

place in the Great Hall of Bedford School on Saturday, 11 June, 1977, at 7 pm for 7.30 pm. Tickets are £4.50 each, and this price will include pre-dinner drinks and table wines. Please apply as early as possible to the Secretary, 37 De Parys Avenue, Bedford MK40 2TR.

Old Bedfordian Honours

Lieut-Colonel I. A. Christie, MC, (47-53) was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours list.

We hear from Major Alan Gordon (27-35) that his son, Major Ian Douglas Gordon (58-68) who is stationed in Oman, has been awarded the Sultan's Bravery Medal. Alan Gordon was recently in Oman on holiday, and found that Lieut-Colonel Christie was his son's commanding officer.

The Bedfordians Rifle Club

As of 1 January, 1977, the Bedfordians Rifle Club, for members of the School and Old Bedfordians, came into formal existence. Its chief aim is to foster particularly full-bore rifle shooting for Bedfordians who, when they leave the School, do not have the necessary facilities to continue in the sport. However, it will also give the opportunity to all Old Bedfordians to belong to a rifle club with broadly-based contacts in full-bore shooting. The Bedfordians Rifle Club is Home Office Approved and has its own firearms certificate with provision to assist members over the licensing of weapons. The Club is affiliated to the National Rifle Association, the Bedfordshire County Rifle and Pistol Association, the Cambridge and District full-bore Rifle Club and the Surrey Rifle Association whose clubhouse and facilities are available to members throughout the year at Bisley. Membership is open to all Bedfordians and their families, and current members of the School club are automatically members. If anyone would like further information who has not already heard direct, he should write to Tim Elliott at the School.

S. N. Jones (*Chairman*)

OB Notes

Western Australia

We have received a letter from Mr W. F. Wood, of PO Box 178, Hamilton Hill, Western Australia 6163, who is the secretary of the British Public Schools Association. He tells us that his Association was formed six years ago with a view to holding various functions each year at which former members of British public schools could meet others living in Australia. OBs who are interested to write to Mr Wood.

Marriages

CONNOLLY-ELLIOTT. On 10 September, 1976 at St Mary's Guarford, Malvern, Patrick (66-73) younger son of Mr and Mrs J. Connolly to Cherry, daughter of Mrs Elliott and the late Mr R. E. Elliott.

HEXT-STOBBS-BRAITHWAITE. On 17 October, 1977, at St Mary's Parish Church, Cardross, Dumbarton, Richard M. Hext (65-75) to Linda Stobbs-Braithwaite.

Birth

BARCOCK. On 12 March, 1976, at Amersham, Bucks, to Pamela (*née* Gunner) and Alan Barcock (55-65), a son, (Andrew Alan Richard).

In Memoriam

Eric George Harrington Bell

Born 25 July 1901

At the School from 1912 to 1919

Died at Potters Bar Hospital on 8 November 1976

Eric Bell was the eldest of three brothers, all of whom were at the School. The others were A. J. Bell, who died in 1946, and H. G. Bell, who died in 1961.

He rowed bow in the 1st VIII which competed in the Elsenham Cup at Henley in 1919, losing to Shrewsbury in the final by 1½ lengths.

On leaving School he was articled to the Bedford Borough Engineer, and during this time became captain of Bedford Rowing Club. Subsequently he joined the family civil engineering company, and remained there until it was closed down in 1953. He then founded his own retail automobile business, in which he was actively involved until he was forced to relinquish it by persistent ill-health.

James Henry Crawford

MRCS, MRCP, DA, FFARCS

Born 29 May 1900

At the School from 1908 to 1915

Died in hospital on 7 January 1977

After leaving School Jimmy Crawford passed into Sandhurst and then into the Bengal Lancers, so becoming the sixth generation of his family to serve in India. Crawford's Market in Bombay will be familiar to many Anglo-Indians. He resigned his commission in order to return to England to study medicine. He qualified in 1928. He was awarded the gold medal for tropical medicine, and joined the Indian Medical Service. After a few years he retired from the I.M.S., returned to England, and entered general practice in Lancing. Later he moved to another practice in Hove, and was appointed honorary anaesthetist to Sussex Maternity Hospital and Hove General Hospital. As a member of the Territorial Army he served as a specialist anaesthetist at Boulogne with the British Expeditionary Force and in other theatres of war until 1944. Soon after the war he was elected honorary anaesthetist to the Royal Sussex County Hospital, and at the start of the N.H.S. decided to devote all his time to anaesthesia. In addition to his hospital work he had a very large private practice. He was a good physician, and at the end of his career he was able to claim that he had never had a death on the operating table. He played an active part in medical affairs locally, and served as chairman of a number of staff and other committees. He was a past president of Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society. *With acknowledgements to the British Medical Journal.*

Claude Curtis writes: "For a number of years Jimmy Crawford and I acted as joint DVPs of the Surrey and Sussex branch of the Old Bedfordians Club, where our relationship was always of the happiest. I shall miss him very much".

Jimmy Crawford and Claude Curtis were familiar figures on the School field in OB Week, and were never absent from OB dinners and parties. A friend of his writes: "Many of us missed seeing him always dressed in a style befitting a cavalry officer, and listening to his shrewd judgements upon people and forthright comments about current affairs."