



The Bedford Society

I hope you will enjoy the latest edition of our newsletter. There is some good news on the Bedford Scholarships and plenty of other interesting material, along with notice of events.

Before the end of the spring term the College was able to confirm plans for students on practical and practice-based subjects to return to campus for teaching that cannot be completed online. However, for the remainder of students, face-to-face teaching will not begin until at least 17 May. The College is committed to supporting all students, including our Bedford Society Scholars, through to the successful completion of this year's studies.

The generous support from Bedford Society members during our appeal at the end of last year has enabled us to offer three new Bedford Society Scholarships for entry in the 2021/22 academic year and we are delighted to report that these opportunities are now open for application. You can find out more by visiting the College [website](#).

I am delighted that we are able to launch a new **Bedford Society Access Scholarship**, generously funded by one of our existing donors. This scholarship will not only recognise excellence, but also focus on supporting an individual who without the scholarship's funding would be unable to undertake further study.

The UK Government's roadmap to gradually move out of lockdown still does not give the guarantees and certainties to plan and hold Bedford Society events just yet, but as soon as we can reunite again I will be in touch.

Best wishes

Dr Claire Gobbi Daunton

History 1974

Bedford Society Chair

P.S. A big 'thank you' to the development office staff for working with us on the newsletter and on all other Bedford Society matters. Janice, Anna, Emma and Laura are a great support to the Bedford Society.

Please support the Bedford Society Scholars with a gift in your Will

A gift in your Will could be the most significant gift you ever make, improving bright students' opportunities and making the difference of a lifetime.

You can read about what it means for the Chair of the Bedford Society and History 1974 alumna, Dr Claire Gobbi Daunton (pictured), to be leaving a gift in her Will and find out about how you can make a



difference by pledging a gift in your Will, as well as the benefits to your beneficiaries by visiting the [Bedford legacies webpage](#).

Welcoming our new Bedford Society Committee member

We are delighted to welcome Professor Robert (Bob) Fitzgerald (BA History 1981), Professor of Business History and International Management at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, as our newest Bedford Society Committee member.

Read more about Bob and other members of the Bedford Society Committee on our [website](#).



Memories of Bedford College

In the last newsletter, we asked readers to share their memories of studying at Bedford College. Thank you to those who submitted the following contributions - we hope you enjoy reading them. If you would like to submit a piece for future newsletters, please email alumni@rhbnc.ac.uk with your contribution.



Roger Eastwood (Botany 1978)

[...] In the spirit of The Sound of Music, these are a few of my favourite things (except the exams!): Sociable evening meals in the Hanover Lodge dining room; Walking to College through Regents Park with the ducks, geese and herons as company; Playing cat and mouse with the Park Police at night when the park was closed; Departmental games of croquet on the lawn at back of the Botany Garden Unit; Goats on their artificial hills at Regents Park zoo [...] [Read more](#).

Elizabeth Aylward (Philosophy 1982)

I was teaching full time and had a young family so opted for a weekly essay and exams, one of the two choices available to me at that time. [...] Because of my teaching, attending lectures or obtaining books easily was rare and there are fraught memories of rushing for trains and desperately trying to finish essays, in the car, waiting for my children, even on the train en route to a tutorial, in order to read it to my tutors. No doubt very funny to a non involved observer. [Read more](#).

Jonathan Sant (Mathematics 1984)

"The bell that cried wolf"

Early in the 1980s the alarms at Bedford College were tested with tremendous zeal: by which I mean very frequently and persistently. There was no drill to be followed, or at least not for the students; we just carried on safe in the knowledge that we were somehow protected by the efficiency of the bells. One particular day when the bells went off, I was in the Herringham hall [...] with a fair view of the main college doors. I was chatting with someone and there were various

people milling about, and we all ignored the bells as best we could; we took little notice of the people hurrying to the door with what it turned out was literally a bag of swag. [Read more.](#)

The Gender Institute at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Founded in 2020 with funding from the British Academy, the new Gender Institute at the College looks to become a hub for study, teaching, learning, and activism about gender and sexuality on campus. The Institute has three primary goals: to support faculty and student research and research collaboration in the study of gender and sexuality, to support teaching and learning of and around gender and sexuality, and to produce resources for community engagement and impact around gender and sexuality. [Learn more.](#)

In Memoriam

We fondly remember the Bedford College alumni who have recently died. The individuals we have been informed about in the 2020/21 academic year so far are listed on the [Bedford Society website.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The College's programme of events, lectures and concerts are currently online. By going digital, we hope that even more Bedford Society members will be able to join in.

Please visit rhnbc.ac.uk/events for more upcoming events.



'Prorogation?' - Magna Carta Lecture 2021

Monday 7 June, 6.30pm, online event

Speaker: The Right Honourable The Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE PC QC FBA

At a time of heightened political tension surrounding the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, presided over by Baroness Hale of Richmond, ruled that the government's prorogation of Parliament was unlawful – a decision that has been described as reaffirming parliamentary sovereignty and having major implications for our system of government.

In the Magna Carta Lecture 2021, almost two years on from the event, Lady Hale will reflect on the events and ruling of 2019.

[Read more and book your place.](#)

The Right Honourable The Baroness Hale of Richmond is a retired judge, crossbench peer and former President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the first woman to hold that

position.

RECORDED EVENTS

Catch up with recent online events using the links below.



Treasured objects from Bedford College

The art collections hold many items relating to the history of Bedford College. At this event, Dr Laura MacCulloch, the Curator at the university, looks at some of the most treasured objects from Bedford and explores the stories behind them. [Watch now.](#)

Women's Suffrage and Royal Holloway and Bedford Colleges

In this talk, Librarian Greg Leurs draws on archive records to explore the role notable staff and alumnae played in the fight for women's suffrage in the UK. [Watch now.](#)

Suffrage and the art collections

Dr Laura MacCulloch uncovers the links between the College's art collections and the women who campaigned for women's suffrage. The talk explores the history of artworks connected to the movement and explains how these works came to be part of the collections. [Watch now.](#)

A day in the life

Go back in time to the early days of Royal Holloway and Bedford Colleges to reveal what life would have been like for a student there. Putting you in the role of a prospective student the archives and art collections will be used to take you on a tour of the colleges. [Watch now.](#)

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