



WOLF SALIENT

"NON SIBI SED OMNIBUS" - NOT FOR ONESELF, BUT FOR ALL.

ISSUE 5 • APRIL 2023



HRH Princess Eugenie opens the Britton Centre!

Our brand new music and fitness facilities are finally in action; find out more on [P. 4!](#)

WOLF SALIENT: 2023 SO FAR

Welcome to the fifth, termly instalment of Wolf Salient. This edition captures the key news since the turn of the year at Wilson's, including the grand opening of the Britton Centre by Princess Eugenie (on [P. 4](#)).

You can also find out about our brand new Wellbeing Centre and the Benjamin Room (on [P. 3](#)), as well as details about the first Wilson's Law Society event.

Thank you for continuing interest in Wilson's. We wish all Old Wilsonians and members of the Wilson's community good fortune for the year ahead!

BY WILL STRAW OW

WILSON'S SCHOOL
ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER

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OLD WILSONIANS ANNUAL CHESS MATCH: REPORT



On Saturday 8th April, Wilson's once again hosted the annual Old Wilsonians (OW) Chess Match in the John Jenkins Hall. On paper, it was a two-round match-up between the past and present Chess players of Wilson's, but also served as a reunion for OWs to reconnect with former classmates.

Wilson's welcomed 37 OWs and fielded 35 students. This year had a particularly impressive turnout, from alumni who graduated from Wilson's last year all the way to those who graduated in the 1950s.

Games were played at 20 minutes each with a 5 second increment for every move. It's fair to say that after the first round the majority of the OW, trailing 22 - 13 with the black pieces, were still trying to remember their way around the Chess board!



Lunch offered a breather before Round 2, with a good mix of conversations between old and current Wilsonians.



Round 2 showed the OW side restoring their former edge, this time leading 20 - 15 with the white pieces. This made the overall score 37 - 33 to the current Wilsonian's.

Those unable to attend may not be aware of Dr Cooper's impending retirement (Chess and Further-Maths Head). Dr Cooper has been an integral part in the success of Chess Club, and no doubt been an inspiration to many of us. We hope to see him next year on the OW side where maybe we might start winning some more points!

BY ADAM ALI OW

AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR ALUMNUS OF THE TERM - STEVEN DELANEY

When did you attend Wilson's?

I attended Wilson's for seven years from 2002-2009 and have very fond memories of my school days. This made returning, 10 years after leaving the Sixth Form, an easy decision. I really could not be more thankful for the opportunities Wilson's has provided me!



What advice would you give to your 18-year-old self?

At the age of 18, leaving school and going out into the real world is both exciting and terrifying in equal measures. I would tell myself to relax, be open to new experiences and not worry too much about the future - focus on the present and the future will take care of itself. Believe in your abilities and do not underestimate yourself. I never would have imagined myself working at my old school - and writing this article about my experiences - but I am so proud to still be a part of the Wilson's community.

What job do you do?

I have been employed as the Senior Finance Officer at Wilson's since June 2019. I am based in the Finance Office on the top floor of the Foundation Building - visitors are always welcome! - and work in a team with four colleagues, each of us holding a different responsibility to maintain the school's accounting records.

What values did the school instil within you?

Wilson's not only delivered knowledge but promoted core values which I have carried with me since leaving. I was encouraged to always have the highest ambitions and teachers instilled resilience to help me realise my full potential, even if I could not see it myself. I was given all the tools to succeed but also pushed to be independent, to think for myself and make my own choices in life. There was very much a culture of respect for others, which was important given the diverse nature of the school community, and it is pleasing to see that the school's motto of 'not for oneself but for all' still transcends everything that we do!

Did any teachers stand out?

There are many teachers that stand out - for mostly good reasons! - a number of whom still work at Wilson's today. French lessons taught by Mme Mulcahy were memorable and a firm favourite of mine, delivered in the individual way that only she can - and it is good to see that nothing has changed! It was a big adjustment for me to make when returning as a member of staff to work alongside the same faces that had taught me 20 years' previously.

WILSON'S WELLBEING CENTRE OPENED!

Our new Wellbeing Centre is a dedicated space focused on supporting the physical and mental well-being of all Wilsonians.

The Wellbeing Centre includes four new offices and has, at its heart, a comfortable seating area and a conference meeting room. As well serving as a base for our safeguarding team, the spaces will be used by our counsellor, school nurse, child wellbeing practitioner and other visitors (including career guidance experts).



Our new meeting room will be named 'The Benjamin Room' in memory of Old Wilsonian, Kirk Benjamin. The school community and the Old Wilsonian Association are raising at least £10,000 in Kirk's memory towards the provision and resourcing of our wellbeing facilities. Soon, a link to our Just Giving page will be circulated to the Wilson's community; please give generously when the opportunity arises.

The large seating area will be the ideal venue for staff to meet groups of pupils, ensuring that the needs and views of pupils are a key part of our strategic planning for all areas of safeguarding, pupil wellbeing and PSHE. A visitor recently described the Wellbeing Centre as 'the most impressive place dedicated to pupil wellbeing I have ever seen in a school!'

WILSON'S SCHOOL JOINS INSTAGRAM!

We are delighted to share the news that Wilson's School is now officially on Instagram.

With over 500 followers already, regular posts on the account feature key news from the school, as well as updates from our alumni.



You can follow the account by scanning the QR code above on your phone, or by [clicking on](#) the Instagram icon below!



WILSON'S LAW SOCIETY PLANS FIRST EVENT!



Wilson's Law Society is in the process of planning its first event which is likely to take the form of a panel discussion followed by drinks at the school at **6pm on 6th July**.

If you are a solicitor/in-house legal/barrister that is interested in participating in the panel discussion, the drinks, and/or sponsoring the evening, please contact the Chair of the Society, [David Walsh](#) OW.

Wilson's Law Society is open to all those pupils, alumni, and members of the wider Wilson's community, who are interested in Law.

You can join the Wilson's Law Society LinkedIn Group by scanning the QR code or by clicking the link [here](#), to ensure you are able to access all the news on the Society and its forthcoming events. Additionally, please feel free to invite other interested members of the Wilson's community to join the Society too!

HRH PRINCESS EUGENIE OPENS THE BRITTON CENTRE!



We were delighted to celebrate the Grand Opening of our new music and sports facilities in the Britton Centre on Tuesday 10th January, in the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie. It was fitting to welcome a direct descendant of King James I, who gave permission for Edward Wilson to found our school in 1615, on this most special occasion.

The Grand Opening marked the culmination of the most ambitious building project in the school's recent history. The new facilities actually extend beyond the Britton Centre itself to include new changing rooms and a Wellbeing Centre (qv).

On this occasion, however, we reflected particularly on the exceptional new facilities for music in the Britton Centre. The school is a national leader in music education and we are proud that so many pupils at the school develop such a deep passion for music.

The progress of this project over the past three years has been a triumph of teamwork, professional expertise, community support and steadfast leadership by staff and trustees. This work continued relentlessly during the pandemic, even when there would have been every excuse to focus exclusively on the immediate demands of the crisis.

We would never have reached this point without the generosity of Paul Britton OW (above right) and the trustees of the Britton Family Foundation. Paul Britton is undoubtedly the most significant benefactor in the school's history. His generosity underpinned the refurbishment of the John Jenkins Hall, opened by HRH the Earl of Wessex in 2015 as part of our 400th anniversary celebrations, and he continues to be a steadfast friend and supporter of our school.

Non sibi sed omnibus, not for oneself but for all, is not just our motto, but the way in which Wilsonians are taught to live out their lives. We are so grateful to everyone in the wider school community who has supported this project for modelling that behaviour in their generosity, commitment, and patience. The results of working together in this way can be transformational, as the Britton Centre proves!



WILSON'S FOOTBALL: DOUBLE SUTTON CUP SUCCESS!



The 1st XI celebrating their Sutton Cup win

On 29th March 2023, we were delighted to see both the 1st XI and the Year 7s win the Sutton Cup!

Congratulations to both sides who topped off fantastic seasons with silverware, and commiserations to our Year 11s who reached the Sutton Cup Final but unfortunately didn't get the win on the day.

Notably, a Sutton Cup win by our Year 7s is the first for over a decade at Wilson's. This represents a brilliant stand-alone achievement, but also suggests the future of Wilson's football will continue to be incredibly bright with our Football Aptitude Scheme already delivering on its early promise!

BOB BEVAN OW: MEMORIES OF 'SPEECH DAY'

As I go through the difficult process of downsizing, I'm realising from my memorabilia that I was at the height of my powers in the 1990s.

I had done several TV shows with the late Sir Terry Wogan, followed Danny Baker on BBC Radio 5's 6-0-6 Show, frequently appeared on Channel 4's "Countdown" and, most important of all, become President of the Old Wilsonians' Association.

Which of these appearances had led to me sitting in the study of the then Headmaster, Chris Tarrant, is beyond my knowledge. I was there to discuss his invitation for me to appear at Wilson's Annual Prizegiving. In my day (1956-61 - I know. I don't look old enough) it was called 'Speech Day'.



Bob Bevan with Terry Wogan



Bob on Countdown

You could only go if you had actually won something and I was several hundred pupils below that particular line. I only went two years after I'd left when I was awarded the OWA Leavers Cup - a kind of Best New Old Boy.

It was handed to me by William Haley, a leading atomic scientist. In fact, as the years went by the Guest of Honour was always a leading academic of some description so inviting me was breaking a rather learned mould.

I suggested I should speak along the lines of my usual mickey-taking at the OWAs' Annual Dinner. He went white. "Oh Goodness NO!" he said. "This is totally different. All the parents come these days and I don't want you banging on about getting one "O" Level. We're a centre of excellence now."

After lunch I drove away reworking my thoughts.

On the night, to his initial horror, I recounted this conversation. But then I moved on to say that I had been a late developer and that I didn't blame my old teachers. "You can't make bricks without straw".

I said that despite the modest start, I'd still had a great career - journalist, PR consultant, entertainer - and that even if some of that year's leavers hadn't achieved everything they wanted it didn't have to be the end of the world as long as they kept believing in themselves and never gave up.

At the end Chris pumped my hand and said it was the best speech he had heard and could I find someone for the next year. So I did. It was my old friend and fellow OW Peter Mead, a legend in the advertising world.



Bob with (the other) Chris Tarrant!

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY BOB BEVAN OW

Footnote: In the audience that night was my old Headmaster Norman Friskney, someone who hadn't always appreciated my humour. Once when I introduced him, somewhat roughly, at an OWA Dinner, he hit me with the best put-down I've ever heard.

"I'd like to thank Mr Bevan for his introduction. I was thinking of Mr Bevan only this morning as I was leafing through "Woodworkers' Gazette" where it said: "A thin veneer of polish is easily removed by the application of alcohol.""

Seeing him there, I went off script and recounted that story to his and everyone else's delight and we remained friends until he died at the age of 95 not so long ago.



Glacier walking on the Wilson's Geography Trip to Iceland in March 2023!

Wilson's boys visit the Forbidden City on a school trip to China in 1993!



Wilson's actors mid-performance in the school's 2007 production of Hamlet.



Wilson's boys push themselves physically, competing in 'Tough Guy' in 2014.



Wilson's Football 1st XI photographed at the end of the 1950/51 season!



A few shots from the Wilson's Spring Concert in March 2023, held at the school.



Wilson's 1st XI (above) and the Year 7A Team (left) after both winning the Sutton Cup in March 2023, continuing Wilson's long-standing tradition of footballing excellence! Best of luck to the Wilson's boys in the 1st XI who are leaving the school this summer!



Moving forwards, the "Through the Archives" section of Wolf Salient will aim to include even more alumni-contributed photos and memories. Please send these to WAS@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk - thanks in advance!

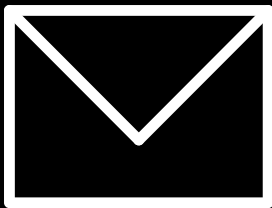
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