



## **Bill Friar**

### **Director of Development**

#### **Haberdashers' Elstree Schools**

Bill joined the Haberdashers' Elstree Schools in 2021 as their first Director of Development working across both Habs Boys and Habs Girls.

He has worked in education advancement for 15 years, primarily at universities. Since moving from the US in 2007 his roles have included Director of Philanthropy, Alumni and Community Engagement at the University of Leicester, and Head of Development at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate education in public and global health.

Before moving to the UK from California, Bill worked on Stanford University's Initiative on Human Health and its Initiative on the Environment and Sustainability, two key pillars of the most successful university fundraising campaign up to that point (\$6.2 billion raised). Earlier in his career he was Director of Development for the Hesperian Foundation, based in California and Mexico.

Though a US citizen, Bill has lived most of his life outside of North America. He spent his early childhood in Denmark before his family moved to the Republic of Panama, where he lived from the age of 6 until he left for the US to attend Stanford University, where he earned a joint BA (English and American Literature, Psychology) and an MA (English). He later earned an MSc in Journalism at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Bill worked for a number of years as a journalist before moving on to fundraising. He began his journalism career as a stringer for the metro desk of the New York Times while still a student in New York City, covering stabbings, shootings, blizzards, snake smuggling and hockey parades. This turned out to be surprisingly good training for every job he has had since, as it taught him to think on his feet and to take to heart the maxim 'feel the fear but do it anyway'.

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He spent most of his journalism career as the staff rock music critic for a succession of daily newspapers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Bill's work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Miami Herald, San Francisco Examiner, Oakland Tribune, Arizona Republic, San Jose Mercury News, Orange County Register and Houston Chronicle, among other publications. In his spare time, he has written and published three books about Panama and/or the Panama Canal.

Bill lives in London with his wife, Karen (a Geordie from North Shields) and their cat, Wookie.

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