



The Bedford Society

Thank you to all who have contributed to The Bedford Society scholarships appeal. With your support we will ensure that passionate and ambitious students have the opportunity to thrive and that the Bedford College name lives on for generations to come.

If you are yet to **make a donation**, there is still time to do so either by post or online where you can also enjoy a **short video of the 2022 scholars** expressing their gratitude for the award.

We very much enjoyed welcoming Dame Margaret Hodge MP to speak to us about her life in politics back in October. It was a very popular event so, if you missed out, you can **listen to the audio recording**. Looking ahead, we are delighted to have Dr Laura Sjoberg, British Academy Global Professor of Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College and Director of the Gender Institute, speaking to us on Wednesday 22 March about *Seeing War Through Gender Lenses*. You can **read more and register to attend here**.

Planning for the 175th anniversary of the founding of Bedford College in 2024 is continuing and we are looking forward to sharing further details once they are finalised in due course. As always, please encourage any Bedfordians you are in touch with who do not currently receive this newsletter to **update their details with the College** to ensure we can involve as many alumni and former staff with the celebrations as possible.

Very best wishes

Dr. Claire Gobbi Daunton
History 1974
Bedford Society Chair



Dame Margaret Hodge MP talks to the Bedford Society about her life in politics

In October, Bedford alumna and Chair of Council, Dame Margaret Hodge MP, spoke to The Bedford Society about her fascinating life in politics. [Read more and listen to the audio recording.](#)



Celebrating 50 years since meeting at Bedford College

By Patricia Mathieson (Geography, 1975)

“Fifty years, almost to the day, from when we first met for Freshers’ Week at Bedford College, 26 of us converged on the Rose Garden for a celebration picnic. There was a core of geographers, but also people who studied geology, physics and modern languages. Some had seen each other in the intervening years, others not at all. Concerned whether we would all recognise each other, I tied my old Bedford scarf (now a bit moth-eaten) to a tree. I didn’t need to worry: nobody had changed very much.” [Read more.](#)

Bedfordian Social Workers

By Professor Gavin Drewry (Bedford College Sociology staff, 1966-85; RHBNC 1985-2009)

"In a previous issue of the Bedford Society newsletter, we reported the death of Brian Sheldon, former Professor of Social Work at Bedford College and then at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. His appointment in 1984, initially to a senior lectureship and then to a personal chair, at Bedford marked big changes that had been unfolding in the status of social work training as a research-based academic discipline – a discipline that is strongly maintained at RHBNC by the current social work team based in the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences. In particular, the establishment and early development of the very successful MSc in Social Work owes a great deal to Brian Sheldon's leadership." [Read more](#).



From Regent's Park to Barristers' Chambers

By Caroline Wilbourne (Philosophy and Ancient Greek, 1967)

"I was determined from a young age to become a barrister, an ambition supported by my mother, but not by many others. [...] I decided that I did not want to read law as an undergraduate subject and so I played to my strengths and read Philosophy and Ancient Greek. An important component of the Philosophy course was ethics, under the tutelage of Prof Bernard Williams. Because of timetable constraints, I was lucky enough to be tutored by him individually." [Read more](#).

Bedford Society WhatsApp Group

By Betty Hales (Physics, 1975)

If you would like to attend 'get togethers' with other Bedford College alumni in London why not join our WhatsApp Group, which now has 18 members. We plan to hold an informal meeting at 11 Bedford Square in the Bedford Room once or twice a term, usually on a Tuesday afternoon. [Read more](#).



Opportunities for involvement in community heritage project

pascal
COMPANY theatre

Pascal Theatre Company has received Lottery Heritage Funding for a two-year community heritage project 'Women for Women: 19th century women

in Bloomsbury'. The aim of the project is to highlight key women who lived, worked, studied or networked in Bloomsbury, London, exploring the challenges they faced and celebrating their achievements.

They are looking for volunteers to research key figures (relevant to their chosen subject area) and write tributes. Can you help? [Read more](#).

Photographer for 175th anniversary celebrations

We are looking for a Bedfordian who would be able to take photos at the Bedford College 175th anniversary events in 2024 to document the celebrations. If you can help, please contact alumni@rhul.ac.uk.

In Memoriam

We remember the Bedford College alumni and former staff who have recently died. The individuals we were informed about over the past year are listed [here](#).

Read more College news [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The College's programme of events, lectures and concerts are listed [here](#).

Bedford Society talk and reception

Wednesday 22 March, 5.30pm at 11 Bedford Square, London

Seeing War Through Gender Lenses

Speaker: Dr Laura Sjoberg, British Academy Global Professor of Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College and Director of the Gender Institute



Gender is everywhere in our images of wars and conflicts – from soldiers to civilian casualties. Off-hand statements about what men do in wars and what women do in wars frequently appear in media, in official statements, and even our personal discourses about war and conflict. Yet looking at war and searching for gender finds much more complexity – questions of agency, violence, and even the nature of conflict itself. In this talk, Laura Sjoberg (pictured) argues that the relationship between gender and war is fundamental – that one cannot think of one without the other – and

multi-faceted, and provides an introduction to questions asked about conflict through gender lenses.

There will be time for questions and discussion, as well as the opportunity to meet fellow Bedfordians over light refreshments.

Tickets are £15. Please book your place as soon as possible as capacity is limited.

[Read more and book now.](#)

2023 Fawcett Lecture by Dr Sabrina Cohen-Hatton

Thursday 23 February, 6.15pm in the Beatrice Shilling Building, Egham campus

Dr Sabrina Cohen-Hatton is one of the most senior woman fire officers in the world. In the College's 2023 Fawcett Lecture, Sabrina will speak to Professor Polly Dalton from the Department of Psychology about why certain qualities associated with success are viewed less favourably for women. She explores the everyday prejudices women experience through the prism of success. From leadership, to risk-taking, perception and failure, Sabrina exposes the invisible barriers that are holding women back. **[Read more and book tickets.](#)**

The Fawcett Lecture is named after Dame Millicent Fawcett GBE, English suffragist, political and union leader and writer. It was endowed in 1929 by Theresa Gosse, an alumna of Bedford College. According to the terms of the endowment, the subject matter should deal with 'the change in the position of women'.



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