



# Old Borlasian Club

Founded in 1907, by Reverend Michael Graves, the Old Borlasian Club has been dedicated to serving the school ever since. We exist to ensure the preservation of the history, heritage and ethos of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School whilst helping ex students and staff to keep in touch with old friends as well as making new ones from across our network of Old Borlasians. We are also focussed on giving back to the school, as you can see from our activities described below. All past students and teachers of the school are eligible to join the OBC.

## What do we do?

We are keen to organise social events that give Old Borlasians a chance to meet up at the school or locally, but we also take on some larger projects, such as designing the Stuart Lever Room to display school memorabilia.

Once a year we have either a dinner or a summer picnic event, to which all Old Borlasians and their friends are invited. This gives us an opportunity to raise toasts and enjoy the President's address as well as meeting up with fascinating alumni for sparkling conversation. There are also opportunities to join the Committee for drinks before school productions and concerts. In the summer there are sports fixtures between Old Borlasians and current Borlasians, such as the very popular annual cricket fixture. All of these events are communicated with our membership and reported on via our termly Newsletters, along with many other interesting articles.

At Christmas each year the Old Borlasian Club hosts a party to thank the teachers for their hard work during the previous year. This is always a convivial event and helps us to remain current with those entrusted with keeping Sir William Borlase's Grammar School at the forefront of education, sport and the arts. We also ensure that the memorial boards for the longest serving staff are kept up to date in the School Chapel.

We are passionate about encouraging current students to excel in all aspects of school life and to this end we provide prizes for the Stem Fayre and HELM Dinner, Boscars for the Performing Arts Evening and school caps for the first team sports captains at the Sports Dinner.

In addition to these prizes, we have been providing the Old Borlasian Prize, for the student most embodying the spirit of the school, for decades. All past recipients of the prize are shown on a board in the Cloisters. You may even find a few members of the current committee on there!

## How can we provide prizes?

The Old Borlasian Club uses the £25 annual subscription fee paid by members to ensure that these prizes can be presented. This money is also used to help the school with additional projects. In the past we have contributed the West Street school gates, a large amount towards the restoration of the Chapel spire, a glass roundel commemorating 100 years of the Old Borlasian Club and joined in with the Bricks for Borlase campaign, amongst many other earlier projects.

## So who are the Committee?

We are all past students and staff of the school, who meet up four or five times a year to steer our projects and discuss the development of the Old Borlasian Club and the school. We are always happy to hear from Old Borlasians who would like to join the committee and don't be put off by the name...we are not that old!

## Brian Martin: President Student (1969–71)

My Borlase career began in 1969 when I joined the 6<sup>th</sup> form for my A-levels.

I quickly got involved in rowing and enjoyed both training and the regattas and other races we participated in. Rowing is something I have kept up all my life; either competing, leisure sculling or coaching.

Although the school was relatively small at this time (400 boys) it offered a wide education outside the classroom with inter-house competitions, music, debating, drama and sports activities.

On leaving the school I joined the OB club and enjoyed meeting up with old classmates for several years before work took me overseas and I no longer had family living in the area. That changed when I sold my business and decided to go into teaching, coming back to Borlase for teaching practice.



Although the school was much bigger, had greatly enhanced facilities and was co-ed the spirit of Borlase remained the same as before.

On retiring I came back to assist with the rowing programme, coaching mainly the younger crews, and becoming more active in supporting the school through the OB club. It is a real pleasure to share the pride today's students have both in the school and their achievements.

It is a great honour to be elected President of the Club.

---

## Cathie Wells: Honorary Secretary Student (1990–92); Teacher (2000–04; 2008–10)



I joined the committee just over a decade after I had left the school as a student and now find myself in the role of Secretary, having been President in 2018.

I have a strong attachment to Sir William Borlase's having been not just a pupil, but also a teacher and a parent here.

As the school continues to develop, I feel more than ever the importance of ensuring that today's students enjoy their time at the school just as much as I did.



## Grant Taylor: Honorary Treasurer Student (1978–82)

I have been on the committee for over five years, having been at Sir William Borlase's between 1978 – 1982. Whilst I was not the most academic of students, I look back on my time at Borlase with great memories and realise that I was lucky to be at such a great school. I still have many friendships that have spanned 45 years. I am proud to be an Old Borlasian as I believe it is important to continue celebrating the school's traditions and history that make the school what it is today.



---

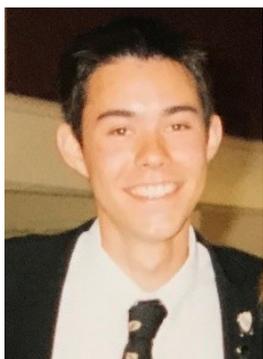
## Julien Bussell Student (1978–84)

I was at Borlase from 1978-84 and joined the Committee in 2017. I live in Marlow and both of my sons also attended Borlase. I thoroughly enjoyed my time here as a pupil and have always had a keen interest in the School. Joining the Committee has allowed me to take part in a wide range of projects to help promote the School's rich history.

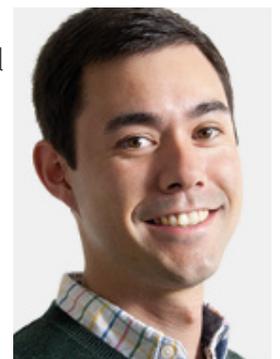


---

## Greg Lim Student (1997–03)



As a member of the Old Borlasian Club Committee, I've enjoyed remaining in touch with Sir William Borlase's and seeing the school thrive. The Club supports current pupils in many ways and allows me to give back to a school that afforded me many opportunities. It's great to meet with many Old Borlasians — former students and staff — and to visit the school on a regular basis. I have had the honour to be President of the Club on two occasions (2012–2013 and 2022–2024) and am also a Trustee of the school and Chair of Borlase Scholarships and Owen Wethered Trusts.



## Tony Compton Student (1957-64)



“Staying in touch with old friends” is one of our OB Club’s *raison d’être*. For me the old friend has always been the school itself as I have stayed in touch with Borlase for most of my life. I am proud to be one of five consecutive generations of my family who have attended the school; possibly a record.

In addition to having served on the OB committee since 1990 and been President of the Club twice, I was on the board of Governors for ten years and have been a trustee of the Borlase Trust since 2018.

I was a Boat Club rowing coach for many years and during that time was a founder member of the Boat Club Parents Support Group Trust. As an architect I have been involved with the Boathouse project for more than twenty years.



---

## Chris Funnell Student (1975-78)

Chris is unique in having been President of the Old Borlasian Club whilst also serving as Mayor of Marlow. His enthusiasm for preserving the heritage of the school has led to the creation of the Stuart Lever Room for displaying OBC and school memorabilia.



---

## Simon Funnell Student (1972-79)

I was invited to join the committee in 2008 and was privileged to act as President in 2009. I have strong family associations with the school, along with my two brothers Chris and Nick and more recently my younger daughter Rebecca plus nephew Luke and niece Jessica - all past pupils.

I loved my years at Borlase and have always wanted to stay in touch and help the school, which I do through the Old Borlasian Club, as well as helping with other school projects including a joint boathouse project with Great Marlow School.

As well as offering an opportunity to give back to the school, I enjoy the social events and opportunity to catch up with friends and other former pupils.



## Andy Howland Teacher (1989-08)

In 1989, I joined the staff - as Head of Maths - when there were no girls in either year 10 or year 11. There were no year seven pupils.

After a term, I became Head of Danes. I was so lucky to inherit many excellent sports players in virtually every year group.

For my first five years, I hosted the chess club. Many of the players were much better at chess than I have ever been. The school won the Berkshire and District Chess League in every year in which we entered it. The only time when Eton College managed to hold us to a draw was when they had to leave very early!

For twenty years, my wife taught French at the school and all three of our children spent all of their secondary school years here. In one year, all five of us (and our only two nephews) were at Borlase's. One of our grandchildren has attended Borlase's.

Because of transfer being at age 12, our household of five managed 57 - rather than 60 - years at Borlase's. Sure, without doubt, that must be the most of any household over the history of the school.

For the first 15 of my 19 years here, I taught in what is now half of the Lever Room - it is somewhat tidier now! I so loved my years in that room. Given that, prior to my arrival, it was a gymnasium, and then a teaching base for a form, surely I have spent more time in that room than has anyone over its 100 plus years!! "Me and strange records!"

We have lived in Marlow for 45 years, the last of them 20 being in a house very close to the school. You motorists, thank you for not blocking our drive in a narrow road!

I retired six years early in order to expand my tutoring agency.

I am very proud of Borlase's and feel so lucky both to have been on its staff and that my family have been able to attend here.



---

## Kay Mountfield Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher (2005-23)

I joined the OBs committee because, while serving as Deputy and Head Teacher, I appreciated the support the club gave and continues to give to the Borlase community. Their support of annual student events is invaluable; the members' subscription pays for the coveted awards given at the annual Arts, Science, Sports and HELM dinners. Although it is much easier for Borlasians to keep in touch with their friends via social media these days; the club helps keep you all connected with the school. The invitation is always open for you to return to school and the school is always delighted to see so many OBs return to events such as the annual alumni choir for Christmas, the annual OBs cricket and rugby matches, supporting rowing at Henley and attending shows and concerts. The contribution from OBs to careers education, university support and academic conferences is significant.



Andy Barron: President Elect  
Student (1998-00)

---

Simon Standfast  
Student (1998-05)

---

Ed Goodall: Headteacher (2023-present)  
Ex-Officio Member