

WHY DO A BIKE CHALLENGE FOR CHARITY?

Simon Slinn was at Bethany from 1972-1978 and was an accomplished sportsman. He was the Captain of Rugby and Cricket in all the years he was at school and won the Victor Ludorum in Junior, Intermediate twice, and Senior. He also won the best Senior Sportsman's cup in the Sixth Form. Here, Simon tells us about an event that was both an adventure and a great personal challenge in the name of charity:



Simon Slinn as Captain of the U-13 XV in 1972.

I can only answer this question from my own point of view. In 2007 on a train going to London, I met a friend, Charles Getliffe, the General Manager of Classic Tours. He said he was organising a bike challenge for the MS Therapy Centre in Canterbury. He explained it would be 300 miles from Saigon in Vietnam to Kompong Cham in Cambodia.

That evening, I rang Charles and told him that I wanted to participate. I started training in April 2007 for the trip in February 2007, upping my mileage each month, not easy as I myself have MS.

At 5.45am on Saturday 23 March we drove to Heathrow for our first flight which would take us to Kuala Lumpur, and where we met up with our fellow cyclists – 16 in total who were riding in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness.

We arrived in Vietnam on 24 March. My first impression of Saigon was intense heat and humidity coupled with the fact the country's entire population seemed to be outside the airport!



The trip started the following day from the Cu Chi Tunnels where we collected our bikes and looked at the tunnel complex. This was to be the shortest day of the ride with some 50 km to travel to Tay Ninh. The temperature was 90°F.

Our second day was 86km, the hottest of the trip as we cycled from Tay Ninh to Mok Bai on the Cambodian border and then on to Svay Rieng. The temperature reached 104°F and you could feel the heat rising off the road. This was crunch point for me, a long ride down a straight road with no foreseeable end to it. It was mentally and physically challenging and a severe test of my resolve.

Day three, the longest at 100km from Svay Rieng to Prey Veng was followed by our fourth day in the saddle and took us into Kompong Cham on the banks of the Mekong River, some 95km.

Our final day was from Kompong Cham to Kompong Thom, some 95km. It was at this point that we all joined together for the

final ride into Kompong Thom. Before we knew it there was the finish line located at a small temple site – it was all over.

Our final weekend in Cambodia was spent in Siem Reap where we had time to relax. On Sunday morning, at 4am we travelled to Angkor Wat to see the sunrise over the temple complex. The scale of the complex is immense, and although you see the structures you cannot take in the magnitude of the human effort required to design and construct them.

The long flight home – three planes, four airports and 27 hours of travelling – was followed by emotional good-byes at Heathrow.

In conclusion, the reason that I did the bike ride was to raise money for a charity which is close to my heart, but also to test myself. It was the hardest thing, both mentally and physically, that I have ever done and I pushed myself past the point where I was sure I could go no further.

Perhaps the most surprising thing was that 12 women and 6 men stopped being male and female and just became 18 human beings, less concerned with each other's and their own personal

appearance, and more with helping each other complete the challenge. I also got to know the people on the ride better in nine days than I have got to know others I have been acquainted with for 20 years. This of course made saying good-bye an emotional experience.

In closing, I have decided to do another cycling challenge which I hope will give me the same highs and lows as I experienced in Vietnam and Cambodia. In some ways this sort of event is addictive as the physical and emotional experience is so keenly felt.

My next cycle challenge takes place this October and is from Madaba in Jordan to Aqaba on the Red Sea. If anyone would like to sponsor me I have a web page on www.justgiving.com.



NEWS OF OLD BETHANIANS 2009

News from Elizabeth Barry
Firstly, congratulations to Elizabeth Barry, our Alumni Co-ordinator and her husband, Nick, on the birth of their second daughter, Antonia, who was born on Monday, 2 March, weighing in at 6lb 11 oz. All our best wishes to the family.

News from Marc Whittaker
After leaving Bethany in 2003, I took a year out and lived in London before going to Salford University where I studied Hospitality and Tourism Management, which I enjoyed. After finishing my degree I lived in Liverpool with my dad. I recently moved to Australia on a working holiday visa for one year to travel the world before I start having to be completely serious, which I am looking forward to! I worked in Sydney but am now in Melbourne. After Australia I plan to travel some more and see New Zealand and southern Asia. Part of me is looking forward to getting back to the UK but the next decision is where to settle – probably Kent!

News from Tim Deakin
Retired in autumn 2008 and sold his men's outfitters business, Deakin and Sons, in Canterbury. Tim also married Jenni on 12 September 2008. He is enjoying retirement and hoping to do more travelling. He has kindly donated five Bethanians' Society Blazers to the school. To contact Tim Tel: 01304 613575, Mob: 07711 341696

News from Tracey Deakin
Brother of Tim Deakin. Tracey emigrated to California and is running his own business in aviation management.

News from Ainsley Moore (at Bethany from 1996 to 2001)
I thought I would write to let you know what I have been up to since I left. Bethany set me up well, and was followed by Kingston University and finally Cass Business School in London. I then chartered as a Management Consultant Surveyor working as a Strategic Real Estate Consultant which I still practice as today. However, with my sister's boyfriend (in a moment of madness) I also started a restaurant in Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells last year called 'Montrose'. It is a fine dining, fine wine restaurant at the same level as Thackeray's and Hotel du Vin but with a more boutique atmosphere. Enclosed with this mailing is a voucher for a free bottle of house wine when you make a reservation. The voucher is also available on the website.

A NEW DINING EXPERIENCE
Fine dine with fine wine in great style

MONTRÖSE
MONTRÖSE is the new independent boutique restaurant just opened adjacent to Southborough Common, Tunbridge Wells. MONTRÖSE offers a wonderful combination of fine modern European cuisine; a choice of the finest mature wines at affordable prices; friendly, attentive service to ensure you have an enjoyable, even unique, dining experience.

BOOK NOW
MONTRÖSE
01892 513161
Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner
Lunch: £13.95 (2 courses) £18.00 (3 courses)
Standard 5pm - 10pm, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0BX
e-mail: bookings@montroserestaurant.co.uk
Website: www.montroserestaurant.co.uk

News from David Glyn Davies
I was at Bethany between 1971 and 1976. I have been living in Australia for the past seventeen years and am married with two children. I visited the school with my family in 2002. I have been in contact with a few people of my ilk through the Friends Reunited website including Mr Harry Salmon who was in charge of Rugby as well as many other things. I am a full time professional artist and have continued



David Glyn Davies in his studio in 2007 in Australia.



News from Ben Chater
I did a degree in Business then, in 1996, left for Sydney, where I lived in Bondi and did an apprenticeship in Printing. Played five years of club rugby as well out there which was great fun. I left Sydney in June 2001 and then traveled for eight months around South East Asia, Nepal and India returning to the UK in early 2002. I worked for a large printing company for five years selling printing and distribution solutions to magazine publishers. I left in 2007 to take a directorship and equity within a friends print management company based in Farringdon in London. I met my partner while traveling and we live in Lingfield in Surrey and have one child called Erin who is 10 months old and number 2 is due in September this year!



News from Emma Eames
Emma has been living and working in Florence, Italy since January this year and has landed herself an excellent role at a design company alongside some highly professional and acclaimed Italian and foreign designers. The company, Shambix, specialises in Web Design, Graphics, Interior Design, Industrial Design, Video Production, Photography, Branding and Packaging. Emma has landed herself the role of UK sales and promotions as well as working as a web/graphics designer is also aiding companies to establish a brand identity with business cards, stationery design etc. Emma has also been given a scholarship to the Florence Design Institute starting in September for an intensive Graphic Design course so she can work and gain experience at the same time. Visit www.shambix.co.uk or email info@shambix.com for more information about the company or if you have any requests.

News from Freddy Proctor
Many congratulations too to Freddy and his wife Caroline on the birth of their first child, Ava Cerys who was born on 30th March, weighing in at 6lb 13oz. Our best wishes to them all.

'From Acorn to Oak Tree'
A wonderful history of Bethany School from 1866 to 1988, A4 format, 168 pgs, hundreds of historic and fascinating photos
Copies still available. £30 Hardback edition, or £20 Softback edition incl. of UK postage. Send order to school address with cheque or PO payable to Bethany School Attn: Elizabeth Barry

For all Alumni enquiries please phone 01580 211 273 and ask for Alicia Houghton or Elizabeth Barry or email alumni@bethanyschool.org.uk

To keep up to date on news and future events in The Bethanians' Society visit www.bethanyschool.org.uk and go to 'Alumni'



The Bethanians' Society Bulletin

Uniting the Alumni of Bethany School

Summer 2009

Former Head Boy Heads to Afghanistan on Active Service

A former Head Boy of Bethany has recently been deployed to Afghanistan on active service.

Chris McArdle (seen left in the photo), who attended Bethany from 1998-2003 and was Head Boy in 2002/03 passed out of the Royal Marine Commando Training Centre at Lymestone, Devon on 11 December 2008 and flew out on an eight-month tour of duty with the Marines a week later! Whilst in Afghanistan, Lieutenant McArdle is performing the role of Troop Commander, commanding 30 soldiers of his unit, 45 Commando.

His father, Jude, said that his time at Bethany had helped Chris prepare for his new role as a Marine as the school had provided the grounding or him to develop excellent leadership skills.



Chris McArdle and Harry Chambers.

Meanwhile, another Bethanian, Harry Chambers (seen here with Chris), also passed out of Lymestone in December 2008 and is now serving as part of the Fleet Protection Group in Faslane, Scotland.

The Bethanians' Society wishes both of them well and we look forward to hearing more about their exciting new careers over the next few months.

The Bethanians' Society Annual Dinner



Will be held at
The Court Rooms
Brown's Bar & Brasserie
82-84 St Martin's Lane,
Covent Garden, London, WC2
on Saturday, 12 September 2009
(time 1900 for 2000)



This year, the TBS Dinner will be held in The Court Rooms at Brown's in Covent Garden.

Tickets for this excellent three-course Black Tie dinner are £35 per head, excluding wine and pre-/after dinner drinks. If you would like to attend, a deposit of £10 is required. Please send your cheque, made payable to 'The Bethanians' Society', together with the enclosed reply slip to: Mrs Alicia Houghton, Marketing Manager, Bethany School, Goudhurst, Cranbrook Kent TN17 1LB

A reply slip is enclosed with this newsletter and is also available on the Alumni website. Please note: places are limited and will be reserved on a first come-first served basis. Why not make up a table with old friends for a wonderful night on the Town?

SUMMER SPORTS! Cricket, Rounders and BBQ

Sunday, 28 June

Continuing on from the success of this year's rugby and hockey matches in March, we are now organising a friendly cricket and rounders to spice up your summer calendar!

If you're interested in playing, contact Ed Streeten-Smith or Tor Harmer:

Ed (Cricket): ed@thebrightwhite.co.uk
Tor (Rounders): torharmer@hotmail.com

Or just come along and support, catch up with old mates, enjoy the sun (hopefully!)... After the matches, there will be a BBQ to enjoy at The Orchard. So get involved! For more information check the website or join the Facebook event 'TBS Summer Cricket, Rounders & BBQ Bout'.



TBS Rugby is re-launched and Hockey bulls off for the first time! See inside for full match reports

Keep up to date on news and future events in TBS - send your email address to alumni@bethanyschool.org.uk

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI CO-ORDINATOR

As you read this I am currently on maternity leave having given birth to my second daughter, Antonia in March.



I have certainly been busy since my appointment last year. The bulletin was the first major piece of work that we decided to produce as part of the work of the new Society. I would like to thank Committee for their hard work in putting the first edition of the magazine together and particular thanks must go to Robert Forsyth for this second edition.

The School's Alumni database with all known details of the Bethanians' Society membership has been completed in my absence. To date we have almost 800 members. Please remember to keep me informed of any change of details so that the database can be kept as up to date as possible and we would also like to add email addresses where possible.

Work on the re-organisation of the Archives is finally underway. They now have a new home at the top of the South Wing and we hope they will be ready for use in the near future. Four sixth formers have taken on the task of compiling a database for staff, pupils and visitors to use, as the "activity" section of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Tim Deakin, a recently retired Bethanians' Society member closed his gentleman's outfitters in Canterbury last autumn. He has kindly donated five Bethanians' Society jackets to the School for re-sale which are available at a cost of £150 through me. I would like to thank him for his donation and wish him and his wife, Jenni, well for their retirement.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their kindness since I took up my post and look forward to meeting many of you when I return to Bethany later this year.



The new Archive Room takes shape in what was South Wing.

With best wishes,
Elizabeth Barry

FROM THE ARCHIVE



Edith Benians (1877-1961) (left) and Olive Kendon (1897-1977) with a class of juniors in the room that was nearest the main building, in the Railway Block, 1926. The site occupied the space in the area across from the new Library.



The Bethanians' Society Reunion Day Saturday, 20 June 2009

- 9.00 am:** Champagne breakfast in The Orchard from 9.00 until 11.00 am. A great breakfast for a generous donation!
- 9.30 am:** Events, Exhibitions and Stalls open
- 10.00 am:** Fashion Show in the Textiles Room. Tickets £4 - all proceeds to the Hospice in the Weald. Refreshments in Food Technology at 10.30 am included in ticket price.
- 11.00 am:** Repeat of Fashion Show
- 11.45 am:** Official opening of the Science Centre
- 12.15 pm:** Leavers' Service in the Chapel
- 1.00 pm:** Lunch for Old Bethanians in the lower Dining Room
- 2.30 pm:** The Bethanians' Society AGM – Lanzer Building
- 3.45 pm:** Tea on the Lawn

A reply slip is included with this newsletter and is also available on the website.

'Happenings' at the Ragged Trousers, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, 21 November 2008



The return of the Happenings took place at the Ragged Trousers, in the Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells on 21 November 2008.

Some thirty or so former Bethanians crowded into the bar for a jolly, but chilled evening with old friends. There were probably a few sore heads next morning! Seen among the crowd were Gemma Blacker, Angus Todd, Tor Harmer, Nick Randell, Charles Barsley, Nick Woodham-Jones, Freddy Proctor, Sally Barwick,

Matt Harmer, James Lester, Robert Forsyth, Tim Rose, Richard Weale and Dave Burford. This was a great evening for different generations of Bethanians to come together and swap stories over a drink... or two...

A few stragglers were observed at a nearby Indian restaurant afterwards.

Many past Bethanians will have fond recollections of evening gatherings in City and West End pubs back in the 1980s and your Society thought it would be a good idea to 're-invent' them. These are a very informal events and are open to all former Bethanians who fancy a drink with friends, perhaps followed by a bite to eat afterwards. Just turn up.

Keep an eye out on the website for news of the next Happening. We look forward to seeing you!

Hockey and Rugby Matches – Saturday 14 March 2009



Hockey Match Report:

"Goodness me, he hasn't changed a bit!"

"He's left school now? Wow, that makes me feel old!"

"Do you remember the time when..."

THESE were some of the comments that could be heard whilst members of The Bethanians' Society were reunited with old friends in Kendon car park on Saturday 14 March.

It appears that gone are the days of the hockey matches, come mud baths, on the arena pitch, which are embedded in many people's memories, as it was down to the school's shiny new artificial pitch to begin proceedings. The beautiful weather had brought the spectators out in force. Along with teachers, pupils and friends, the rugby players and Mr Marriot were there to show their support in the first half before they made their way up to The Firs for the rugby.

Two teams were formed, aptly named 'Vintage', captained by Naomi Clark, and 'The Young Ones,' led by Nicki Hughes. Vintage started quickly scoring two goals thanks to the speed and skill of Tom Humphreys and Chris Perry. Worryingly for The Young Ones, this was quickly followed by a third, however the match was far from a foregone conclusion and, thanks to Jonathan Marsh, The Young Ones were back in the game with an unstoppable goal. A fourth goal for Vintage by Chris Perry took the match into half-time with a score of 4-1 to Vintage.

Vintage started the second half complacent and, having lost a key defender to the rugby, The Young Ones took advantage with two more great goals from Philip Scott and Jonathan Marsh to produce a nail-biting 4 - 3 score to Vintage. Soon into the second half the clock was stopped as the ball hit Gemma Blacker in the face. Once Gemma was happy that her face was not 'puffy' she bravely soldiered on and helped her team increase their lead with two more goals from Chris Perry. The second half continued with some impressive performances from all players, some of whom had not played hockey since leaving Bethany quite a number of years ago. A late goal from Jonathan Marsh made the final score a very respectable 6 - 4 to Vintage. After the match both teams headed up to The Firs to support the rugby players.

Thanks are given to Dougan McDonald for umpiring the match and Sam King for helping with the organisation. Their support was very much appreciated.

Tor Harmer



TBS Rugby Match Report

FOLLOWING The Bethanian Society testimonial rugby match for Phil Marriot and the hockey match at Bethany on Saturday 14th March, The Bethanians' Society provided a buffet meal at the Star and Eagle in Goudhurst. The Star and Eagle provided a superb array of food and the event was attended by sixty to seventy Old Bethanians' their friends and supporters. It was fantastic to see so many young people at the Star and Eagle on this beautiful early spring afternoon. Former pupils of the school were able to catch up following the matches and exchange stories and find

out what former pupils are now doing since leaving the school.

Alex Dale, who organised the players for the rugby match, presented Phil Marriot with one of the rugby shirts he had organised for the match, which had the number twenty three on the back to remind Phil of how many years he has worked at Bethany.

Alex also presented him with the match ball signed by all the players. Phil was extremely grateful and gave an emotional response to Alex for organising the match and Phil also thanked Tor for organising the hockey match.

Alex comments: 'This was a real fun event with players just 'having a go'. The two teams were split in to a 00s team and a 90s team and I am pleased to say that as a '96 leaver the 90s team won. It would be great if we can make this traditional Bethany event a permanent fixture for the future.'

This was an extremely memorable and enjoyable way to end a great sporting day and I would like to thank Alex and Tor for all their hard work in organising the teams for the matches. I would also like to thank Alicia Houghton for organising events at the school and Matt Payne for refereeing the rugby match and organising the pitches and changing rooms.

The Bethanians' Society hope to organise further sporting events in the future, details of which will be posted on the Alumni section of the school website.

Freddy Proctor

To keep up to date on news and future events in The Bethanians' Society visit www.bethanyschool.org.uk and go to 'Alumni'