



The Bedford Society

As we begin a new year, I am delighted to report that the Big Give Christmas Challenge was a huge success, raising over £45,000 towards the Bedford Society Scholarships Fund. The support of Bedford Society members for initiatives like the Big Give creates life-changing opportunities for postgraduate students. You can read about our current scholars below.

In 2020, there will be many events for Bedford alumni, including the College's concert at St John's Smith Square (with a pre-concert buffet dinner for Bedford alumni) as well as many other lectures, exhibitions and concerts.

2020 marks the Department of Geography's centenary and it is hoped many Bedfordians will join in with the celebrations. Most particularly, we are planning a Geography Bedford alumni reunion in October – please read more below.

For those interested in the history of Bedford College, the university archivist published a feature on the Archives Hub which makes for an interesting read.

I am delighted to welcome two new committee members, Betty Hales (nee Sanders, Physics, 1973) and Maggie Bolton (nee Weymouth, History, 1974).

The support and involvement of all Bedford Society members is much appreciated; and we hope to see many of you at events in 2020. Please do keep in touch.

With best wishes,

Dr Claire Gobbi Daunton
Bedford Society Chair



Margaret Busby and Bedford College

The life and work of Bedford alumna, Margaret Busby (pictured centre, with staff from the Department of English), was celebrated at an event at the university in November. Margaret, who was Britain's youngest and first black female publisher in the 1960s, spoke to us about her memories of Bedford College. [Watch the short film.](#)



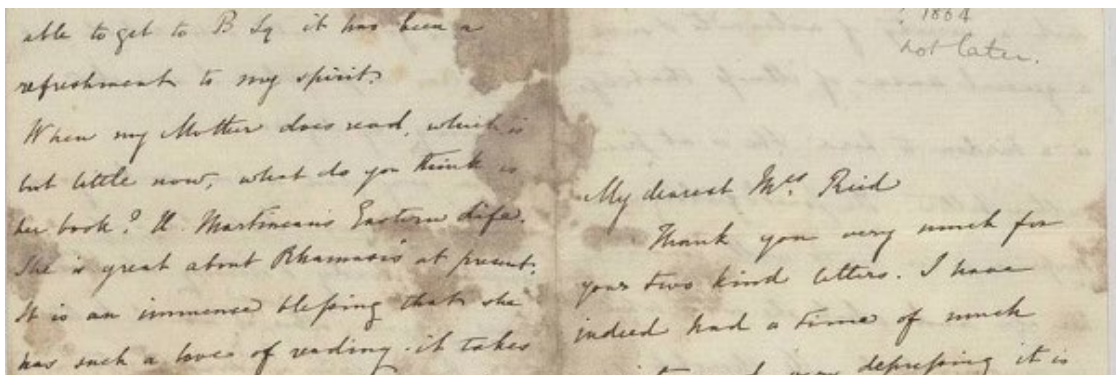
The man behind the voice

Having started his career at the BBC in 1985, Bedford alumnus Chris Aldridge (BSc Maths, 1985) is today one of the most recognisable voices on Radio 4. He talks to us about being part of a British institution and what his years at Bedford College mean to him. [Read more.](#)



Introducing our Bedford Society Scholars for 2019/20

Bedford Society Scholars are students funded by alumni and former staff members of Bedford College and ensure that the name and heritage of Bedford College is continued and celebrated. We meet our Bedford Society Scholars for 2019/20 who tell us what the scholarship means to them. [Read more.](#)



Bringing Elizabeth Jesser Reid's letters to life

The university Archives and the Centre for Victorian Studies are working to make letters about the history of Bedford College accessible to the public, which includes transcribing the letters to make them easier to read, search and analyse. The project is looking for volunteer transcribers to help with this - can you help? [Read more and volunteer.](#)

New Bedford Society Committee members

We are delighted to welcome Maggie Bolton and Betty Hales as new members of the Bedford Society Committee. [Read more about them.](#)

Bedford Writers' Evening

Alumna, Gillian Clarke, shares her experience of the Bedford Society writers' evening, held at 11 Bedford Square in October. [Read more.](#)

University Challenge alumni special

Alumnae from Bedford College represented the university in the special Christmas series of University Challenge for alumni. [Read more.](#)

Macular disease study

Bedford Society Committee member, Clare Bradley, Professor of Health Psychology and head of the Health Psychology Research Unit, has collaborated with other researchers in a new study that has found healthcare professionals and the general public still lack awareness of the most common form of sight loss in the UK. [Read more.](#)

Leading Women magazine

The University of London's *Leading Women* celebration in 2018 marked the momentous 150th anniversary since nine female candidates sat the 'Special Examination for Women' at the institution and changed education forever. We are delighted to share their *Leading Women* magazine in which, among others, Bedford College alumna, Sarah Parker Remond, is featured (page 12). [Read more.](#)

Upcoming events



Royal Holloway in Concert with the London Mozart Players, including pre-concert Bedford Society dinner

Wednesday 29 January, 5.30pm (dinner) and 7.30pm (concert) at St John's Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HA

To mark the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 2020, the university presents a programme of, and inspired by, his works. [Read more and book tickets.](#) Before the concert, at 5.30pm, there will be a limited number of places available for a two course buffet dinner for Bedford Society members in the [restaurant at St John's Smith Square](#) at an additional cost of £29.95 per person. [Read more and reserve your place by 21 January.](#)

Political geographies: from women's geographical work to geographies of diversity, inclusion and citizenship

Gordon Manley Lecture

Monday 10 February, 6.15pm

Professor Avril Maddrell, University of Reading, will give an overview of women's contributions to geographical study, including pioneering female geographers working at Bedford College. [Read more and book tickets](#). Part of the Department of Geography's centenary celebrations.

The gendered brain: The new neuroscience that shatters the myth of the female brain

Thursday 20 February 2020, 6pm at Regent's University

Speaker: Bedford alumna, Professor Georgina Rippon

Professor Rippon will be talking about her recently published [book](#) on the gendered brain (which destroys some long-standing myths), at Bedford College's former premises. If you are interested in attending, please email rsvp@rhbnc.ac.uk.

Save the date: 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.

Explore other university events online at rhbnc.ac.uk/events

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