



The Bedford Society

I hope you are keeping safe and well, particularly if you are affected by this latest lockdown.

It is no surprise that the series of national developments that took place during the holiday period significantly changed plans for many people, including the College. The spring term has begun with all teaching taking place online and the goal continues to be to support students' learning and assessment, so that they can successfully complete the academic year. We wish our current Bedford Society Scholars well as they navigate another uncertain few months of their studies.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students' decisions to go to university was a key focus in our recent fundraising appeal. I am delighted to report that over £40,000 was raised towards the Bedford Society Scholarships Fund during the campaign, including donations made during the week of the Big Give Christmas Challenge. Thanks to everyone who donated this year we can help ensure talented students can continue to pursue their aspirations by offering Bedford Society Scholarships.

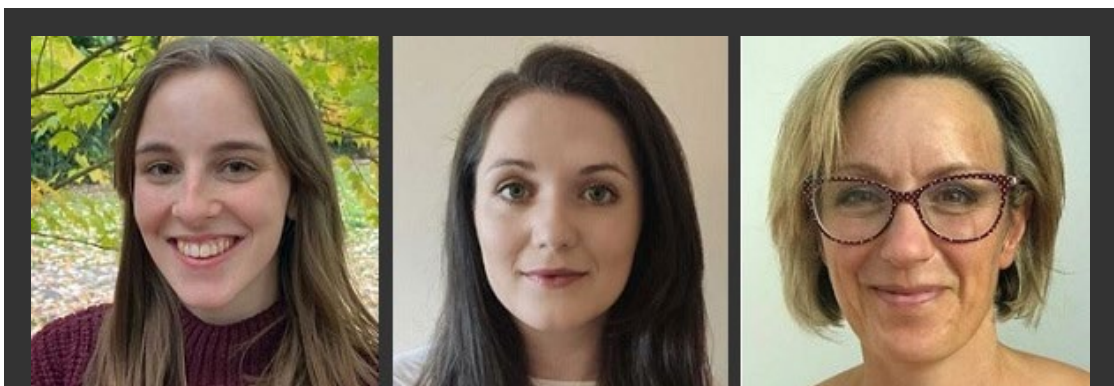
While we can already see that 2021 will bring further challenges, we hold onto the hope that vaccines offer us a route back to a new normal and it won't be too long before we can meet again in person. Until that time comes, the College continues to host a variety of online events. Listed below are those with a Bedford College focus that you might be interested in attending, including 'Objects from Bedford College' at which the College Curator will be sharing some of the items from Bedford in the College collection.

Best wishes

Dr Claire Gobbi Daunton

History 1974

Bedford Society Chair



Introducing the 2020/21 Bedford Society Scholars

Jasmin (MSc Global Futures), Georgia (MSc Forensic Psychology) and Claire (MA Holocaust Studies), pictured left to right, are our current Bedford Society Scholars. Find out more about what

brought them to the College and the impact the scholarship has had on them [here](#).



Fantastic enhanced learning opportunities made possible through generous alumni support

Alumna and Bedford Society Committee member, Pat Doble (BSc Mathematics 1965), pictured front centre at the College's Scholarships Reception, shares what motivates her to continue to play such a major part in supporting student learning opportunities and teaching at the College. [Read more](#).



Memories of Hanover Lodge

The College has recently reacquired one of the original signs of Hanover Lodge, one of Bedford College's halls of residence. In the last newsletter, we asked for memories and photos of Hanover Lodge to mark the return of the sign. Those submitted are shared [here](#).

We recently received the sad news that former warden of Hanover Lodge, Beryl Stevens, has died. Beryl was a well-known and well-respected member of Bedford College and features in some of the memories alumni have shared of Hanover Lodge.



Recollections of academic life at Bedford College

By Emeritus Professor Mike Bury

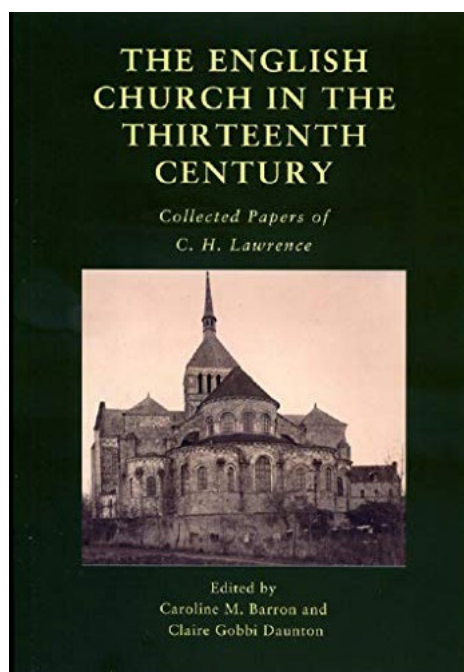
"I joined the College in 1979, to work with Professor Margot Jefferys in the Social Research Unit, and teach on the Master's degree in Sociology as Applied to Medicine. Our offices, though, were some distance from the Inner Circle. Having begun life in Peto Place, the Social Research Unit had moved to 51 Harley Street, where I joined it. I found the address somewhat amusing, to say the least. Medical sociology being taught whilst overlooking the famous private medicine thoroughfare!" [Read more.](#)

Collected papers of Professor Hugh Lawrence now available

Professor Hugh Lawrence, who died in 2018, was a member of the Bedford College History Department from 1951 until his retirement in 1987. Hugh was a scholar of the medieval Church and especially of the intellectual life of the Church in England in the thirteenth century.

The English Church in the Thirteenth Century. Collected Papers of C. H. Lawrence edited by Bedford Society Committee members Caroline Barron (former History staff member) and Claire Gobbi Daunton (History 1974), has now been published. It includes Professor Lawrence's short war diary from the Burma campaign and an essay on his life and war service by his daughter.

For more information or to purchase, please contact Shaun Tyas at shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk or 01775 821542. For Bedford Society members the book costs £20 with free posting within the UK (posting overseas is available but will incur additional cost). Cheques can be made payable to 'Shaun Tyas' at 1 High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire, PE11 4TA.



Book by Bedford alumnus shortlisted for William Hill Sports Book of the Year 2020

A book by Bedford alumnus Ian Ridley *The Breath of Sadness* was shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year 2020. When Ian's wife died, in an attempt to make sense of it all and seek some solace, he embarks on a summer of watching county cricket. *The Breath of Sadness* is an unflinching account of how we carry on when we are left behind, and a poignant exploration of love and loss. [Read more.](#)

Please join our WhatsApp Group and help to develop a Bedford alumni virtual discussion group

During the first lockdown a few of us, who had hoped to form a regular, informal discussion group at Bedford Square, decided to keep in touch via a WhatsApp group while we are waiting to meet up in person. It has been quite ad hoc and each of us post occasionally when something has happened or occurred to us that we think would be interesting to share. We never expected that we would still be unable to meet up a year later.

At the recent Bedford Society committee meeting it was suggested that we should look to develop a virtual discussion group, which could be organised through the WhatsApp group, rather than more formal activities that are organised by the College.

An initial theme could involve a few of us talking for about 3-5 minutes each, inspired by an object that reminds us of some aspect of College life, perhaps. Others could join in after each introduction, with comments and questions. Another idea, along a similar format, could begin with some initial introductions about unusual hobbies or interesting activities we have been involved in.

Please **email me directly** (or via alumni@rhbnc.ac.uk) if you would be interested in joining such a group. Just a line or two initially, to express an interest, would be fine. The years are passing and it would be so good to find a way of keeping old memories alive, hearing more about what fellow old Bedfordians have done with their lives and perhaps supporting each other in some way into the future.

Betty Hales (Physics 1970-73)

Come on Bedfordians – make us smile!

What are your fondest and most amusing memories of Bedford College? Would you be willing to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and share some of those recollections with your fellow Bedfordians? The editors of this newsletter are on the lookout for short articles (250-400 words) that tell an amusing story about your Bedford experiences or any particularly memorable incidents; any photographs that illustrate your story would be a bonus.

Bedfordians, this is YOUR newsletter. Please don't keep all those happy Bedford memories to yourselves! We look forward to hearing from you. Please email alumni@rhbnc.ac.uk with your contributions.

In Memoriam

We fondly remember the Bedford College alumni and former staff who have recently died. The individuals we have been informed about in 2020 are listed on the [Bedford Society website](#).

EVENTS

The College's programme of events, lectures and concerts are currently online. By going digital, we hope that even more Bedford Society members will be able to join in.

Please visit rhbnc.ac.uk/events for more upcoming events.



Treasured objects from Bedford College Friday 26 February, 1.30-2.30pm, online event

The art collections hold many items relating to the history of Bedford College. This event looks at some of the most treasured objects from Bedford and explores the stories behind them. [Find out more and register](#).

Women's Suffrage and Royal Holloway and Bedford College Monday 8 March, 1.30-2.30pm, online event

The College has a proud history of supporting women's rights and suffrage. The name of the new Library is named after former student Emily Wilding Davison. In this talk, Librarian Greg Leurs will draw on archive records to explore the role notable staff and alumnae played in the fight for women's suffrage in the UK. [Find out more and register.](#)



Suffrage and the art collections Monday 15 March, 1.30-2.30pm, online event

Join Curator Dr Laura MacCulloch to discover the links between the university's art collections and the women who campaigned for women's suffrage. The talk will explore the history of artworks connected to the movement and explain how these works came to be part of the collections. [Find out more and register.](#)



Royal Holloway in Concert 2021

Explore the previous concerts at St John's Smith square in London, as well as the recording of Pearl of Freedom by the Choir and the London Mozart Players. [Watch online now.](#)

You can also join the Choir and our Director of Choral Music and Organist Rupert Gough for our popular, weekly music series [online.](#)

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