



The Bedford Society

Dear Nickname

I hope you can find time to read this edition of the Bedford Newsletter. It brings news from Bedford scholars, whom many readers will have supported by donations, letting us know what a difference donor funding has made to them and their academic work. This piece is followed by an interview with someone at a slightly later stage in life and with a distinguished career, Dame Emma Bridgewater (English, 1983). Definitely a piece to read!

Marie Erwood (History 1974) writes about the royal biographies event held in the University Women's Club in June; and Betty Hales (Physics 1973) brings us up to date with the discussions and excursions of the growing membership of the WhatsApp group.

In the *In Memoriam* section, alongside notices of deaths, there are links to a number of obituaries which will be of interest. Please do let college know of any Bedfordians who have died in recent months,

Future events to sign up for include: a return visit to the Senate House for a tour of the building and visit to the archives (places very limited so book early); an exhibition on the Egham campus including material from the Bedford Archive and a lecture in London on elite women and the world of the sagas.

The Society's committee meets again very soon and we'll be planning events for 2026.

Finally, I'm really pleased to report on the post of Bedford College Project Archivist, funded by our donations in the anniversary year: last week members of the Committee were able to meet candidates who had applied for the position; and an appointment should be made very soon. We look forward to sharing more news in the next newsletter. Also in the next edition, there will be a report on progress with the portrait of Elizabeth Jesser Reid, again funded by donations in our 175th Anniversary year.

We hope to continue to fund both Bedford scholarships and the Bedford archivist post, well into the future. Please do bear these in mind at times when your attention might turn to charitable giving.

With best wishes,

Dr. Claire Gobbi Daunton

History 1974

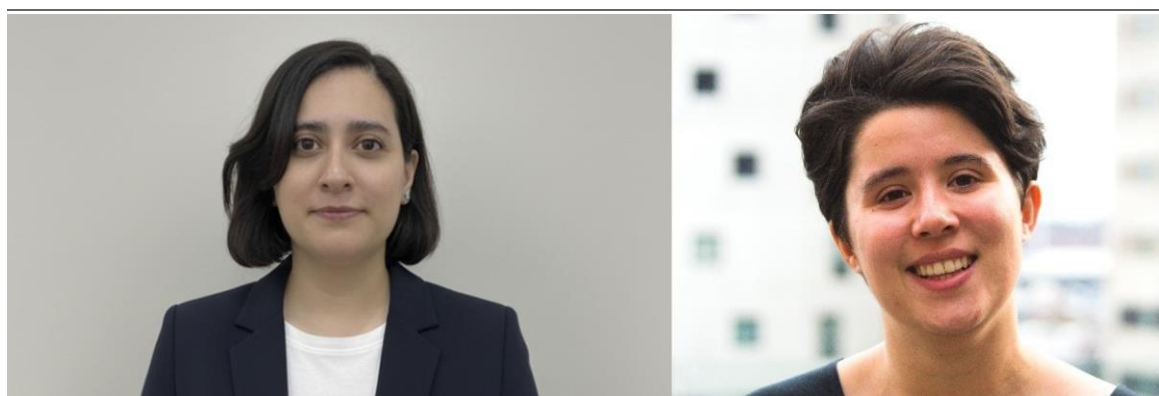
Bedford Society Chair

News



The Impact of Bedford Society Scholarships

In October 2024, three gifted students had their lives transformed as recipients of [Bedford Society Scholarships](#) thanks to the generous support of Bedfordians. As these scholars near the completion of their studies, they spoke to us about the impact of the scholarship and their aspirations for the future. [Read more.](#)



Introducing the 2025/26 Bedford Society Scholars

Sara (MSc Social Work) pictured left, Gabriella (MA Creative Writing) pictured right, and Qingan (MSc Applied Neuroscience), are our current Bedford Society Scholars supported by donations from alumni and former staff members of Bedford College.

[Find out more.](#)

To read more about supporting Bedford Scholarships please visit [Supporting Bedford Society Scholarships](#).



Alumni Stories - Emma Bridgewater

From her first sketch at 23, to leading a certified B Corp, Bedford College alumna, Dame Emma Bridgewater has built more than a brand - she's created a national treasure. Now, as her company celebrates its 40th anniversary, she reflects on creativity, social responsibility, AI and why she'll never retire. [Read more here.](#)

University Women's Club Event

By Marie Erwood (History 1974)

A fascinating and informative evening, listening to our two very talented ex-Bedfordians telling us about their latest biographies, in the company of their admiring peers. [Read more here.](#)

Happy 100th Birthday, Professor Nicola Sutherland

I'm sure you will join us in sending best wishes to Bedford College history Professor Nicola Sutherland as she celebrates her 100th birthday this month. Historians in particular will remember her as teacher, tutor and supportive presence in the department at St John's Lodge. Many happy returns, Professor Sutherland!



Bedford Society WhatsApp Discussion Group

By Betty Hales (Physics 1973)

On 24th June several of us from the WhatsApp Group met for our annual walk in Regent's Park, which has become quite a tradition. We wandered around the Queen Mary Gardens and then went into Regent's University where we had arranged to meet up with Julius, from the Regent's Alumni team, before having lunch in the refectory, now known as 'The Social'. [Read more here.](#)

Memories of Bedford College

Twelve Bedford alumni have submitted their stories to the Newsletter. [You can read them here.](#) If you would like to submit a piece for the future newsletters, please email [Alumni Engagement Team](#).

In Memoriam

We remember the Bedford College [alumni and former staff](#) who have recently died. (Some of the notices listed here have appeared in previous issues of the Newsletter).

Read the obituaries for Professor Michael Bury, from his former colleagues Professor Gavin Drewry, Professor Jonathan Gabe and Dr Mary Ann Elston [here](#).

Events



Bedford Society University of London Archives Tour and Talk
Wednesday 5 November, 10.30am meet at 11 Bedford Square

Join the University of London's Special Collections staff for a tour of Senate House Library, a talk and a hands-on archive session, focusing on Bedford College's students and their experiences as members of the University of London.

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



Bedford Centre for the History of Women and Gender Annual Lecture
Queens in the North: Elite women, social networks, & the world of the sagas
Wednesday 3 December, 5:30-7.30pm, Central London

A vivid reconstruction of Scandinavia's Viking Age past can be gleaned from the Old Norse kings' sagas, and the distinctive place of women in their internal political scene still holds some surprises. In this talk Markus Eldegard Mindrebø (University of Stavanger) draws on his recent research on Snorri Sturluson's Heimskringla and other sagas to explore their vision of royal and aristocratic women as protagonists who used social networks, interpersonal bonds, and political rituals to play the political game and claim political influence on par with men.

[Read more and book your free tickets here.](#) Places are limited, so we encourage early booking to avoid disappointment.



Open Stories: The Things We Keep Exhibition

Our Archive team has opened a new exhibition on Royal Holloway and Bedford New College campus, featuring a number of Bedford College pieces. The display will run for around six months, and plans are in place to digitise it, so if you are not able to make it physically, watch this space. In the meantime, you can find full visitor details [here](#) and explore past exhibitions online through 360° tours [here](#).

Read more [College news](#) and explore the calendar of upcoming [College events](#).



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