



THE OLD BORLASIAN NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

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THE OLD BORLASIAN NEWSLETTER

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Message from Our President

Welcome to this final newsletter of the academic year 2022–2023. On Monday 26 June Borlase hosted Speech Day to celebrate academic success throughout the School. The Old Borlasian Prize, for “the pupil who, irrespective of success in School, shall have proved themselves by their general conduct and bearing during the past year to be a credit to the School”, was awarded jointly to the outgoing School Captains, Joel Taylor and Anne Irving.

The guest speaker was Robert Thorogood, creator of the BBC One murder mystery series *Death in Paradise* and, more recently, author of two murder mystery novels set in Marlow: *The Marlow Murder Club* and *Death Comes to Marlow*. Old Borlasians and *The Borlasian* magazine feature in the first novel and, who knows, perhaps the third book will be set in a school.

Speech Day was also an opportunity to pay tribute to Kay Mountfield (Headteacher) and James Simpson (Senior Deputy Headteacher), who are leaving Borlase at the end of term. We thank them both for their long service to the School and *The Old Borlasian* Club presented Kay

with a Welsh slate tray engraved with the Borlase coat of arms and an inscription marking her tenure as Headteacher.

An Old Borlasian team played the School 1st XI at Cricket on Friday 23 June. It was a tightly fought contest involving family rivalries that came down to the last ball of the match. Read the report later in this newsletter to find out which side won!

Planning has begun for our Annual Reunion Dinner to be held at the School on Saturday 7 October. Watch out for further details on how to reserve a place.

Finally, the commemorative history book that I have been editing marking the 400th anniversary of the school is now available to pre-order at a discounted price of £32.50, and advance subscribers can have their name listed in the back of the book. Order your copy [here](#).

Best wishes,

Gregory Lim (OB 1997 - 2003)

President

Message from Headteacher

I would like to say an enormous thank you to *The Old Borlasians* for their support of the school and of me over the 18 years I have been at Borlase. It was a privilege to receive a lovely gift from Greg as President on Speech Day and even more exciting to receive my honorary membership of the Old Borlasians Club. I was also incredibly moved when I arrived at school on my last day to see that the governors and leadership team had renamed the theatre in my name. It has been an absolute joy working with so many talented students and staff who are passionate about the arts and the important role they play in the education of all young people. Thank you for all the messages I have received from OB's and I do hope we will be able to see as many of you as possible for the Borlase 400 celebrations.

Thank you all, once again,

Kay Mountfield, Headteacher



Save the Dates

The Old Borlasian Club Annual Dinner
October 7th, 2023

The Old Borlasians Carol Service, All
Saints' Church, Marlow

December 14th, 2023

Old Borlasians vs Current Students
Annual Cricket Match

June 28th 2024

Open Day at School and Old Borlasian
Dinner in the Evening

June 29th 2024

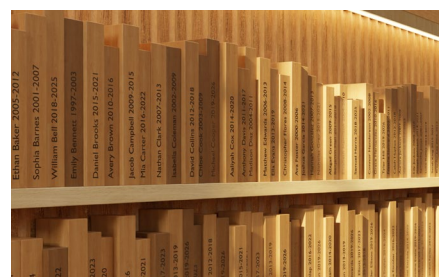
Borlase 400 Family Summer Music
Festival

July 13th 2024

Be Part of the Borlase 400 Story – Help us to raise the final funds for a new Science Lab

We have raised £1m through individual support from Borlase families, alumni and successful grants. Over this summer and the first half of the autumn term we are converting the current school Hall into an inspirational, motivational space for our Sixth Form to support our students' learning and well-being. We have begun to extend the Canteen with a second floor, more than doubling current capacity, and installing a new kitchen to cook fresh food. We are also hoping to create a new Science Laboratory to deliver our popular Science curriculum and to ensure that this subject is always taught in a specialist space. We need to raise a further £50k to make this possible, and recognise everyone who supports this campaign!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this ambitious project for our students!





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Current School Update

Please find the link to the most recent [Borlase Review](#), where you can find the most recent updates at the end of each term.



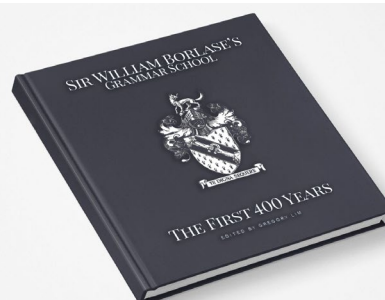
THE BORLASE REVIEW
2022-2023



Front Page of most recent Borlase Review.

“The First 400 Years” Anniversary Book

To order your copy of the 400th Anniversary History book, please click on the image on the right. Advance subscribers can order at the discounted price of £32.50 (plus postage and packaging) and have their name listed in the back of the book.



A Walk Down Memory Lane – Ye Olde Tuck Shoppe

The first mention of a tuck shop at Borlase was announced in The Borlasian of 1905 “Next term a tuck shop is to be opened on the School premises, the proceeds of which will go to the Sports and Chapel funds; we hope that boys will support an institution with so laudable an object”. The photo below was taken and appeared in The Borlasian in 1945. It shows tuck shop adjacent to Colonel’s Meadow in West Street and the aptly put caption “As you were” following the end of WW2.

There were many fond memories of the visits at break times, it was always a bit of a scrum as the “No more than 4 school children” sign had not come to Ye Olde Tuck Shoppe in the late 70s, early 80s. It would have been impossible to police at 10.40am in any case - the morning Ready Brek had well and truly worn off by then! While the owners always seemed to do a roaring trade you often wondered if there were any inventory discrepancies at the end of each month?!

Though not fully verified it appears that Ye Olde Tuck Shoppe remained open until the beginning of 1989 when, as Peter Heywood, Head of Design & Tech for over 35 years, wrote in the 2019 Borlasian “The tuck shop provided sweets and snacks during my early days for the 430 pupils, until Mr Smy came to an agreement with the owners to bring forward their retirement, so ending the daily and hazardous melee on West Street as boys spilled out onto the pavement”.

Ye Olde Tuck Shoppe is now a private residence and currently owned by a family with Borlase connections.





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Where are they now?

Andrew (Nobby) Webb (OB 1975 -1984)

Andrew became a member of the Old Borlasian Club in 2017. After a brief spell at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire Nobby returned to the Marlow area and joined Johnson & Johnson specifically in the area of medical devices. Over the last 30 years Nobby has developed a deep knowledge of the ophthalmic industry. He spent 12 years as a member of the global surgical management team at Bausch and Lomb. He holds an MBA at Henley Business School.

Andrew is married to Sarah and they celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in 2021. They have two daughters, Alice and Phoebe.

Rugby has always been his passion both at Borlase and at Marlow Rugby Club. A fierce competitor on the rugby pitch, Nobby was once substituted by the legendary Borlase PE Master, Alan Black, before the referee was able to send him off such was Nobby's intimate knowledge of rugby's dark arts.

While at Borlase, Nobby was a regular member of 82-83 Rugby 1st team, one of a select number of teams that remained unbeaten in a season.



Poetry Corner

A couple of Summer related poems from The Borlasian 1959 edition, one especially poignant at the moment with the Ashes.

Please let us know if you find anything of interest or of nostalgic value, email obclub.membership@gmail.com.

THE FIFTH TEST

Hurry now or we'll be late,
The opening pair are through the gate.
Four tests lost and one to go,
Now they're passing Subba Row.

He is fielding in the deep
To stop Contractor's favourite sweep.
Statham bowls, but Roy is late,
He's bowled, and walking to the gate.

And now comes Baig to take his place,
And soon he makes the fielders chase
His drives and cuts and glances too,
But oh, he's caught for twenty-two!

The England team are on their toes
And Greenough strikes two deadly blows,
The batting's slow 'tis such a bore,
Now seven are out for seventy-four.

The last three wickets swell the score,
The side's all out for one-four-four,
But by the close the England pair
Make sixty-six and are still there.

M. Thorne (III B)

THE EARLY MORNING RUSH

(with apologies to Robert Browning)

I sprang from the bedclothes as quick as could be,
The alarm went, a call came, the bell rang, all three!
"Hurry up!!" called my friend as the door-bolt undrew.
"You'll be late", said my Dad, and I knew this was true.
Behind shut the front door, the bolts were replaced,
And off to the 'bus-stop we ran with all haste.

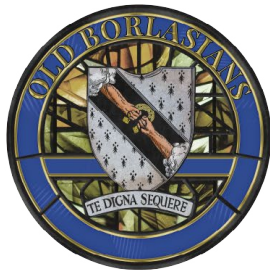
Waving good-bye to mother we started to race,
Neck by neck, stride by stride with unfaltering pace.
Hanging on to my satchel, I pulled my scarf tight,
Took my cap from my pocket and set the peak right.
And from Wycombe church steeple we heard the clock chime,
My friend broke the silence with, "Yet there is time!"

We just kept on hurrying, my friend and I,
To catch the next bus we were still going to try,
For if we did not, how our school-friends would laugh,
As the next wouldn't come for an hour and a half.
I looked at the 'bus-stop and saw something bright,
And "run", gasped my friend, "for the 'bus is in sight".

And all I remember is friends sitting round,
As in perspiration I nearly was drowned,
And no voice but was praising this effort of mine
To catch the last 'bus and arrive there on time.
So I've written a poem which I dedicate
To all boys at School who try not to be late.

P. Curtis (III B)





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Letters from our Readers

We are always keen to receive feedback from you, so it was great to receive the following emails:

Ernest Hazelton

"Your piece about Sentry Hill brought back memories of EMH who came to the school when I entered the Sixth Form in 1956. He did spell his name "Hazelton" not "Hazleton" and I hope you can correct this wherever possible.

We used to go to play reading groups in his house in Marlow - it was a large family house perhaps in the Claremont Gardens area? He needed it because he and Mrs Hazelton had, I think, three sons.

I remember reading plays by George Bernard Shaw there, including The Devil's Disciple (one of Shaw's Plays for Puritans). EMH was, we thought, rather oriented to public school traditions - maybe Sentry Hill and the idea of boarders was part of this. He also brought in the title of Prae.Schol. a prefect who was a bit of a school enforcer, I think!

Nevertheless he was very kind and helpful to me, and encouraged me to try for Oxbridge. I eventually went to Merton College Oxford in 1959."

David Shipp (OB 1951 - 1958)

Looking for Old Friends

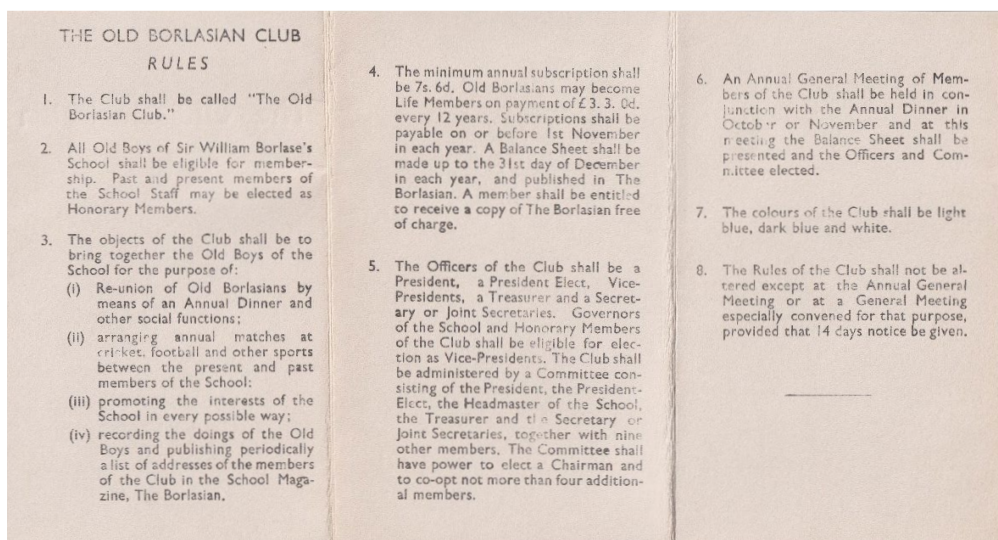
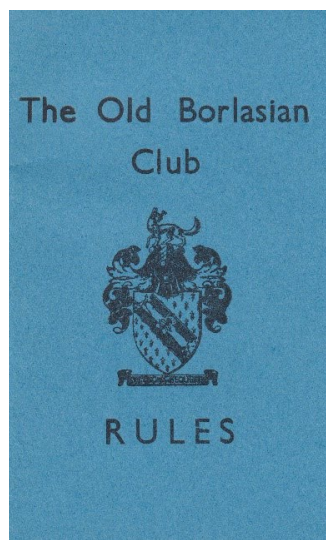
"My name is Richard D. Gill and I'm an old Borlasian. Born 11 Sept 1951. I suppose I started at Borlase after my 11 plus in 1963 or so? Left school in 1969, did a gap year earning some cash, went up to Caius College Cambridge in 1970.

I think you can say I've had a distinguished career in science, mathematics and statistics (in the Netherlands). Still going strong. I'm interested in tracking down old school mates."

If anyone would like to get in touch with Richard, please email obclub.membership@gmail.com.

The Old Borlasian Club Rules

We have had a few queries on why the Club tie is different in colour to the traditional School versions. When the Club was formed in 1907 a set of rules were written outlining the main duties and activities of the Club. Point 7 relates to the Club tie.





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Old Borlasian XI v Borlase 1st Cricket Match

"I cannot guarantee the same nerve tingling drama and individual brilliance of the current Ashes series, but you never know" were just some of the promotional emails sent out before Friday 23rd June. Little did we know that this year's Borlase 1st v Old Borlasians XI would be decided on the last ball of the match!

The Old Boys duly won the toss and decided to bat first on a sun-baked pitch. In perfect batting conditions the 2 OB openers, Noah Fletcher and Jack Turner, made a rapid start racking up 109 runs for the 1st wicket before Jack was caught on the boundary by the talented Ben Proudfoot for 39.



Wickets can come in clusters and so it was with the other opener, Noah, falling for a well-crafted 60 after some excellent fielding from George Rackstraw. The Old Boys were now 112-2 after 14 overs. In came Ashwin Goyal and Alec Bussell, both from the same school year, to steady the ship and add another 35 runs in good time before Alec was yorked by Toby Pettit, who would go on to claim another 2 wickets in the match.

Ashwin continued to build a good platform but the loss of 3 wickets in 7 balls stopped the run fest with CJ, Charlie Bull and Ben Hoggan all falling cheaply and Henry Coombes chipping in with 2 wickets. Next in was Harry Yeomans to smash a quick fire 29, with 2 huge sixes towards the Pound Lane End, leaving the Old Borlasians XI on 211 for 8 after their allotted 30 overs.



During the tea interval, our thanks to Margaret and John Nixon as well as Cathie Wells for arranging the excellent teas, the Borlase 1st XI rallied around to discuss tactics for the run chase. While the OBs posted a larger total compared to last year, there seemed to be an air of confidence in the school team that they could reach the target of 212.

Out strode Ben Proudfoot and Sacha Smith to open the innings for Borlase. It was Ben's first match against the Old Borlasians, but Sacha was known already to the OBs having put on a 90-run partnership last year – a dangerous, clean hitting striker of a cricket ball.

Needing 7 runs per over, Ben and Sacha immediately put the pressure back on the Old Boys. Ben picked the gaps nicely for 1s and 2s while Sacha The Dasher hit some lusty blows including a beautiful leg side flick that raced to the boundary – the shot of the match.

Something special needed to happen and it took an excellent, lunging low catch from Archie McGuinness in the covers off Harry Yeomans to see the back of Smith for 30. Borlase 1st XI 48-1 after 6 overs.

In came George Rackstraw to join Proudfoot, a useful batsman and talented fast bowler, who was unable to bowl in the match due to a stress fracture. George was hoping to make a good contribution with the bat but succumbed to Will Perry Adlam's carefully disguised slower ball leaving Borlase on 50-2.





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Old Borlasian XI v Borlase 1st Cricket Match...Continued

Next in was the school captain, Harry Bussell, to join Ben, who was continuing to score at a decent rate. They both put on a well-timed 50 partnership before Harry scooped a drive back to Jack Turner to be caught and bowled on 23.

Sensing that the school was well up with the run rate, Captain Ashton threw the ball to Charlie Bull to create a few fireworks in the middle. George Evans came out at number 5 to join Proudfoot, who was now in the 40s. George used to play a lot of high-level cricket but hockey has taken up most of his time recently. Nevertheless, George played a free flowing innings of 14 before being bowled by Bull, who was building up some pretty good pace. Borlase 131-4.

Into the 20th over and Ben Proudfoot was still at the crease playing an excellent innings before he too was out to Charlie Bull for 53. A rapid partnership of 40 from Josh Brown and Will Stubbings kept Borlase up with the run rate. Josh smashed 34 and Will 19 in 11 balls before both were caught in the deep.



At 204-7 Toby Pettit was joined by Joe Hoggan to carefully steer Borlase to 211 with ONE ball remaining! It was left to the Hoggan brothers to decide this fantastic match. Ben came steaming in with every intention of re-arranging his bro's rib cage (sibling rivalry at its best!) while Joe had that determined stare of "this ball's going!"

A loud grunt from Ben at the crease on delivery was met with a Ben "Stokes" Hoggan smash over cover point for 4! Borlase 1st XI finishing on 215-7 to win back the trophy. Well done to Borlase.

A fabulous game, played in a fantastic spirit, with Ben Proudfoot winning Man of the Match for Borlase and Charlie "Raging" Bull for the Old Borlasians. Many thanks to Kevin Chappell for umpiring and scoring.

RESULT

Old Borlasians
Borlase 1st XI

211-8 after 30 overs
215-7 after 30 overs

BORLASE WIN BY 4 RUNS

Teams:

Borlase 1st:

Harry Bussell (Capt)
Sasha Smith
Henry Coombes
Will Stubbings
Toby Pettit
George Rackstraw
Josh Brown
Joe Hoggan
Ben Proudfoot
Jack Barry
George Evans

Old Borlasian Club XI:

Nigel Ashton (Capt) (OB 1972-1979)
Chris Jackson (OB 2015-2022)
Noah Fletcher (OB 2015-2022)
Will Perry-Adlam (OB 2015-2022)
Archie McGuinness (OB 2014-2021)
Charlie Bull (OB 2008-2015)
Jack Turner (OB 2008-2015)
Harry Yeomans (OB 2012-2019)
Alec Bussell (OB 2013-2020)
Ashwin Goyal (OB 2013-2020)
Ben Hoggan (OB 2014-2021)



Old Borlasian
Club XI:



Borlase 1st:



Kevin Chappell awarding the cup to
Borlase captain Harry Bussell

A date for the diary in 2024 – Borlase 1st v Old Borlasians Friday 28th June, 2024.



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Obituaries

Mick Clark (OB 1961 - 1966)

My younger brother, Mick, and I were at Sentry Hill from the beginning - 1959 - and both found our way, eventually, to Leeds University. Those boarding years were certainly eventful for us both, with me having to be the responsible brother, probably taking life rather too seriously and Mick often getting away with blue murder! A few of us were boarded out to teachers, prior to the boarding house opening, Mick and I plus 4 others with "Dewy" (Greek teacher) and Mrs Dewhurst in their very big Victorian villa in Marlow.

Mick turned into a brilliant croquet player - we all rushed after school to play for an hour on Dewy's huge lawn before tea and prep. On Sunday mornings we all walked the 2 miles to the church in Marlow. Mick was really good at being sick just after breakfasts on Sundays but was remarkably fit again for lunch, complete with that wicked grin of his! To get one over on Matron was not easy.

Mick knew the shortcuts in cross country runs, the smart way to avoid Saturday chores around the grounds and was one of the best loved boys at Sentry Hill. "Mick is admired

for all the wrong reasons" I heard the Monk say after he administered yet another skipping.

As some of you know, Mick died last year. He was a much-loved husband, father and grandfather, a very skilled bridge player, and keen golfer, who retained his infectious sense of fun.

John Clark (OB 1961 - 1965)

(He's the one asleep in a pillow fight - he was always very relaxed).



An Old Borlasian Plays in Varsity Match

Congratulations to Connor Fairman, who represented Cambridge in this year's Varsity match at Twickenham - a match that ended triumphantly for Cambridge winning 15-10.

It is the third year in a row that Cambridge has denied the Dark Blues.

Connor was a pupil at Borlase from 2016-2018. He studied Maths, Chemistry and Biology, received 3 A* grades and was awarded a place at Homerton College to study Natural Sciences and Biochemistry in 2019.



Number: 18
Position: Prop
College: Homerton
Course: Biochemistry
Born: 19/09/1999
Ht: 192cm
Wt: 123kg
School: John Hampden Grammar School, Sir William Borlase's School
Rugby Background: Beaconsfield RFC





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Don't forget the 'Merch'!

Don't forget, we have fantastic Old Borlasian Club merchandise available:

OBC Scarf:

OBC Members £15
Non Members £30

OBC Tie:

OBC Members £12
Non Members £20

OBC Badge:

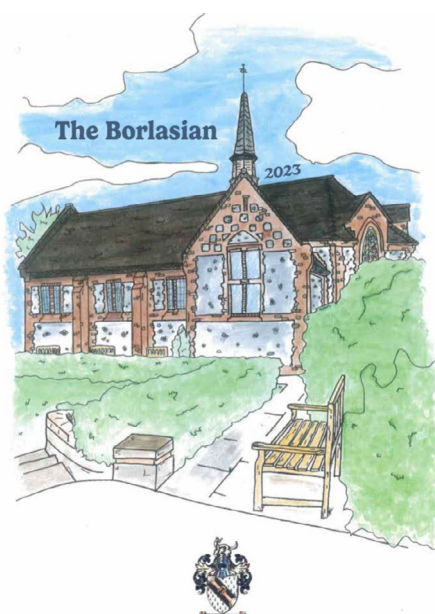
OBC Members £5
Non Members £7.50



All proceeds go towards supporting Borlase. Please [email us to order](#). Please include the items you would like to order, the quantity and your address.

The Borlasian 2023

Digital copies of all The Borlasian magazines dating back to 1885 are [available here](#), including The Borlasian 2023.



OLD BORLASIANS



**YOUR CLUB NEEDS
YOUR SUPPORT**

If you are not already a member, we would love you to join the Old Borlasian Club. Please click here for the membership form.

We are also keen to receive any anecdotes or memories you have of your time at Borlase.

Please send them to
obclub.membership@gmail.com