



BISHOP
GROSSETESTE
UNIVERSITY

BGTALK

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY

We found More at BGU

Love stories from our alumni

ISSUE 20 // NOVEMBER 2020



150 YEARS OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

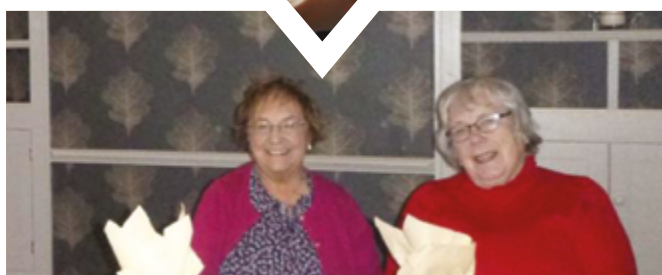
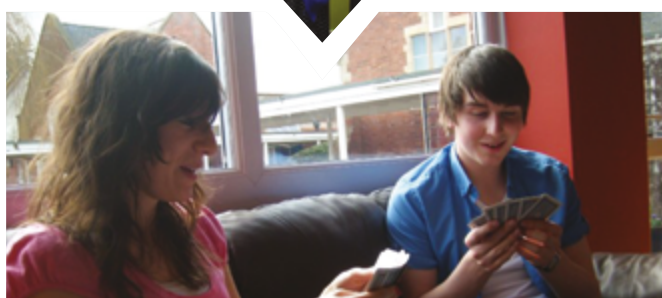
We're experts in developing excellent teachers. We have been awarded TEF Gold, the highest possible rating for Teaching Excellence. And our students also benefit from the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), which provides individually tailored learning and support.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYABILITY

We're consistently one of the top universities in the UK for employability. Our Careers Service, BG Futures, is dedicated to working with students to make them more employable, ensuring that they have the attributes needed to make their next steps.

SUPPORTIVE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

As a close campus university we have so much to offer our students all in one place. As a result we have very happy students, proven by consistently high satisfaction levels in the National Student Survey. Students are never more than a few minutes away from fun, friends and support. All students have access to 24/7, confidential Mental Health and Wellbeing support from Health Assured to help them through any of life's issues or problems. Advisors are available 365 days a year offering students over the phone support or structured counselling for a range of issues'



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Please note: Photographs used in this issue were generally taken prior to government advice regarding face masks, social distancing and large events.

Editor's Word

Welcome to the latest issue of BG Talk. Although things have been a little different whilst we have all been battling through this pandemic, we have still been really busy as always.

We will be showing off the fantastic achievements from our first cohort of the new Foundation Year programme and we also have information about our exciting upcoming events, including a few of our very popular events returning in 2021 such as Lesley Smith, Tracy Borman and The Annual History Lecture. You'll also read how the BGU Easter Bunny used his daily egg-ercising allowance to make a delivery this year to Lincoln County Hospital!

We always welcome articles from our alumni and are pleased to have a selection of them in our Beyond BGU section on pages 22-26. Head there to read some heart-warming stories of how some of our students found love at BGU.

If you would like to share something with our alumni community for the next issue of BG Talk please contact the Alumni Office on alumni@bishopp.ac.uk.

Daisy Wedge, Events and Marketing Officer & Editor of BG Talk





Word from the **Vice-Chancellor**

I am writing this at what must be the strangest time in all of our lives. In so many ways the past year has highlighted for me, more than ever, the strength of the BG Community. I have been reminded how much I appreciate being part of an organisation which, while valuing the individual, works together for the common good. During the past few months we have seen several examples of our staff and students being flexible, acting responsibly and selflessly for the benefit of others and of society in general. One example of this was the group of staff who, over lockdown, turned the Hardy Building into a distribution centre providing personal protective equipment for the NHS staff across the county. The group, which was established to respond to the advice and guidance and to ensure that we were able to act quickly both going into lockdown and coming out of it, also personified that spirit. The work, skilfully co-ordinated by Professor Scott Fleming, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, was another wonderful example of everyone working together and also demonstrated the commitment and dedication of staff, under challenging circumstances. I am very conscious that many of our former students may be in the vulnerable category although, when writing to one of our Old Students' Association, we both agreed that BGU alumni are made of strong stuff and that many of the readers of this publication have been through much more and have come through tougher times and not just survived but thrived! That is an excellent example to us all.

As you will all appreciate, one of the great selling points of BGU is our beautiful, tranquil campus in upper Lincoln; we felt it important, therefore, to get the students and staff back on campus as soon as possible in a safe and controlled way. The new academic year (2020/21) has started and we are operating a system which allows all students on campus at certain times but the teaching and learning incorporate a blended element; learners nowadays are very flexible and adaptable and both students and staff very quickly responded to the challenges of on-line delivery which are now being integrated into every course. Some areas of the campus may look different but, for me, the important thing is to re-establish and reconnect the BGU community, a substantial part of which is our campus. I want our staff and students inhabiting it again, forming those connections and memories, which many of you, our alumnus, will still cherish. By being aware of the past, conscious of the safety requirements of the present but moving on resolutely to the future I am certain that they will make a difference to society, acting as ambassadors for BGU.

All of this activity was taking place at the same time as we introduced our new Strategy which takes the University forward to 2025. In that strategic plan we have ambitions to broaden our portfolio, to develop and increase our partnerships, to broaden our international activity and to enhance and embed research in the University. Two major developments have taken place during the past year; one is

the establishment of the Faculty which is the main academic unit and it takes over from the former three schools; this new structure, led by the Dean of Faculty, Dr Nick Gee, facilitates much greater collaboration and synergies than had been possible in the past. A further significant development was the introduction of a Foundation Year which is a bespoke introductory course aimed at those who had either missed out on educational opportunities or had gaps in their experience and wanted to have a more gradual introduction into higher education study. We have seen a diversity of students joining that course and they each have individual stories to tell about how their experiences in life have led them to BGU to further their education at this time.

As part of a national initiative to strengthen the connections between universities and the communities they serve, BGU became a signatory to the Civic University Agreement. This landmark statement of collaboration seeks to build on the university's civic activities, to work with other local

institutions, businesses and community organisations and local authorities to deliver a unified vision for the city by aligning resources and activities.

During the year the BGU has focused on key projects led by units with well-established and public-facing research and knowledge exchange expertise: namely the Research and Knowledge Exchange Centre, and BGU's Lincolnshire Open Research & Innovation Centre (LORIC). Emphasis was placed on contexts relating to local, regional or national challenges, and work in connection to a broad range of policy themes including Lincolnshire's energy needs, regional health and social care provision, local social-housing provision, heritage-management practice, and teacher training and development.

BGU has continued its strong track record in national statistics such as the National Students Survey (NSS), and the Graduate Outcomes survey as well as achieving major success in national league tables. Overall satisfaction among students with their experience at BGU increased to 85.30% in the NSS, which is higher than the national average of 83%. We placed amongst the top mainstream universities in the Graduate Outcomes survey with 93% of our graduates in employment or undertaking further study, training, or research 15 months after graduating. This is a magnificent achievement and demonstrates that our graduates are highly employable.

Our most significant achievement for the year was in The Times and Times on Sunday Good University Guide 2020 in which the University rocketed from 102 overall last year to 64 in 2020. Again, significant improvements in student satisfaction, elevated BGU into the UK top 10 for satisfaction with teaching quality and contributed to the joint biggest rise, 38 places, of any university in the whole of the UK and the biggest increase in England.

Despite the impediments of the second half of the last academic year BGU is in a good place to deal with the challenges and obstacles which may arise in the future. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that our students continue to receive the high-quality experience BGU is known for and I have every faith that the strength and values of the BGU community will allow the University to flourish. As always you, our alumni, are integral members of that community and I do hope that we will be operating as normal within the shortest possible time and that we will be able to welcome you back on campus again. Thank you for your continued support.



Reverend Canon Professor Peter Neil,
Vice-Chancellor



Events in a Virtual World

Unfortunately due to the effects of Covid 19 we have had to cancel all our pre booked events in 2020, including our annual Graduation and Matriculation ceremonies. We held a virtual Matriculation on 8 October and other virtual events are being planned. The Pandemic has also had a big impact on the delivery of the Foundation Fund this year particularly due to restrictions on travel. We sincerely hope that we can return to some form of normality in these areas in 2021!

Enterprise/Business start-up support

- 1:1 Enterprise Guidance appointment via remote platforms such as Microsoft Teams
- Opportunities to build your network
- Referrals to relevant partner organisations such as The Princes Trust (their Enterprise Programme helps 18 to 30-year olds turn big ideas into business reality)
- Possibilities for project work/mentoring /internships with tenants running their own enterprises, onsite in the Business & Enterprise Centre within BG Futures
- Discounted rates for start-up office space and virtual tenancies within the Business & Enterprise Centre.

Follow the Centre on LinkedIn and like & follow the FB & Twitter accounts (BG Futures)

Contact: bgfutures@bishopg.ac.uk

Possible Future Events

An Audience with Tracy Borman

Friday 28th May 2021

7.30pm

The Venue, Bishop Grosseteste University

Price: £8



BGU are delighted to welcome Tracy Borman, renowned historian, Chief Executive of the Heritage Education Trust and Joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces, back in 2021.

Sex and The Tudors Performed by Lesley Smith

Thursday 27th May 2021 at 7:30pm

The Venue, Bishop Grosseteste University

Price: £8

We are delighted to welcome Lesley Smith back to BGU, to give her talk on Sex and The Tudors. We have temporarily booked Lesley to come back to do the same talk the following afternoon (Friday 28th May at 12 noon) in case of social distancing, but this will be reviewed closer to the time whilst monitoring the situation closely.

BGU Annual History Lecture: Britain and Ireland – 100 years of independence and 400 years of common history: Ireland and Empire, 1600-2000

Wednesday 12th May at 4pm

The Venue, Bishop Grosseteste University

For more information or to book tickets to any of the events listed visit www.bishopg.ac.uk/events, email events@bishopg.ac.uk or call 01522 585635.

RESEARCH AT BGU



LORIC Report Projects for Lincolnshire

Following the completion of the ERDF funded portion of the Lincolnshire Open Research and Innovation Centre (LORIC) project, (which saw the renovation of an ex-children's home on Newport into a multi-functional research and collaboration centre, and provided fully funded support for dozens of local SMEs) the focus of the LORIC project and its team has shifted to encompass commercial work and external contracts.

Here are just a few of the projects that the LORIC team has been involved in:

The National Centre for Rural Health and Care:

The National Centre for Rural Health and Care has been established as a Community Interest Company, national in scope with a HQ in Lincolnshire. It acts as a governance vehicle for formal collaboration amongst partners interested in the four key drivers of impact in rural health and care, as well as influencing policy and strategy:

- Data – scoping and measuring the challenge and the response to it;
- Research – identifying and testing

what works; Technology – shrinking distances between and adding to the human capacity in rural communities; and Workforce and Learning – making the case for rural settings as the location of choice for ambitious health and care professionals

Bishop Grosseteste University and the LORIC team are delighted to announce the renewal of their working relationship with the Lincolnshire based National Centre for Rural Health and Care for 2020/21.

Since July 2019, the LORIC team have been involved in providing support with the research activities of the National Centre for Rural Health and Care. This has included conducting a review into the research interests of their 90+ members, gathering information on research projects and putting together case studies and examples of good practice.





The Social Impact of Farmer Support Networks

The LORIC team at Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU), in collaboration with economic development consultants, Rose Regeneration, has been successful in securing grant funding of over £90,000 in order to deliver a project to support the wellbeing of farmers in England as part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) Future Farming Resilience Fund programme.

The Future Farming Resilience Fund programme aims to support the farming industry through the post-Brexit Agricultural Transition Period which is in place until 2027. The Lincolnshire Open Research and Innovation Centre (LORIC) team at BGU, along with consultants from Rose Regeneration, are working with Farmer Support Network organisations across the country to evaluate the impact that Farmer Support Networks have on the health and wellbeing of the farmers and land managers that they serve. The intention is that this will result in the production of bespoke reports, and an overall social impact report that will enable the Networks to develop their offer of services so that they can focus their support on the areas of greatest impact. This work will also support the development of tools that can be used on an ongoing basis to further evaluate social impact within the sector in the future.

The results from this programme will be of vital importance in helping Defra to understand what types of support are effective in helping farmers throughout the agricultural transition period.

A review of the Social Economy of Greater Lincolnshire

Bishop Grosseteste University are involved in a piece of work funded by Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership to draw up a strategy for the social economy of Greater Lincolnshire. As a part of this work, the LORIC team would like to speak to representatives from a number of local social economy organisations to gather information on their organisations, and on their experiences of working in the social economy. Due to the varied nature of this sector, we are keen to speak to representatives from both formally constituted organisations, such as charities, mutuals and community interest companies, as well as more informal groups, such as time banks and other forms of exchange. If your organisation would be interested in participating in or just finding out more about this piece of research, please email loric@bishopg.ac.uk and we will be in touch with you.

Lincolnshire County Council – Energy

This project was created in collaboration with the Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership. Its aims were to create a report that:

- Outlined existing open data
- Mapped it out against the existing strategy ambitions of Greater Lincolnshire
- Reflected the current challenges and opportunities for energy as seen by local stakeholders

The LORIC team achieved this by firstly creating the open data report, and secondly by running an event that brought together stakeholders from local government and enterprise, and encouraged them to workshop solutions using open data to what they perceived as the biggest challenges to energy in Lincolnshire.

The report prepared on the energy needs of Lincolnshire has been used to support the formation of the Greater Lincolnshire Energy Board, which comprises several stakeholders from the private and public sector. The Bishop Grosseteste University employee responsible for the report has been invited to sit on that board's meetings.

Lincolnshire County Council – Health and Social Care

Parallel to the project on energy, the Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership also commissioned a project on data discovery for health and social care energy needs. Its aims were to create a report that:

- Outlined existing open data
- Mapped it out against the existing strategy ambitions of Greater Lincolnshire
- Reflected the current challenges and opportunities for energy as seen by local stakeholders

The LORIC team achieved this by firstly creating the open data report. Two workshops were scheduled to take place to get local stakeholders to workshop solutions, based on open data, to the biggest challenges to health and social care in Lincolnshire as they perceived them, however, these were unfortunately postponed as part of a wider university response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Lincolnshire's Coastal Economy

This project was proposed by Skills Reach (a local business support organisation) as part of an ongoing project with Lincolnshire County Council. The aims of this project were to use open data sources to map out the existing needs and vulnerabilities of the labour force on the coastal wards in East Lindsey.

The final report produced as part of

LORIC Events Roundup

this work looks at open data from the wards of Tetney, Marshchapel, North Somercotes, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet, Mablethorpe (North, East, and Central), Trusthorpe and Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea (North and South) Alford, Chapel St Leonards, Ingoldmells, Winthorpe, Scarbrough, Croft, Wainfleet and Fiskney, as well as Boston and Skegness parliamentary constituency.

This specific geographical area has been selected for study because it has historically been one of the most deprived areas in the county. Because of an intersection of multiple factors of deprivation, local residents are considered to be in a uniquely vulnerable position both in terms of employment and in general quality of life. The objectives of the report were therefore to provide the necessary groundwork for skills-based interventions for the local labour force that are both timely and appropriate for their needs.

The report prepared on the baseline skills and economic needs of the Lincolnshire Coastal Communities is already being circulated across the Lincolnshire County Council with the view of supporting the plans for COVID-19 recovery of the Lincolnshire Coastal wards.

Research England Strategic Priority Fund

Between November 2019 and March 2020, LORIC were able to make use of funding provided by Research England to support local strategic projects with data consultancy. They were also able to host 18 events for the benefit of researchers and local businesses, however this series was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Children and Social Media:

LORIC held two workshops on Children and Social Media which brought together stakeholders from business, policy and the third sector. The aim of these workshops was to help attendees:

- Learn about some of the latest research into children's social media lives
- Understand more about risks on social media
- Get up to speed on important vocabulary around social media and families
- Workshop some tools to bring into their daily practice and support families that use their services around social media
- Share best practices with researchers in the field

The reports and toolkits from this workshop are available for free download on the LORIC CKAN website.

Women Entrepreneurs' Networking group

Prior to Covid-19, the monthly Women Entrepreneurs' Networking group that was established in 2019 carried on, with guest speakers delivering talks on issues such as: cyber security, personal branding, business strategy, advertising your business, nutrition and wellbeing, as well as talks by a number of speakers who shared their fascinating careers journeys with us.



Autism Café:

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, LORIC hosted bi-monthly Autism Ideas café events which provided a platform for people in Lincolnshire with an interest in autism to meet, network, and share knowledge and ideas. Activities undertaken at the events have included mapping out what services are available locally for those with autism, identifying services that are open to all, and those where a professional referral is needed, as well as beginning to explore where there are gaps in provision locally that a multi-agency approach might hope to tackle.



There has also been a presentation by the JobCentre+ on the support available to autistic adults. Topics of discussion have included: current autism research; autism

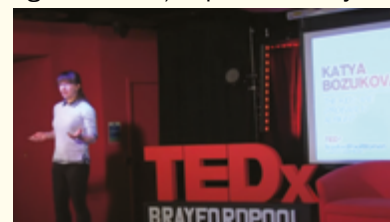
support in early years' services; autism and leisure opportunities; funding for autism related projects; careers and employability support for autistic adults; and welfare and benefits system support for those with autism.

Events for businesses

LORIC has provided a range of events for local businesses, focussing on workshops including on GDPR, bid writing, social impact measurement, public speaking, feasibility testing. Open Research Fellow, Katya Bozukova, has also been putting her PhD research to use by delivering a range of seminars on the subject of "Children and Social Media" for academics and those working in the Third Sector.

TEDxBrayford Pool

LORIC have worked with TEDxBrayford Pool (a local licence-holder organisation for TEDx Talks, the global brand) to produce a 3-year impact report and a social return on investment study. Linked to this work, Katya Bozukova gave a TEDx talk picking up on the themes of her PhD research into social media use and children.





Facilities at LORIC

The LORIC Centre is available for use by local businesses, with facilities available for hotdesking, meetings and presentations. To be kept up to date with information about our return to the LORIC building following lockdown, please email us at loric@bishopg.ac.uk

Digitisation

What is Digitization?

Digitization is the process of converting paper records into digital ones, using the help of a variety of systems and hardware. The goal of digitization is to help businesses become more sustainable and better prepare for growth.

Is Digitization the same as scanning?

Digitization consists of the scanning, organizing, and meta-tagging of analogue files. This means that paper files must be scanned to be digitized,

but full digitization also includes the additional processing of the electronic files, to make them easily searchable on an organisation's database.

Which businesses are good candidates for Digitization?

Digitization benefits businesses from all industries, but particularly those that rely on the availability of old archives and texts.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- historic archives
- manuals for machines that are out of production or regularly updated
- old books and magazines
- maps
- county records

LORIC can offer a variety of support through its digitization services: from teaching businesses to use the machines and renting them out, to digitizing the archives themselves.

Our business proposition is aimed at making digitization open to all.

LORIC has both a fast put-through scanner (ideal for loose-leaf documents) and an archival book scanner, which can be used on any sized book or pamphlet, or indeed to scan posters up to A0 in size.

LORIC Retainer Scheme

As well as larger contracts, LORIC also launched its "retainer" scheme, whereby organisations can sign up to receive 2 days of data support, and then enjoy reduced rates on further days' support, and on our other services, such as digitisation. In line with the ethos of the LORIC project to make services as affordable as possible, a staged scheme of membership is in place, with rates varying depending on the size of organisation supported.

Staffing Update

Over the last year we have said goodbye to our initial LORIC project co-ordinator, Laura Spencer, who has moved on to work on a project with the University of Lincoln. We have also supported a Lincoln College student to complete her extended work placement with us as part of the Extended Industry Placement Programme. We have welcomed to the team Carole Tondeur, our

new project administrator and receptionist, and Eleanor Mould, a part-time data analyst. The last year has also seen Katya Bozukova, the LORIC Open Research Fellow awarded her PhD for her work on the role of trust and risk in social media, and data analyst, Kay Purle, embark on an MSc in Mental Health, Resilience and Wellbeing here at Bishop Grosseteste University.

CELT AT BGU

Centre for Enhancement in Learning and Teaching



CELT Carnival 2019 Return

All the fun of the fair arrived at Bishop Grosseteste University on Wednesday 20th November in the form of Carnival 2019, a well-being event sponsored by the Centre for Enhancement in Learning and Teaching (CELT). To brighten up a damp and rainy November, the CELT team in collaboration with the SU organised everything from a chocolate fountain, indoor games, limbo and candy floss to cookie decorating, giant mindful colouring in and the adorable hen Gemma who was kindly brought in by 'OrionTree' alongside a pair of alpacas and became a huge hit. The animals from OrionTree regularly visit schools throughout the year and provide a fantastic, calming experience for the children and students who interact with them.

Over 150 people attended the jamboree, which put lots of smiles on not only staff and student faces but also on children from local specialist school, St. Francis, who popped in to enjoy all of the activities that ran in the Students' Union (SU) between 12pm-3pm. Linette Wallace, Centre Coordinator at CELT, explained why the carnival day was such an important activity in the University calendar: *"Part of the rationale behind hosting such an event for our students, is we recognise a mid-semester dip in the first term through a rise in referrals to Student Advice. Students can sometimes feel an increase in anxiety levels with both the assessment period and the December break and this provides an opportunity for them to get together and just have a few hours of fun."*

These aims were clearly recognised by BGU's student community with Jordan Fane, Bishop Grosseteste University Students' Union Vice President, praising the event: *"The turnout for this year's carnival was brilliant and it was great to have so many students visit the Students' Union to engage with all the different activities on offer. The SU are hugely thankful to CELT for sponsoring this event which has become increasingly popular and although I was kept busy supporting the event on the day, I also enjoyed having a few games of chess myself!"* CELT, guided by the well-being steering group, will continue to build upon the well-being successes of last year and are fully committed to creating and maintaining a positive and mindful University here at Bishop Grosseteste.

Raising Mental Health Awareness

In 2018, the Office for National Statistics produced its first estimates of Higher Education student suicides, an area which typically until then was difficult to quantify. By amalgamating different data sets (Death Registration Records and Higher Education registration data) they were able to see a better picture of this area. Their research showed, that whilst the rate of suicide of Higher Education students in England and Wales is significantly lower than the general population, tragically university student suicide rates have gone up over the last decade.

Due to the necessity to make significant improvements in this arena, it isn't a surprise that mental health and well-being in Higher Education have become a national focus. BGU actively demonstrates its commitment to staff and student's wellbeing by embedding policies at an institutional level and by running a number of activities throughout the year for both staff and students.

It was decided by the Wellbeing Framework Steering Group, to run an event to raise mental health awareness with a focus on suicide prevention for BGU students. The event organised by CELT and supported by the Students' Union was held on the evening of Dec 5th and was supported by Papyrus UK, Lincoln Samaritans and

Steps2change a free NHS service who all brought in information and resources to share with students. The University of Lincoln also attended the event to talk with students about a digital mental health project they are running for students across Lincolnshire.

Dr Robert Boast, Executive Dean, Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement at BGU, stated:

"I'm proud that Bishop Grosseteste University nurtures a real community spirit and endeavours to create an authentic sense of belonging amongst its staff and students. It is crucial that we run these types of activities for our students so that they feel supported with mental health issues and know where to go to seek any advice that they may need. It was wonderful to have so many organisations give up their own time to positively contribute to this wellbeing initiative".

CELT have since donated £100 which was split between the two charities involved in the event, Papyrus UK and Lincoln Samaritans. Gillian Monson a volunteer from the Lincoln Samaritans commented:

"Each branch is responsible for funding its own costs of operation, so donations like yours are vital to enable us to continue to be there for the people who need us".



CELT Donation brought ‘eggs-tra’ big smiles to children at Lincoln Hospital!

The BGU Easter Bunny used his daily eggs-ercising allowance to make an early delivery this year to Lincoln County Hospital.

As a small token of thanks to the amazing NHS during these unsettling times, the team at CELT donated Easter eggs to Rainforest Children’s ward at Lincoln County Hospital for all the children currently based on the ward to enjoy.

Speaking after receiving the donation Sharon Kidd, Patient Experience and PALS Manager at Lincoln County Hospital, thanked the CELT team for their donation saying “little things like this are really big things”.

The eggs had originally been planned for CELT’s Easter Egg Hunt on campus as part of the wellbeing initiatives being put on for BGU students during March. Although the hunt itself had to be cancelled everyone at BGU hopes the eggs brought some eggs-tra big smiles to all the children on the ward.



Make your Mark: Food Solutions

BGU students recently had the chance to devise solutions to the global issue of food waste as part of the ‘Make Your Mark’ challenge. Sponsored and hosted by CELT, and supported by BG Futures, the ‘Make Your Mark’ challenge asked the students to think of improvements that could be made at BGU to help limit food waste.

While the University’s BG Lincoln Ltd. team have made great strides in this area, they still face the difficulty of balancing these efforts with customer demand for a varied menu as John Hodson, Operations Manager at BG Lincoln Ltd., explains: “Over the past 3 years we have reduced our in-house waste by 28%, resulting in savings of around £14,000 in total. To achieve this, we have focused on an efficient menu, cooking within managed periods of time to meet projected demand, however, we are aware that students desire an expansion to the menu choice.”

With this in mind students were asked to think about how about the menu choice could be expanded

upon in catering outlets at BGU whilst improving waste control further.

They were also asked to reflect on the sustainability of any of these initiatives and whether they could be developed/run as a social enterprise venture. The group of students who took part generated a raft of ideas from different portion sizes and a “lite bites” menu, to generating compost and introducing of ‘doggy bags’ to helping the disadvantaged through food bank donations.

Amongst all these fantastic concepts, the winning solution suggested the development of an online app which releases a pre-bookable, weekly food plan. Devised by student Kim Lucia Spielmanns, who won £150 for her idea, the app would allow a higher percentage of food to be pre-booked by staff and students. Speaking at the event she explained her motivation: “Even though our in-house sustainability has greatly improved, I wanted to focus on a solution which could reduce our carbon footprint and better manage the volume control

institutionally. My app idea means that more meal tickets can be pre-bought which can better inform buying decisions.” Two runner-up students also won a £20 Amazon voucher for their overall contributions.

All the suggestions put forth by the students have been disseminated to the relevant BGU staff and will be built upon further in the New Year. John Hodson is keen to work with students further to ensure their voice is central to the menu offer and their ideas are incorporated into future plans and will be setting up dedicated focus groups in the New Year.

Linette Wallace, CELT co-ordinator, led the event and has plans to expand its impact beyond BGU: “I am pleased that this event was so well received by our students and I believe there is a growing need for a pool of social entrepreneurial talent. Next academic year, we hope to be able to run this type of challenge with a group of local secondary schools and will be sending out invitations in the New Year.”



Encouraging 'Grit' in Bishop Grosseteste Students

Student mental health and wellbeing have been of national focus for some time especially due to the growing rise in student mental ill-health in Higher Education (HE). With the recognition of this growing area of concern, positive interest in student resilience by the sector is on the rise. As a result, resilience and its associated characteristics are starting to inform several crucial HE interventions alongside the student experience; from peer learning to graduate attributes and curriculum design.

At Bishop Grosseteste (BG) University, the health, wellbeing and employability of our students are key considerations and our aim is to nurture strong, independent learners that develop into rounded individuals that can contribute positively to society. Whilst we do not dispute the need for additional counselling and specialist support where required, the BG community have felt a more proactive, preventative approach must be a better way forward for students rather than waiting for any crisis point to be

reached. Hence, we are delighted to announce that through the work of the Wellbeing Framework Steering Group and CELT, BG students will now have access to an online Resilience Toolkit from mid-September 2020. This dovetails with a raft of other wellbeing support mechanisms we have in place for our students across campus, such as Student Advice and the Chaplaincy for example.

The toolkit advocates a positive, proactive approach to resilience by providing students with key information, activities, mindfulness techniques, resources, and links to further areas of support. It has been designed so that students can use it as frequently as they wish and access it with ease, as it sits on the Virtual Learning Environment (BlackBoard) and is linked to/from many course and generalist areas.

As is widely known, student retention, success and graduate outcomes are intrinsically linked to learners successfully overcoming any barriers

that they face to achievement in HE, such as stress and anxiety. By utilising some of the tools on the toolkit, it is hoped, that students can improve upon their growth mindset which is crucial to the development and maintenance of their resilience. This, in turn, can help them optimise any conditions they face and any environment in which they are situated. Central to having this growth mindset, is the student's ability to embrace and learn from failure and it can be argued that the concept of them acquiring grit, resilience and delayed gratification are all pivotal in them being able to set goals and develop a sense of comfort in waiting for longer-term results to be achieved.

The toolkit is being added to on an ongoing basis and houses some free e-books, embedded video content, and will promote events/talks/online courses in the subject area. If you would like further information, or would like to share any resources that you feel will enhance the toolkit, please send information or requests to: **CELT@bishopg.ac.uk**.

COURSES AT BGU



Foundation Year Hailed a Triumph

September 2019 saw the inception of the new Foundation Year at Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU). Although the benefits of the programme were widely recognised, no-one could have anticipated the demand of this flexible, bridging route.

A cohort of approx. 50 students are just successfully finalising this highly accessible Level 4 course. The majority of these have decided to continue on with further study and have now selected their preferred degree programme/s equipped with a new raft of skills to enable success. Others have used this year to improve on their transferable competences to become more employable in an ever-competitive labour market.

The Foundation Year consists of 8 modules which are assessed by a portfolio of work rather than through examinations. The beauty

of the course, is that it gradually introduces academic ways of learning and working to those that may be nervous about attending university, or those who may not have achieved the necessary requirements to study at degree level straight away. Students have been carefully guided throughout the course and have received a wealth of support not only through the CELT team who predominantly deliver its teaching, but with other BG tutors who also are involved and committed to its delivery.

With the passing of its inception year, the demand for this course has risen by over 100% cementing it as a key component of the curriculum offer. Currently, BG has in excess of 100 people already applying for the Foundation Year, this is testament not only to its success but its necessity to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access higher

education learning and teaching through a variety of means.

By having a Foundation Year, it offers the opportunity for students to utilise building blocks to acquire knowledge and skills as an alternative route to progress onto undergraduate study. It prepares learners by getting them accustomed to university life, studying at an undergrad level, honing their referencing, analytical, reflective, digital and academic writing skills, for example. It also provides taster materials and sessions of the subject the individual is interested in proceeding onto at degree level, thereby proffering a varied, interesting and robust preliminary exploration into the world of academia.

For further information about the Foundation Year, please email **CELT@bishopg.ac.uk**

Awarding UK

a new service from Bishop Grosseteste



Building upon the teaching excellence of Bishop Grosseteste University, we're proud to launch Awarding UK, the University's new End-Point Assessment Organisation, offering a personalised service for apprenticeship assessments, dedicated to excellent learner outcomes and building a positive future for learners of all ages.

End-Point Assessment is the final test for all apprentices undertaking an apprenticeship in England. It is designed to be an objective and impartial assessment of an apprentice's knowledge, skills, and behaviours, enabling each apprentice to demonstrate their capability to carry out the role they have been training for. Activities may be different for every apprenticeship, but they all follow the same overall structure, requiring two or three different assessments to be undertaken against a strict set of criteria. The

assessments can cover a variety of different methods, such as Professional Discussions, Interviews, Online Exams, Observations and Written Projects. End-point assessments must be delivered by a completely independent organisation with no involvement in the apprentice's training. This is done by an End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO), chosen by the employer of the apprentice, usually in conjunction with the training provider who is delivering the "off the job" portion of the training. The EPAO is then responsible for delivering the end-point assessments, carrying out quality assurance on those assessments, and awarding the final grades. Certification is provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Government body which oversees apprenticeships in England.

Apprenticeships provide the ideal way for employers to improve the skills

and knowledge of their workforces. Post-Covid, apprenticeships are an increasingly important route to getting people back into work, providing the opportunity to "earn whilst you learn", and the Government is increasing investment in apprenticeships as a result. Apprenticeships are not just for school leavers, you can undertake one at any age post-16, in a huge variety of subjects and levels, from a Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) apprenticeship as an Early Years Practitioner, to a Level 7 (Masters Degree equivalent) apprenticeship as a Senior Leader, and everything in between. There are over 700 different subjects ("standards") to choose from covering just about every business sector.

The new Awarding UK team have spent the last few months working through the rigorous regulatory approval processes required before





Awarding UK can begin operations. In March 2020, a key milestone was reached when Awarding UK gained acceptance onto the Register of End Point Assessment Organisations (RoEPAO). Organisations must be on this Government register before being allowed to deliver end-point assessments, and an EPAO must submit a separate application for each apprenticeship standard they wish to be registered for. A second entry onto the register was achieved in July 2020, meaning that Awarding UK is now approved to deliver end-point assessments for the Career Development Professional L6 standard, a degree-level apprenticeship for professionals engaged in careers guidance for clients of all ages, and the Nursing Associate (NMC 2018) L5 standard, a foundation degree-level apprenticeship for Nursing Associate, a step towards gaining Registered Nurse status. Over the coming months, further applications will be submitted for standards in the education and childcare sectors, further enhancing BGU's excellent reputation in these sectors.

Significant work has also been put into building expert assessment and quality assurance teams. As the "face" of Awarding UK, it's crucial that the Assessors are experts in

their occupational field as well as experts in assessment practice, and the new recruits have undergone a robust selection process to ensure that they are able to consistently deliver assessments of the highest quality, every time. The teams will undergo further induction training over the coming weeks as Awarding UK prepares for assessment delivery. With all this in place, apprentices, their employers, and the training providers who deliver their training, can be confident that every assessment delivered by the Awarding UK team will meet their requirements.

Awarding UK's mission is to create an 'Awarding UK Community' within Greater Lincolnshire and beyond, bringing together sector experts, employers and training providers to deliver high-quality assessments that can be relied upon and trusted. This innovative and positive approach will support widening participation in further and higher education, increase BGU's collaborative opportunities, and build upon the University's existing reputation as a specialist in these subject areas.

As Dr Rob Boast, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) says: *"This is an exciting time for BGU as we develop our portfolio of programmes and business. We are working with new*

employers and training providers and Awarding UK is key in enabling us to engage with a new community of learners. BGU continues to value and actively support the individual to enhance their knowledge, skills and employment. We are wholly committed to extending the benefit of higher education to greater range of learners and an apprenticeship is an important and valid pathway for many who want to enhance their education through work-based learning."

If you are a specialist in childcare, education or career development, and are interested in helping apprentices achieve their potential, or if your organisation has or is thinking of recruiting apprentices in those sectors, Awarding UK would love to hear from you. For further information, visit <http://www.awardinguk.com> or contact enquiries@awardinguk.com



"We are wholly committed to extending the benefit of higher education to greater range of learners,"

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AT BGU



More about LiNCHigher

LiNCHigher was formed in January 2017 and is part of the national Uni Connect Programme, funded by the Office for Students. Working within schools and local communities, we aim to raise young people's aspirations to go onto Higher Education.

LiNCHigher focus specifically on underrepresented students within our society, in areas of the county which has the lowest transition to Higher Education. The project is currently funded until July 2021.

Based at BGU, the LiNCHigher team brings together regional universities, colleges, councils, educational agencies and over 45 schools from across the county under a single umbrella of proactive, collaborative and sustainable intervention. The project consortia provide tailored activities and events, information,

advice and guidance for young people, inspiring them to make informed decisions to their Higher Education journey.

2020 has so far been a transitional year for the project, and in light of schools closing due to COVID-19, the team have been progressive and forward-thinking, pivoting the project quickly in line with the changing challenges facing young people during lockdown, as well as preparing for the new 'normal' and the way we now have to seek to inspire and educate from a social distance.

In May, LiNCHigher worked with local companies to be the first Uni Connect partner in the country to launch an online learning offering to support students in lockdown.

The LiNCHigher Learning platform enables over 25,000 students in

Lincolnshire access to specialised learning resources and e-courses; free of charge. Students were able to use the platform during lockdown and more content is being developed by partners throughout the upcoming academic year.

Given the need to support students, parents and teachers working from home, LiNCHigher have been busy working with HEI partners to develop a range of digital content including teacher resources, webinars, free educational course guides, online videos, tutorials, activities, articles, GCSE & A Level News and Ambassador blogs.

A digital HE Toolkit was also produced by the team to provide information, advice and guidance to students who would be starting university in September 2020. The toolkit covers a plethora of useful information

about starting at university including accommodation, student finance, mental health and transitioning to Higher Education.

LiNCHigher continue to embrace digital delivery where possible, and even funded over 20 teachers in the county to undertake their Level 3 Careers and Guidance Qualification via webinar during lockdown.

From October 2019 to the start of lockdown, LiNCHigher ran over 300 exciting events for students, including our second World of Work Festival in Boston, which saw over 1,000 students interact with local employers and discover new opportunities for when they finish school. In addition we also ran careers fairs at Grantham College and brought five schools from Boston together to take part in the National Enterprise Challenge.

Next term will see the launch of the LiNCHigher Outreach HUB, an online information, advice and guidance platform created collaboratively by consortia partners to support the long-term needs of students, teachers and parent/carers across Lincolnshire. The HUB will be a central depository of information and tools to support the whole community to better understand the educational opportunities available to them whether they need support with personal statements, finding a course, applying or they just want to understand apprenticeship opportunities

LiNCHigher's Project Manager, Jonathan Lidster, said: *"Despite the changes and obstacles we faced due to the pandemic, 2020 has been a transformative year for LiNCHigher, giving us the opportunity to support a wider range of under represented students across more schools in a more highly adaptive and creative way.*

"There will be many changes with the way we deliver our activities this year, but it's also an exciting time for the project in the way we adapt to this. Regardless of the challenges we will continue to work hand in hand with our partners at BGU, the University of Lincoln and all colleges in the county to deliver a programme of support which truly inspires young people, raising their self belief and future HE aspirations."

To find out more about the project and gain access to a number of resources mentioned, please visit: www.linchigher.co.uk



A Word from BGSU

For more information about the BGU Student Union, you can visit their website at www.bgsu.co.uk, and reach them by email on SU@bishopg.ac.uk

The last few months have been a challenge for the Students' Union.

Starting with the university's campus closure and later the nationwide lockdown; causing many issues for how we represent our students both academically and socially. Alongside making sure that we tried our best to support student wellbeing throughout a very difficult period. Although the initial shock and obstacles that came with the COVID-19 pandemic have since subsided with the end of last academic year, a whole set of new ones have arisen as we prepared for our new and returning undergraduate students to return to campus. The challenges that will come about with an engaging, but safe and socially distant, freshers period; and the difficulties that will come with adapting to the new normal.

As an SU, once the move to eLearning was announced our first priority was to make sure that the SU building was closed down effectively. This meant cutting short a very successful first year for our commercial operation selling meal deals in the SU bar. With little idea of when a return to campus would be viable, the decision was made to split the remaining

stock, donating half to the local emergency services to support them in the work that lay ahead, and half to creating a 'foodbank' on campus for the students remaining in accommodation - some of whom were shielding and were concerned about how long they would have to wait to receive a shopping delivery.

Once this had been completed and with lectures momentarily on hold whilst lecturers adapted their teaching material for distance learning we focused our efforts on making sure that our students remained engaged with us and the university in an attempt to make students feel less isolated whilst having to stay put. Our events continued throughout the lockdown, amending many of the ideas we had before campus was closed to be run through a set of social media campaigns. These included an online RAG week where a group of students collectively walked to the peak of Kilimanjaro from their homes; we also ran an online SU mental health awareness day, involving many of our sport teams and societies who were all invited to post uplifting videos on our social media pages.

During the height of the pandemic the SU had to work closely with the university to support students through online learning. During this period The Vice President (Education) was in regular meetings with members of university staff to come up with ways that the university could support the student body. Through these meetings emergency regulations were created that were put in place to allow students who were struggling with the move to solely online learning to have some form of protection in their grades, but still have the opportunity to improve for those students who took to the move to online learning and were still able to succeed despite the lack of contact time.

Once these emergency regulations were put in place the SU worked closely with the university to come up with effective ways to communicate the new regulations to the students, this included the use of narrated power points, working with the university to create student friendly messaging in language that would allow the university to get the message across whilst still being written in student friendly language and working with university staff to do the SU's



BISHOP GROSSETESTE STUDENTS' UNION



first live Q&A session with university staff which was streamed live on the Student Union Facebook page.

Alongside academic support, the SU became very aware during the lockdown of the financial ramifications that the move to lockdown could have on our students with many working zero-hour contracts jobs to support their studies. As a result many of our students found themselves without work and without the financial aid they would normally have during this period. We were able to help through working with student advice to communicate to students about how they can apply for a hardship fund.

Along with this we also partnered with the charity Fareshare to create a foodbank run by the Student Union from the Robert Hardy Building specifically for the students of BGU that were in financial hardship during the pandemic. Students were able to book time slots with SU staff and were able to pick up a set amount of

food at the time they were allotted. This allowed us to provide further support for our student body during this period.

Eventually as restrictions were loosened we were able to return to the office, although this came with a new set of challenges. Two staff bubbles were created to ensure that should a member of staff test positive for COVID-19 during the academic year we would be able to continue our work representing the student body from campus. Alongside this we began work on making the student union space a safe and socially distant environment for students throughout their time on campus. Whilst continuing to aid the university in communicating with students as to what campus and the landscape of learning and teaching would look like. This led to us once again completing a Q&A session with university staff filmed live onto our social media, this was used to calm student nerves for the upcoming year and to create an engaging

platform to keep them in the know.

Whilst working with the university we also had to create a socially distant freshers. This presented us with several challenges as restrictions were constantly changing. We eventually decided that in order to create the best possible experience we could give our new students we would reduce the events we put on allowing the events we do put on to be better quality. This allowed us to put on events that beforehand we have been unable to, for example: putting on a successful open air cinema screening and allowing us to relaunch our weekly 'student night' to 'student social night'.

All in all, despite the challenges, this period has been an increasingly successful time for the Student Union. With engagement online and in person improving and receiving a 17% increase in our NSS score and we are ready and prepared for any challenges that we may face in the year to come.

BEYOND BGU



Invisible Ed: Childrens' book by former BGU student

Sophie grew up in Retford and started studying at Bishop Grosseteste University Lincoln with a dream of writing and a love of children's literature. After three years of studying, she went on to complete a fourth PGCE year at BG and has been teaching at primary school age for the past six years.

Around two years ago in the summer holidays and with her experience of teaching behind her, Sophie began researching children's stories focused around anxiety in children and came up with an idea for a children's novel.

With a title in mind, she began developing characters and plots based around her experiences in teaching.

It was a long process and with working at school combined with writing the journey included a lot of writing, editing, leaving and re-visiting the story over the course of two summers.

After finishing the story, the next part of the journey commenced which meant sending out the manuscript to publishers up and down the country. This came with lots of knock backs and rejection until one publisher, Jane Moffet at JJMoffs Publishing house, that Sophie met with really liked the message of the story and started working with Sophie.

A synopsis of the story

Invisible Ed is a children's book that addresses the child mental health and anxiety issues that are so apparent in today's world.

There is nothing special about Ed. He isn't sporty, isn't popular and only stands out from the crowd when the school bully spots him in the corridor. Feeling alone and pretty lost, with a terrible ache in his stomach that makes his hands sweat and his heart race, Ed has taken just about all he can, and he wishes for nothing more than to just disappear altogether.

In the entirely extraordinary events that follow, Ed embarks on a life-altering, out of this world experience in which he finds out exactly how different the world would be if he wasn't in it.

For children aged 6-10 years.

You can purchase your copy of Invisible Ed at £7.99 via the JJMoffs website.



Life (and Love) at and after BGU

Steve and Julie

"I first met Julie at the Stags Head Pub which was next door to the Male residence St Nicks. The meeting was a chance encounter as Julie had come with her flatmates, one of whom was my 'College Mother'. This was a system in place to welcome new students and ensure everyone had a student who could explain where everything was.

We started to go out to the student discos in the Students' Union, to the cinema in town, we saw the first showing of "Grease" at the ABC as well as other student events such as the Summer Ball. Julie even came to watch me play football for the college team, who that season 1978-79 were undefeated as we started the summer term.

Julie was a year ahead of me, so when she left we had a long-distance relationship to Huddersfield but still managed to see each other every weekend. We got engaged in the October of my final year in 1980 and started to make plans for our futures. When I left in July 1981 I had a job ready to go in the September with the ILEA working in the Greenwich borough. We married in January 1982 amongst the snow drifts and started our life together. James was born in June 1985 and we managed a move up north to the East Riding of Yorkshire on 1st April 1986.

We bought our first home in market Weighton and for the next 20 years we worked and played here in the north. Emily arrived in 1988, Julie got a full-time job at Fangfoss school. Over time I became Deputy Head and then in 2003 Headteacher and stayed in that post until April 2017, when I retired due to stress.

Julie contracted Cancer in 2015 and had a series of operations on her liver and kidneys and sadly passed away in January 2018. We had only recently celebrated our 36th wedding anniversary. Julie had been at the same school for over 25 years and was part of the success of that wonderful school.

I now live the life of a widower, with many friends who I met at College still on my Facebook friends list. I did return to Lincoln for the Christmas Carol Service in December 2018, but it was not the same as those special memories Julie and I shared all those years ago."

Steve Honey (1978-81) and Julie Macer (1977-1980)

Jan and Dave

"I had started my second year at 'Bishop Grot' as we called it then. I had met some really great friends and was enjoying my studies and our dances at the old fire station on campus. At that time there was no Union Bar, so a lot of dances were held in the station. The social committee organised most of the entertainment, including rag week, dances at B.G and also trips to other Colleges and Universities.

Most students were females at the time however we had a few male students who started in my first year. As a consequence, we invited all the local male students, from surrounding unis, doctors from the hospitals, Theological students and many RAF from numerous RAF stations nearby. BG was a popular venue in Lincoln and this was way before the University of Lincoln arrived! In my day we shared a bedroom on campus (mine was in a building called Nelson Hall), we also shared a study with the same person. My friendship with Maggie was wonderful and we stayed good friends until she emigrated to New Zealand and has now passed away. We made a group of friends with others in our block who still keep in contact.

It was a weekend dance and we, the Social Committee, had made posters and spread the word of the dance. Two Committee members sat by the door to take coats and entry fees. We had a DJ, and it all began. As a group, our crowd danced together a bit. Some had boyfriends there, some didn't. Some loved dancing, others just bopped about a bit. It was good fun, but no alcohol if I remember, although you could apply for a license for special nights/events. I had not long finished dating a lad called Dave (popular name then), so was just enjoying some freedom and being with friends. Then I saw this really tall lad with his friend across the room. I noticed him because he seemed to spend some time looking across at me. Our eyes met, we smiled and he came over to ask for a dance, which was the way things were done in those days. His friend danced with our group. It was a really happy time, even though we had to be in our rooms by 10.30pm or apply for a late key!

Now, after 48 years of married life we are still together. I retired 11 years ago. I did enjoy my teaching career, but I am not sure if I would now. Things are so very different. So many changes at BGU and unfortunately no Old Fire Station. It would have been great to revisit the old place...

Many, many happy memories and wonderful friendships all started at Bishop Grot!"

(Jan Filsell nee Andrews - studied at BGU 1967- 1970)

Allan and Sue Scrivener (nee Webb)

Together at last!

We met through a mutual friend at BGC (as it was then) in 1976 and fell in love in 1977. It wasn't possible for us to stay together at that time, so after 3 months together we had to go our separate ways.

After 36 years, by chance and through the same mutual friend, we got in touch again in March 2013 and it started all over again, from where we left off! We got engaged in June 2013 and married in June 2014.

We have been happily married for 6 years now and are both retired, enjoying life, particularly holidaying in our caravan.

Here is one of our wedding pictures with a photo of us aged 18 and 22 while we were at BGC. Happy days!

**Tim Hall (1973 -76) and Mary Bant (1975-78)**

"As can be seen from the dates above, our college dates overlapped by just one year 1975/6, this was to prove to be the most formative year of our lives. Tim was a day student and I was in digs at the Edward King House opposite the Cathedral art of the Bishops Palace. I was there as a fresher with three of his female colleagues, Liz, Diane and Pam. Tim came to the sitting room to meet them to go out to play Badminton. I was immediately attracted to him although we only said hello. Then I learned that he was the brother of Trevor Hall who was in my RE lectures.

A month later I was invited by Trevor to his 18th birthday bash at the church hall at St Giles in Lincoln. I didn't usually like parties as I was actually quite shy. Nevertheless, I decided that as Tim was Trevor's brother I would take the chance. I will let Tim tell you the next part.... *As my parents had to pay an indemnity for the hire of the church hall of about £100, plus the hire fee, they thought that there ought to be a responsible adult there too, to look out for their interests, or at least their 100 quid. I being three years older and 21 in 5 days' time was thus*

dispatched to the church hall to keep an eye on Trevor and his boozy student mates.

Sparing my blushes, we got together that night and Tim and I went back to my room at Conny Stew, departing in the early hours.

After going out for a month Tim and I decided we wanted to get engaged which we did without informing either set of parents. All our friends thought we were mad and that it would never last. I eventually plucked up courage to tell mum at the very end of a phone call saying something to the effect of 'Oh by the way I got engaged last weekend'. From then we never missed a day together until Christmas break when we had three days apart before Tim came to Birmingham to meet my parents and stay for a while before coming back to college with me. Fortunately, my parents and grandparents liked Tim and so everything went OK with my nan in particular saying how nicely he spoke.

We married at The Parish Church of Saint Nicholas on Newport on 22nd July 1978 and we are very happily married 42 years on. We have three fabulous children

Emma, Daniel and Matthew and 5 grandchildren. Life hasn't always been kind, with unemployment and redundancies but despite it all we have shared both good and bad and been there for each other. Neither of us regret our whirlwind romance.

Can't close before saying how much we appreciated the support of Dr Jim Johnston (Dr Joe as he was known) the then Vice-Principal who donated an old, but to us, fabulous carpet when we first set up home in Lincoln.

So, a big thank you to Bishop Grotty, as we called it back then, for making this happen all those years ago!"

(Tim & Mary Hall)





Ben and Grace

Back in 2009 Ben Newbury, who studied Geography and Education, and Grace Pennington, who studied History and Education, met during a Casino Night hosted by the SU. Unfortunately, Grace seemed to be down on her luck, so Ben chivalrously shared his chips with her. That one small but kind gesture was the start of their adventure, where together they hit the jackpot. After graduating in 2012, they continued their studies with PGCEs (Ben studied in Norwich and Grace stayed on at BG), before embarking on successful careers as a Geography Teacher and a Primary Teacher. In 2018 they cashed some chips in and purchased their first home just outside Lincoln. Ben popped the question shortly afterwards, on a beach in Scotland, where Grace's Grandma had also been proposed to.

On the 25th May 2019 they tied the knot in Norfolk with the sun shining down on them; it truly was one of the most beautiful days with pure happiness and love felt by all. During the summer holidays they went on a dream honeymoon to Australia; an experience they both will never forget. This perfect couple continued their perfect love story as they welcomed their beautiful daughter Eliza Grace on Valentine's Day this year. At only a few months old, she is already a bundle of joy with an adventurous side like her parents. Her giggles and cuteness have kept her parents entertained during the Lockdown with Eliza being equally lucky to have two wonderful parents to watch over her. The perfect hand has definitely been dealt to this BG couple and we look forward to seeing what is next on the cards.

(written by Joshua and Helena Newbury – brother and sister-in-law to the happy couple)

Helena and Joshua

In 2005 BG brought us together by placing us in, what used to be, Nelson halls – rooms 1 and 17. Although these halls have since been knocked down our relationship continues to build as we look forward to celebrating our 10 year wedding anniversary together very soon. Lincoln has always been a special place for us as Lincoln Castle was the venue for our engagement as well as finding out that we were going to be starting a family whilst visiting the city. As a family we visit the Lincoln market every year, where we get to tell tales to our children of how our romance blossomed (without the drunken stories of course!)

Our son Oliver (7) certainly shares his father's love for the dramatics and our daughter Annabelle (5) shares her mother's love for learning, skills gained during our university days. We now live in the South West and have endured/enjoyed over 10 years of being teachers. We feel so lucky to have met each other when we did and create so many happy memories. So thanks for the love, laughter and the happy ever after that BG gave us.

(Helena and Joshua Newbury – studied at BGU 2005-2008)



Gemma and Mem

"It is crazy that it has been nearly 10 years since I graduated from BGU! I studied my degree from 2007-2010 and like many have come away with tons of memories and lifelong friends. During my final year of university something else special happened, I met my now husband Mem! He first became one of my best friends always making me laugh, we would spend most afternoons sat in Connie's dining hall chatting and evening in the SU together. We officially became a couple in November 2009 and have been together ever since.

After graduating from university I have stayed at BGU working in the Student Recruitment Team, Mem like many BGU alumni took on a career in teaching. In 2017 we went to New York to get married, just the two of us. We had a casual celebration with close family and friends after returning to the UK, we chose to do afternoon tea and board games. When thinking about where to do our celebration we wanted somewhere that meant something to us, so we chose BGU! It felt like the perfect place to celebrate where we had first met, with many of the friends who attended being the same friends we had back when we were students.

Not long after returning from New York we got an even bigger reason to celebrate – we found out we were expecting our first baby. In December 2018 our little girl Izzy arrived. Thank you BGU for not only given me a degree but helping me meet my husband and now daughter."

(Gemma Gazi, Student at BGU from 2007-2010)



James and Laura

"In September 2008, we both began our English Literature degree at BG. We met in the classroom, and there was an instant spark between us. Our friendship grew over the three years that we were studying our course and we spent our uni days laughing together. We were like naughty schoolchildren, giggling through lectures, swapping notes, and having a (quiet) laugh in the library. We used to save seats for each other, as it always made our day brighter when we were together. After we graduated in 2011, we kept in touch, speaking every single day, and meeting up with each other and our close friends from our BG course. A few years later, we finally got together and have been going on adventures together ever since. Now we live together in Lincoln and are very happy. We still share a love of literature, and still laugh every day. We owe BG for our fairy-tale ending, so thank you!"

(James Doyle and Laura Jokic – studied at BGU 2008-2011)

OSA

Chronicle



WHO ARE THE OSA?

BGOSA is a nationwide association of people who once studied at Bishop Grosseteste University or Bishop Grosseteste University College or Bishop Grosseteste College or Lincoln Diocesan Teacher Training College. The institution has had several names, but essentially, it has been and still is a caring and supportive institution. The Old Students' Association which dates from the 1860s and has flourished ever since, follows those same principles of caring and being supportive. Today it provides a link, a bond between past students at Lincoln and today's University.

Even though we are known as the "Old Students' Association" we are not a group of old people with outdated ideas and constantly looking back at our lives. We have up to date links and contacts with the present University and are involved with the progress and development of that institution in the present day. We are represented at the major events on campus year in and year out.

The OSA is run by a dedicated committee, we have a Chairperson, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. We are self-supporting but always have the support of the University Vice Chancellor and Staff. We also have a network of Branches in several parts of the UK; in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, Grimsby, Norfolk and South Yorkshire. These Branches usually meet twice a year for lunch and perhaps a themed event.

However, many ex-BG students will say they have never heard of the Old Students' Association. We would like you to know about us and to join us, perhaps at your local Branch, or at our Annual Reunion on Campus in Lincoln. At Reunion we have the AGM followed by lunch, a visiting speaker, a Chapel service (optional) and Afternoon Tea. Most of all we meet up with our friends, chat and catch up, in a mixture of Food, Fellowship and Worship. We would like you all to join us and have a wonderful day, as we all do every year.

Next Reunion will be: Provisionally Saturday 26th June

If you are interested in joining the OSA and would like information about Reunion or the local Branches please contact the OSA Secretary, Rob Gould, at rob.gould69@yahoo.com

For information about upcoming events please contact the relevant Branch Secretary. We apologise for the event cancellations across 2020 but we must do our best to keep everyone safe as well as follow the rule of law.

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Canon Professor Muriel Robinson OBE/
Professor Eileen Baker

*Almighty God; without whom
nothing is strong, nothing is holy*

*Regard we beseech Thee, with
Thy love and favour our College*

*Be pleased to prosper with Thy blessing
those who teach and those who are
taught therein*

*Grant that all those who have
been trained within its walls,*

*May be faithful in their vocation
of one heart and one mind,*

*Adorning the doctrine of God
our Saviour in all things*

Amen

THE COLLEGE PRAYER

Branch News

Norfolk Branch

The Norfolk Branch, which also covers Suffolk and Cambs has 20 members, with approximately 10 members regularly attending the Branch Lunch. The Norfolk Branch meets every two years and was scheduled to meet for lunch in the village of Bawdeswell on Saturday, 25th April. However, due to the Covid-19 situation we had to cancel. This was done with great sadness, but with the realisation that members safety must come first and also to the fact that the restaurant (a converted barn) had followed Govt. guidelines and had closed to the public. Our aim will be to meet for lunch in the Spring of 2021, when once again,

we hope to meet in Bawdeswell, where we will exchange reminiscences about our time at BG and swap information about what we will have been doing during lock down.

Grimsby Branch.

The Grimsby Branch has between 25-30 members who regularly meet within the Grimsby area for a meal. At the meal we swap information, catch up on what everyone is doing and exchange memories about what life was like when we were at BG. Due to Covid-19 though, we have had to cancel both our Branch Lunches for 2020. We look forward with great anticipation, to meeting as the Grimsby Branch,

once again in 2021. If this changes the Branch Secretaries will be in touch with you.

The Sheffield and South Yorkshire Branch

The Sheffield and South Yorkshire Branch of the OSA is still in existence, though like all the other branches of the OSA, is sitting quietly and waiting! We hope to arrange a future meeting about April time of 2021. What we will be doing as a branch hasn't yet been decided. I will be in touch with Branch members in the new year, when we will know more about what social distancing will be in place then. In the meantime, I hope everyone takes care and stays safe.



soup. The main courses chosen included; roast lamb, oven baked smoked haddock and roast beef. Branch members who ordered dessert chose dishes including; crème brulee, bread and butter pudding and cheesecake.

The food was very good, the company excellent and the conversation varied and interesting. When we had eaten and plates and dishes etc., cleared away, we continued to sit and chat and swap news items and talk about our membership of the OSA. A few members, who had not been able to attend a branch lunch for a couple of years met new members, and were able to exchange information about what BG was like in their day!

The 14 of us sat and chatted until just before 3:50 pm when members began to disperse and make their homeward journey. Before we started to disperse, we set our next joint branch lunch for Saturday, 3rd October, 2020. If the branch lunch in October, doesn't happen, there will be one organised for March 2021.



Leicestershire and Northants Branches

On Saturday, 7th March 2020, 14 members of the Leicestershire and Northants branches met to enjoy food, fellowship and friendship at their joint branch lunch held in the Angel Hotel, Market Harborough. This joint branch lunch was organised by Rob Gould, the Northants branch secretary. We gathered in the bar for pre lunch drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic), greetings, introductions and explanations.

We moved into the restaurant for 12:30 pm and sat down to either a 2 course or 3 course meal, depending upon what had been selected from our special menu. The starters chosen included: prawns on brown bread, melon and home made asparagus

OSA Reunion 2021

It was with great sadness that the OSA Committee, after much deliberation and communication between our branch secretaries, decided to cancel our Reunion Event, which was due to be held on Saturday, 27th June at BG. It was felt that, even before the Government announced the need for social distancing and lockdown, that it would not be appropriate for us to meet as a body of people. The members of the committee were mindful that many members of the OSA would have fallen into the group known as the "over 70s" or would have had underlying medical conditions that would have meant that meeting together would have been dangerous. Apologies to those who are of a younger age or who have no medical conditions!! Our hope is that by the time for our Reunion Event for 2021 arrives, social distancing will have been moderated, and that lockdown will have disappeared.

The OSA Committee had actually met at the beginning of March to begin the discussion and planning of our 2020 Reunion Event that was due to be held on 27th June. We spent some considerable time working out

details and plans for the day and our plans ranged from sorting out the menu for the Reunion lunch, car parking arrangements, the AGM meeting, the Chapel Service and who our Guest Speaker for the day would be. Sadly, a week later we were in discussion as to whether Reunion for 2020 should be cancelled or not. Overwhelmingly, the decision of the committee was that we should cancel. Your safety was our primary concern and so we cancelled Reunion, just a few days before the Government announced, that lockdown would be the order of the day.

The plans and decisions taken at that Committee meeting in early March will form the basis of the arrangements for our Reunion Event for 2021. We look forward to sending out invitations to that event, and to receiving your reply saying that you would like to attend. And we hope that the 2021 Reunion Event will be as successful as previous Reunion Events have been. We look forward to seeing you on the day. As yet no date has been fixed, so you will need to keep your eye out for further information.

In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.

OSA Donations

The Old Students' Association has always relied on your generous donations. We don't ask for a membership fee or make a charge for the BG Generations Magazine. We have also been able to support the University by giving donations to the Chapel, the Library and to the Foundation Fund to help provide for the current students in their studies and projects. This year we provided an Award of £250 to a student for their work on the Teacher training course. This Award was presented in July.

In order for us to continue with

this financial support, and to progress and develop the Old Students' Association, we need your continuing support with generous donations. We usually ask members to add a donation when they are sending in their booking form for Reunion, but of course we would be happy to receive donation amounts at any time during the year.

This year of course, there has been no Reunion/AGM day at BG because of Covid -19 forcing us to cancel. However, the opportunity for you to make your usual donation, or your first

donation, still remains. If you would like to make a donation to the OSA, please contact me, Thomas Dodd, the OSA Treasurer, by email at: **thomasdodd1991@gmail.com** or by calling me on 07713174573. I will then be able to explain how you can donate. If you wish to send me a cheque, my address is: 8, McInnes Street, Lincoln LN2 5NP.

The OSA Committee would like to thank all of you for the way you have supported the OSA with generous donations in the past. We hope that your support will continue into the future.



Contact Details

The Old Students' Association continues to update its Database. If your contact details have changed recently, please let us know. If you have moved house and now have a new address, the OSA needs to know. If we don't know that you have moved, it will be difficult for us to send you a postal invitation to attend the Reunion/AGM to be held in 2021.

Have you changed your email address or just acquired your first email address? Are you using a new telephone number or mobile phone number? So, how do you let us know that your contact details have changed.? Just send an email to: **rob.gould69@yahoo.com** and I will see that your details are changed on the Database. If you do not have email you can write to me at: **52, Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9YN.**

As OSA Secretary, I would like, over the next 18 months, to look at the OSA members on the Database and try and link as many members as possible with a local branch so that contact can be made more frequently. I would like to see more members being able to attend local branch lunches or events organised by

our local branch secretaries. Having said that, it may not be possible for some members to attend if they live some distance from their nearest branch, but I believe, that being a member of a local branch makes your membership of the OSA more personal. If however, you don't want to be a member of a local branch, you will not be forced to do so.

If you are a member of the OSA, and haven't received an invitation to Reunion/AGM for a couple of years, please let me know and I'll make sure your details are entered on to the Database. So, what do you need to tell me? The list is simple: name and address, years of study (optional), email address, and telephone/mobile number.

On a more serious note, please would you let me know, if you know of an OSA member who has sadly passed away in the last 12 months. If the OSA have the details of the member, I can make sure that he/she is mentioned, by name, at the Chapel Service held on Reunion/AGM day and put onto the Chapel Obituary Roll.



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*Please note this course is subject to BG Futures centre approval

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