



The Bedford Society

The past few weeks have been a period of extraordinary change. It is now clear the global response to the pandemic will continue for some time, as will the new ways of living and working we are becoming used to.

I understand that the College is working in new and very different ways as the term begins, and I know all involved have acted quickly and carefully to support students, including our Bedford Society Scholars, to complete this academic year successfully. You can read more about the College's response to the coronavirus on the [website](#).

Although we cannot meet in person, our [Bedford Society Facebook page](#), with nearly 200 members, is a useful platform to meet online and keep in touch with fellow Bedford alumni.

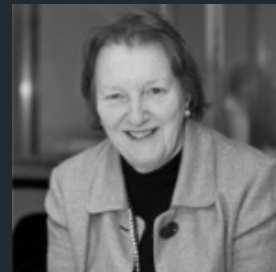
The oral history project is unable to go ahead at present but the College Archives and Alumni Relations teams are still encouraging [submissions of written accounts](#) from alumni about their time at Bedford College. There are more details on this below. Writing about your time in college might perhaps be a good, happy occupation during this extraordinary period.

With renewed thanks for all your support to the Society, I send best wishes to you and hope you remain well and safe. I look forward to meeting again.

Dr Claire Gobbi Daunton
Bedford Society Chair

Remembering Rachel Whittaker

The distinguished Bedford College alumna and former Bedford Society Committee member, who passed away in October 2018, left a legacy to the [Bedford Society Scholarship Fund](#) to enable future students to continue with their studies, a gesture typical of her generous nature. [Read more about Rachel's life.](#)





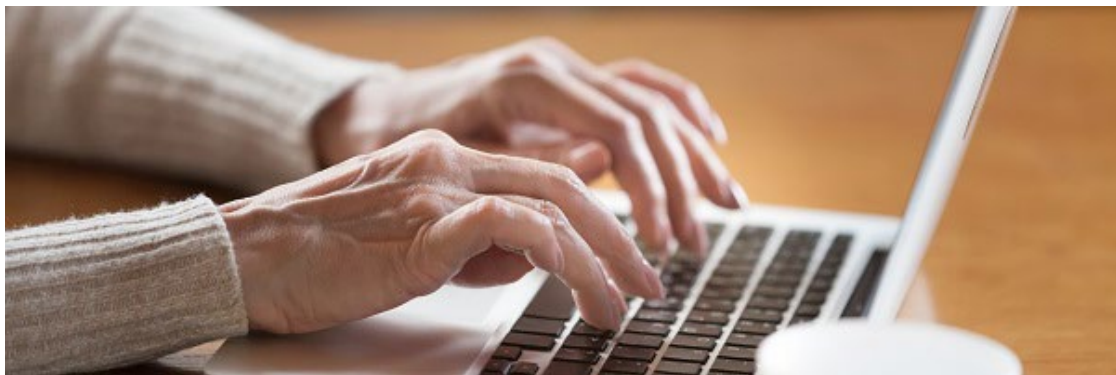
Bedford College alumnae recognised in New Year Honours list

Bedford College alumnae **Catherine Cooke** (French and German 1978) and **Carolyn Butlin** (Medieval and Modern History 1981) were recognised in the 2020 New Year Honours. Catherine (pictured left) was awarded a BEM for services to libraries and Carolyn (pictured right) was awarded an MBE for services to Probation and Community Safety. We spoke to them both about their time at Bedford College and their career journeys.



Written accounts of your time at Bedford College

The College's oral history project is unable to go ahead this year, but the Archives team would still like to encourage you to commit memories to paper and submit written accounts of your time Bedford College. [Read more.](#)



Bedford Society Facebook group

Over the past few weeks, we have all had to adapt to new ways of keeping in touch with friends and family. The Bedford Society Facebook group, with nearly 200 members, is a great way to reconnect and engage with fellow alumni when we are unable to do so in person - [join now!](#)



Bedford Society discussion club in Bedford Square?

Bedford Society Committee member, Betty Hales, is looking into whether there is scope to use the Bedford Room at 11 Bedford Square on a regular, but less formal, basis in addition to the type of events that have so far taken place. She would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in something like this. [Read more and get in touch.](#)

In memoriam: David Hilling, Sid White and Rodney Dales

Former Bedford College staff members David Hilling MBE, Sid White MBE and Rodney Dales have recently passed away.

David Hilling joined the Department of Geography at Bedford College in 1966 and was Acting Head of Department at the time of the merger. You can read a short obituary on the [Department of Geography website.](#)

Sid White joined Bedford College in 1952 as a Science Technician and built up and ran the Science Faculty Workshop for some forty years, prior to and following the merger. You can [read more about Sid's time at Bedford online.](#)

Rodney Dales was appointed Head of the Zoology Department at Bedford College in 1970 and later became Dean of Science, remaining Head of the Department following the merger, before retiring in 1992. Rodney's full obituary is available on [The Guardian website.](#)

Bedford alumna, Professor Georgina Rippon, speaks at Regent's University

In February, Bedford alumna Professor Georgina Rippon spoke at Regent's University, Bedford's former premises, about her recently published book 'The gendered brain'. In attendance were fellow Bedford alumni, including Betty Hales, who shares her [account of the evening.](#)

WHAT'S ON

All College events due to take place in the summer term have been postponed until further notice.



Singles at six

At 6pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, the Chapel Choir is releasing videos of their performances from recent years on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).



Exhibitions and art collections online

Discover the stories of the university's art collections as told by our Curators, and experience the exhibitions hosted in the Exhibition Space. [Find out more](#).



Bedford Geography reunion - 7 October 2020

We are planning a Bedford Geography alumni and former staff reunion on 7 October, alongside The Impact of Geography event being held at the Royal Geographical Society in London. This evening event will showcase the Department of Geography's collaborative work and will be followed by a reception. Please save the date and more information will be available in due course.

Psychology 50 year reunion

Margaret Hayward would like to hear from any Psychology alumni who graduated in 1970 who would be interested in a reunion later this year, to celebrate 50 years since graduation. Please [email Margaret](#) directly if you are interested.

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