



## NEWS OF OLD BETHANIANS 2010

**Alex Dale** - Alex and his wife Kat have spent the last two years volunteering at the Wildlife Heritage Foundation near Headcorn in Kent. WHF is the UK's largest breeding centre for big cats and also breed some of the world's rarest cats, including the Amur Leopard of which there are believed to be fewer than 30 left in the wild. Alex is organising a two week fund raising trek to Borneo in late October to raise money for the Centre. This will involve climbing south-east Asia's highest peak, Mt Kinabalu, as well as trekking 100 km through the Jungle. There will also be a visit to an Organutan rehabilitation centre to see these magnificent apes in their natural habitat. If anyone would like any further information about the trek or would like to sponsor Alex please contact him at alex.dale78@googlemail.com or on 07523 212140.

**Matthew and Peter Dawson** - To the delight of their parents who contacted Nick Dorey, the twins graduated from Reading University in 2009, both having studied Building Surveying. Their sister Claire graduated from Oxford Brookes in 2008 and landed herself a marketing job with Blackberry.

**Colin Hill** - Colin (at Bethany from 1975-78) contacted the school in November. He is a director of Morris Hanbury, the UK's largest international Hop Merchants based in Yalding, Kent. He had first visited the company in 1975 with Barry Keep as part of a school trip and it was this that inspired him to make hop merchanting a career choice. The company is looking to expand and is also building a visitor centre, together with a pilot brewery.

**Herbert Lee** - We were pleased to welcome Herbert back to Bethany last September for a look around. Herbert, from Hong Kong, was at Bethany from 1989 to 1993 after which he went to Vancouver where he studied for a degree in engineering. He lives and works in Canada as a chemical engineer and was visiting the UK as part of a business trip.

**Chris McArdle** - In the last issue of the bulletin we reported that former Head Boy, Chris McArdle was to head to Afghanistan on active service. He has now returned safely from his six month tour of duty in the Helmand region, during which he and six colleagues survived a bomb blast when the Viking armoured vehicle they were travelling in detonated a roadside bomb two weeks before the unit was due to fly home. On 8th November Chris was one of just two officers chosen to represent the Royal Marines at the wreath laying ceremony at The Cenotaph. As Chris's father told the Courier newspaper in late October, "There are 7,200 Marines and about 500 officers, so it was an honour that he was chosen. He was very pleased and proud but at the same time very humble. He felt honoured to be invited to a ceremony to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country". A Royal Navy spokesman said that Chris's unit had been chosen to represent the Royal Marines because of their recent distinguished service, during which nine of their number had died.



Rob Moore arrives at his wedding on a tandem cycle in Sri Lanka with his best man, Tom Humphrey.

**Rob Moore** - Following his time at Bethany Rob spent three years at Sheffield Hallam University (supplementing his student loans and champagne lifestyle working as a chef). It was this occupation that took him to a number of restaurants across England and then to Malaga in Spain. Here he met a young history teacher called Sarah Philips. However, Sarah had already made plans to return to Sri Lanka five months later to teach, she was born as a diplomats daughter in Sri Lanka. Rob and Sarah's relationship was strong enough that they



The happy couple - Rob Moore and Sarah Philips on their wedding day in Sri Lanka.

decided to go there together. It was not long before Rob had secured a job as a sports coach at Colombo International School and within a year he had joined the staff as a PE teacher. Together Rob and Sarah enjoyed weekdays teaching and weekends scuba diving and surfing. To the shock of all Rob's close friends the couple married in December 08. Amongst a number of friends who travelled to the beach wedding in Hikaduwa, Sri Lanka, were Old Bethanians Tom Humphrey (best man) and Phil Tappay. Rob and Sarah, along with many photos, can be found on Facebook and want friends to know that they welcome visitors to their home in Colombo, with open arms.

**Russell Newman** - Russell dropped a note to Nick Dorey to say that he had received his degree results - he got a First! "I'm being 'retained'" by one of the research labs here for an integrated MSc and PhD with the new Web Science Research group (includes Tim Berners-Lee!). It makes economic sense to stay in Southampton for as long as possible."

**Andy Payne** - Andy (at Bethany from 1986-92) contacted Nick Dorey last year to introduce his company. He runs a small business in Wadhurst called Blue Forest. Although the company specialises in Tree Houses, they have developed a good reputation in the field of sustainable building and design and recently won a Local Authority award for the best Sustainable Building for a project in the New Forest. The company is also building an Eco Classroom at Benenden School. In his letter, Andy also said that he has fantastic memories of his time at Bethany.

**James Proctor** - James and his wife, Clare, are the proud new parents of a beautiful daughter, Amy Isabella, who was born on Sunday, 29th November at Pembury hospital. Mother and daughter are doing well.

**Gordon Russell** - Having worked in IT since leaving university, Gordon set up his own management consultancy company, Bourus Consulting, in December 2006 and despite the credit crunch, going solo has certainly been a success. In his spare time, music is a passion. Gordon discovered hidden talents whilst at university; he is self taught and now plays a number of instruments and ran his own band in London for over seven years. He played at many top clubs and performed in a concert at the Royal Albert Hall. He is now with a new band and whilst looking to go solo has also set up his own recording studio in Chiswick. If anyone would like to contact Gordon his email address is: gordonrussell76@gmail.com

### News in brief (via Paul Holmes)

**Adam Barnes** is still flying in Central Africa, two months out of three, the third month at home with his young family in Dublin.

**Richard Darlington**, for some years the school printer, has worked for a charity near Ashford for many years but a severe virus last year landed him in hospital for months and it has taken him 18 months to regain his strength and mobility.

**Chris Day** has now qualified as a doctor and works at the Royal Berkshire hospital in Reading. **Phil Day** is at York University on an electronics course, whilst **Stephen Day** works for Price Waterhouse.

**Tor Harmer**, who works for the Royal Geographical Society, has recently been in the desert of Oman on a 'connecting cultures' expedition and will be going to the Arctic this summer.

**Philip Hart**, living in remotest Hartland in NW Devon, has enjoyed easy walking trips last year to Yorkshire and the Isle of Wight.

**David Mactintosh** was diagnosed with Parkinson's last year but he has coped

with it well enough to be able to continue conducting his church choir, to celebrate his daughter's wedding and to enjoy several holidays.

**Alan Morris**, for many years Head of Music at Bethany has just retired from the organists post at Sheringham though he is still giving recitals from time to time. **Barry Robbins'** daughter Hannah is enjoying China and doing 'adventurous things' ...and **Richard Robbins'** two girls are at Cambridge and Manchester, the family chocolate factory and shop in Dunster is a huge success.

**Martin Roberts**, who was ordained several years ago, had hoped to embark on fulltime ministry but there seemed no vacancies in East Anglia!

**Tony Holt** has now retired from Trent College and he and Pat have a house near Liskeard in Cornwall. He continues some rugby coaching in nearby Tavistock and Pat does some supply teaching in Liskeard.

**Daniel Rookwood** was married to Sam in December in Cheshire, had their honeymoon in the Maldives, Christmas in England and back to Australia for the New Year, where they both live and work in Sydney. His younger brother **Joel Rookwood** seems to have spent much of last year travelling - Cyprus, Milan, Madrid, Tibet, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand. Of course his real job is lecturing at Liverpool University. Their father, **Colin Rookwood**, is in his sixth year of retirement and manages to find time for his large family whilst helping at Horsmonden church during the vacancy there, and loving every minute of it. He and Carol expect to move from Horsmonden to Liverpool during the first half of the New Year as so many of their family seem to in that part of the world.

**John-Henry Saxby** has returned from extensive back-packing, having qualified as a 'Dive Master' and now works for Oxfam in their IT Department.

**Peter Sillibourne** seems finally to have retired from farming, though still lives on the farm at Ruckinge but now has time to travel down to the wilds of North Devon!

**Michael Simmonds**, organist at Ardleigh for 50 years, was thankful that a recent mini-stroke didn't prevent him from continuing his organ playing.

**Ian Thomas** and his wife Lise have enjoyed the birth of their third grandson, though it meant a trip to Australia for the christening!

**David Tuddenham**, at one time in the Science Department at Bethany, is now Director of Studies at Aldro Prep School in Hampshire, enjoying the teaching enormously.

### Bethanians who have recently contacted The Bethanians' Society

**Charles Constable** - attended Bethany from 1963-68. Lives and works in Dorchester

**Neil Goadby** - attended Bethany 1980-85. Lives in Redditch, Worcestershire

**Keith Mills** - attended Bethany 1962-67. Lives and works in Surrey

**Lauri Watson** - attended Bethany 1965-68. Lives in Drummoyn, NSW, Australia

**Nick Clifford** - attended Bethany 1976-80, moved to America in 1995. He works as a wine broker in the San Francisco Bay area and is married with two boys.

**Konrad Powell-Jones** - attended Bethany 1976-79, lives in Ontario and is a project manager at Mount Sinai Hospital. Nick and Konrad plan to be at Bethany for Reunion Day on 19 June and are trying to round up as many former classmates as possible. If you would like to get in touch with them please do so via [ahoughton@bethanyschool.org.uk](mailto:ahoughton@bethanyschool.org.uk)

### Obituaries

#### Michael J Hawley

We were informed by Mr Patrick Whitaker, a friend of Mr Hawley, who would have been at Bethany in the mid to late 1950's, that he passed away on 7 May 2009. Mr Whitaker said that Mr Hawley had been a great friend to his family for almost 45 years and that he was a credit to the education he had gained at Bethany. An obituary with tributes to a much loved photographer printed in the Aldershot News was attached to the email.

For all Alumni enquiries please phone 01580 211 273 and ask for Alicia Houghton or email [ahoughton@bethanyschool.org.uk](mailto:ahoughton@bethanyschool.org.uk)

**To keep up to date on news and future events in The Bethanians' Society visit [www.bethanyschool.org.uk](http://www.bethanyschool.org.uk) and go to 'Alumni'**

#### Tony Langelier

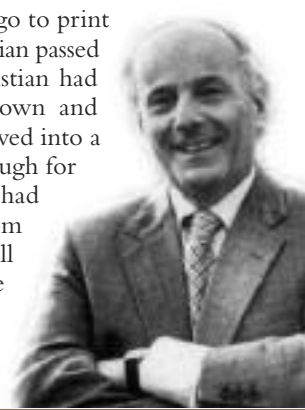
Tony passed away in January 2010. Along with other 10 and 11 year olds at Bethany in 1946/7, Tony Langelier was one of the "big" boys, one we admired and tried to emulate. He was a fine sportsman and I particularly remember 1949 when he was not only Head Boy but also Captain of Roberts House and the cricket and football teams. He will best be remembered as captain of the cricket team that played 17 matches, won 16 and lost 1. The Bethany magazine of 1950 recalls: "This will probably go down as in the annals of the School as the best cricket team on record." The football team also did well that year, winning 7 of its 10 matches, with 60 goals scored and 43 against. Whilst Captain of Roberts, his House won the Athletics trophy and Tony himself was the Victor Ludorum, winning the Benjamin White Cup for the second time. In the Spring term of 1949 he came second in the Senior Cross Country to J.C. Phipps who won for the second time. At Speech Day in 1949 Roberts won the Jessel Shield and Tony himself won the Roy Farquharson Trophy for excellence in school sports as well as the William Ruzzak Memorial Prize. He left Bethany in December 1949.

Farewell Tony, I hope you have as many happy memories of Bethany as we have of you.

John Anthony, January 2010.

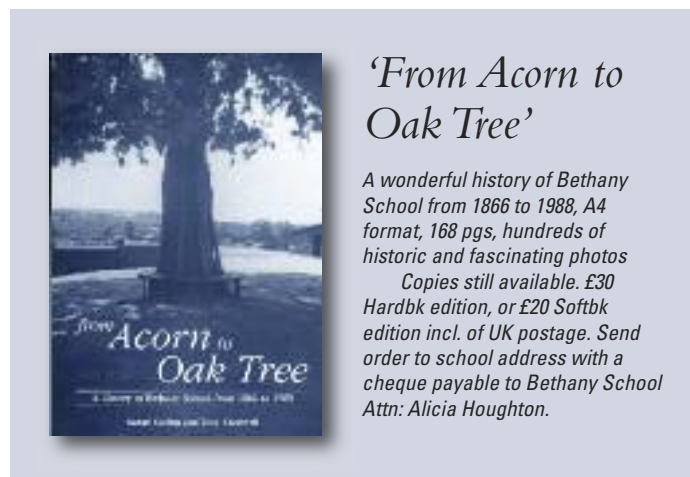
#### Christian Lanzer

Just as this newsletter was about to go to print we received the sad news that Christian passed away on 14th January 2010. Christian had become too frail to live on his own and towards the end of last year had moved into a care home in Wimbledon, near enough for his extended family to visit. He had been Headmaster at Bethany from 1970 - 1988. A full obituary will appear on the Alumni area of the School's website.



If you would like your news included in future bulletins please contact Alicia Houghton at Bethany on 01580 211273 or by email at [ahoughton@bethanyschool.org.uk](mailto:ahoughton@bethanyschool.org.uk)

Many thanks to Paul Holmes for forwarding his news.



### '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  
Hardbk edition, or £20 Softbk edition incl. of UK postage. Send order to school address with a cheque payable to Bethany School  
Attn: Alicia Houghton.



# The Bethanians' Society Bulletin

Uniting the Alumni of Bethany School

Winter 2010

## Alumni Dinner in Hong Kong

On Saturday, 17 October an alumni dinner took place in Hong Kong, hosted by Nick Dorey during his annual visit to the Far East to meet current and prospective parents.

We are very grateful to Sandra Chu for allowing us to hold the dinner in one of her restaurants on the Gold Coast. A superb buffet complemented by fine wines was laid out on the roof terrace with stunning views across the bay. The event, the first of its kind for Bethany alumni in Hong Kong, was a huge success and was attended by over 70 former pupils and their parents, as well as a number of current parents.

Once again, Nick Dorey was touched by the loyalty to the School exhibited by former parents and pupils and it is hoped that the event can be repeated in future years.



Headmaster Nick Dorey hosted a gathering of more than 70 Old Bethanians in Hong Kong



### Nick Dorey announces his retirement

Bethanians' may be interested to know that after 12 outstanding years as Headmaster, Nick Dorey has decided to retire from Bethany at the end of this academic year. It is not a decision he has reached lightly and after 30 years in schools he feels it is time to reflect and take on new challenges while energy and years are still on his side. The process of appointing a new Headmaster to start in September 2010 is now underway and an announcement will be made as soon as possible.



Nick Dorey on the Tour of Flanders road cycling race in 2008.

Keep up to date on news and future events in TBS - send your email address to [ahoughton@bethanyschool.org.uk](mailto:ahoughton@bethanyschool.org.uk)

## BETHANIANS' SOCIETY DINNER

ON the evening of Saturday 12th September, members of the Bethanians' Society descended on the Court Rooms at Browns Restaurant in Covent Garden, a venue formerly associated with the conviction of criminals (hopefully none of them Bethanians!). The occasion was the Society's Annual Dinner which has always been one of the highlights of the Society's year.

Under the watchful gaze of the judge's bench we started the meal with warm goat's cheese followed by the corn fed chicken breast with a vegetarian option of mushroom and spinach filo parcel, all suitably washed down by various choices of wines. The meal was then rounded off with warm apple tart for dessert.



L-R: Naomi Clark, Tor Harmer, Gemma Blacker, Alex Leipold and Rob Blacker.



L-R: John Schick, Nick Randall, Robert Coupland, John Stammers, Colleen Chapman, Billy Cheeseman and Adrian Chapman.

As always it was a great occasion for meeting up and chatting and we were fortunate to be joined by the Headmaster, Mr. Nick Dorey, and his wife, Helen, together with former Headmaster, Mr. Christian Lanzer. Also with us for the evening were the newly appointed Heads of School; Gemma Houghton and Andrew Vale-Taylor and the Deputy Heads; Matthew Stockley, Winston Campbell and Emily Saunders. Photographs of these and others who attended can be found on the Alumni section of the School Website under [www.bethanyschool.org.uk](http://www.bethanyschool.org.uk).

Special thanks go to Robert Pilbeam for organizing this event and thanks also to all who came along and made it such an enjoyable evening.

Nick Randall

## Founder's Great, Great Granddaughter visits Bethany

ON 1st October we were delighted to welcome Mrs Odette Oliver and her husband to Bethany. Mrs Oliver is the great, great granddaughter of the Reverend Joseph Kendon, the School's founder. She lives in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand and, whilst on holiday in the UK, asked to come and visit the School founded by her great, great grandfather. Mrs Oliver took back with her a copy of "From Acorn to Oak Tree" for her mother, Lois, who has

subsequently written to us sending photographs of her father, Charles Kendon. He left Kent in 1909 at the age of 20 to become a minister in New Zealand and his service to the Methodist Church there spanned 60 years until his death in 1979.

By sheer coincidence, that same afternoon we also received a visit from Mrs Helen Chown (née Benians) and her husband. Mrs Chown is the great granddaughter of W.A. Benians, who

was Headmaster at Bethany from 1878-1916. With Mrs Chown was her cousin, Mrs Penelope Benians, who now also lives in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. Mrs Chown has an aunt Joanna, now aged 96, who she believes was Bethany's only girl pupil for a short while in the 1920's.

We enjoyed meeting both families and are always pleased to welcome visitors and former pupils to the School.



Odette Oliver and her husband outside Kendon House.

## Summer Sports

THERE was a good turn-out for the Cricket and Rounders' matches which were played at the School on Sunday, 28th June. A TBS team played the Bethany 1st XI and there was also a Rounders match on what was a beautiful summer's afternoon.

The cricket match began at 12.00, a little later than the scheduled start, due mainly to a few of the Old Boys still recovering from the night before! The toss was won by the School who, breaking with tradition, elected to bat first, with the game shortened to 25 overs. The TBS team comprised mainly players who left between 1999 and 2001, with the exception of John Rummy and Jonathan Coles (over on a visit from America) who stepped in to play at the last minute.

Baz Bignell and Phil Semmens opened for the School and got off to a good start sharing an opening stand of 35 before Baz was out for 19 off the bowling of Hugh Anderson, who by this time was bowling barefooted!

It was the second wicket stand of 144 between Phil Semmens and Mike Churchill which really put the School in control. The TBS team used seven bowlers in an attempt to restrict the run rate with only Tim Golds' part time off spin actually maintaining respectable figures from his five overs. Eventually, after much toiling, a few dropped catches and some great shorts, Semmens was bowled by Tom Humphries for 102, the second and last wicket to fall for the School. By this point the platform had been laid and Churchill (73 no) and Freddie Hulbert (23 no) pushed the score onto 214 for 2 after 25 overs.

After a short lunch break it was the Old Boys' turn to bat. They got off to a flying start with Harry Withers and George Bright powering the ball to all corners of the Arena before George, on 18, succumbed to an old injury sustained in the same fixture two years ago. The TBS team reached 60 off 7 overs before Mike Churchill, who seemed determined to pick up the man of the match award, took 3 wickets in 2 overs to remove the TBS top order, including Withers, for an all action 40.

Tom Humphries and Ollie Rogers steadied the ship but when Tom (20) was caught and bowled by Churchill, his fourth wicket in as many overs, the tail waned and Warner and Helesfay took two



Smiles all round for the rounders...



The Bethanians' Society and the 1st XI cricket teams, 28 June 2009.

wickets apiece to leave the TBS team 41 short at the close, with Ollie having played a swashbuckling cameo of 47 off 25 balls.

As is traditional in this fixture, a Salix bat is presented to the school player with the most runs and a cricket ball is given to the player with the most wickets. On this occasion Phil Semmens won the bat with his 102 runs and Mike Churchill, who also won the man of the match award for a well taken 73 along with bowling figures of 4 for 23 off 5 overs, won the ball.

The Rounders match did take place and thanks must go to the old girls who came along to play. Both teams were somewhat improvised with boarders from across the year groups and staff children making up the school team. It is probably not surprising that the TBS team won 26 to 8.

On behalf of the TBS, I would like to thank Tor Harmer for organising the whole day, including lunch, the rounders game and the barbecue in The Orchard which followed the matches and which made a great end to the event. Thanks too to Matt Payne, who along with Baz Bignell helped get the school team together and sorted out the facilities for us to use.

A big thank also you to Ray Richards, whose support of and help with the event enables us to keep the fixture going. Finally, thanks to Phil Marriott who has always supported these events and has worked tirelessly to ensure the School has had top class sports teams with top class sporting facilities.

A good day was had by all!

Ed Streeton-Smith

## The Bethanians' Society Calendar of Events 2010

<b>Tuesday, 19th January</b>	TBS Committee Meeting
<b>4th, 5th, 6th February</b>	School Production "Grease" at the Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook. Tickets £10 available from the school office at Bethany
<b>Sunday, 21st March</b>	Spring Sports, Football and Netball/Hockey followed by a buffet supper (venue to be confirmed). If anyone is interested in helping to get teams together please contact Freddy Proctor on 01959 565534.
<b>Friday, 26th March</b>	20 Club Dinner – East India Club
<b>Tuesday, 20th April</b>	TBS Committee Meeting
<b>Saturday, 19th June</b>	TBS Reunion Day and AGM
<b>Sunday, 27th June</b>	Summer Sports, Cricket and Rounders followed by a barbecue at Bethany
<b>Tuesday, 20th July</b>	TBS Committee Meeting
<b>Saturday, 2nd October</b>	Annual Dinner at The Old School House, Brew House Hotel, Tunbridge Wells
<b>Tuesday, 19th October</b>	TBS Committee Meeting

## Reunion Day 20 June

WE were delighted to welcome the many Old Bethanians who attended Reunion Day on 20th June. Several were visiting the School for the first time since they had left and many are familiar faces who have loyally attended many such days.

It was a particular pleasure to welcome back former headmaster, Christian Lanzer, who travelled from London to join us for the day.

Everyone enjoyed the lunch in the dining hall before making their way to the TBS AGM in the afternoon, during which the structure of The Bethanians' Society was presented to those present and is outlined below:

### The Structure of The Bethanians' Society.

#### The School and The Committee

- To unite the Alumni of Bethany School

#### The role of the School

- To take the burden of balancing the books away from the Committee
- To finance a programme of events
- To run the administration of The Bethanians' Society through a dedicated Alumni Co-ordinator

#### The role of the Committee

- To provide a strong and cohesive link between the School and the Alumni
- To set and monitor an annual programme of events
- To set an annual budget for events
- To provide a communication forum for the Alumni
- To work with the School to establish a way of recruiting young TBS members onto the Committee or into organisational roles to ensure the future sustainability of the Society

#### The role of the Alumni Co-ordinator

- To take care of the Society's administration
- To manage the membership database
- To produce the Bulletins and communication mediums for the Alumni
- To maintain the website
- To oversee the maintenance of the archive

#### The Committee Structure

- President
- Alumni Co-ordinator / Secretary – forms an integral link with the School
- Finance / Treasurer / Budget Setter
- Event / Key Initiative Coordinators / Directors
- Committee Members to assist the above

#### Communication

- Newsletter – printed in late Autumn circa 6 - 8 pages. Updates quarterly / ad hoc basis by email – covering up to date news, key sports and social events through the year, news from OBs, heritage news and features and calendar for the forthcoming year

#### The budget setting process for the programme of events

- Set in Autumn each year
- Proposed by Committee
- Approved by Governors



Richard Stevens and Ken Kingston and their wives enjoy a summer lunch.



Jason Merricks shares a laugh with Robin Toop under the shade of the TBS stand on Reunion Day.



Former headmaster, Christian Lanzer, with Nigel Kimber, TBS Honorary Treasurer.

#### Funding of future events

- The School will fund all events in accordance with the budget except those where there is a charge to cover costs such as the Annual Dinner.

#### Subscriptions

- No need to continue to pay – the Society is now free
- But if subscriptions continue to be paid they will be greatly received and will contribute to the Society's programme.

Following the AGM, John Anthony made a short speech to commemorate the fact that Eric Adler (Speakers 1946-49) was attending his 60th consecutive Annual Reunion and presented him with a cricketing cake "60 Not Out". During the course of the day Eric kindly gave the School his collection of Bethany memorabilia which will be displayed in the archives.



John Anthony makes an address to recognise Eric Adler's 60th consecutive annual reunion.

## FROM THE ARCHIVE



Mr O. W. T. Morris and class in the old 4th Form room under the centre gable of South Wing, summer 1950.

To keep up to date on news and future events in The Bethanians' Society visit [www.bethanyschool.org.uk](http://www.bethanyschool.org.uk) and go to 'Alumni'