Warwick School’s response to Covid-19

Old Warwickians around the world

In conversation with Kishan Bodalia
The number of OWs residing in different countries outside the UK

Old Warwickians around the world

Opportunities for camaraderie, friendship and networking

“No distance of place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of each other’s worth.”

Words written over 200 years ago by Poet Laureate Robert Southey seem especially relevant today. From Belize to Budapest and from Luxembourg to Livingstone, Old Warwickians are living all around the world. According to postal addresses on our OW database, 577 OWs currently reside in 49 different countries outside the UK.

If you would like to make contact with fellow OWs please join www.warwickschoolconnect.org – our free online networking platform for OWs. You can also email alumni@warwickschool.org.

Life as a geologist in Canada has taken Martin Sykes (WS 1994-2004) to beautiful and remote locations such as the glacier sculpted landscape of the Arctic. Martin has learnt survival techniques for winters in -40°C, including how to fire a shotgun to defend against polar bears.

Peter Ling (WS 1959-67), living in the USA since 2007, is a stage designer and former senior lecturer in Scenography at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. This Ling family shot was taken at the High School graduation in Fairfield, Connecticut of his twin daughters Ruby and Maya.

Tony (Spence) Miles (WS 1971-82) has been living in Luxembourg since 1987. Tony regularly returns to Warwick to meet old school friends and is a passionate traveller. Pictured with his family on a visit to Tanzania in 2019. Look carefully in the background!

Dr Simon Twigger (WS 1980-87) has been in the USA for over 25 years and lives in Boulder, Colorado with his wife and three children. Simon is the Director of Data Science at BioTeam, a life sciences IT consulting firm. He enjoys getting out on the trails and slopes of Colorado when not on Zoom calls.

(Jeffrey) Blair Hammond (WS 1956-63) emigrated to South Africa in 1969 but “saw the light” and moved to Botswana in 1984 where he stayed for 34 years as the manager of a civil engineering consultancy firm. On his retirement in 2016 he moved with his wife to Livingstone in Zambia close to Victoria Falls, where he is kept busy with a smallholding just outside of town.

Rob Hirons (WS 1961-67) spent more than twenty years working for the British Council in southern Europe (Greece and Portugal) and the Middle East (Iran, Kuwait, Syria and Egypt). In 2001 he arrived in Belize to build The Lodge at Big Falls in the rainforest in the south of the country.

István Ferenczi (WS 1994-95) is local green councillor in the 19th district of Budapest, Hungary. István has recently been elected as regional chair of the Green Party.
Tony Fane (WS 1951-58) lives with his family in Sydney, Australia. Now an Emeritus Professor at the University of New South Wales, Tony is semi-retired after appointments as Director of Membrane Research Centres in Singapore and UNSW. Tony finds time to go sailing near his home south of Sydney.

Keith Wellings (WS 1968-79) has just completed a posting to the British Embassy in Tehran as Director of International Trade. Interestingly, this is where he spent the school holidays in his second spell as a boarder at Warwick (1975-79) as his father was also posted to the Foreign Office in Iran. Boarders from 75-79 may remember Keith learning to play the bagpipes and these efforts have stood him in good stead in his diplomatic career, culminating in him piping Carlos Quieroz and the entire Iranian football team off to the 2018 World Cup!

Buildings surveyor Simon Bond (WS 1988-99) lives near Sydney, with his wife Lucy (née Frykman) and daughters Skye and Isla. Pictured at Jervis Bay, NSW.

Christian faith drew Alexander Sampson (WS 2008-19) to Hong Kong in 2020, where he spent an extraordinary seven months working with St Stephen’s Society as part of their gap year programme. Alexander lived and worked with teenagers from a range of difficult backgrounds, from triad involvement to gaming addictions. He worked across the city during the pandemic to offer vital aid to those in the poorest areas.

Missionary Roger Tripp (WS 1955-63) is pictured with one of his staff graduating at Africa Renewal University in Kampala, Uganda.

Mark Bailey (WS 1970-77), living in Auckland, New Zealand, was looking forward to spending a year in the UK with his family. Mark’s youngest son was lined up for UK football trials in April, which were then delayed due to Covid. Just before the March lockdown Mark was fortunate to squeeze in a return visit to the school with father Peter (WS 1942-49).

Chris Mo-Yung (WS 1994-98), pictured with wife Carey and son Cavan, is one of over 230 OWs currently in Hong Kong. Chris is a bridge engineer and associate director at Tony Gee and Partners.
New Head Master

After two years at the helm, Dr Deneal Smith left the role of Head Master of Warwick School last summer. Deneal has huge affection for the school and sends his gratitude to OWs for their warmth and support throughout his time in post. Deneal worked tirelessly to develop the school and especially pastoral and academic experiences for the boys. We thank him for his support for OWs and wish him the very best for the future.

Following a comprehensive and rigorous process, Mr James Barker (WS 1991-97) was appointed as the new Head Master of Warwick School. James is well-known to the Warwick community, having spent his formative years here as a teacher before returning as Deputy Head (Co-curricular), Senior Deputy Head and, from August, as Acting Head. A Philosophy graduate from the University of Cardiff, his school leadership journey began as Head of Sixth Form at Abingdon School before moving to be Assistant Head at RGS Worcester.

James says, “It is an enormous privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility of guiding our great school at this exciting time in its long and proud history.

Back in 1997, when I left as a pupil, I would never have imagined that one day I would go on to become Head Master. My pride as an Old Warwickian presents not as a desire to maintain the status quo, but rather as respect for the school’s traditions coupled with a commitment to ensuring that we continue to inspire and nurture every pupil to thrive in the world both now and in the future.

The last few months have been challenging for us all and the school has provided stability and continuity for its pupils. Now we can begin to look ahead and work in harmony with the other Foundation schools to capitalise on the opportunities presented by Project One Campus. Our aim is to deliver an outstanding education that recognises the individuality of each school but builds on their collective strength.

We are preparing the boys of Warwick School for a rapidly changing world. It is our challenge to develop their individual abilities. We must equip them with the intellectual and emotional tools, as well as the qualifications, to blossom into well-rounded young men who can play a positive role in the world.”

Dr Simon Chapman, who has been at Warwick for over 27 years, takes over James’s previous role as Senior Deputy Head.

The challenges of Covid-19

The Covid-19 virus has made substantial demands on the imagination of senior management and staff who have risen outstandingly to the challenges of lockdown and teaching by remote means. With strong leadership, resilience and flexibility, Warwick School continued throughout 2020 to deliver academic teaching of the highest quality, meaningful learning and a creative all-round education.

During the full lockdown from March to September, we delivered live lessons and replicated the school day entirely. Delivering lessons virtually to all students and assessing student engagement and progress was established quickly and was continually monitored, reviewed and adapted.

The staged return of Years 6, 10 and 12 in the summer went off smoothly. In September, with excitement and trepidation, we re-opened the doors to all our pupils. Remote learning continued for pupils and staff isolating at home and social distancing and bubbles were pivotal in reopening the school.

Legacy enables first boarding bursary

Thanks to a generous legacy left to Warwick School by Martin Lambert (WS 1944-51) who died in 2019, the school has been able to award its first Boarding Bursary. The bursary was awarded to a pupil through the Royal National Children’s Springboard Foundation, which provides life-transforming opportunities for disadvantaged and vulnerable children in top boarding schools.

Legacies made by OWs are vital in ensuring we are able to support future generations of deserving boys at Warwick School. Please contact Phillip Rothwell, Director of Development, if you would like to discuss how you can support the school in this way.

Oxbridge 2020

Congratulations to the following students who headed to Oxbridge in the autumn:

- Ben Pollock, to read Engineering at Brasenose College, Oxford
- Tom Allin, to read Economics at Selwyn College, Cambridge
- Albert Williams, to read Engineering at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford
- Peter Walker, to read Classics at Merton College, Oxford
- Kieran Brooker, to read Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
- William Blake OW, to read History at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.
The Bubble Sessions

In the absence of live music events, our Music department has been transformed into a recording studio. Year-group ensembles have been busy rehearsing and recording tracks for a Warwick School album released before Christmas. ‘The Bubble Sessions’ featured 300 musicians from Junior School to Sixth Form.

Remembrance

The school always remembers the many OWs currently and formerly serving in the armed forces and those who gave their lives in the service of their country. For our 2020 Remembrance a virtual whole school assembly was held and we especially remembered Pte Joe Whittaker (WS 1999-2005), a reserve soldier attached to 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2008.

Geoff Tedstone honoured

Former Director of Sport Geoff Tedstone (WS 1972-79 and WS staff 1994-2019) popped back just before the autumn lockdown to see a new plaque placed on the old cricket pavilion in recognition of his many years of service to sport at Warwick School.

Drama

Drama continues to provide opportunities for creativity and fun. The House drama competition and a Showcase evening on 13 November highlighted many of the ways the school has adapted.

Virtual Careers Interviewing

As part of our response to this rapidly changing world, our Careers Speed Interviewing Evening took place virtually. Huge thanks to 67 OWs and parents who gave our Year 13 students the increasingly important opportunity to experience and practice virtual job interviews via Teams.

Lord-Lieutenant Cadet

Many congratulations to Cadet Sgt and Senior Prefect Richard Rose, who has been appointed Lord-Lieutenant Cadet by the Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

Trips and tours

The cancellation of school trips has been a tough blow. Despite the cancellation of their rugby tour to South Africa, our rugby players were proud to have raised a staggering £23,000 for the charity Homes for Kids in South Africa.

Boarding

The majority of our current boarders are from Hong Kong and, increasingly, China. We now have 16 boarders in Years 9 and 10 in Way House and 46 boarders in Years 11 to 13 in the main School House. Most of our boarders started the Michaelmas term two weeks early as they had to quarantine on arrival in the UK.

Eco Flag Award

Four years of hard work, setbacks and successes culminated in an Eco Flag Award for the school – our first Green Flag!

Sport

Despite the challenges Covid-19 has placed on sport, there has been no lack of commitment or enthusiasm from the boys who have continued to enjoy sport at the school. External school fixtures have, of course, been greatly missed.

The Sports Department finished the summer term with a fun-filled Virtual Sports Day, bringing together the school houses for a range of sporting challenges.

OW coach of the England 7s Women’s team, Charlie Hayter, joined our 1st XV players on a webinar to analyse their performance in the U18 Schools Cup Semi Final vs. Northampton School for Boys.

Congratulations to Warwick 1st XV, voted NextGenXV School Team of the Decade.

It is great to see six OWs are now in the Worcester 1st XV, including 2020 leavers Fin Smith, Jack Forsythe and Harry Spence.

Trinity Arts Award

Warwick School was recognised by Trinity College London as one of 56 Trinity Champion Centres across the UK.

Concealment by Cameron Rees
Warwick School families – The Twigger family

There are many generation families at Warwick – boys with fathers, uncles and grandfathers who attended the school. Here we look at the Twiggers – seven men from one family who attended Warwick between 1918 and 1987 (with five connections to King’s High!).

1. Leslie John (Jack) Twigger
   WS 1919-22
   Little is known about Jack’s school days, although he was congratulated in Portcullis 1922 for passing the Oxford School Certificate exam. In later life, he was a teacher, Headmaster of Coton End School, Warwick councillor and chorister at St Mary’s.

2. Arthur Spencer Twigger
   WS 1918-25

3. Horace Twigger
   WS 1918-21
   Won scholarship to Warwick aged 13 but had to leave when it expired. A short apprenticeship as a mechanical engineer was followed by service with the Royal Engineers. He joined the Indian army and spent many years in India and Pakistan on military and civil engineering projects. Retired from the army in 1949 as Lt Col. and worked until retirement for the MoD.

4. John Arthur Twigger
   WS 1949-56
   John was in the CCF and was awarded House colours for rugby. After Warwick he went to Harper Adams Agricultural College and spent his working life in farming and agriculture. He met his cousin Pat on their first day at Warwick in Form III B.

5. Anthony P Twigger
   WS 1949-55
   Tony was equally active at school and enjoyed the CCF and most sports, including pole vaulting, rugby, tennis and swimming in the outdoor pool. Tony became Senior Prefect and Head of School House. He met Jean Ingram – then Head Girl at King’s High – in his last summer at school and they married in 1959.

6. Patrick A Twigger
   WS 1949-58
   Pat Twigger (also known as Bert) and brother Tony were born and brought up in India before starting Warwick as boarders in 1949. Pat became Head of School 1957-58, Captain 1st XV, CCF Drum Major and Captain of the Shooting Team. He was also awarded half-colours for Gymnastics.

7. Simon N Twigger
   WS 1980-87
   Simon was a prefect and member of the 1st XV while at Warwick. Now Dr Twigger, Simon has been in the US for over 25 years and lives in Boulder, Colorado. He returned to school in 2018 to talk to boys about careers in biochemistry and bioinformatics in the UK and USA. Simon is a wild-water racer and presented his Team GB top to the school archives.
Warwick Independent Schools Foundation

Warwick Preparatory School, Warwick Junior School, King’s High School and Warwick School are now on one campus.

2020 was not the time together we had envisaged but at the most difficult of times, the schools came together as one, respecting our individual identities, but working towards a common good.

Richard Nicholson, Principal of the Foundation says, “Looking back to March, it is hardly believable what our schools have been through. In the Foundation, I pay tribute to everyone for the vital roles each has played to ensure that our schools and the Foundation have remained a beacon of excellence. Thank you.

We should reflect on what we have achieved. Virtual schools were created almost instantaneously, we supported critical worker children throughout the term and the holidays; Holiday Action resumed; the online Summer School stimulated the minds of our pupils over what could have been a long and difficult summer. At every turn, the common mantra was: what can we do for the pupils in our care.”

www.foundationathome.co.uk was created to serve the Warwick Schools Foundation community throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The website celebrates the outstanding efforts made by everyone in adapting to the challenges.
Celebrating our Old Warwickians

There have been some great additions to our ‘Rogues Gallery’ on display just off the main school corridor by Chapel. These portraits celebrate a range of OW achievements past and present.

Christian Homer OBE
WS 1987-92
Team Principal of Red Bull Racing

Ben Hanlin
WS 1999-2004
Magician and TV Presenter

Josh McGuire
WS 1999-2006
Actor

James TW
WS 2005-15
Singer Songwriter

Tim Dalton
WS 1952-59
England Rugby International

Dan Byles
WS 1985-92
Explorer, Army Officer and MP

Simon Lycett
WS 1974-85
Floral Decorator and Broadcaster

Michael Billington OBE
WS 1949-57
Theatre Critic, Author and Broadcaster

The Hon Sir David Foskett
WS 1956-67
High Court Judge

Martin Green
WS staff 1970-2005
England Rugby Coach

Mark Evans
WS 1974-81
Vet, Scientist, Engineer and Broadcaster

Leo Hughes
WS 1999-06
Associate Film Producer

Steve Hamilton Shaw
WS 1981-92
Film Producer

Lord Frederick Mulley
WS 1929-35
Defence Secretary and MP

David Phillips MBE
WS 1955-61
Marathon Man

Charlie Hayter
WS 2000-07
England Sevens Rugby International

Andrew Mogrelia
WS 1970-77
British Conductor

Martin Richards QPM
WS 1966-77
Chief Constable Sussex Police

San Ldr Hugh Nichols MBE
WS 1990-96
RAF Pilot

Neil Smith
WS 1974-84
England and Warwickshire Cricketer
Further suggestions for our ‘OW Rogues Gallery’ gratefully received. Please email a.douglas@warwickschool.org
In conversation with...

Kishan Bodalia (WS 2002-13), the doctor who DJs

In an exciting new series of conversations with Old Warwickians, John Jefferies (WS staff 1995 to date) caught up with former Head of School Kishan Bodalia (WS 2002-13). Kishan has been making headlines working on the front-line for the NHS as a junior doctor while juggling his growing career as a DJ. He is currently working on a renal ward at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

Kishan the doctor

Kishan graduated in Medicine from the University of Birmingham in July 2019. In normal circumstances junior doctors spend their first two years rotating around different departments. Kishan began his first year in the challenging environment of A&E at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton then, from December 2019 to March 2020, he was on a respiratory ward just as the impact of Covid-19 began to be felt. Kishan would have switched roles in April but, facing the pandemic, the NHS completely restructured its rotas to cope with the unique challenges that medical staff were facing. As a result and within months of qualifying, Kishan was having to help seriously ill patients who would deteriorate very quickly. The dreadful impact of Covid-19 was first brought forcefully home to him when one colleague, in charge of a ward of six patients, had to make phone calls to all six families during one shift, advising them that their loved ones were reaching or had reached their end of life. He takes each day as it comes, goes where he is needed and, working with a great team, is hugely valuing the responsibility of being a doctor during such unprecedented times.

Kishan the patient

Kishan contracted Covid-19 himself in early May. He had mild symptoms and was surprised when he tested positive. He made a good recovery, although suffered and struggled with post-Covid fatigue for two months.

Kishan the DJ

At school, Kishan always loved music, especially dance music. At university he loved attending events, clubs and festivals. He began DJing as an artist and, during his second year, set up a record label with some fellow students. Remarkably, in his third year he won an international DJ contest run by Tomorrowland. Since then he has performed at a number of major international festivals and even signed music to record labels including Sony Music.

The doctor who DJs

In April 2020, with the NHS under particularly severe pressure, and finding dance music so uplifting, Kishan began to post his DJing from his kitchen on social media. This immediately took off as it appealed to all sorts of people who love dance and who also wanted to connect with the NHS. #NHSessions now has a huge following.

In November Kishan heard he is the winner of an iGlobal Award – an incredible achievement given his intense work-load as a front-line doctor.

The future

Kishan enjoyed his time at school and, when asked what advice he might offer to current students, he said “The best advice I would give is to set your goals and break them down so you are working towards something achievable all the time. Choose a path and have a map. There will be diversions and choices so be flexible... but set your goals because that will always give you direction.”

Thank you

JJ hopes it’s not too long before we see Kishan again. With school currently closed to external visitors and JJ not especially hoping to meet Kishan in his medical capacity, it looks like he will have to brush up his snorkelling.

Kishan’s Five Favourites

- **Favourite book** – John Seymour’s Introducing Neuro-Linguistic Programming
- **Favourite film** – The Hunger Games
- **Favourite artist** – Calvin Harris
- **Favourite song** – Summer by Calvin Harris
- **Favourite Place** – Phi Phi Island in Thailand – where he hopes to go snorkelling again one day!

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www.warwickschoolconnect.org  10  www.oldwarwickians.org
We are currently in touch with over 6,000 OWs across the globe. With events and reunions on hold, communications are more important than ever. Please stay in touch with each other and the Alumni Relations team at school (alumni@warwickschool.org, tel: 01926 776404). We are not so very far away.

The Old Warwickian Association

With university education going virtual, the social side of student life has been greatly affected. In response to this, David Holroyd (WS 2011-18) took the initiative to fulfil his responsibilities in Hertford College’s Entz Committee, converted his house into a nightclub and hosted a virtual rave over Zoom. Fellow university students and other OWs joined DJ Dave’s Homemade Rave and danced along to club songs of the 21st century. The event raised donations for The Access Project, a charity dedicated to helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds get into top universities.

DJ Dave’s homemade rave

In 2020 Andrew Rapley (WS 1998-2009) started, with other trustees, an Awesome Foundation in Birmingham, giving out no strings attached mini-grants to people and projects that make positive change and do good in a particular area. Andrew says “Birmingham is beaming with creativity and we’re looking to fund meaningful projects – anything that makes Birmingham a better place to live and work, that puts a smile on someone’s face or helps solve social problems the city faces. Head to www.awesomefoundation.org/en/chapters/bhx to read more, become a trustee or to make a donation.”

Awesome Foundation

With huge regret, many of our 2020 OW events and reunions were postponed or cancelled. We look forward to the day when we will be able to re-open our Warwick School doors to OWs so you can see how amazing the school and Foundation campus look today. Much has changed but much will still be very familiar to OWs.

Events and reunions

Floral decorator Simon Lycett (WS 1974-85) entered into the festive spirit with bespoke virtual masterclasses and online seasonal demonstrations. In addition to some gorgeous floral events, workshops connecting florists around the world and a bit of Government lobbying to support the hospitality industry, Simon’s new book People of the Flower Market was published in October. Follow Simon on Twitter @SimonLycett and Instagram @simonlycett.

Festive floral fabulousness

Firefighter Will Jones (WS 2003-10) ran a half-marathon in full fire kit and breathing apparatus round his local area in lieu of the Great North Run. Will raised £1,250 for The Fire Fighters Charity.

Running on fire

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Build a trike for Simon Weston

Falklands War veteran Simon Weston hopes to realise a lifetime’s ambition to ride a motorcycle, thanks to a campaign launched by industry veteran and record-breaking rider Norman Hyde (WS 1956-63).

Norman says “For me, Simon is a very modern war hero, who demonstrates great British traits of dogged determination, courage and absolute resilience combined with humility. Times are tough for many people, but I do hope that, if you can, you will help me to achieve Simon’s dream. We’re crowdfunding to raise £25,000 to build a special Trike.”

See www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/simonwestontrike

Norman captured the World Sidecar Land Speed Record in 1972 on his Roadrunner III 850cc Triumph Trident powered outfit, at an average speed of 161.8 mph, a record that remained unbeaten for over 35 years.

Build a trike for Simon Weston

Luceat

Jim Fellows (WS 2010-16) with his choir Luceat put together a lockdown recording to raise money for the Cathedral Choirs Emergency Fund. Listen in at www.luceatchoir.co.uk/media

www.warwickschoolconnect.org
Ten men and ten challenges for mental health

Dean Lomas (WS 1992-97) is one of #10Ten10 – a team of ten men, united by baby loss, who are supporting each other through ten challenging events to break the stigma of men’s mental health.

The ten events planned for 2020 included wolf runs, the three peaks challenge, a zip wire, tandem skydive and the Birmingham Half-Marathon.

Despite Covid, the team successfully completed the zip line, skydive, shark dive and the three peaks challenges. The four wolf runs and half-marathon are postponed to 2021.

The team have currently raised over £14,000 for the Lily Mae Foundation. Please support them if you can. https://justgiving.com/campaign/10Ten10.

The King’s Singers digital tour

Ed Button (WS 1997-2008) joined his fellow King’s Singers for four digital concerts enjoyed by many from the comfort of their own home. Four live-streamed performances in beautiful six-part harmony raised money for Rufus’ Friends’ Fund, a registered charity which provides day-activities, breaks and holidays for families, local to Warwickshire, who have a member with learning disabilities.

Olá!

England M55 veteran cross country runner Peter Knight (WS 1968-79) competed for Old Warwickians in the Thames Hare and Hounds five mile autumn taster. The race, run virtually, enabled Peter to compete from his home in Portugal where, he says, a bit of rain wouldn’t go amiss. Since 1983 Peter has been farming on the coast of the Alentejo region of Portugal, growing turf grass for all the major football stadia of Europe and exporting vegetables to northern European supermarkets. Four children, tennis, sailing, surfing, mountain biking, running and the local choir keeps him busy!

Happy Birthday

Margaret Keighley, née Tingle (WS staff 1947-62)

Margaret Keighley, née Tingle, celebrated her 99th birthday in July with family, cake and bubbles.

Ralph Thornton (WS staff 1948-99)

Ralph Thornton celebrated his 97th birthday in October. He was hugely respected by those he taught, Ralph’s love of mathematics and his clarity, patience and understanding, inspired decades of pupils at Warwick.

Tim Barrow GCMG

Congratulations to Sir Tim Barrow LVO MBE (WS 1977-82), the Political Director at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Tim has been awarded a GCMG, the highest rank of the order of St Michael and St George, for services to foreign policy. Tim was appointed as the UK’s Permanent Representative to the EU in January 2017.

Military appointments and honours

Congratulations to James Cook OBE (WS 1982-89) who has been appointed Brigadier and to Major Michael Pimm (WS 1993-2000), awarded an MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Tim Barrow GCMG

Sir Tim Barrow GCMG

LVO MBE

Brigadier James Cook OBE

Major Michael Pimm MBE
OWA President’s Dinner

The 2020 President’s Dinner, scheduled for RAF Museum Cosford in May, was another Covid casualty. Many OWs and staff raised a glass to the OWA at home that evening!

Plans for the 2021 President’s Dinner have been put on hold as we anticipate gatherings of such numbers are unlikely by May.

The two Peter Presidents – Peter Varnish and Peter Baird – have plans to combine their postponed dinners to hold a joint celebration in 2022. What a party that will be! More news anon.

OWA Committee 2021

President – Peter Baird FRCS (WS 1953-61)
Chairman – Steve Tubb (WS 1971-82)
Head Master – James Barker (WS 1991-97)
The committee retained the option to co-opt members.
President Elect (to serve as President 2022) – Peter Varnish OBE (WS 1954-65).

OWA AGM 2020

The 2020 OWA AGM took place virtually on 5 December. Reports were received from the Chairman, Head Master, Treasurer and Alumni Officer.
Outgoing chairman Jim Button and co-opted committee members David Stevens (WS 1968-74) and Adrian Keeling QC (WS 1975-85) were thanked for their tremendous support for the OWA over a number of years. The accounts were approved.
2020 President Peter Varnish has had little opportunity to fulfil his role and engagements as President and was re-nominated as President Elect (to serve again as President 2022).

OWA President 2021

Peter Baird FRCS (WS 1953-61)

Most of Peter’s family were medical, with grandparents, uncles and aunts being doctors, dentists, surgeons and nurses. It was no surprise that, after eight great years at school, particularly the last two in the boarding house, he went to St John’s College Cambridge and on to St. Thomas’ Hospital London to study medicine and qualify in 1968 to use a stethoscope. Five years of basic medical surgical and casualty jobs followed, during which he decided to embark on a career in Orthopaedics with a further six years training via the Westminster Hospital London, where there was a strong emphasis on the social side of Orthopaedics – especially golf. Peter learnt perforce to wield a golf club as well as a scalpel (the latter he hopes with more precision than the former). There followed 30 years, until he retired in 2010, as Consultant at St Stephen’s Hospital Fulham, subsequently rebuilt as the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, where he was encouraged and expected to treat injuries and diseases affecting the whole skeleton from neck to big toe. Peter concentrated latterly on the shoulder, with a very important emphasis on organising and delivering training to the surgeons of the future which he found particularly rewarding.
The medical gene expresses itself strongly in his offspring – three of his five children are hospital doctors, one of whom also carries a very strong golf gene more proficient than his. After retirement, medicolegal practice, social golf, a large garden, 11 grandchildren, a black labrador and an excellent chef (wife Madeleine) have, he thinks, kept him from decline.

Peter Baird (WS 1953-61)
Recent research has uncovered the story behind the east window of Warwick School chapel and its dedication to Cecil Meiggs. The window was inserted between 1902 and 1906 and was designed by the eccentric pre-Raphaelite Henry Holiday (1839-1927) at a total cost of £114-4s.

The school was not immune to infectious diseases in those pre-antibiotic days and the Lent term of 1902 was no exception. The term finished with the tragic death in the school sanatorium (the site of the present science block) of a 12-year-old boarder, Cecil Meiggs.

Cecil’s mother wrote to the headmaster of Warwick School, Rev. Robert Percival Brown, after the funeral, and offered to finance the central portion of the east window of the chapel:

My dear Boys. I wish it had been possible for me to tell you how much your loving tribute helped me in one of the saddest moments of my life. The tokens of love and devotion to my boy will for ever be treasured by me as some of my most hallowed memories.

And you, dear Cadets, whom he loved so, may you leave behind you, when your “last post” sounds, the memory of a blameless life, the highest tribute to your God, your Parents, your Masters and your School mates.

Yours ever gratefully, Gertrude Meiggs

So who was Cecil Meiggs?

“Though not a brilliant boy, he was exceedingly painstaking, and, in spite of his few years, had already attained to a form intended for much older members. Gentle and unassuming, he was the soul of honour, and throughout the three years of his life at School [in fact, it was less than two], was never known to say or do a base thing. When our own time comes may we each leave as fair a record behind”, exhorts a 1902 edition of The Portcullis magazine. At the time of his death, Cecil was in 10th position in the Lower Third, a form containing, as was usual at the time, bright boys of 10 years of age, ready to be rapidly promoted, and less able boys of up to 15 years old.

How do we know all this? It so happens that the American mother of a university friend of Mr John Jefferies was a Meiggs, and her father was a first cousin of Cecil.

With grateful thanks to Peter O’Grady for the chapel photographs, to Barry and Sylvia Williamson and to John Jefferies for the initial enquiry about the window, and the connection with Cecil Meiggs. The photographs of the Meiggs come from “Granny Meiggs’ Album” using an extremely early Kodak camera brought over from New York in 1888.

Read the full essay at www.oldwarwickians.org/archives.
Warwick School in 110 Objects

Take a look at our new exhibits and nominate an object

Warwick School in 110 Objects is an online museum first created to mark Warwick School’s 1,100th anniversary in 2014. The museum was inspired by the History of the World in 100 Objects, a series of talks on BBC Radio 4 which were based on artefacts in the British Museum.

This online museum explores different facets of Warwick School through 110 items. Each object, artefact or memento tells a different story, reflecting something of the life and history of the school. Objects have been nominated by current boys, staff, OWs and members of the wider school community. A number of the objects are on display in the school museum and many can be seen around the school today.

Take a look at our new museum on www.oldwarwickians.org/110objects

Nominate an object

It is now seven years since the museum went live and, since then, much has happened at Warwick School. To reflect the ever-changing life of the school, objects are continually refreshed.

If you would like to nominate an object please email alumni@warwickschool.org, explaining why you have chosen the object and attaching an image if you have one.
OWA – the next generation

The values of friendship, camaraderie and support seem especially relevant during difficult times.

Warm welcome to our 2020 leavers

It would be fair to say that with so much uncertainty and the cancellation of events and exams, these brave young men did not enjoy their last few months at Warwick School and receive the send-off they deserved.

Speech Days and U6 Graduation were cancelled. At their U6 Graduation our leavers would normally have been welcomed into the Old Warwickian Association and been presented with their much coveted OW tie. We do welcome them into the OW Association and promise them that, when such gatherings are allowed, we will organise a proper occasion for them.

Many of our 2020 cohort headed to universities to face lockdowns and isolation. We would like to offer them and our other younger OWs as much support as possible as they venture beyond Warwick.

www.warwickschoolconnect.org

All OWs are encouraged to join our free online networking platform. There are already some 1,400 OWs in the network. We encourage any OWs needing advice, help or support... or just a friendly contact, to join and use the network. Conversely, if you would like to help or support others, please reach out on the online networking platform.

Mentoring

The school has set up a mentoring initiative to link leavers and experienced alumni working in particular fields. Thank you to over 130 people who have already offered their support.

If you need help and would like an OW mentor, please contact Sam Crane on s.crane@warwickschool.org.

www.warwickschoolconnect.org

With regret, we were unable to print the Summer Old Warwickian, Issue 37 so it was sent out by email to OWs for whom we have an email address.

Please check your junk folder and add alumni@warwickschool.org to your safe senders list.

The edition can also be viewed on www.oldwarwickians.org/oldwarwickian

www.oldwarwickians.org