1959).** He has been celebrated for his services to Engineering. To mark National Engineering day on November 1st the Royal Academy of Engineering partnered with TFL to develop a themed tube map, highlighting the achievements of Engineering Icons! Michael was featured as the last stop on the Computing, Technology and AI line. Michael designed and built the first ever video camera with a solid-state (CCD) sensor and received the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering in 2017. He also received two other lifetime awards; the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame 2010 Pioneer Award, and the 2012 IEEE Edison Medal. The thermal-imaging camera tube developed from his invention earned a Queen's Award in 1987.





Photograph by Duncan Lomax Ravage Productions

John Siebert (centre) at York Minster

**John Siebert (OB 1951-1958)** who has been recognised for his service to the community by King Charles III.

John Siebert was honoured to receive the gift of Maundy money from the new King on Maundy Thursday in York Minster. The gift comprised newly minted silver coins to the value of 74 pence in one pouch and a 5 pound coin and 50 pence piece in another, all bearing the King's head. The same pouches were presented to 74 men and 74 women to reflect the age of the monarch at the time.

John has held senior positions within many charitable organisations and was selected for this honour in recognition of his service to the local community.

**Dr Alice Scott (OB 1995-2002)** on opening a private medical clinic in Brentwood.

Dr Alice Scott has recently fulfilled a lifelong dream by opening her own private medical clinic, Essex Private Doctors, on Crown Street in Brentwood, after working as a General Practitioner in both the NHS and private medical sector for many years. She has three other GPs working with her to provide full scope private General Practice. Alice is a recognised British Menopause Specialist and operates a Menopause Clinic from the clinic.



Brentwood school friends **Leo Bartle (OB 1995-2002)** and **Nick Browne (OB 1990-2001)** on co-founding a "next generation" telecommunications start up.

Leo Bartle and Nick Browne have been friends since Brentwood School and co-founded Devyce, a next generation telecommunications start up. Recently they have been joined by Nick's brother **Stephen Browne (OB 1980-1987)** as CFO. Devyce is backed by some of the most prestigious US venture capital companies including Y Combinator in California. It uses proprietary software and its relationship with a Mobile Network Operator - also owned by the Co-Founders - to enable individuals and businesses to communicate easily and cost efficiently over the internet.



George Tyler with his family at the Royal College Headquarters



**George Tyler (OB 2006-2012)** on passing his Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons exams (MRCS).

George was conferred his diploma recently at the Royal College headquarters and is looking forward to a career in Surgery.

**Jerry Gear (OB 1975-1978)** on becoming a published author!

Jerry has been taking a creative writing course since he retired and has had a short story about a village cricket match published in the September edition of 'The Nightwatchman', the sister magazine to 'Wisden Cricket Monthly'.

**Laura Watts nee Walton (OB 1988-1995)** on her double ultramarathon success!

Laura completed the "world's toughest footrace" Badwater 135 ultramarathon in Death Valley, USA for the second time in July 2023, shaving an impressive four hours off her 2022 time, despite temperatures reaching 51C . Laura is one of only two British women to have completed Badwater 135 twice and her goal is to be the first to finish this race three times! Just a few months later she then conquered the Spartathlon; a 153 mile ultramarathon from Athens to Sparta in Greece which includes a gruelling 4000 ft mountain climb at mile 100. Not bad for a self confessed 'reluctant member of the Brentwood cross-country team!' You can follow Laura on Instagram F @laura\_runninggirl for some running inspiration and motivation.



# Notice of deaths

*The editor has been notified of the following Old Brentwood deaths in 2023*

## Former students

*Stephen Campbell (OB 1972-1978)*  
*December 2022*

*Stephen Lines (OB 1964-1973)*  
*February 2023*

*Tony Witney (OB 1954-1961)*  
*March 2023*

*Brian Davies (OB 1946-1964)*  
*October 2023*

*Peter Lush (OB 1953-1960)*  
*June 2022*

*Patrick Young, (OB 1951-1957)*  
*January 2023*

*Peter Diplock (OB 1958-1964)*  
*August 2023*

*Lawrence Miller (OB 1934-1943)*  
*August 2023*

*Alan Oliver (OB 1944-1951)*  
*October 2023*

*William Duncan (OB 1945-1952)*  
*October 2022*

*David Spencer (OB 1944-1953)*  
*April 2023*

*Ralph Anthony Hall (OB 1941-1949)*  
*November 2023*

*Ian Goreham (OB 1958-1965)*  
*December 2022*

*Trevor Tarring (OB 1943-1950)*  
*April 2023*

*Peter B Coult (OB 1950-1957)*  
*November 2023*

*John Lancaster (OB 1943-1948)*  
*February 2023*

*Pete Thomas (OB 1959-1966)*  
*December 2022*

*Paul Wilkins (OB 1953-1960)*  
*November 2023*

*Richard Langley (OB 1951-1959)*  
*April 2023*

*John E Webb (OB 1949-1962)*  
*June 2021*

*John Chilvers (OB 1937-1942)*  
*November 2023*

## Former staff

*Glen Little (2003-2017)*  
*May 2023*

*Barry Palmer (1988-2022)*  
*September 2023*

*Alan Mould (1954-1959)*  
*June 2023*

*Katie Beston (2007-2014)*  
*October 2023*

## Tony Witney (OB 1954–1961)



Former President of the Old Brentwoods Society and of its Cricket Club, Tony Witney died on March 3rd 2023.

He represented the School over the years in football, rugby, tennis and cricket gaining house colours in each and captaining the winning team in the House cricket competition.

On leaving School in 1961, Tony embarked on a career in accountancy but gave it up to sign a professional contract with Essex CCC in 1964, primarily playing for the 2nd XI, alongside future England Test players. Unfortunately, a recurring back injury put paid to a professional career but not to his endeavours as a weekend warrior on Essex grounds. He became OB Cricket Club President. Having to find a 'proper job,' he joined Procter & Gamble.

Tony did a great deal for the broader success and growth of the Old Brentwoods Society and Club and strongly encouraged the participation of younger members. He served on the Society's General and Management Committees for many years and was involved in the Club's move from Burland Road to Ashwells Road.

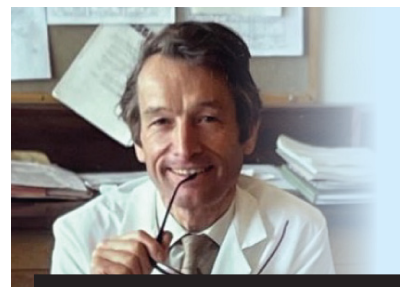
Tony married Diana in Londonderry in 1966 and they enjoyed 57 years together. The couple had three sons: Simon, Adam and Tim; three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Adam and Tim attended Brentwood School.

Tony Witney was well liked as a reliable, committed, family man and friend, fondly regarded throughout the cricketing county. Never boastful, Tony was always willing to share a word of wisdom with his sons and especially pleased to explain cricket to each of their foreign wives!

John left Brentwood School in 1943 to begin what was to become a celebrated career in electrical engineering. In 1953 he was appointed as a lecturer at Imperial College where in 1959 his work in calculating electrical fields won him a Premium from the Institute of Electrical Engineering (IEE).

In 1961, John moved to Trinidad where he became the inaugural professor in Electrical Engineering at the University of the West Indies. After three years he returned to Imperial College as a senior lecturer where his work gained him another Premium from the IEE. In 1978 he left Imperial College with a Science Doctorate. A lectureship at Gwent College, Honorary Fellowship at The University of Bristol and further IEE Premiums followed, culminating in 1995 in the Institute's top accolade - the Achievement Medal.

John, who died on 13th January 2023 and Rita, who died in 2017, are survived by their four children David, Anne, Mary and Peter, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



## John Carpenter (OB 1940–1943)



### Thatcher Stone (OB 1973–1974)

Thatcher Alden Stone of Albemarle County Virginia died

on November 29, 2022 in Jerusalem, Israel after a short illness.. He is survived by his daughter, Rebecca Stone, of Taos, NM.

Thatcher graduated from the Northfield Mount Hermon School and won a school-boy fellowship from the English-Speaking Union to spend a year at Brentwood School, before college. He graduated from the University of Virginia and from the University of Virginia Law school where, later in his career, he was a lecturer in aviation law. He was a partner in several large law firms in New York City and was, most

recently, a founder and managing partner in the law firm, Stone and Woodrow LLP, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Thatcher's professional passion of aviation-related law, reflected having become a private pilot during his undergraduate years at UVA.

Thatcher's philanthropic passion throughout his life was the University of Virginia. He was an Advisory Board Member of The Fralin Museum of Art and a Foundation Board member of the Architecture School. In 1996, he conceived of a unique philanthropic model with the creation of the Madison Lane and Rugby Road Charitable Trust which has provided UVA with over \$2.4M in gifts since its inception.

Thatcher was also active in the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, serving on mission trips to build goodwill and provide humanitarian aid.



Trevor Tarring died on 29th April 2023. He was a boarder in Newnum House between 1943-1950. He graduated in English at Brasenose, Oxford where he displayed his sporting prowess in football, cricket and rowing.

Trevor began his journalism career in 1953 when he joined "Metal Bulletin", becoming managing director in 1978.

He was instrumental in the company's growth from a small publishing company to a plc with multiple international offices and became one of the foremost experts on the cobalt market since the 1960s. He was awarded an MBE for services to the Metal Industry in 1993.

### Trevor Tarring (OB 1943–1950)

His great passion was vintage and Edwardian cars. He held a competition licence until 2022 and was beating fellow Club members less than half his age at driving tests and hill climbs well into his eighties. He was elected Captain of the Fraser Nash Car Club from 1984-1987, and co- wrote the biography of Archie Frazer Nash, published in 2011.

He was married to Marjorie for 64 years. They lived in Weybridge, where he was an active committee member of The Arts Society Weybridge and also the Weybridge Society. In recent years he was an enthusiastic Member of the OB Wessex Lunch Group, regaling members with his reminiscences of the School.

## Brian Picton Davies (OB 1946–1954)



Brian Picton Davies, a former Brentwood School Governor and President of the Old Brentwoods Society, died on October 7th 2023 at Woking Hospice, aged 87. The funeral took place at St Mary's Church, Worplesdon on November 3rd. He had suffered from a heart condition for several years.

Born in 1935 in Woodford, Brian spent his early years in South Wales. The family moved to Brentwood after World War II where his father became headmaster of Pilgrim's Hatch Primary School.

Brian attended Brentwood School with his late brother Grahame, rising through the junior soccer teams to spend three years in the 1st XI. He played cricket for the 2nd XI and was in the tennis VI. He was involved in squash and dancing clubs, the historical society and the games committee. Two years' National Service in the Royal Army Service Corps followed.

At Emmanuel College, Cambridge, he shared rooms with David Coull (OB1943-1954), studied Chinese history, gained a soccer Blue and played for West Ham United Juniors. Brian and David spent a year working their way around the USA and Canada.

He met his wife Jackie at a cricket match and they wed in May 1961. Over the next decade, the couple had four children who, in turn, produced nine grandchildren. Brian enjoyed a 34-year career with Berger Paints. Starting as a trainee, he led sales efforts in the north before taking on new responsibilities at Berger's factory in Dagenham. From 1971, he managed the West African division of Berger Paints from Lagos. From 1976 to 1981, he ran group subsidiary Selly's Ltd in Sydney, Australia.

In 1981, he moved back to London as Group Board Director of Overseas Companies. From 1984 to 1987, he was Chief Executive Officer of the whole Berger Group before it was sold to Williams Holdings. He resigned in 1990 to set up his own consultancy which he ran until 1994 when he retired. In the same year, he was President of the Old Brentwoods Society.

Brian served as a Governor at Brentwood School (1991-2004) and of two schools in Surrey, and was a trustee for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Sadly, Jackie was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000 and died in June 2001. In 2016, Brian married Gill, who had also lost her spouse - OB Tony Roberts - to cancer.



## Alan Oliver (OB 1944–1951)

Alan Oliver won a scholarship to Brentwood, becoming the first generation of his family to stay at school beyond the age of 14. Alan became Deputy Head Boy and was involved in the production of The Brentwoodian School magazine and the Rugby team.

Alan gained a place at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he achieved a degree in History. Most of his working life was spent in the publishing industry at Europa Publications in Bedford Square, rising to become Managing Editor until retirement in 1997.

Alan was introduced to his future wife Dorothy Adams through lifelong friend and Old Brentwood Tony Gooch, marrying in 1956. Sons Michael (1969-73) and Edward (1971-78) also attended Brentwood, finding a handful of teachers remaining from their father's time. Alan and Dorothy moved to Penzance in 2001 to be near their daughter Rachael. Alan passed away peacefully at home on the 23rd October 2023, aged 90. He leaves seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



**Barry Palmer**

Barry started work at Brentwood School in 1988 as a window cleaner, moving on to become a Porter, then Caretaker at the Prep and Pre Prep. He was Head Porter across the whole School from 1999, a role he held for 23 years until he retired in 2022, aged 75. Barry served Brentwood School for 34 years.

Many will remember Barry as a gentle giant - a big man with a big heart. He leaves behind his wife Jenny and a large family, whom he adored.

Alan Mould joined Brentwood School in 1954 where he was an inspiring teacher of A-level medieval history, a housemaster and an active participant in the flourishing musical life of the school. At the tender age of 29 he was given his first prep-school headship at Shirley House Preparatory School in Watford. He went on to St John's College School Cambridge, which he took from a single-site boys only prep school for some 140 pupils to a co-ed school for 440 pupils across two sites. During his celebrated career he twice became Chairman of the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS) and then President from 1994-2006.

He was remembered by former Brentwood pupils at a service celebrating his life. Paul Winter (OB 1953-1960) commented that through the celebration he had 'gained a little understanding of what a pioneer Alan had been in education, raising standards not only in the schools where he served, but throughout the prep school sector'.

**Alan Mould**



# OB Events

## OB day and dinner, March 2023

**In March 2023, OBs of all ages returned to the School for a programme of OB versus School sports, rescheduled from 2022.**

This year it was followed by the annual OB Dinner. There were speeches from artist and former journalist Matthew Garrard (OB 1971-1978), current Society President Chris Cooper (OB 1981-1992) a toast from Deputy Head of School and bursary student Sammy Li (OB 2013-2023) and a rousing rendition of The Old Red Wall. The dinner was described by all as a night to remember.

If you are interested in getting a table together for the 2024 event please get in touch with the Development & Alumni Relations team: [oldbrentwoods@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:oldbrentwoods@brentwood.essex.sch.uk)

## Old Brentwoods Day, September 2023

This year we were blessed with an extra OB day, which happened to be our biggest ever. We welcomed nearly four hundred OBs and their families back to campus for a day of food, music and sport.

Our guests particularly enjoyed the Hogroast and BBQ, playing in and watching the fantastic OB sports matches against current Brentwood School teams, attending the Society AGM and celebrating the end of the day with an OB toast.



Check out the video from Old Brentwoods Day

**Next year OB day will take place on Saturday 7th September.**

## Dates for your diary

January 2024

Presidents Cocktail Party, Ashwells Clubhouse  
(Date tbc)

March 2024

Society Quiz Night, Ashwells Clubhouse  
(Date tbc)

Friday 22nd March 2024

OB Dinner, Brentwood School

Wednesday 19th June 2024

Foundation Pro-Am, The Heron Golf Club

Summer 2024

OB and Association City Drinks  
(London venue/date tbc)

September 2024

Celebration of the 125th Anniversary  
of the formation of the Society  
(Venue/date tbc)

January 2025

Celebration of 125th Anniversary  
of the first Society dinner  
(London venue/date tbc)



Scan the QR code to view or sign up for all future events





**The Brentwood School Times  
& The Chronicle**

[oldbrentwoods.com](http://oldbrentwoods.com)