

## Professional support by Oratorians for Ken Carter's Education & Technology Charitable Enterprises

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce a selection of highly talented and outstanding Old Oratorians whom I had the privilege of teaching at The Oratory School as a young teacher between 1961 and 1966, and who have gone on to be leaders in the charities I have set up since I left the school.

I taught English, History and Physical Education, and coached 1st XV Rugby and 1st XI Cricket, and was fortunate enough to be on the winning sides when we played the Jesuit Beaumont College at Lords Cricket ground. As you can imagine this delighted our Benedictine Headmaster Father Adrian Morey, known to the boys as "Spook".

I left The Oratory because I had a daughter who was born profoundly deaf, which led me into attending a Diploma Course in Deaf Education at London University and later an M.Sc. at Surrey University.

Throughout my past sixty years of involvement in teaching and learning, I have developed a particular expertise in deafness and special educational needs. It has also made me highly entrepreneurial, helping me to set up the following charitable companies/companies limited by guarantee:

- Deafax
- Breakthrough (deaf/hearing) Integration Trust (now DeafPlus)
- FYD (Friends for Young Deaf People)
- AACT (Access-Ability Communications Technology)
- Specialkidz International
- DisabledChild-India
- Deaf Aspirations
- Decibels International
- Ability2Access
- Deaf Sports & Football Foundation
- GOALS4LIFE
- EASiTEC

The main reason for listing these enterprises is that some of the Old Oratorians whom I tried to teach have taken on some responsibility for some of them. I am indebted to them. Please see the first person on my Honours List.

### MICHAEL BERKELEY

now known as Lord Berkeley of Knighton, CBE.

Lord Berkeley/Michael Berkeley is the Honorary President of Decibels

<https://decibels.org.uk/who-we-are>



Michael Berkeley was born in 1948, the eldest son of Sir Lennox Berkeley and a godson of Benjamin Britten. He was a chorister at Westminster Cathedral, studied at the Oratory School and attended The Royal Academy of Music. In addition to composing, Michael presents BBC Radio 3's 'Private Passions'. He was appointed a CBE for services to music in 2012 and was made an independent peer in the House of Lords. Michael has helped Decibels in a number of ways, but the best event he has helped and promoted was "The Year of Sound 2016" which took place at the House of Lords





You will notice there was an Old Oratorian group attending, namely James de Albuquerque, Barry Widger, Barney Bettesworth, Joe Smith (Head Master), Judge Keith Hornby and Ken Carter.

The whole event was a great success, as lots of deaf and hearing people gave many musical and creative performances. See a few photos opposite:

Decibels is in the process of liaising with Michael about holding another Creative Arts Event at the House of Lords in late 2023 but to include deaf, autistic, blind and special needs performers and guests from the world of politics and business.



Above: Rubbena, Debbie, Caroline Parker MBE, Ruth and Ken Hornby and Ken Carter.



Top: Guests  
 Middle: Keith Hornby  
 Bottom: Oratory Group: James de Albuquerque, Barry Widger, Barney Bettesworth, Joe Smith (Head Master), Judge Keith Hornby and Ken Carter.



Family Foundation with sponsorship mainly from The Maria Holder Memorial Trust with some financial support from lots of benefactors from the UK and Barbados.



Calypso 2022 brought together deaf and hearing musicians, artists, filmmakers, and writers from across the UK, USA and Barbados. Music

**It is society – not deafness – that disables, and Calypso 2022 raised awareness of this across the community, inspiring a new generation of deaf Barbadians**



**PETER BOOS**

**FCA - Honorary President of Specialkidz & Specialkidz International.**



Peter was born in Trinidad, educated at The Oratory School, was an outstanding rugby and cricket sportsman (He can be seen in the Oratory Cricket team photo sitting far right) and became a City of London Chartered Accountant. He then worked for Ernst & Young, eventually becoming its Managing Director for the West Indies. He used Barbados as his base from 1969 to 2004. As well as his professional work he became Co-founder, Chairman and Volunteer CEO for the Substance Abuse Foundation, Co-Founder and First Chairman Barbados Entrepreneurship Foundation, Founder, Patron and first chairman of the Barbados charity Aspire Foundation (Barbados), and Patron & Advisor of The Nature Fun Ranch helping the development of at-risk youth.

Peter, as a philanthropist and family man, alongside his wife Jan, has set up the Peter & Jan Boos Family Foundation supporting youth development, entrepreneurship, education, addiction treatment, environmental protection, arts and culture development, relief of poverty and support of various community and charitable causes that focus on integral human development. Specialkidz & Specialkidz International are very honoured to have him as its first Honorary President.

2023 has marked the 63rd year of collaboration between Peter Boos and myself working together to improve the lives of deaf children, young people and adults in Barbados and England.

In 2022, after setbacks with COVID, we managed to implement the Barbados "CALYPSO" project, which without Peter's real involvement and his support of Ruth Montgomery and myself, the project would never have been such a success. The following organisations were involved in the project namely Decibels, Audiovisability, Specialkidz International, Barbados Council for the Disabled and the Peter Boos





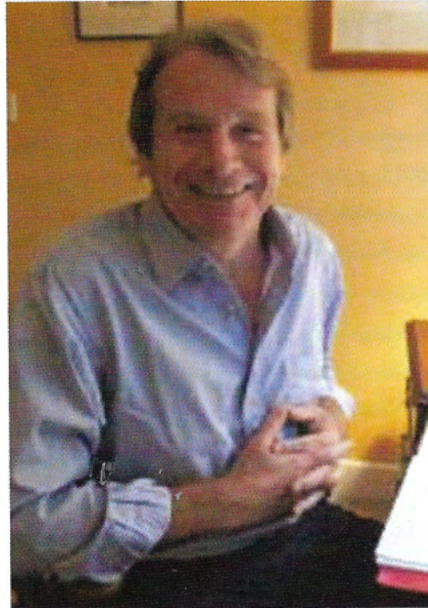
is a powerful expressive tool in society, and in our digital age it often attracts and inspires people from all corners of the world. This project drew on the vibrant history of Calypso music on the island of Barbados, blending it with Hip-Hop and digital music, to emphasise the island's culture as well as looking at deafness and the world at large.

The message was loud and clear: deaf people can do anything, except hear perfectly, and deaf Barbadians demand that their voices are heard. It is society – not deafness – that disables, and Calypso 2022 raised awareness of this across the community, inspiring a new generation of deaf Barbadians. They created, supported, and preserved new networks that integrate deaf and hearing professionals and audiences.



## JAMES DE ALBUQUERQUE

Trustee of Specialkidz & Specialkidz International



<http://www.specialkidz.org/our-people>

James attended the Oratory Preparatory School near Poole and was School Captain, and then went on to The Oratory School in Woodcote. He was one of my outstanding cricketers and a charming young man. He grew up in Highclere Park (home of Downton Abbey) before moving to London to embark on a career as a shipbroker. After becoming a director and board member at E A Gibson, he set up Chartwell Shipping in partnership with a colleague. His work has taken him to a variety of countries and involves continuously trying to understand a wide range of different cultures. Since moving the company to Winchester, James has studied both counselling and teaching English as a foreign language at King Alfred's College, as well as two arts courses at the Open University. His interests centre on arts, sport and his family – a wife and three daughters, one of whom, Anna has

autism and learning disabilities. He completed the Great North Run in 1997 for Sparks, the Great South Run in 1998 for Hampshire Autistic Society, and the Great North Run again in 2010 for MS Society.

One of the reasons for James becoming a Trustee of Specialkidz International was related to Anna. She amassed in excess of £5000 for Winchester GO LD by undertaking a special run around her village: see the photos of Anna and James. Specialkidz is delighted to be able to support the work that Winchester GO LD undertakes on behalf of people with learning disabilities including Autism as they are struggling, like all charities in these strange and challenging times.

I cannot speak or write too highly of his outstanding contribution to the success of Specialkidz. He has helped to organise with me a number of very successful seminars focused on autism based at the Centre for Autism at the University of Reading for parents, lecturers, teachers, students and individuals with autism and learning disabilities.



## NICHOLAS PURNELL, QC

Honorary Vice President of DEAFAX.



<https://www.deafax.org/vice-presidents>

In my early twenties, I had a meeting with Nicholas at the English Speaking Union to catch up on respective news, especially as I knew he was a Governor of The Oratory School and had received some publicity in relation to his outstanding work. I asked him whether I could put his name forward to my Board of Trustees and Directors as an Honorary Vice President. He was duly elected as an Honorary Vice President the same year.

It was great to have Nicholas involved, as I knew he had the skills of persuasion, argument, oratory and the intricacies of verbal and non-verbal communication, and he would have a network of solicitors and lawyers who might want to support the work of Deafax. He has fully supported the values and vision of Deafax, and feels very proud to be associated with such a forward-thinking and innovative organisation.

One of the highlights of his involvement with Deafax was when we organised, with his full support, an inclusive publicity event at the Law Society in London on 28th March 2007. He gave a brilliant introductory address to those deaf

and hearing people who attended. This was followed by an excellent speech, with sign language by Deafax's CEO Helen Lansdown. Nicholas was so impressed with her communication skills that he made a lovely comment at the end of her speech – "I think I should call you to the Bar!!"

Nicholas was delighted to have as Deafax's Honorary President, Dr Vinton Cerf, who is credited as an architect and inventor of the Internet and a person who has changed our communication systems worldwide. Vint is also Google's Vice President, and he and his wife Sigrid Cerf, who was profoundly deaf before having another cochlear implant, continue to be worldwide ambassadors and supporters of our UK based Medical & Educational Technological Enterprises Consortium. METEC is in the process of still trying to set up the Sigrid & Vint Cerf Research Centre at either Oxford University, the University of Surrey or the University of Reading. Vint has an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Reading and has strong associations with Oxford University. His major lecture there was entitled "The Pacification of Cyberspace."

<https://livestream.com/accounts/2754207/cerf/videos/183169812>

## Other supporting Oratorians without positions of responsibility relating to the enterprises

### JOHN CONNELLY

John has been a long-standing and loyal friend and has helped me and others with lots of ideas about business and financial matters and how to generate income for our enterprises. He was going to become our Honorary President of GOALS4LIFE but due to having his Office in Monaco and his home up in the French Hills, he decided to decline my offer.

### BARNEY BETTESWORTH

Please find a lovely note from Barney who has been another long-standing and loyal friend to me and my wife, Helen. He has been a Governor of the Oratory School for many years:

"Congratulations on organising such a successful and enjoyable Reception & Event on Wednesday at The House of Lords. It was a great occasion and certainly highlighted the important work that is being undertaken during this Decibels "Year of Sound". It was quite awe-inspiring to hear and see how talented people with impaired hearing can perform so brilliantly"- Barney Bettesworth, Governor of The Oratory School.

Barney has had no time to get involved with our enterprises, as he supports other charities relating to pilgrimages to Lourdes.

## DOUG BADGER

Doug needs lots of thanks and praise for continuing to organise our Annual Old Oratorians Rugby & Cricket Reunion at The Oratory School. He was a Senior Lecturer in Social Work & Welfare at Bulmershe College of HE, Reading which is where our enterprises started.

Please see page 35 for the latest photograph of the Reunion in 2022 at The Oratory School.

## SIMON OLSZOWSKI

**may he rest in peace**

I taught Simon at The Oratory School, and he was one of my star rugby players. Near the end of his rewarding life, he helped to set up the "Beautiful Boat Company", and also advised me about business and trading opportunities to help our charitable enterprises.

## PHILIP de ROS

**may he rest in peace**

I taught Philip at The Oratory School, but sadly he died this year in Alicante, Spain on the 31st of August 2022, at the age of 74 yrs. He was an extremely generous benefactor of Decibels.

## MICHAEL McALEENAN

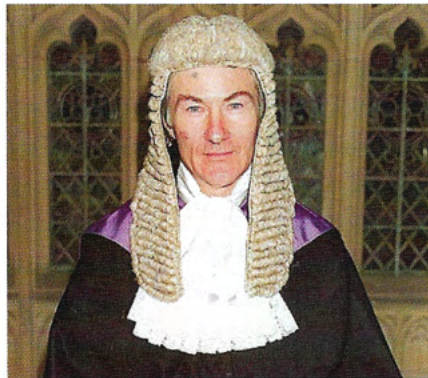
**Former Trustee/Treasurer of AACT**

Michael has been a great supporter of the Old Oratorians Annual Reunion and has taken many memorable photos over the years. I am indebted to him as he was a Trustee and the Treasurer of AACT for a number of years. His working life started in London as an articled clerk with Whinney Murray & Co, a large city practice of Chartered Accountants which became part of Ernst & Whinney and then Ernst & Young. After qualification and gaining a few years' valuable professional experience, Michael sought something different and

eventually ended up as a partner of a provincial thirty-partner firm majoring in Charities and Trust work. He also has considerable experience of large landed estates and agriculture. He has always planned to retire and work in the charity sector.

## JUDGE KEITH HORNBY

**Contacts galore**



As you can see from the photograph, Keith Hornby was an eminent Judge. When he was one of my pupils at the Oratory School, I never thought that he would one day become a High Court Judge. I saw him more as running the Royal Marine Commando Brigade, as he was a fearless rugby player and an excellent gymnast. It was through his contacts that I met up with Veronica Franklin Gould who is the Founder & President of Arts4Dementia. Decibels and Arts4Dementia now want to work together on a project relating to dementia and brain health.



## CONCLUSION

This has been a memorable occasion for me to put together valuable information about the Old Oratorians who have helped me so much over the past sixty years or more to set up so many charitable enterprises which have focused on inclusion, innovation, digital technologies, mental health wellbeing, communication, speech, language, sport, accessibility, abilities, vision, business opportunities, caring, music, creative arts, different cultures and sign languages.

## METEC

DEAFAX- [www.deafax.org](http://www.deafax.org)

DECIBELS INTERNATIONAL  
[www.decibels.org.uk](http://www.decibels.org.uk)

AACT- [www.aact.org.uk](http://www.aact.org.uk)

ABILITY2ACCESS  
[www.ability2access.org.uk](http://www.ability2access.org.uk)

SPECIALKIDZ INTERNATIONAL  
[www.speciakidz.org](http://www.speciakidz.org)

DEAF ASPIRATIONS  
[www.deafaspirations.org](http://www.deafaspirations.org)

EASITEC- [www.easitec.co](http://www.easitec.co)

DEAF SPORTS & FOOTBALL FOUNDATION  
[www.deafsportsfootballfoundation.org](http://www.deafsportsfootballfoundation.org)

GOALS4LIFE [www.goals4life.org.uk](http://www.goals4life.org.uk)

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