



The BWS Foundation

bishopwordsworths.org.uk/foundation
foundation@bws-school.org.uk

Alumni years featured: 1961, 1981, 1983, 1996, 1999, 2002, and 2021

Alumni clubs: Cars and Military

Drinks locations: Dubai, Hong Kong, Melbourne, NYC, and Singapore

Summer Work Placements: Arts, Insurance, Investment Banking, IT, Law, and Medicine.

Chair's Introduction

We are glad to be publishing the Foundation Newsletter again, which you will receive every two months.

The BWS Foundation is a charitable trust run by alumni, governors and others for the benefit of current Bishop Wordsworth's pupils through the provision of bursaries and capital expenditure. We also support the community of alumni of Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School aged 18 to our most senior alumni.

We enjoy alumni-led interest Clubs from cars to military to rugby and cycling (read more about these in the Alumni sections), and share careers advice and work experience placements for undergraduates and recently graduated alumni.

The Foundation Trustees themselves have been busy raising money to support current pupils and school infrastructure. I undertook a 25-day fast and Trustee Hamish Dunlop undertook a 60 mile walk around the Isle of Wight, raising £4K and £1K. More fundraising is planned with a sponsored skydive (kudos to the Trustee who hates heights doing this) and a 110Km walk in under 30 hours.

I have been fortunate to meet fellow alumni as I travelled for work. Earlier this year I met alumni in Singapore and Bermuda, all of whom are enthusiastic to meet-up with other alumni, help graduates with career opportunities or advice, and also raise money to reduce barriers to access for current underprivileged pupils through the Foundation's Bursary Awards.

A significant thank you goes to Colin, Lord Sharman (1961), Clive Barnett (HM 1992-2002), Stuart Smallwood (HM 2002-2024) and others who had the vision to form the Foundation in 2017. Lord Sharman generously inaugurated the funding for the Foundation.

Please feel free to e-mail me or the other trustees at foundation@bws-school.org.uk

Jon Shaw (2002)

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1. Dates for your diaries Alumni drinks meetings:

New York City, Tuesday August 20th, 2024 @ Wheeltapper (beer garden) 44th & Lex

Dubai, Wednesday October 2nd, 2024 @ Capital Club, DIFC

Hong Kong, Monday September 16th, 2024 @ White Stag, Lockhart Road, Wan Chai

Singapore, TBD @ TBD

Melbourne, Thursday September 26th, 2024 @ Mitre Tavern, 5 Bank Place

Bermuda, Monday 31st March, 2025 @ Front Yard, Hamilton

2. Foundation Clubs

Military (Chris Moon, 1981)

Chris is a former British Army Officer. He left the army to work for a charity clearing landmines in Asia & Africa. He survived being taken prisoner in Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge and negotiated his release and that of two colleagues from threatened execution.

In 1995 he was blown up in a supposedly safe area of a minefield in remote East Africa losing an arm and a leg. Extremely determined Chris was out of hospital in less than two months and within a year ran the London Marathon and then later the Saharan Marathon Des Sables.



Chris runs the Alumni Military Club for serving and former forces members and those with an interest in the military. First meet: October [TBD], 2024.

Cars (Alex Foss, 2002)

My interest in cars and motorsport started at an early age, initially with a particular focus on BMWs. I owned several E30 3-series models dating from the late 80's, including a 316i and 325i Sport, while in more recent years I have owned a manual E92 M3 as well as taking a keen interest in British car marques such as Jaguar, Land Rover and Aston Martin.

Whether you are a seasoned petrolhead or keen to find out more about all things 4-wheel related, I am based around the areas of London/Hampshire/Surrey/West Sussex. We will be meeting every two months for drive meet-ups and other activities.



Please contact Alex Foss (2002) for more information: alexfoss99@gmail.com.

First meet: Saturday September 14th, 2024, 1030AM at Denbies Wine Estate Car Park, RH5 6AA.

Further alumni clubs are being formed, which we will share in the coming additions. If you'd like to start a club please e-mail us at foundation@bws-school.org.uk.

3. Careers Enablement – Mentoring and Work Experience

We have a large wealth of experience and knowledge and we are keen to help those starting university and graduates. Mentoring, work experience and internships are very useful and important to stand-out and secure many graduate roles.

We have work placements this summer in:

Arts, Insurance, Investment Banking, IT, Law, and Medicine

Please email foundation@bws-school.org.uk for more information and include your mobile phone number and ideally your LinkedIn URL and a copy of your CV.

A story from one alumnus who the Foundation supported with a work placement:

My name is Jack MacKenzie, and I attended BWS from 2014 to 2021. During my time at the school, I studied Economics, Psychology, Maths, and Further Maths at A-level. I also played on the 1st team rugby and served as Deputy Head Boy.

The mentoring I received through the foundation was vital to my career development, opening my eyes to various areas where my skills and abilities could be applied. My investment banking work experience placement further honed these skills, providing me with the knowledge and support to secure a highly competitive placement in Gymshark's strategic finance department.

I strongly encourage all former students of the school to take full advantage of the excellent network we are fortunate to have. It has been invaluable to me in my career.

4. Hamish's Fundraising Walk

To Tennyson for Bishop Wordsworth

The climb from Freshwater Bay to the top of Tennyson Down is 150 metres: a snip higher than Salisbury's cathedral spire. Looking west from the summit is a glimpse of the Needles and over the horizon America. What a way to start the last day of a 60 mile walk round around The Isle of Wight for the BWS Foundation.

Walking the Wight took 2 1/2 days; taken at pace because my fellow hiker was a seasoned Territorial, used to doubling up and down Welsh hillsides with a Bergen on his back. We left Yarmouth on Friday morning and walked most of the north shore to reach Ryde by early evening: through lush woodlands full of wild garlic. 27 miles on Day 1 was a punishing start to the expedition. We celebrated with a large cold beer watching the Hovercrafts dock on Ryde beach.

Day 2 got us to St Catherine's Point for lunch and our first long climb up the cliffs overlooking the lighthouse. The south coast has taken a beating this winter with so much rainfall. Large stretches of the coastal path were closed because of mudslide. Paths simply stop at the edge of a precipice and there are houses pitifully close to the edge of the cliffs. None of that diminished the awesome view from the Military Road that dips and climbs along the chalk downs from St Catherine's Point to the Needles; always with the glistening ocean on the left. We finished off on Sunday; making it back to Yarmouth for a late lunch and another large beer.

So far I have £930 in the kitty for the Foundation. This will be a great contribution towards the fund that the Trust draws on for transport costs, uniform, books and trips. However, it would be fantastic to get it over £1,000. Please do visit my just giving page and help me get it over the line: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/hamish-dunlop-1715371760956>

5. Meeting Alumni

As I travelled for work I have sought to meet alumni in various locations to build our community, explain what the Foundation is and what we are doing.

In Bermuda I met with Steve Woodward (1983) who has been living in paradise for over 20 years working in finance latterly at KPMG. By chance I met one of his classmates Rob Wellings (1983) at the excellent BWS Alumni Drinks in March 2024 who had lived in Bermuda at the same time as Steve.



Steve will be hosting alumni drinks in Bermuda. Steve's email address is stevewoodward@kpmg.bm

Giles Holtby (1996) lives in Singapore and I was fortunate to meet him for breakfast at Raffles (a hotel I'd heard much about but never been). Giles works in maritime services covering all of Asia and will be hosting drinks in Singapore for alumni. He's often up in Hong Kong where there are also few alumni.

Giles's email address is gilesholtby@gmail.com



6. Bishop Wordsworth's School Foundation

The Foundation's revenue is sourced from fundraising activities. This financial support aids in providing bursaries and small grants for capital projects and educational ventures. The future goal is to establish and expand an endowment fund using part of the capital. The endowment fund's earnings can then be utilised for funding significant capital projects and educational experiences that benefit the entire School community.

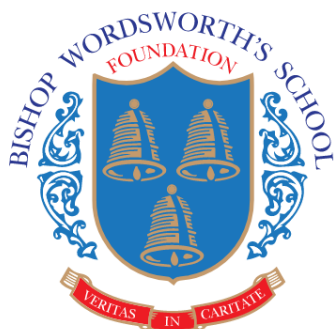
We work to support the School and its global alumni community, The BWS Network, in helping to assist and connect Old Wordsworthians throughout their lifetime. We also work alongside the school to help provide career guidance and internship opportunities for undergraduates and young graduates.

The current trustees of the foundation are:

Jon Shaw (Chair)
Penny Calvert
Hamish Dunlop
Darryl Cherrett
Richard Demain-Griffiths
Kevin Flynn
Andrew Harvey
Charles Ranaboldo

We are keen to read and share your stories as you reconnect with old classmates, as well as meet alumni from other years through the Foundation Clubs and drinks.

E-mail us at foundation@bws-school.org.uk



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