

CHOLMELEIAN

The

+ OC & School News | OC Sport
OC Events | Features | Archive

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Contents

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>2 President's Letter</p> <p>Features</p> <p>3 150 Years of The Cholmeleian</p> <p>6 The General Studies Programme</p> <p>9 The Pre-Prep Then and Now</p> <p>12 Kyffin Williams in London</p> <p>13 Iain Gooderson Reconnects</p> <p>14 Image of the Month Gallery</p> <p>18 Events</p> <p>20 Sport: Golf, Real Tennis, Fives, Netball, Football</p> <p>Profiles</p> <p>24 Ian MacGregor,</p> <p>25 Aroop Bhattacharya</p> <p>26 Harry Fox</p> | <p>27 Keisha Lall</p> <p>28 Graham Hughes</p> <p>29 Nikita Kvasnirov</p> <p>30 Oliver Cleveley-Jones</p> <p>31 Sacha Zackariya</p> <p>News from the School</p> <p>32 Giving Day</p> <p>33 OCs Volunteer at the School</p> <p>34 Headteacher of LAET wins Community Captain Award</p> <p>35 CCF at Highgate</p> <p>36 Expedition to Scotland</p> <p>37 Black History Month</p> <p>38 A Superimposition of Chemistry and Music</p> <p>38 German Exchange Visit to Essen Werden</p> | <p>39 World Book Day at the Junior School</p> <p>39 Cross-Country Season Report</p> <p>40 Highgate's History Explorers</p> <p>Obituaries</p> <p>41 Anthony Green</p> <p>42 Roger Mortimer</p> <p>43 David Bolton</p> <p>44 Colin Dean</p> <p>45 Notes and News</p> <p>55 Contacts</p> |
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President's Letter

Since June last year when I took over as your President from **Richard Brewster** (CH 1959), some of you may have heard me speak at various events, in particular our annual dinner in October. However, the majority of OCs probably don't know much about me so I will try to give you a brief introduction.

I can't say that I was a great student at school, eventually leaving, in 1972, with 3 very average A levels. Sport was my thing, in particular football and cricket. I was lucky enough to make the school 1st XI at both.

On leaving school I joined the OC Football Club which became the basis for many lifelong friendships. When I first joined, I was taken under the wing of several older OCs who looked after a very naïve 19 year old. One in particular, **Graham Reid** (HG 1959), who was captain of the team I played for, was especially helpful because it was he who got me started in my career in re-insurance. I primarily worked in the City of London but I was lucky enough to travel extensively. I spent a lot of time in Australia and New Zealand including a four year spell living in Auckland. In later years I travelled the Middle East ending with my last job in Dubai from where I retired in 2016.

On retirement, my wife, Marianne, and I took the opportunity to take long trips to the Far East and South Africa. Covid put paid to our travels but we hope to do more next year.

I have 3 children and 2 stepchildren who between them have produced 8 grandchildren with the youngest born in February this year.

I am a keen, if not particularly good, golfer and play when I can for the OC Golf Society. I am fortunate to be a member of the MCC and you will find me at Lords for most test matches

there. My wife and I are also season ticket holders at Barnet FC!

What of my first year as President? It has been busy and fulfilling; there is always something happening whether it be committee meetings, social events or a host of issues that crop up.

The major event of every year is the annual dinner or lunch. In October last year we held the annual dinner at Stationers' Hall in the City. It was a fabulous evening in a great location. The highlight was undoubtedly the talk and subsequent Q&A by **Shashank Joshi** (QG 2004) Defence editor of the Economist. His understanding of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other conflicts in the world is outstanding and he fielded some interesting questions with aplomb.

This year we will be holding the Annual lunch in the Long Room at Lord's on Friday 10th November. Obviously the lunch will have a cricket theme and we hope to announce our special guests soon. If you possibly can, please try to join us at this iconic venue for what should be a memorable occasion.

In the last year we have lost two Past Presidents of the OC Society; **Jeffrey Breslaw** (MG 1947) and **Colin Dean** (TL 1947). Jeffrey was a great supporter of all things OC and could often be seen at football matches cheering an OC team on. Colin was a natural and very competitive sportsman. His particular talent was in cricket and racquet sports; he still holds the record for the most wickets taken in a school season.

The Society committee meets 4 times a year and I would like to thank everyone involved. In particular my predecessor, Richard Brewster, whose wise guidance has been invaluable. Richard is also leading the drive to set up an OC

Business Directory which we plan to launch on 28th September. This will be a great resource.

My deputy, **John Zani** (WG 1966), continues to be a driving force at the Sports Club who, along with the Sports Club Trustees **Howard Darbon** (GH 1955) and **Andy Savva** (EG 1977), has worked tirelessly to arrange the transfer of the lease of the OC Sports Ground at Hendon Wood Lane (HWL) to the School. When it goes through this will be of huge benefit to all OCs as well as the school because the school will be making a significant investment in upgrading the facilities at HWL.

The Committee directs and oversees the Society's activities, but it is the School's Development Office which is the engine on which the Society functions. A lot of hard work goes on in the background. In particular Head of OC Relations **Stuart Evans** is the driving force behind most of the OC events that are held through the year. We have been increasing these since lockdown ended and these largely have been well attended.

In conclusion, it is a great honour to be your President. One of the privileges of my role is meeting other OCs, whether for the first time or, as in many cases, those I haven't seen in many years. I hope to see many more of you during my second year as your President.

Martin Pyrke (GH 1967)
Old Cholmeleians President



Happy 150th Birthday to *The Cholmeleian!*

The first edition of *The Cholmeleian* magazine appeared during the headmastership of Reverend John Bradley Dyne, in November 1873.



Known as Highgate's Second Founder, Dyne expanded the school's estate to include a new chapel, schoolhouse, playing fields and boarding houses. He reformed the curriculum and expanded sports to include cricket, rugby, fives and athletics. He also increased the number of places for boarders and foundation scholars (i.e. bursary recipients). By 1873, Highgate was better known than at any time in its history. It was 'no longer a local establishment but one ready to claim its place among those great public schools of England' (William Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, later Prime Minister) and had been described by the School Commissioner as 'classic and of the first grade...taught by a large and well qualified staff of masters'. The time was ripe for a school magazine to publicize its successes, inform of its activities and to create bonds with Old Cholmeleians. A notice appeared in the 'School Lobby' in September 1873:

It is proposed to issue a School Magazine, under the name of 'The Cholmeleian' which shall give an account of all matters of interest connected with the School such

as games, examinations, the meetings of the two societies, University Honours, and the doings of Old Cholmeleians. Any boy in the School or Old Cholmeleian, wishing to express his views on any School subject, is invited to do so through the medium of the Magazine, in a letter to the Editor, which will be published under the head of Correspondence. There will also be articles on various subjects, and boys are invited to try their hand at authorship, by writing essays, reminiscences of travel, or whatever they think may interest the general reader. The want of a periodical has been all the more felt, since almost every other school of any importance is thus represented.

For 150 years the magazine has reviewed school plays and concerts; reported on sports events; hailed the purchase, completion and opening of new buildings; celebrated the addition of the Junior School and Pre-Preparatory School; recorded the events of the Boer Wars, First World War and the School's evacuation to Westward Ho! during the Second World War; it tells of the creation of Day Boy Houses, the opening of new boarding houses and the decline of

boarding; and it celebrates Highgate becoming co-educational, its charity work and its anniversaries, so far its 350th, 400th and 450th.

At first the magazine was issued three times a year and the first edition included articles on 'A History of the School', 'An Otter Hunt', 'English Schools and English Scholars, now and 300 years ago', 'Speech Day', 'Letters from Universities', 'Natural History Society', 'Debating Society' as well as sports fixtures, notices known as 'Cholmeleiana' and correspondence.

The first editors (pictured) were Joseph Horace Noble (pupil 1866-74),



Edward Henry Ralph Tatham (pupil 1868-76), George Todd (pupil 1869-75), Ringrose Atkins (pupil 1867-75), Frederick Augustus Dixey (pupil 1867-74), Frederick Thomas Dalton (pupil 1865-74), Rudolf Chambers Lehmann

(pupil 1865-74) and Gordon Edward Colville (pupil 1868-75). Four of them went on to have careers in journalism or writing. Tatham was the author of two books, *John Sobieski* (1881) and *Francesco Petrarca, the First Modern Man of Letters* (1926). Dixey became an entomologist and wrote several books on the subject. Dalton joined the staff of *The Times* and became Editor of *Literature* in 1900. He was Assistant Editor for *The Times Literary Supplement* from 1902 to 1923. Lehmann, as a writer, was best known for being a major contributor to *Punch* as well as founding editor of *Granta* literary magazine.

Hubert Gibbon (staff 1922-65) started a separate OC edition of the magazine during the Second World War which continued into the 1990s. The School's edition was called 'The Highgate School Journal'. The popularity of these two magazines has seen a revival recently where we again have an OC (*The Cholmeleian*) and a School edition (*Highgate Journal*).



To mark the occasion of the 150th year of *The Cholmeleian*, we have picked out some snippets which we hope you enjoy.

From *The Cholmeleian*, May 1874

The Paperchase

On Friday, February 20th, a paperchase was run. The hares, G. A. and M. F. Rimington, were started about 2.15 p.m., and the hounds, about fifty in number, cast off in pursuit ten minutes afterwards. The track again led round Bishopswood Road and into Baker's Fields, but then, by a new and circuitous route to Church End, Finchley. In some fields the running was very heavy, the feet sinking in the soil at every step; but, notwithstanding this disadvantage, the pace was very good. After hunting across country over various hedges and ditches, for some distance, the pack reached the Mill Hill Midland Station; and not long after, while running parallel with the Edgware branch line, it was greeted by the howls of a good many of the 'lazy dogs' who had taken to the train and were being whisked past at their ease.

From *The Cholmeleian*, April 1899

Highgate School Mission

Work is going on steadily at Dalston. Mr. Kahn has admitted 20 new boys to the Brigade, as probationers, making a total of 70. If they all come at once they fit rather tightly into our small premises in John Campbell Street, but as a rule there are not more than 50 present at the same time. But even 50, or indeed 40, are a formidable number within the walls of four small rooms, especially if they are playing "Oxford and Cambridge," a game much in vogue at the present time of year. It is a simple game; A announces that he is "Oxford," and immediately he is set upon by some fifteen assailants, who roll him on the ground, sit on his head and generally maltreat him, until he is induced to change his University. However, the boys are well in hand, and are getting very smart at their drill.

From *The Cholmeleian*, November 1914

Recruits for the Highgate contingent Officers' Training Corps.

We shall not need Conscriptio if you are keen enough to see,

That every boy of Highgate School should join the O.T.C.,

It may take a little time, but we don't do it all for sport,

We just volunteer our services because we know we ought.

From *The Cholmeleian*, December 1928

Opening of the new Science and Engineering Buildings

This is no mere traditional home for Physics and Chemistry. The study of the Life Sciences, not merely for the future doctor but for every young boy in the dawn of his own development, finds a prominent place in these Buildings. The budding engineer gets something more than the manual crafts of wood and metal. He will study the engines themselves, their principles of

action, as well as their construction, and these are not merely the machines that rule the land and water, but, in response to a growing and natural demand, the engines and machines also which have achieved the conquest of the Air. This quadrangle is eloquent in its khaki of what the School contributes to the Army; boys have always been prepared for the Navy; neither here nor elsewhere has anything yet been attempted for the Air. So, we have called in this new world to redress the balance of the old, and you will find in these Buildings more than one engine which has carried men hundreds of miles through the air, and more than one aeroplane which has carried its burden in seeming defiance of natural law.

From *The Cholmeleian*, December 1936

Pioneers

At half-term, a number of boys, calling themselves Pioneers, undertook the construction of a hard tennis court, on the piece of ground between the Fives Courts and Bishopswood Road. In spite of delays caused by the rain, which fell every day during the first three weeks and reduced the ground to a morass, and by satisfying the curiosity of bystanders, and accepting their advice, good progress has been made. It is expected that the ground will be levelled by the end of the term, and, as no one expects builders' promises to be kept, it is safe to say that the court will be ready by the summer.

From *The Cholmeleian*, December 1939

Sea Scouts

The school sea scouting was started by one member of the school who had already been a sea scout for two years, and several other boys who were interested in seamanship. They went to Mr. Bullen and asked him to find them a local troop, and he found the First Bideford Sea Scouts. At first, twelve of us were excused preparation to attend a sea scout meeting at the First Bideford's Headquarters. The following Sunday afternoon, we went to the Assistant District Commissioner's



house, where we discussed several minor matters about uniform, and some major matters about the troop, in particular the coast watching scheme for sea scouts. Eventually we decided to call ourselves the Gannet Patrol (Highgate School), temporarily attached to the First Bideford Sea Scout Troop. Among other things, we had a very good "Devonshire Tea."

From *The Cholmeleian*, December 1944

We welcome Mr. J. Kyffin Williams, who has joined our staff as Art Master. Already his influence is making itself felt on the more artistic members of the School, and even those for whom Art held hither to no interest are now beginning to find that it is 'not so bad after all.'

From *The Cholmeleian*, 1956

Primer for a public school or (notes for newboys)

... REGUL-ATIONS Regulations are a good thing as they give us something to do in our leisure hours. There are a lot of them, and we must all obey them, except those who do not have to. We must all go up one staircase and come down another, but some of us can go the other way. In the winter we must wear caps. In the summer we wear blazers and must not wear caps. This is to stop us getting sunstroke. If we do not obey regulations, we get punished. We are given a P.C., but have to pay for them all the same. This is a good thing because the money goes to a Boys' club in Dalston and makes us feel generous...

From *The Cholmeleian*, January 1958

Gerard Hoffnung is one of the few geniuses whom Highgate has turned out during this century. 'Turned out' is the appropriate word, for he came to the smaller part of the School which remained Highgate during the war, when Mr. Twidell was Master in Charge, and he proudly confesses to having been the naughtiest boy in the School, and he was solemnly expelled each term.

During the three years of his career at Highgate, his genius for drawing began to appear in the numerous caricatures of masters which appeared on form room blackboards

May 1968

Fashion note; the Kings Road hits North Road. Caps will no longer be worn after September 1968; elastic-sided shoes have been permitted since January; trouser turn-ups are optional. Floreat!

1994

The beginning of the Michaelmas Term saw the arrival of young boy and girl pupils in their new uniform as the new Pre-Preparatory School opened its doors for the first time. Later, in October, the artist Quentin Blake entertained these first-year arrivals at the official opening, and it was apt that their new Headmistress, Mrs Barbara Rock, was at the end of year Senior Speech Day to distribute prizes and address her memorable words of encouragement to all those about to leave at the other end of Highgate's rite of passage.

The General Studies Programme

A programme of weekly General Studies (GS) lectures for the Sixth Form in Dyne House Auditorium (DHA) 'by various distinguished speakers' was launched in 1972 under the auspices of the then Head of English, Cyril Hartley (staff 1962-86).

A list of the presentations for each term was published in the Arrangements Diary from 1975 onwards and last period before lunch became the favoured slot from 1976. Numerous outings to West End theatres and to the opera were also a feature in the early days.

When history teacher Graham Ferguson (GRF, staff 1974-2008) took over the reins in 1983, a new initiative was to invite a panel of guests from organisations such as Alcoholics Anonymous to open up about their experiences, with sobering results. The scheme was also widened to include short courses on subjects such as psychology and home maintenance. Classicist Bill Lawrence (staff 1985-2001) took charge in 1995, followed by historian Jason Howard (staff 1996-2002). Girls from Channing School joined the boys until 2004 when co-education was introduced in the Senior School, and in 2007 it was decided that a more scholarly programme of lectures, within what became the Knowledge Curriculum, would be more appropriate for an increasingly ambitious Sixth Form.

GRF described how devising the lecture series for each term became something of a challenge, with rising expectations as an ever-increasing number of high-profile figures from politics, sport, entertainment, business and public life came to Southwood Lane – not demanding a fee for the most part. He praised the school secretaries for their immense help in researching contact details in those pre-internet days.

Talks were advertised via attractive posters produced by A-Level artists. Visitors would be greeted by GRF and a lucky Sixth Former picked to give both the introduction and a vote of thanks.



TV presenter Esther Rantzen visited on 11 December 1990

Cancellations were rare, but Terry Neill, the then Arsenal manager, pulled out at the last minute in Michaelmas 1983 – as he was being sacked that morning. While Roy Giles was Head Master, there was often a lunch for the speaker in his house after the lecture, which often extended well in the first afternoon period, to the delight of pupils but to the consternation of staff who were present.

The School Archive has a large and fascinating collection of photographs of guests, a few of which accompany this article. Sadly a systematic record of speakers and associated

correspondence was discarded in the early noughties. GRF recalls that the collection included a beautifully written letter from actor and author Alan Bennett explaining why he felt unable to accept an invitation to speak as he did not feel he had anything worthwhile to say! However, the pages of this magazine carried copious reports of the presentations and a few snippets from over the years are reproduced below.

February 21 1973

'Lady Antonia Fraser visited us as a work of art in her own right as well as an accomplished historian. She brought with her the BBC ...' and her lecture was recorded for transmission in the One Pair of Eyes series (in July 1973), which was broadcast from 1967-84.

July 1973 The comment was made that the talks seemed to be 'more broadening for scientists, as the topics are heavily biased towards the arts; but fully seventy percent [of the audience] are listening.'

Summer 1974

The editor suggested that after five terms, the GS programme was deemed to have attained the status of 'an institution – and, like all institutions, it has received much criticism. It is often claimed that the lectures are a waste of time because they bear little relation to academic studies. Yet therein lies the attraction of the scheme; it should rather complement an A-Level course by providing lectures which should instruct, yes, but, above all, entertain.'

October 7 1980

'Ray Buckton, of the puff-puff Union [sic], attacked the Press for their unjustified propoganda campaign against the trade union movement. He emphasised the aim of Trade Unions was not to cripple industry but to enhance it. He argued that the Unions do not start strikes, indeed they prevent them usually. Many members of the audience disagreed with Mr Buckton.'



Lyricist Tim Rice visited on 4 November 1984

November 25 1980

'[Barrister] Lady Elles stressed that the European Community, though still in its infancy, had consistently increased its authority and sphere of influence.'

December 16 1980

'The climax, on the last Tuesday of term, was to have been Mr Michael Foot, but a fortnight before the date he became Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition – and Tuesdays call for a good deal of loyal opposing in the House of Commons.'

November 3 1981

Nobel Prize winner and prominent biologist Sir Peter Medawar and his wife, who had co-authored several of his books, reassured their audience that 'the chance of virulent diseases escaping from genetic engineering centres ... was highly unlikely, if not impossible.'

June 8 1982

'... we were privileged to welcome Lady Howe, wife of [Conservative MP] Sir Geoffrey, to speak on Women's Rights. It was quite a revelation to discover just in how many fields women are discriminated against, and what powers the Law has to stop this. The proceedings were unfortunately cut short because of a luncheon appointment with someone called Ronald Reagan.'

June 22 1982

'... three representatives of the Metropolitan Police Force came to answer questions on policing in the eighties, which they did with humour and honesty and in an almost fatherly way that could only better the force's image. The talk answered many questions and cleared up many misconceptions about the police in the light of their present reputation.'

Jan 25 1983

'[Journalist] Nora Beloff revealed some facts about the Russians' aims and the misleading way in which they speak about peace. "When they think of 'Peace', she said, they think of a Russian-controlled world with no possibility of war or rebellion – therefore peaceful!"



TV presenter Anne Diamond visited on 25 November 1986

May 3 1983

'... Brother Christian Pearson SSF [Society of Saint Francis], Assistant Chaplain at Keble College, Oxford ... gave an engaging account of his life as a monk and generated considerable curiosity, evident from the dead silence which prevailed in the auditorium.'

February 12 1985

Alistair Macduff (appointed a Justice of the High Court in 2008) 'bowled the audience over with the vivacity, pace and wit of his delivery. The tone of his speech was set by one of his opening remarks: "Mr. Amatt [staff 1984-2005] has asked me to keep my lecture short, plain and simple: any of you who know Mr. Amatt will realise that this is a perfect description of him."

December 4 1985

Lyricist and librettist Tim Rice proved to be 'a quiet, witty and articulate man, [who] soon overcame any hesitancy and launched into a series of amusing anecdotes about his experiences in the world of theatre.'

Mar 4 1986

'[Journalist] Bel Mooney managed to root out all the old reactionaries of the Highgate Sixth Form in her lecture on "Women are still as much in need of liberation as before". It was a little sad, however, to hear her resort to the direct attack of "You men ...", instead of pushing a more original line.'

1986

Fourteen years after their introduction, the GS lectures appeared to the editor 'to be ... a phenomenon peculiar to Highgate School ... Many times I have received envious looks when I have recited a list of the various dignitaries from all walks of life whom Mr Ferguson has lured to DHA on Tuesdays to talk to the combined Sixth Forms of Highgate and Channing.'

May 19 1987

The Director of Friends of the Earth met with some criticism, 'though one sensed that many, at least temporarily, accepted the sheer common sense of Jonathon Porritt's argument. Indeed, it is a pity that more of our Sixth Formers don't recognise the relevance of environmental and world development issues.'

May 23 1995

Sir Ron Dearing, Chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority was tasked with 'working with teachers, the Department for Education and other agencies to revise and rationalise the National Curriculum'. Dearing posed such questions as "Should A Levels be abolished? Is Science too difficult? What is education really for?"

October 12 1999

'Old Cholmeleian Barry Norman, played into Dyne House Auditorium to the strains of his film review programme by the Jazz Quartet, raised a massive cheer for his panning of the film Titanic and his attack on dumbed-down Hollywood movies.'

November 20 2001

'Although deaf in one ear and nearly deaf in the other, [Sir George Martin, the legendary producer of The Beatles] had the audience in the palm of his hand, as he told the story of how he signed [them] to Parlophone after they had been turned down by every other major recording company. He enjoyed being played into Dyne House by Charles Connolly's (SG 1997) band, comprising William Tilden (WG/SG? 2000), Jack Jones (SG 1999) and Ben Hawkins (SG 1998).'

October 3 2000

To celebrate World Science Week, there was a presentation on '[space probe] Beagle 2, developed by Professor Colin Pillinger's team at the Open University, [which] will be launched with NASA's Mars Express mission next year. It is expected to bring back vital new data about the red planet.' Unfortunately it crashed on landing and was never heard from again.

November 8 2006

'Sixth Form students were granted a first-hand insight into the current political situation in Iraq, by Peter Osborne, the distinguished political journalist. Mr Osborne, who had just returned from Sadr City, argued against the likelihood of a democratic future for Iraq, in a lecture which previewed his two Channel 4 programmes on the subject.'



Labour politician David Blunkett visited on 10 March 1987 with his guide dog

Then and Now: 30 years of Highgate Pre-Prep

“We absolutely believe that for a child to learn, they have to be happy and secure in coming to school. And so, for us, the central aim is that each child skips through the door with a smile on their face and feels happy in the Pre-Prep. That comes before anything else.”



Then, Highgate Pre-Preparatory School, 1993

If you walk past the Pre-Prep at breaktime or at lunch, you can see that this sentiment has come to fruition by the smiles on pupils' faces and the sounds of laughter as they play. The Pre-Prep has been a welcoming space for 4-7-year-olds (and for a time 3-7 year-olds) since it opened its doors in September 1993. It occupies what used to be Grindal House, a boarding house on Bishopswood Road founded in 1920 that ceased admitting boarders in 1992. The building was completely refurbished to become a light, airy and colourful environment for young children.



Now, Highgate Pre-Preparatory School, 2023

It was officially opened by artist and children's writer, Sir Quentin Blake, best known for being the illustrator of 18 books by Roald Dahl. Surrounded by pupils, he cut a cake in the shape of the building.

The building was designed by James Cubitt and Partners and includes a number of glass mosaics – two windows in the entrance are modelled on Amish quilt-work and one in the Principal's study on the Coptic cross. Most strikingly, rising up through the very heart of the building, is a glass mosaic window with a conservation theme. It begins at the base with life at the depths of the sea, passes through creatures of land and forest and culminates in a bird on the wing.

The classrooms were soon visited by teachers from the Junior and Senior Schools eager to inspire the School's future leaders. A programme of visiting speakers from outside Highgate has also been an enduring feature of the Pre-Prep calendar, from opera singers and Guildhall musicians to sheep shearers, furniture makers, toy makers, beekeepers, weavers, and authors.



Sir Quentin Blake with Pre-Prep pupils



Two glass mosaic windows



On 11 October 1993, the Bishop of London Dr David Hope led an assembly and performed an Act of Dedication to inaugurate the Pre-Prep's first year. A few months later, The Times hailed it 'a conspicuous success'. It has gone from strength to strength ever since.

In September 2003, the Pre-Prep celebrated its 10th anniversary. A new playground sculpture, 'The Snake', specially commissioned for the occasion, was unveiled. Made from stone quarried in China, 'The Snake' was assembled by Oliver Rock, whose mother, Barbara Rock, was the founding Principal of the School. The Pre-Prep's 25th anniversary was celebrated with the installation of two mosaic panels affixed to the front of the building. These can still be seen today. Designed by pupils, the works were created by artist Rachel Shilston.

In the Summer term of 1999, the Pre-Prep's garden was revamped. In keeping with the designs of James Cubitt and Partners, artist Rosalind Wates worked with pupils to create a mosaic on the theme of a pond.

More recently there has been a dramatic transformation of the space by Ed Toovey Architects. In September 2020, a new Pre-Prep Dining Hall was opened, which can be converted into an assembly hall and performance space for Highgate's younger pupils. It can also be used as a small function and amenity room by the whole school. This academic year saw an expansion of the building to support Pre-Prep's transition to a three-form entry. A two-story extension to the side has provided three new classrooms and a library with a terrace. A new covered play space and a secure area for children to observe the green planted roof have also been added.



Playground sculpture 'the snake'

The design is sustainable and ecological incorporating a blue surface water attenuation system to support the green roof, solar panels, high thermal insulation performance and sustainable materials. These two projects are part of Highgate's Estate's Masterplan and we, in the Archives, are excited to see what the future holds for other buildings across the estate.



Mosaic panels found in the garden and at the front of the building



Get in touch

If you attended the Pre-Prep, then we would love to hear from you. What do you remember about your school days? Who was your favourite teacher? Where you one of the first pupils? How did you feel on the first day of school? Did you help design the mosaics?

Email us at
Archives@highgateschool.org.uk

Kyffin Williams in London



The Kyffin Williams Gallery at Oriol Môn



The author conducting a 'walk and talk'

A couple of years ago I was invited to curate an exhibition about Kyffin Williams' 'London years' at a gallery in Llangefni, the town of his birth in the centre of Anglesey.

Athro Arlunydd: Kyffin Williams yn Llundain/Schoolmaster Artist: Kyffin Williams in London' opened in July 2022 and ran for six months at Oriol Môn. The display, which included seven paintings from the School's collection, attempted to describe the almost thirty years that Kyffin spent teaching at Highgate after graduating from the Slade School of Fine Art (evacuated to Oxford during the war) in 1944. A contemporary map of London provided a basis for the arrangement of pictures, not just by Kyffin, but also by some of his colleagues and friends. Items were arranged by approximate geographical location, starting with Highgate Village, where Kyffin lodged for over a decade, continuing to Hampstead, to where he moved in the 1950s, and finally to Kensington, where he spent the last ten years of his time in the capital. The West End, where he exhibited in commercial galleries, and Piccadilly, home to the Royal Academy, also featured. His election as first an

Associate in 1969 and subsequently to a full Academician in 1974 probably played a large part in his decision to abandon the classroom to pursue a full-time career as an artist. It is possible that eight thousand people visited the show in total, including several OCs. I enjoyed leading a couple of evening 'walk-and-talks', relieved to find that after eight years of retirement I had not lost the knack of speaking in public – though my classes of adults were well behaved.

A month after the exhibition closed, the fifteenth annual Kyffin Williams lecture took place at Highgate, a return to an in-person format after two years of Zoom. The event was staged in the Sir Martin Gilbert Library, which was fitting as Kyffin had helped with school plays when the space was still Big School. An appreciative audience of over fifty heard artist/art historian Dr Ceri Thomas from near Cardiff compare and contrast Kyffin's work with that of three other approximate contemporaries from South Wales.

One interesting observation he made was that in Snowdonia the sun is always to the south, so landscapes are often in shadow or silhouetted – whereas along the coast of South Wales reflection off the sea creates a special light, in St Ives or Collioure fashion. A recording of the event can be viewed on the School Museum's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@highgateschoolmuseum5683>

Kyffin lecturer Dr Ceri Thomas



Dr Ceri Thomas

An OC and his Head of House reconnect after 43 years

Iain Gooderson (GH 1975) always had fond memories of his “halcyon Highgate days”.

He attended the School from 1975 - 1981, during this time his parents were based in Israel (a pretty long way away in those days!). **John Gooderson** (GH 1943), Iain’s dad and also an OC, was a Managing Consultant with the United Nations and was required to travel a lot.

With his parents physically absent for much of his teens, Iain struggled, feeling isolated and vulnerable. During this difficult time, **Mr (Howard) Moxon**, the then-Head of Grindal House, allowed Iain to stay at exeat weekends.

Iain recalls that Howard, his wife Cilla and the rest of the Moxon family welcomed him with open arms, making him feel comfortable and providing him with the security of family while his own family was away.

Fast forward to 2022, **Mandy Vickery**, Iain’s partner, reaches out to the School’s OC Office.

“[Iain] has always spoken very highly of this gentleman, Mr Moxon and I felt as if I knew him too, after listening to Iain’s many stories and happy times at Highgate School, I thought what better gift for his 60th Birthday than to try and get in touch with Mr Moxon.”

After writing a letter to Howard, Mandy and the OC Office were able to reconnect Iain and Howard. They are now back in touch after 43 years “just as if it were yesterday”. The two have spoken over the phone, exchanged letters and birthday cards.

“Iain was delighted to hear from Howard. They were both so happy, I could hear it in their voices and I hope this will be the start of a long and happy friendship”, Mandy remarked.

As part of Iain’s birthday, Mandy also organised a goodie box of bespoke Old Cholmeleian artefacts including fellow Grindal-er **Howard Darbon**’s (GH 1955) Highgate Book of Humour, an OC crested tie and an OC pair of cufflinks (pictured).



Iain Gooderson

The two continue to stay in touch, exchanging stories and photos of family.

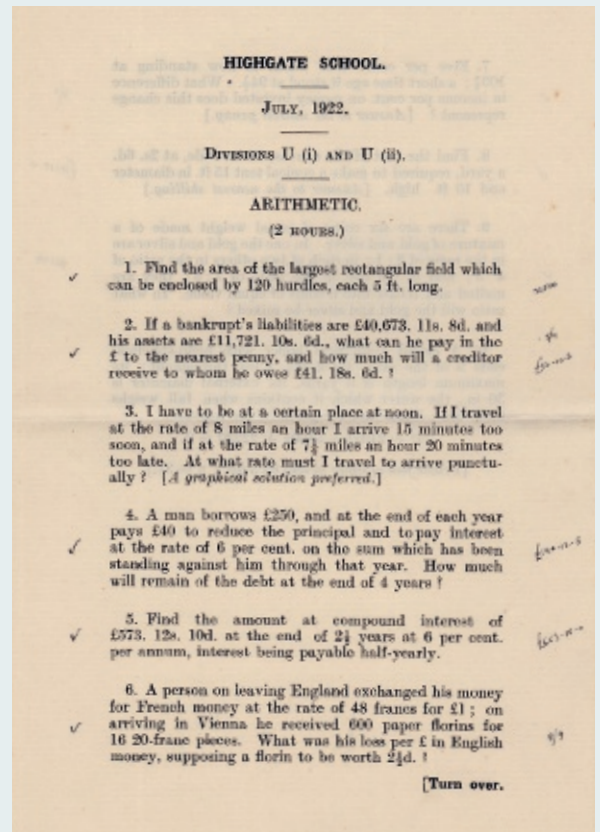
If you would like to get in touch with someone from your time at Highgate School, please email OC@highgateschool.org.uk, we are always keen to reconnect OCs if we can.

Image of the month

It has been an exciting year in the Archives with new donations, wonderful visits and re-discovering remarkable materials that tell the story of the School. Each month we document some of our finds and experiences, here is a round-up.

July 2022

This Highgate Arithmetic exam paper dates back over 100 years to July 1922. It predates the 1971 decimalisation in the UK so, for anyone brave enough to have a go and who didn't experience pounds (£), shillings (s) and pence (d), 12 pence = 1 shilling, 20 shillings = 1 pound.



Exam paper



Paul Ackerman

September 2022

OC Paul Ackerman (Northgate, 1979-81) travelled around 10,500 miles from Melbourne, Australia, to visit the Highgate School Museum. He couldn't resist trying on the Cricket blazer and cap, c. 1940s, which was awarded to those who excelled and made the First XI team.



Grafton Primary School pupils poring over a photograph of Highgate School's evacuated students in Westward Ho! All their names had been handwritten on the back.



Highgate's 'Museum in a Box'



Evacuated pupils learning in the Sunshine Café Classroom.

November 2022

Highgate's 'Museum in a Box' travelled to Grafton Primary School and St Ann's CE Primary School in November 2022. Year 6 classes had fun using primary sources, including shrapnel, magazine articles and uniforms, to discover the experiences of pupils and staff in the World Wars.

It was fantastic to see the way that the students interacted with the artefacts in the sessions, which prompted many questions and an excitement about the KS2 topics they were learning about. Roz Porter, Assistant Headteacher, Grafton Primary School said: "Thank you so much, the children (and I) loved the experience today and it was wonderful to have so many artefacts to explore."



School House Christmas Concert programme

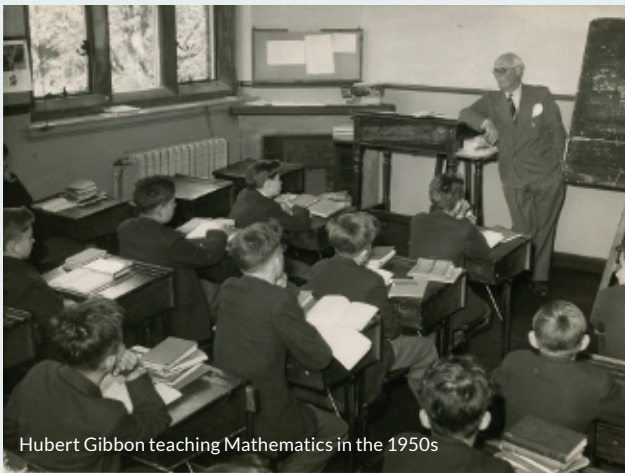
December 2022

This School House Christmas Concert programme was selected by the House Captains who visited the Archives as part of our Explore Your Archive celebration this past week. They enjoyed looking through a selection of records, from sports stats and magazines to photographs - in particular hunting through to find images of staff.

School House was the first purpose-built boarding house completed in 1880. The pupils had the pleasure of living with the Headmaster, Revd. Charles McDowall (1874-93) or should that be the other way round?!

January 2023

Hubert Gibbon, Master from 1922 until 1965 and Housemaster of the Lodge, was one of the staff members that moved with the School to Westward Ho! during the Second World War. In addition to supporting those pupils evacuated from their families and homes, he kept in touch with many Old Cholmeleians who were in the services. By December 1940 he had sent them an enormous 700 letters. The many responses he received came from far and wide – these are two from the Royal Navy and Middle East Forces – demonstrating the power of connection.



Hubert Gibbon teaching Mathematics in the 1950s



Victor Ludorum Cup

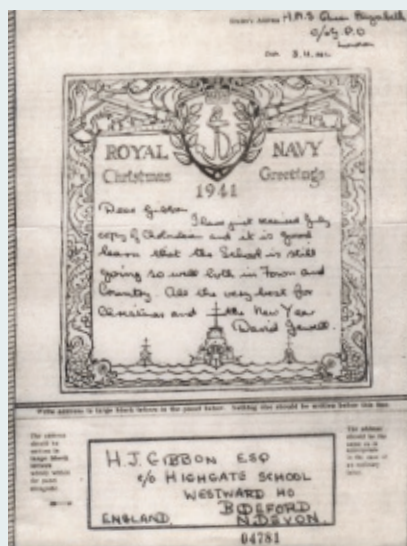
February 2023

Almost 120 years ago, the Victor Ludorum Challenge Cup was introduced at Highgate's Annual School Sports. Unlike the weather, described in *The Cholmeleian* from June 1903 as: "disappointing as could be wished for, heavy showers prevailing for the whole afternoon", there was much excitement for the proud title offered for the greatest number of marks obtained in all Open Events.

James Scott Thomson, pupil 1898-1904, was awarded the honour. He started the day as he meant to continue with a win in the opening race, the Hundred. Other events included the Quarter, Mile, Hurdles, Long Jump, High Jump and Throwing the Cricket Ball. Today, the Victor Ludorum Cup continues to reward outstanding performances on the track and in the field.



Christmas Greeting Card from the Middle East Forces, 1941



Christmas Greeting Card from the Royal Navy, 1941

March 2023

Drumroll please... although records of dramatic sketches at Speech Day date back to the 1850s, the Highgate School Dramatic Society was officially established in December 1934. This culminated in a performance of 'She Stoops to Conquer' the following Easter.

These captivating images are from the 1949 production of 'The Importance of Being Earnest', discovered in the Society's scrapbook. Do any productions stand out to you?



'The Importance of Being Earnest' proofs

If you want a chance to hold the Cup aloft and get a big cheer, view any of the records in the Archive or tell us about your memories, contact us at archives@highgateschool.org.uk. Tours of the School Museum can also be arranged on request.



Anthony Green

April 2023

Anthony Green RA NEAC LG Hon RBA Hon ROI, pictured here in a Geography lesson in 1952, was one of the U.K.'s most eminent narrative and figurative painters.

A pupil at Highgate School from 1951 to 1956, he was taught art by Kyffin Williams before studying at the Slade School of Fine Art.

In 1960 he received a French Government scholarship to Paris, where he lived for a year before returning to England to marry Mary Cozens-Walker, who features in many of his works. In 1961, he returned to Highgate School as Assistant Art Master under Kyffin Williams and stayed until 1967 when he received a Harkness Fellowship to the U.S.A.

Green's first solo exhibition was held in 1962 at the Rowan Gallery in London, and since then he had over one hundred solo shows in many cities worldwide. He was elected an Associate Member of the Royal Academy in 1971 and, having won the Royal Academy Summer Exhibit of the Year in 1997, was elected a full Member the same year. In 1991 he became a Fellow of University College London and in 1996 he was shortlisted for the Jerwood Painting Prize. Green has been a Trustee of the Royal Academy from 2000 to 2004. In 2002 he was elected to the New English Art Club and in 2003 he was a featured artist at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Sadly, he passed away in February this year after a short illness.

Events

Old Cholmeleian Annual Dinner



For this year's Annual Old Cholmeleian Dinner, more than 100 OCs gathered at Stationers' Hall, reminiscing and catching up with one another over a Champagne reception in the spectacular Courtroom of Stationers'. The OC President, **Martin Pyrke** (GH 1967), kicked off proceedings by welcoming OCs from cohorts across seven different decades, with OCs having travelled from as far as New York City and Australia to be there! The special guest speaker **Shashank Joshi** (QG 2004), Defence Editor at *The Economist*, gave a compelling speech about the conflict in Ukraine and other ongoing geopolitical topics. Martin Pyrke spoke passionately about what the OCs mean to him and during his main address he thanked all the OCs who support the Society. With great strides having been made on long-term projects and more opportunities to get involved and support the Society than ever, he struck an optimistic tone about the future of the OCs. He also thanked those in the School's OC and Development Office who make the Annual Dinner possible every year.

The formal part of the proceedings ended with drinks in the spectacular Hall, although many OCs found their way to a City pub to carry on the socialising. OCs were mingling into the early hours and by 2am a hearty group were still going strong!



Regional Reunions

The global community of more than 6,000 OCs can be found across the UK and beyond. It has been wonderful to see so many regional OC events take place this year, in St Albans, Oxford, Cambridge, Leeds and Edinburgh. With OCs ranging from the Class of 1945 to Class of 2022 in attendance, these events are a great example of how the Society brings people together regardless of your age and where you live. Conversation has flowed at every event, with many OCs reminiscing about 'old times'; catching each other up about recent life updates and professional news, and other OCs meeting for the first time.

OCBS: Law

OCs had the rare opportunity to hear from two formidable figures straight out of the Courtroom: **Andrew Hochhauser KC** (NG 1967) and **Jessica Franklin** (GH 2012) for 'Life at the Bar'. Andrew, often referred to as "The Rottweiler", was recently described by Chambers UK as "The best cross-examiner in the business" who "sets the standard for dedication to the cause". Jessica joined chambers in October 2022 following successful completion of her pupillage. OCs enjoyed a Q&A with the two speakers, asking insightful questions. It was fascinating to hear the two speakers talk about their respective experiences in the Courtroom, the two also touching on memorable and significant cases they had worked on, sharing anecdotes about their approach to cross-examination, and whether a fierce approach to witnesses is necessary.

OC LGBT

Many thanks go to **Peter Scott-Presland** (QG 1967) who gave an incredibly moving talk at this year's OC LGBT event. OCs along with teachers from the School's Pride Society, **Andy Plaistowe** and **Tom Jack**, gathered in **Ollie Bishop's** (SH 1995) Soho-based TIPi Group Studios, asking thought-provoking questions about Peter's work. Peter is the founder of gay theatre company Homos Promos. OCs listened to Peter read extracts from his book 'A Gay Century', a cycle of gay chamber operas covering the period 1900 (death of Oscar Wilde) to 2001 (first civil partnerships introduced in London experimentally by mayor Ken Livingstone). The group discussed advances that have been made in society since the 1970s in terms of freedom of expression, sexuality and identity, as well as work that still needs to be done.



OCBS: Finance

OCs had the great opportunity to hear from CEO of Iris **Simon Spyer** (TL 1995) who gave a fascinating talk, 'How Financial Services could learn from other industries.' Over many years Simon has worked with both leading global banks and tech companies, as well as tech start-ups. An expert in deep customer insight, Simon helps brands to sell more, and more often. He has worked for iconic brands: Sainsbury's, IKEA, Barclaycard, KFC and News UK to mention just a few. OCs enjoyed a Q&A, asking thought-provoking questions and engaging in lively debate. It was fascinating to hear Simon speak about his work, the importance of data strategy and the advances being made in artificial intelligence.

OCBS: Advertising and PR

Adrian Caddy (FG 1978), founder of creative agency Greenspace, and **Toby Craig** (HG 1994), Director of Public and Corporate Affairs at Chelsea Football Club gave a fascinating talk. As experts in their respective professional fields, the two panelists spoke compellingly, offering illuminating insights about their industries. OCs enjoyed a Q&A with the two speakers, asking thought-provoking questions about maintaining integrity in the world of brands, advertising and marketing. **Dave Amatt**, Toby's Economics teacher during his time at Highgate, was also at the event. It was a special moment for the pair who reunited after more than 20 years, as Dave was key in shaping Toby's interest in current affairs.

Night at the Museum: Kyffin Williams

For the 15th annual **Kyffin Williams** lecture, 'The View from the South', guests had the opportunity to hear from Dr Ceri Thomas, an artist and art historian from South Wales. He compared and contrasted the work of Kyffin, well known for his brooding depictions of Eryri (Snowdonia), with that of three of his contemporaries from further south: Joan Baker, Ogwyn Davies and Ernest Zobole. Amongst the audience were three former Kyffin pupils all called Michael – **Messrs Davies** (CH 1954), **Delaney** (MG 1955) and **Hallowell** (EG 1966) – as well as one former member of the Common Room who had taught alongside Kyffin, **Martin Wright**.

'Class of' Reunions

2008, 2003, 2017, 2012

This year, OCs who left the School in 2008, 2003, 2017 and 2012 all celebrated their reunions. With some taking place across the School, and others gathering in the heart of the buzzing neighbourhood of Angel, each get-together had an incredible atmosphere. At these events, OCs have reconnected over shared memories from their time at Highgate, as well as new experiences they've gone on to have. Some OCs networked professionally, discovering new business partnerships and opportunities.



Westgate Reunion



It was fantastic to see Westgaters of every era come together at the Zephyr Club reunion this year. OCs gathered in the Senior School Library, formerly known as 'Big School' to catch up over drinks. Many years had passed since the last gathering of this house. There was a great atmosphere with lots of memories rekindled, as well as the chance to acknowledge the collective forty years that former Heads of House **Steven Radford**, **Jessica Morelle** and current Head of House **Alistair Tapp** have been stewards of Westgate.

80s Reunion

OCs who attended the School during the 80s also celebrated their reunion. Guests were treated to a tour by Heritage Officer **David Smith** around Highgate School Museum, which some may remember as the 'Tabernacle'. The museum tells the story of the School using documents, artefacts, photographs and paintings, some of which date back to its foundation in 1565. The tour was fascinating and a lovely trip down memory lane; many OCs were sporting historic Fives and Cricket blazers. OCs caught each other up on their lives, sharing humorous anecdotes from their time at Highgate, remarking on how everything around School seemed much smaller!

Sports

Football

Vets make it through to the Final of the Derrick Moore Veterans Cup

Report by **John Zani** (WG 1966)

In April the Derrick Moore Veterans Cup OCs v Forest semi-final took place at Far Field.

It was a thoroughly engaging and pulsating encounter, with chances at both ends throughout. Much-fancied Forest went one nil up after only 5 minutes, only for the OCs to equalise 10 minutes later. The OCs then went ahead after a well worked goal midway through the half, but Forest equalised shortly before half-time.

The match was played at a very fast pace and there were fears that Forest – with many of their team still playing regular Saturday league football - might take control in the 2nd half.

However, as the match wore on, it was the OCs who were the better side, playing some excellent, controlled football all over the pitch. **Adam Benson** (QG 1991) and brothers **Jonno** (TL 2004) and **Alex Oldershaw** (TL 2002) were very comfortable as a back 3, enabling **Dash Lilley** (GH 2001) and **Jack Jones** (SG 2004) to press as overlapping full backs, creating a number of chances and keeping the opponents hemmed in their half for long periods.

Skipper **Luke Davey** (EG 2006) and **Nick Franklin** (FG 2002) were outstanding in the middle of the pitch and the OCs deservedly went ahead midway through the half with Ash Fraser, Luke Davey and Adam Benson combining well. Forest then threw the proverbial 'kitchen sink' but a combination of poor finishing and an

outstanding save by Hugh Johnson seemed to have weathered the mini storm only for Forest to score - against the run of play - in the 81st minute to make it (3 - 3) with a scuffed shot that went in off the post.

It was the OCs who showed their 'never-say-die' spirit and went looking for the winner. After a succession of corners where the OCs went close to scoring, and with the match looking destined to go to extra time, the ball was not cleared by the Forest defence and fell to the feet of Jack Jones who rifled the winner into the roof of the net from just inside the penalty area, with the last kick of an absorbing match!

An excellent advert for Veterans football, this well-deserved win put the OCs into the final!



80s and 90s OCs play Five-a-side Football!

To kick start OC Sports in January 2023, OCs who attended Highgate School during the 1990s and 1980s enjoyed a tournament of Five-a-side Football. Players travelled from across London, and as far afield as Somerset, to the Mallinson Sports Centre, where they had an enjoyable afternoon catching up with old friends.

Super Saturday

OC Sport 'Super Saturday' September 2022

What a way to kick off both the OC Society and the School's Sporting Season! Football, Netball, Hockey, Fives, a memorial match and a Sponsored Walk/Run for the late **Joshua Dorgu** (TL). Josh sadly died in 2015 whilst in the sixth form the School.

Featured in the photos are Josh Dorgu's XI playing in his memory. Joshua loved sport, playing football and being around family and friends. Thanks to his family, the Joshua Dorgu Foundation, the players and Head of OC Relations Stuart Evans for this lovely first event.

Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraiser, the Foundation were able to exceed their target of £5,000 with the help of everyone who took part.



Golf

Report courtesy of OC Golf Rep
Anuj Anand (HG 1986)

Highgate OCs vs Charterhouse

In the 1st round of the Hewitt at Royal Cinque Ports we were up against very stiff competition, 17-time winners Charterhouse.

Unfortunately one of our top players, **Mark Cohen** (NG 1994), had to withdraw from the competition.

The new Hewitt Captain **Micky Tudor** (WG 1986) went for a bottom-heavy selection: putting our three strongest pairs out last, in the 5 pair match. It transpired Charterhouse had the opposite idea going front heavy. In the end they were too strong for us, the official score was 4-1 but it was a little closer than it appears.

The first two matches lost heavily. However in match 4, Micky and **Tom Gladwin** (WG 1986) were 1 up and in a strong position playing the 15th. In match 5 **Anuj Anand** (HG 1986) and **Luke Nokes** (KG 2002) were also playing well, that match was all square while playing the 13th, with the OCs never being behind at any point.

However news came that match 3 featuring oldest player **Howard Olivere** (NG 1966) and youngest player **Bertie Mills** (SH 2014) also went the way of Charterhouse, effectively ending the contest, so as is custom it was agreed that the matches left on the course were halved and the players walked in.

Howard and Bertie were chalk and cheese with Howard straight but short and Bertie long but wild. The front nine was a rollercoaster with both sides leading at some point, but they walked off the 10th green all square, after which Charterhouse did not look back.

Charterhouse eventually lost in the semifinal, the third year in a row that Highgate have lost to a team which at worst made the semi-finals.

Highgate OCs vs Greshams

Onward to the Plate competition, played at nearby Prince's Golf Club.

On Friday 31 March, we had a 1st round game against Gresham's. We maintained

the two strong pairs from the first day. Anuj and Luke leading the way on a day with winds sustained over 40 mph and light rain for all of the second half of the game.

The middle match was **Alex Edwards** (SH 1988) and Bertie, with Micky and Tom in the anchor match. Overall Highgate were the stronger team coping better with the conditions. Bertie and Plate Captain Alex made their partnership debut at Princes teeing off 2nd against a formidable farming pairing from Gresham who had swings that were far from agricultural.

Highgate proceeded to dominate the first 6 holes to take a comfortable 4 shot lead. Although doing their best to squander this, turning at 2 up they managed to regain the momentum and walked off the 15th with a well-deserved 4&3 victory.

Micky and Tom took an early lead and built on that with discipline and smart conservative golf bearing in mind the conditions. By the turn they were 4 up which meant the opposition needed to start taking risks which is difficult in this format, as a result it was over early in the back nine.

The first match was much tighter with poor putting on the front nine from our boys countered by some wild driving and gift holes by the opposition. The par five 15th was the keyhole both drove up the right side of the fairway, we were on the short grass whereas Gresham's were just in the rough with a sloping lie to content with.

Luke pulled off the shot of the day an arrow straight 3 wood to 30ft. Gresham's found the bunker short; then a lagged two putt for birdie from Anuj gave us a 2 up, three to play lead, and we finished off the match just as news came of the other wins, for a 3-0 victory.

Highgate OCs vs Forest

Our second round in the Plate was on Saturday early morning against Forest. A bitterly cold morning with less wind than the Friday but as it was a northerly wind it was just as challenging. We went with the same team and order apart from

Tom Tudor (WG 1984) replacing his brother in the final match.

Forest were a different proposition; despite not having a good record in the main Hewitt in the Plate, with only a 6-man team they were more competitive.

The level of golf was very high in match one with Anuj and Luke being only 2 over par through 13 holes yet only being all square at that stage. News from behind was not good as the OCs were behind in both.

Plate Captain Alex renewed partnership with Bertie, with the game starting promisingly with Highgate taking the first and Forest making a lengthy putt just to halve the second however that proved to be a false dawn.

Forest expertly plodded their way around to boring pars that the OC pairing were unable to match and despite a valiant effort at an eagle putt on their last hole of the tournament, we trudged off to a 5&4 defeat.

In the final match the two Toms were up against a former England Boys player in Jack Heasman. It was another high-quality game with quite a few birdies to win holes, a three putt from Forest allowed Highgate to go 1 up early, but they recovered to be 2 up at the turn.

Tom G was putting beautifully regularly keeping the OCs in the game. We eventually lost 3&2, but one of the opposition was overheard stating that were it not for Tom Gladwin's putting, the score would have been "7&6".

Overall, a good performance for the week. Forest were indeed very strong in the Plate competition going on to beat very formidable opponents Merchiston and Harrow in the next two rounds, eventually losing in the final.



Anuj Anand (HG 1986) and Luke Nokes (KG 2002)

Real Tennis

Cattermull Cup 2023

Over the weekend of 22/23 April 2023 **Tony Friend** (NG 1967) and **Gareth Zundel** (MG 1971) represented the OCs in the Cattermull Cup, the annual Schools' Alumni Real Tennis Doubles Handicap Championships held at Middlesex University Real Tennis Court in The Burroughs, Hendon.

Real tennis is played in an enclosed court with cork-cored balls and asymmetrical racquets. Like fives, which Highgate has a strong involvement with, it evolved from a game played with bare hands that emerged in France in the 11th or 12th century where it is called Jeu de Paume. By the 16th century it had become a racquet sport and there were thousands of tennis courts across Europe. Today there are just 52 courts worldwide, most of them in the UK. The term 'Real' is a 20th century retronym used to distinguish it from the modern game of lawn tennis which was only developed in 1875.

16 pairs entered the Championship this year and were divided into four groups playing each other in one set, first to six, matches with the group winner going through to the semifinals. The group we were in contained last year's winners Clifton (Liddington & Esses), but also twice previous finalists the ladies from Wimbledon High (Doble & Brodie) as well as Shrewsbury (Saunders & Boys-Stones).

We got off to a great start beating Shrewsbury 6-4 in a tight match which was an indicator of things to come. We then were up against the formidable pair from Wimbledon High. Hopes were high as we lead 5-3 but it went to 5-5 and match point at 40 all resulted in a hazard chase (yes, it's complicated but this link might help www.royaltenniscourt.com/the-game/service-and-chases) which we played off but lost. We then took on the



strong Clifton pair and again had a very close match which the result of 6/2 in our favour did not fully reflect how tight it was.

At the end of the day, we were in an incredibly close group with 3 teams winning 2 matches each, which resulted in needing some careful slide rule calculations however the pair from Wimbledon High qualified by the narrowest margin from Friend and Zundel.

The semis and final saw yet more great tennis with the ladies from Wimbledon going to a deciding 40 all match point to succumb to Winchester 2 who then were defeated by Winchester 1 in a great final.

Our thanks to Paul Cattermull, as well as Will Burns, the professional at Middlesex University Real Tennis Club, for organising a great tournament.

If you are a real tennis player and would like to represent the OCs in future competitions, please contact Tony Friend (tonyfriend@me.com). We hope we might enter two pairs next year!

Netball

Under the new Captaincy of **Juliette De Freitas Vile** (HG 2018), OC Netball had another consistent winter season, having made the semi-finals in the previous season, which ended just before Christmas. The season started with some expected wins but some also less expected losses against teams the OCs had comfortably won against in previous seasons. **Aimee Paul** (HG 2017), who had been formidable in defence in the previous season, sadly had to miss the season due to a foot injury. Up against some strong (and taller) shooters in other teams, many players from centre court and even shooters had to fill in for

defence. **Nina Sorensen** (KG 2008), despite shooting in previous seasons, brought some basketball experience and got to grips with the opposite position on the opposite side of the court. **Dominika Ucar** (KG 2016), a seasoned defence player and prolific interceptor, returned towards the latter half of the season and more wins followed.

Lara Pearson (TL 2011), **Polina Andreeva** (FG 2013), **Rosa Verity** (SH 2013), **Minna Griffiths** (KG 2018) and Juliette (C) once again brought speed, control, and many interceptions to centre court, slowing down the game when needed and getting some very



impressive passes into the shooting circle. There to receive was honorary OC and GA, Felicity Barbur and top scorer for the season, **Olivia Gidman** (FG 2016). Both demonstrated their shooting prowess from both under the basket and some trickier wing shots against much taller defence.

Netball (continued)

Despite a disjointed season due to Covid, industrial strikes and some aggressive opponents, the OCs once again made the semi-finals on goal difference, facing formidable foes and previous winners, Backline Bandits. Unfortunately, the team were penalised due to a lack of registered and regular players available, however played exceptionally well and were only a few goals short of the eventual season winners. A special mention to **Anna Willis** (EG 2018), a previous player for Netball Super

League Side London Pulse Under 21s, who stepped in for defence in the latter half of the season and blocked many passes into the shooting circle. We look forward to seeing more of her in the coming season.

The current season started on 18th April with new players **Talia Augustidis** (EG 2016), **Zara Shepherd-Brierley** (EG 2017), and **Gabriella Paul** (HG 2014) joining the team and a victory in the first game. The team has (temporarily) said goodbye to Nina, and Felicity is soon to

follow, and therefore is on the lookout for more players to join. If any OCs are interested in getting back into netball, please get in contact via the website. The league takes place on Tuesdays in Angel, Islington. The annual OC vs School game is also scheduled to take place at Highgate School on Saturday 2 September.

Nina Sorensen (Chair of OC Sports) on Behalf of Juliette De Freitas Vile (Captain)

Fives

Elana Osen reports on OC Fives

9th October 2022 saw the sun glinting off the Boughton Bowl, finally getting its time to shine in the fresh air after spending time in Noah Caplin's growing collection of silverware.

A bijou entry of 5 teams of three pairs - which nevertheless made this the largest mixed tournament this calendar year - ended up being ideal for the tournament's change of venue to Highgate School (mandated by toilet- and personnel-related issues at our sport's larger venues).

The format was a 2-games-to-12-no-setting round robin, making for 60 quality games of mixed fives, the Wiseman rule in force throughout to test the cut returns and top-step play of the female players.

From the outset, team captains' pair choices produced games that teetered on a knife-edge: North Oxford vs Highgate's second pair a particular 1-hour thriller, and every single game was a positive advertisement for mixed fives. Although there was early North Oxford chatter about a multi-way tie that could not be decided either by head-to-head victory or even individual points scored, welcome newcomers Berkhamsted seemed to have quashed such hopes by winning 10 of their opening 12 games. Only veteran Boughton Bowler Charlotta Cooley and Will Woods in the Old Ipswichian first pair were able to make a dent in the Berko armour. Meanwhile, Ipswich

School - easily the youngest side - impressed with simultaneously wily and aggressive play, and as the day wore on began to convert more and more of this attacking spirit into points. Nowhere was this on better display than in their first-pair match against North Oxford's Rachel Wood and Nathan Turnbull, with Natasha Gregory and Elliot Caldwell battling their way to 10-3 in game 2 - after a swift loss of their first game - only to lose this step-all thriller at the last.

Steadily accumulating points throughout the rounds of competition, though, were the Old Cholmeleians (and friends), who had confirmed their entry last-minute through **Emily Scoones'** (GH 2009) superhuman efforts in recruitment. They had played well throughout the day, and in the penultimate round a frisson of excitement percolated through those gathered as the OCs vs Berkhamsted match ended at 3 games to 3, Emily and Abs just about pegged level by Freya Butler and Ryan Perrie. Various calculations were performed: if Berkhamsted could get a clean sweep of the final round against North Oxford, they would win the competition; if North Oxford won 4-2, they would be victorious. All Highgate could do was watch as their last-round bye left them, pacing the backs of the courts with heads in hands as Berkhamsted won all three opening games to put the competition within their grasp.

As always with team competitions, though, strength in depth is key. Berkhamsted were facing a North



Oxford side that had fielded three separate teams in last year's tournament, and so it was that in the last game of the last round, tournament victory was settled on the third-pair court when North Oxford wrestled back a game. The resultant 5-1 win for Berkhamsted left them with 18 games won throughout the competition, equal with the Old Cholmeleians. More number-crunching ensued as the OC-Berkhamsted head-to-head points tally was examined. Two points were the difference, with the OCs having scored 54 against Berkhamsted's 52, and at 5 o'clock exactly, the Old Cholmeleians & co were presented with the Boughton Bowl by the tournament organiser (the trophy's namesake having already started the trek back to Ipswich with a minibus full of exhausted schoolchildren).

Thank you to all the team captains, Charlotta Cooley, Peter Boughton, Emily Scoones, Gareth Hoskins, and Anthony Theodossi; to all those who played; to Gareth for invaluable assistance in organising; to Jack Flowers and Highgate School for stepping in as a venue; to Advanta Wealth for their sponsorship and to Peter Boughton once again for the magnificent bowl trophy.

Head of OC Creatives

Ian MacGregor (EG 1979)



There is no such thing as a typical career in the creative arts. Mine certainly didn't start out that way.

Ever since my time at Highgate I have always been very active in music and theatre. I was in every choir and orchestra at school and was also active in the theatrical productions. Three names stand out as major influences on what has turned out to be my career in the arts: Ieuan Roberts (Head of Music in the Junior School), Colin Howard (Head of Music in the Senior School) and Philip Swan (Head of Drama in the Senior School). I owe everything to these three amazing teachers who nurtured my interest in music. I am fortunate that I am still in touch with all of them, some 36 years after leaving school.

After Highgate I studied mathematics at Magdalen College, Oxford, but combined this with music as a choral scholar. With over 20 hours of singing a week, I had the pleasure of learning a vast amount of the choral repertoire over three years. I also played in the college orchestra but didn't have the time to get involved in drama, as I had to spend some of my time studying.

After Oxford I followed a rather strange route to becoming a musical director. My first job was as an actuarial student, which seemed logical having studied mathematics. The reputation of an actuarial career is for people

who find accountancy too exciting. I have to say I realised quite early on that this wasn't the career for me, but I was working with an amazing team of people, including my first boss, who became one of my closest friends over the last 30 years.

After this I became a management consultant with Andersen Consulting (now Accenture) for 9 years. I thoroughly enjoyed most of the experience there, although the pressure latterly became unbearable, so I took 6 months off sailing from Tahiti to Fiji with my actuarial boss, which was a life changing experience. I then joined a small consultancy for another 5 years before making the big leap into the arts. Everyone said how brave I was, but it seemed a very logical move to me.

My first job was as musical director for a panto at the Theatre Royal Stratford East. I got the call on Friday and was asked to start 10 days later. It was all so last minute that I didn't hear any details about the music. If I had known, I would certainly have turned it down – the music was hip hop, reggae, R'n B and garage! But as it turned out it was the most fantastic experience. I still work regularly with the drum and bass player from this production (who are joint MDs with Billy Ocean).

Following this I received a call from a producer who had heard that I was the reggae expert in the West End. I spent the happiest six months of my life MDing *The Big Life* at the Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue. The show was nominated for an Olivier Award but was beaten by *Billy Elliot* (it took another 8 years for me to go and see that show!).

Since then, I have been musical director for many other musicals and pantos, including another Olivier nomination. I now have a portfolio career which encompasses directing musicals, running tours of the UK for American choirs and orchestras, being general manager for the New London Orchestra, teaching musical theatre at the London Studio Centre, accompanying cabaret shows with the casts of *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Wicked*, and as a freelance pianist and accompanist.

Keep Calm and Carry On!

Dr Aroop Bhattacharya (KG 2012)



A future GP in training, **Aroop** is passionate about medical education, teaching and expanding his knowledge in medicine.

Aroop is currently in a GP Specialty Training Programme, which involves placements at GP practices, as well as in hospitals. He is on placement in North Middlesex University Hospital, where he deals with life-or-death emergencies every day.

We asked Aroop why he chose the path of becoming a GP after completing his Medicine degree.

“The training programme length for GP is three years, which trumps plenty of the other specialities that can take up to between seven and eight years in total. In comparison to other colleagues, you can finish this rapidly and jump straight into the thick of it”, he said.

The lifestyle was a key factor in Aroop’s decision: “work/life balance is an important thing to think about for the future, burnout is very much a part of being a clinician in any training programme. But in GP, this is something that can be handled better.” Once a GP is fully qualified, they can pick which working pattern and style suits them best.

As a generalist clinician, you are not focused on *just* one speciality. “It makes me fulfilled, knowing bits about lots of different things”, Aroop remarked.

Since his GP Practice rotation began in August 2021, Aroop has noticed as a GP, you really get to know your patients; “you see them multiple times, I enjoy building the rapport.”

Working in inner city North London has meant Aroop has been exposed to a variety of languages and cultures, which he admitted was a challenge but also an interesting way to learn about different nationalities’ pathologies.

Aroop’s advice to those working in a similarly high stress field is to always be prepared (as much as you can); create a healthy work-life balance; focus on what you can control and influence. Most importantly, don’t take your work home with you!

Tough Cookie

Harry Fox (QG 2008)

Harry Fox (QG 2008) is a mental resilience trainer with Tough Cookie, a leading organisation in the emerging field of mental resilience, working with Google, Facebook, the BBC, and more. Although he became a chef after university, he soon found his way into working on wellness, learning about and eventually leading on programs to support listening, communication, creativity, and sustainable wellbeing.



What do you remember about Highgate?

In the years since, it's been really interesting reflecting on and contextualising the amazing, varied, and sometimes complicated experiences from school. There were too many favourite teachers to name, and I'm eternally grateful for the bustling stimulation and incredible quality of the academic, arts and sports teaching. I'm glad to see the existence now of the LGBT society, and I hope there are accompanying conversations about race, class, and emotional competence that have appeared since.

Why do you do what you do?

How many of us were sat down by an elder when we were young and told: 'You have a mind. Here's how it works, here's how it can work against you, and here's what you can do to manage it...?' Almost no-one. And yet it's our mind, our single most impactful resource! I really believe in spreading practical tools and techniques for people to experiment with. I also know that I thrive on immediacy and connection with people, so training is a way of meeting those needs, while feeding my love of science and research.

How has your work impacted other areas of your life/work?

There's been so much I've learned that I've been able to apply across my life: my relationships with family, friends, romantic and business partners have all benefitted hugely, since I understand more of what's going on for me, and for them. I also make sure to defend my sleep and physical wellbeing, so I can live and work sustainably. 'Practise what you preach' has helped too - if I'm feeling lost, confused or defeated, I have plenty of techniques to draw on, and doing so affirms my relationship with them.

What's the one thing that you are most proud of?

When the lockdown hit, I was really glad to run a free mental resilience course for a charity under significant strain, and several more courses for friends and family. Tough Cookie also runs a 'Get Some Give Some' model, delivering free courses to communities without traditional routes to access these skills.

What is your best piece of advice for people interested in a career in mental health?

Theory and research are incredible assets, but people respond best to stories and truths from lived experience and learn best from their own. Gaining first-hand knowledge of different techniques for living, transferring cognitive into experiential knowledge, and having tried a variety of things will allow you to engage a wider variety of people. We already know we should exercise, get enough sleep, eat well and call our family. It's often our emotions that get in the way, and it seems like one silver lining to the last few years is the magnified focus on our emotional lives and wider conversation about mental health that has been sparked, and will hopefully continue, for the good of our own and future generations.

A Life Overseas

Keisha Lall (née Narain) (FG 2006)



We asked **Keisha Lall** (FG 2006), an OC from Highgate School's first cohort of female pupils, about her life as an overseas OC. Keisha, based in Jamaica, balances family life, Marketing at a Sustainability and Green Energy Company and Fashion Modelling.

Tell us about your time at school:

I joined Highgate as one of the first 24 girls entering Highgate in lower sixth. It was an experience integrating into an all-boys school, especially as it was a first for all but there was so much support offered and I think we all adjusted very well. Some of those girls remain my closest friends to this day.

How have you adjusted to life abroad?

Arriving in India I hit the ground running as my work kept me very busy. That helped keep any homesickness at bay, but the time difference proved a challenge, touching base with loved ones back home. The work ethic was different but easy enough to adapt to as you learn and accept the culture. Moving to New York took me over a year just to feel settled. It felt like friends and family were often in the city on a holiday or visiting but it was bittersweet when they'd leave. In my industry you're not necessarily mingling with the same set of people at work, it's not a 9-5/five day a week lifestyle, so building a new social group took time and a lot of the first year felt lonely. Nonetheless I made a great group of friends outside the industry, established a routine for myself and ended up loving my time in Manhattan. I moved to Jamaica shortly after getting engaged, so it goes without saying a lot

of my relationship was long distance. My husband is Jamaican and has his own Solar and Green Energy Company, Solar Buzz Jamaica. Moving here was definitely an adjustment in terms of finding my independence, slowing down the 'pace of life' and altering expectations. I was travelling back and forth to the US a lot and decided to help in his company, which gave me the flexibility to travel when I needed.

What is life like now?

I got pregnant, and then COVID happened, so travelling has definitely slowed down. My priorities have changed and although I still love and welcome the travel for work when it presents itself, it is difficult being away from the family and where I now call home. I'm glad I chose to grab all the opportunities to travel and live abroad when they presented themselves, but I can say that at this stage of my life now I can't imagine being anywhere but Kingston, Jamaica.

Any final words of advice?

If you have the opportunity to work and live abroad, seize it. Nothing is set in stone, home is where you make it, and loved ones will always support you. At times it can be lonely and overwhelming, but with hindsight it is a huge accomplishment and character building to be able to go through with it!

Why I do what I do

Graham Hughes (WG 1987)

What do you remember about School?

I was a music scholar in the senior school. I missed it when I auditioned first time round but was invited to try again the following year. It meant that that I was involved in a variety of musical activities: wind band, chapel choir, choral society, orchestra, dance band, barbershop group, school play... The music department was a little perturbed when I chose art over music for GCSE, but I was 'allowed' to do both! I remember a lot of music, (trombone and singing), a bit of cross-country (I wasn't keen but got on with it) and a lot of work. The latter got me to Cambridge to study Engineering.

Why music as a career?

A pub in Cambridge ran a jam session and I loved this other way to play music. As part of a ropey jazz quintet, I did a few gigs, but then did a post grad in "Industrial Design Engineering". I hoped it would lead to a career inventing and designing things, especially as I didn't see music as a career prospect! After working as an engineering consultant, I discovered a thriving UK swing and New Orleans jazz scene, with musicians playing music they loved and being paid for it. So, when I found myself dreading Monday mornings - it was time to give music a go....

What part of your job do you most enjoy?

There are gigs when everything seems to be working right - when all the musicians are enjoying playing together and there's an extra undefinable bit of magic in the air. You never know when it might happen, and these can be the oddest of gigs - even just playing in a muddy field to entertain people setting off on a sponsored run. These are what I live for. It's also a wonderful privilege



to entertain a listening audience, and to help make significant events (weddings, anniversaries, funerals etc.) extra special or poignant.

What are you most proud of?

I run more than one band: Brass Volcanoes, Sunshine Kings and others. Through these, it's been great to introduce others to new ways of playing, I have learned to front a band, written compositions and arrangements, employed and worked with amazing musicians, and entertained thousands of people over the years. It's so gratifying when people tell you what a fabulous time they've had.

What is your best piece of advice for people who want to pursue a career in music?

There are many ways of making a living as a musician. My approach has been to grab every opportunity, keep learning, respect others and be positive. Also, play music that not only I enjoy, but that the audience do also. Finally, work hard: I tend to do up to 300 gigs each year, so look me up at

www.grahamhughesjazz.com

Life in the Big Apple

Nikita Kvasnirov (WG 2016)



We spoke to **Nikita Kvasnirov** (WG 2016), a New York City-based OC who after graduating from Yale University in 2020, has embarked on a career in Investment Banking.

He tells us how he has adjusted to life in America, from the generous portion sizes to finding time to talk with family across time zones.

Tell us about your time at school

Highgate was an incredibly memorable experience for me, defined equally by the activities I took part in and the friends I made. I took full advantage of the range of academic experiences, studying subjects that included Ancient Greek and Art. For my A-Levels, I studied Maths, Physics, and Mandarin.

Outside of the classroom, I got involved in a variety of sports, including football and athletics, as well as a range of extracurriculars. One of my favorite extracurriculars was Automobile Society, where we'd gather once a week on a Saturday morning to work on fixing up old cars. My passion for cars, and particularly classic cars, is something I've carried through to this day.

Most importantly, I met some of my closest friends to this day at Highgate, something I will always be grateful for.

Where have you lived outside of the UK?

After Highgate, I moved to the US to study at Yale. Yale is in New Haven, a small city about 2 hours northeast of New York. I spent 4 years in New Haven and ended up living there for the summer immediately after my graduation before I started work, so I got to experience the city as a non-student for a bit too.

New Haven is highly underrated in my opinion, particularly in the summer, where there are lots of outdoor activities, and it also (arguably) has the best pizza in the US! After New Haven, I moved to New York to start work. I initially lived in the midtown area, but

now live downtown in the Lower East Side with my 2 roommates, which has been a very fun experience.

How have you adjusted to life abroad?

Adjusting to life in the US was not too difficult, but there were definitely some differences that stood out to me. People in the US tend to be less reserved and more outgoing, which was certainly an adjustment when it came to social life, a huge aspect of college in the US.

Also, pretty much most things, from the skyscrapers in New York to the food portions at the diner, are just bigger! What helped me adjust was starting my time off in the US in a smaller, more close-knit community at Yale. One of the best decisions I made was joining the rowing team at Yale, where I found a group of like-minded people and made life-long friends.

What is life like now?

I'm coming up to the end of my 3rd year as a young adult in New York and have loved every minute of my time here. I work in investment banking, and New York is one of the top locations in the world for that, so I very much see myself staying here for the near future.

Outside of work, I spend a lot of time with my friends, and have been fortunate enough to travel around the US and experience the incredible diversity of the people and country, from the mountains of Utah to the beautiful beaches of California. I would highly recommend studying / working abroad for anyone considering it, particularly in the US. Going out on your own and learning how to adapt to a new environment provides invaluable life experience, and the friendships and memories you make along the way will stay with you for life.

Shaping the Future!

Oliver Cleaveley-Jones (FG 2006)



Lead editor Gareth Creagh caught up with one of his former pupils.

What are your fondest memories of your school days at Highgate?

It's hard to know where to start! I think the atmosphere cultivated by the teachers made it a special place to learn and grow. There was a sense that there was something for everyone, from music and sports to cadets and interest clubs. Will Atkins and Karen Norris were my Heads of House, and I'd like to send them, and all my teachers, my gratitude for my time in the Senior School.

What were your first steps after leaving school?

I took a gap year as a junior officer in the British Army. I left Highgate in 2006 and was quite unsure of my next steps, but I had really enjoyed cadets, headed then by Neil Lunn and RSM 'Fritz' Albrecht. I learned a huge amount, from leadership skills to driving tanks. Following an apprenticeship, I finished an undergraduate degree in architecture and worked towards my part 1 chartership. I worked on some fun projects, including a new college building in Oxford, and the Ivy refit, but it was my fascination with what designers could do with a computer that really captivated me.

How has this progressed in recent years?

Following my architecture part 1, I went back to the Bartlett school at UCL to complete a master's in architecture and computer science. It was a brilliant course that encompassed everything from the philosophy of creativity to using machine learning for generative

design. My time there coincided with the release of the new generation of VR headsets, and this totally changed my perception of architecture. Suddenly you could create entire built environments overnight! This exciting technology essentially set me up for where I am today. Over the following years I worked as a 'reality architect' working in, founding and running startups that investigated the uses for this new technology, from VR fitness to surgical training. Most recently I've taken on a role as the head of Metaverse development at PwC, where we are exploring how new mixed-reality technologies will shape the future of work.

What motivates you to do what you currently do?

One of the joys of my career has been exploring the art of the possible and expressing creativity through new technology. In my current role there is an opportunity to do this at an impactful scale and to hopefully address some of the big issues currently facing us as a society, from environmental problems to social inequality. I've been fortunate to work at an intersection of technology and human-led design, and I'm excited to see how advances in AI enable the next generation of creative technologists. Whilst there's good reason to be cautious about this technology, I'm looking forward to seeing a future where people of a multitude of mindsets, disciplines and backgrounds can realise their creative ideas.

Publishes book on travel and tourism leadership

Sacha Zackariya (NG 1984)

Sacha Zackariya has recently published his first book: *Leading Travel and Tourism Retail: How Businesses Can Sustainably Capture New Profits in Shopping Tourism*.



Sacha, who has worked in the travel and tourism sector for over three decades through foreign currency and financial services firm ChangeGroup, says his strategic advice is as applicable to established brands as it is to newcomers. We spoke with Sacha to learn about his journey since leaving Highgate.

Tell us about your time at school:

I loved my time at Highgate. My parents always made sure I realised what a great privilege it was to be at such a fabulous school with inspiring teachers. I made sure to ask lots of questions and I participated in as many clubs and extracurricular activities as I possibly could. Some things came easily and naturally to me, but others much less so, and I'm glad that I was able to learn so many different skills, which I've been able to apply in my life.

Where have you lived outside of the UK?

Since leaving university, I have lived in France, Australia, Estonia, Austria, Finland and Spain, but my work takes me to more countries than I can count. The German and French I learnt at school have been especially useful in building bridges with people.

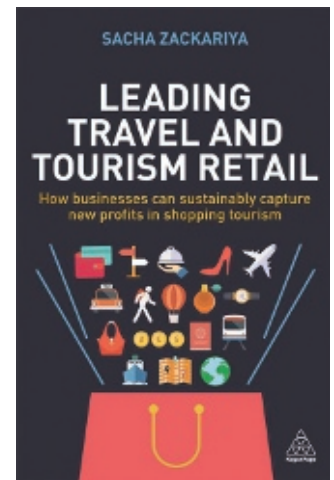
How have you adjusted to life abroad?

It is always an adjustment. Just nine months ago, I moved with my family to Madrid. The fun bit is finding wonderful restaurants, exploring new locations, getting to know local people, and

finding out more about their lives. Particularly fascinating has been the need to always read a little history because the way different people think and how they approach business is often linked to the recent past.

What is life like now?

We are in the process of completing the integration of our UK business with a large company listed on the Madrid stock exchange. It has been complex, but also extremely fulfilling to see how we can grow together and cross the different cultural divides. We are in a growth phase, which is exciting, and I've taken time out to write a book about my experiences, drawing on the thoughts of various leaders (from Tony Blair to heads of CHANEL) on how to grow better. There is an urgent need to be more environmentally sustainable, but also incubate and drive businesses so that people around the world can improve their standards of living, whether that be in developed nations or less developed ones.



Giving Day

As pupils filtered through the entrances to Charter Building and Dyne House on Tuesday 21 March they were greeted by the finest samplings of the Senior School's DJs and music producers.



This was clearly not going to be a usual day at school – something children in the Junior School and Pre-Prep were already well aware of: they were already clocking up the miles around Senior Field and filling Bishopswood Road with the sound of songs sung in home language of children across the Pre-Prep.

Over the next two days Highgate was filled with feats of sporting prowess, bustling cake and uniform sales and virtuoso musical performances. With the entire school community coming together in this way to showcase their talents and challenge themselves to go beyond their comfort zones it could only mean one thing: Giving Day was upon us once again.

The highlight of the School's charitable calendar, a Giving Day is a 36-hour extravaganza of community spirit and fundraising for causes at the heart of Highgate is here, the School's ongoing charitable campaign. It celebrates everything that makes Highgate School special – an opportunity for the entire School community – pupils, staff, governors, OCs and parents/carers - to come together with the singular aim of supporting young people experiencing disadvantage both within and beyond Highgate's walls. With the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic still being felt and the cost-of-living crisis biting, the support of those connected to Highgate School of less advantaged groups has never been more needed. This year, the Giving Day was raising awareness and funds for three causes:

1. Creating new opportunities for partnership and collaboration between pupils at Highgate and LAET, primarily through the creative arts through the establishment of Music and Drama A level at LAET;
2. Expanding our support for children in care in our community through the Chrysalis Accelerator Programme;
3. Providing an even deeper support package for bursary recipients, ensuring access to a fully enriched Highgate education.

These causes provide an opportunity for people to support some of the most disadvantaged young people in society, create lasting bonds between young people across London and provide bursary recipients with every opportunity to reach their very best potential at Highgate.

It was so heart-warming that so many connected to the School felt inspired by the chance to join the *Highgate is Here* movement and create lasting social change. Over 400 people joined together to raise over £230,000 for these fantastic causes. This generosity has the power to achieve fantastic things:

- 12 bursary families could receive a transformational bursary support package, providing a uniform grant, an educational trips and visits grant, support with the cost of transport to and from school, instrumental or vocal music lessons and a laptop or tablet to ensure pupils can always access their education
- You could provide students at LAE Tottenham with music recital rooms, giving passionate students a state-of-the-art facility for their creative studies. You could also provide all the instruments and equipment needed to successfully launch A level Music and Drama at LAE Tottenham
- You could allow us to support an entire new cohort of children in care for a full year, tackling attainment gaps at an earlier age. We could also expand the range of opportunities for existing cohorts, such as theatre performances and bespoke trips to universities and workplaces.
- Food bank donations made by families across the foundation will help tackle holiday hunger during the Easter Holidays for families experiencing food poverty



Head Adam Pettitt runs one of many laps of senior field



The School couldn't be more grateful for and delighted by the number of OCs that got involved in this year's Giving Day. From providing vital match funding, to acting as ambassadors and making generous donations on the day, none of the great things that will come from the Giving Day, or indeed any Highgate's charitable work, would be possible without our phenomenal OC community.

OCs volunteer at the School's first ever combined Careers and Higher Education Fair

In March, the School's first ever combined Careers and Higher Education Fair took place, with over 500 Year 11 and 12 pupils from Highgate, the London Academy of Excellence Tottenham (LAET) and other local partner schools coming together for the event.

In the Junior School, Year 11 and 12 pupils were able to hear from 30 professionals, including OCs and parents, from a wide range of industries – from Archaeology to Finance, Dentistry to Graphic Design – each one giving personal advice sessions, and the pupils were able to ask questions in a relaxed and informal environment.

The event coincided with National Careers Week, which aims to support young people to develop awareness of and excitement about their future pathways.

Poppy Micottis (SG 2014) was a delegate at the Careers Fair and now works in Marketing at international auction house Bonhams. Having studied French at UCL, she then completed her master's in history of art at the Courtauld Institute in London.



Poppy Micottis talks to Y12 pupils

"When I started studying, I wasn't 100% sure what I wanted to do and a degree like French is quite open and means you're gaining another language which is a valuable skill to have. You do figure it out along the way, and you can always change which path to take as there are so many options out there."

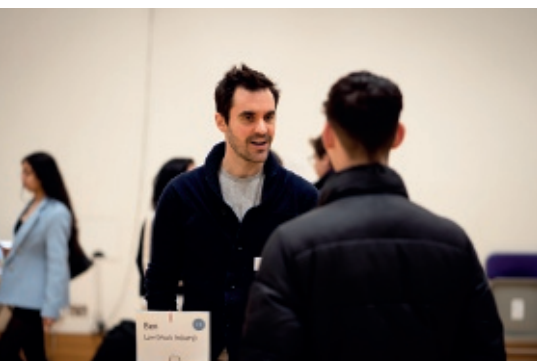
Ben Hockman (NG 2001) was also a delegate, speaking about his experience as the Vice President of Legal & Business Affairs at Universal Music Group. Having studied Economics at the University of Nottingham before completing his GDL, Ben spoke with pupils about his varied journey in the world of Commercial Law.

Over at the Mallinson Sports Centre, Year 12 pupils were able to speak to delegates from over 45 universities, including Poppy's former University, UCL. University representatives had travelled from all over the country – from Aberdeen down to Plymouth via Belfast and Cardiff – which pupils

found incredibly helpful as they start to consider their future plans after leaving the Sixth Form.

A Year 12 pupil commented: "It was great to walk around and acknowledge the wide variety of choices available. It was interesting to get a unique insight to the courses that I may end up taking and talk to people that know the campus and how a typical university day works."

Dr Catherine Carter, the School's Director of Higher Education adds: "The aim of the Careers and Higher Education Fair and the year-round support we provide, is to give pupils the opportunity to hear from representatives from different fields and areas. We're so grateful to all the volunteers who have supported the event by sharing their time and experiences with us. This included OCs who have a personal connection to the School and draw on their own experiences of the choices they made whilst they studied here."



Headteacher of LAET wins Spurs' Community Captain Award



Earlier this year Jan Balon, Head of our lead partner school London Academy of Excellence, Tottenham (LAET), was named Tottenham Hotspur's Community Captain in recognition of his impactful work in the local area.

Jan has led LAET since its inception in 2017 – when it was jointly founded by Highgate and Tottenham Hotspur to educate local students most likely to benefit from an academically-rigorous curriculum and those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. In 2020, LAET was named The Sunday Times Sixth Form College of the Year, sending more than 30 students to Oxbridge and many more to Russell Group Universities.

Jan was presented the accolade during a school assembly given by former player and now Club Ambassador, Jermain Defoe OBE. To celebrate Jan's inspirational work, he was awarded a PL30 Community Captain armband, pennant and a plaque engraved with his name, which has been added to the Premier League Trophy plinth.

Jan commented "Winning the award is a great symbol of the work that has gone on here in the last five years, I am proud of myself, but more importantly proud of all the students that have studied here, all the staff and the club who have made the school what it is today. Studying in the environment of an elite institution like Tottenham Hotspur raises the bar for the students and I am so thankful to be part of the academy and encourage more young people within our community to make the most of this opportunity that exists on their doorstep."

LAET is situated in one of the most deprived wards in the country, with 63 percent coming from the lowest two social groups. Highgate provides governance and is the lead educational sponsor, seconding 15 teachers and three support staff. A year-round programme of initiatives and events enables pupils to develop meaningful partnerships across the two schools.

CCF at Highgate

As one of Highgate's longest running co-curricular provisions, the CCF Army Contingent meets weekly to participate in a range of exciting and adventurous military-themed activities. This long tradition at Highgate began as the 'Volunteer Cadet Corps' in 1892, being renamed in 1906 to the 'Officers' Training Corps' and evolving again in 1948 to become the Combined Cadet Force we know today.



The current Sergeant Major, Y13 pupil Wren, who joined CCF in in Y9 during his first few weeks at Highgate, explains: *"Remembrance Day parades are one of the most important times of the year. It's a huge honour and responsibility to be an integral part of such an important event. Having had family members serve in conflicts such as the First and Second World War, I find it crucial to remember that millions gave their lives so we can live how we do today."*

Lieutenant D Stirling who heads up CCF at Highgate, explains: *"CCF is based on the ethos of the Armed Forces, with a focus on helping young people develop the life skills and self-confidence to take charge of their lives so they can reach their full potential at school and beyond, including the world of work. It encourages the development of initiative, responsibility, confidence and assertiveness."* Cadets follow a syllabus called the Army

Proficiency Certificate (APC) which gets more challenging after passing each star level. APC is designed to be practical, rather than classroom-based, encompassing a range of skills training within the areas of Fieldcraft, Drill, First Aid and Community activities."

Sergeant Major Wren enthuses: *"The CCF, in my opinion, is one of the most rewarding extra-curricular activities on offer at Highgate. It teaches valuable life skills such as first aid and leadership along with a huge range of activities from shooting to orienteering."*

He adds: *"Cadets can apply for additional courses with other cadets from all around the country. These courses range from skiing qualifications to learning how to repair and recover tanks and Land Rovers. Being part of the CCF is a truly rewarding experience and I can recommend it without a second thought."*



Cadets line up at the 2022 Remembrance Day parade

Expedition to Scotland

Teacher i/c Outdoor Education **Will Blackshaw** reports on an exciting new School venture!



1 1 sixth formers and 3 staff set off in the early hours of 2nd January 2023 for the long drive up to Fort William in a minibus packed to the rafters with mountaineering kit. The drive was surprisingly uneventful and before we knew it, we were in Fort William, which sadly meant a premature ending to the game of 'ravioli, sandwich or salad' that had kept the group entertained since Gretna Green services.

That evening we purchased supplies for the days ahead, checked into our hostel and sorted out hire boots, fitting them with crampons that would allow us to walk safely on snow and ice.

On the first day we headed up above Glen Coe in search of snow to learn the techniques of moving safely on snow and ice using crampons and ice axes. Despite the poor conditions we eventually found the snowline and began our ascent up Stob Mich. It was a good chance to practice ice axe arrests, kicking steps, using the ice axe as well as general winter mountain safety and the importance of things like clothing and food. We arrived back at the bus, pretty damp, but in good spirits and ready for the next day when the weather looked set to improve.

On Wednesday we had an early start to begin our ascent of Ben Nevis. Making our way up the mountain path as the sun rose, the group were treated to stunning views of the highlands, with the winter colours in full bloom below the snowline. When we reached the famous 'zig zags' we donned helmets and crampons and got out ice axes. As we reached the shoulder of the summit plateau, we entered the clouds and experienced a full Scottish winter white out with freezing temperatures and poor visibility. This was the group's first experience of 'proper winter', and they all loved it, getting the chance to experience using crampons on freezing snow crust. We got to the summit cairns and shelter in very good time in freezing temps, but the low winds made for quite pleasant conditions. WE stayed on the summit for 20 minutes before beginning our descent which we finished in the dark by headtorch. After 8 hours on the hill, we made it back to the warmth of the fire in the hostel, tired, but elated at the day's achievements.

On the final day we went back to Glen Coe and ascended the twin peaks of Buachaille Etive Beag summing

Stob Dubh – our final Munro of the week. Conditions gradually worsened throughout the day, and we summited in pouring rain just as the winds were building. The day gave a different challenge with some interesting ridge walking and a couple of steeper steps that allowed the group to put into practice all they had learned so far in the week. With the weather rapidly deteriorating, we made a speed descent back to the bus so we could pack and dry kit that evening before the long drive home the next day.

All in all, it was a fantastic week with some challenging conditions, but our objectives were achieved, and the group showed plenty of courage and resilience.

Jemima in Y13 reports: "We learned so much on the trip, from how to do an ice axe arrest and walk with crampons, to the dangers of cornices and the importance of many layers and a thermos of warm apple juice! Summitting Ben Nevis was definitely a highlight, as was descending as the clouds cleared, gradually revealing the Lochs and peaks ahead of us. The trip has sparked an interest in winter mountaineering in me, and I really want to go back to the highlands for some more!"

Black History Month

To mark Black History Month in October 2022, Highgate hosted a series of activities across the Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior School: from theatrical workshops to assemblies on Black history and African drumming lessons. Head of School and Y13 pupil, Tanya, led Black history assemblies across the Senior School with Partnership Teaching Co-Ordinator Dr Kwasi Agyei-Owusu.

Tanya's assemblies focused on the influence of Black culture in the arts; she presented a history of Notting Hill Carnival and addressed cultural debates from the fashion and music industry, concluding: *"In an ideal world we would see the contributions of Black culture all year round. We would see the intersectionality of our experiences and celebrate our differences as well as what we accomplish together."*

Dr Agyei-Owusu (staff member in charge of the African Caribbean Cultural Affinity Group) led assemblies on the history of the Anglo-Ashanti Wars, the colonisation of the Gold Coast and the contribution of men in the Gold Coast Regiment (part of the West African Division) in stopping the Japanese advance in Burma during WWII. He says: *"to paraphrase*

Pupil Head of School, Y13 Tanya, hosts Black History assembly



Pupil Head of School, Y13 Tanya

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, it's about "...telling the full story..." so all contributors to the building of a nation and its mythology are acknowledged and lessons learnt from actions in the past that a nation might not be so proud of."

The School's digital screens and Central Hall display featured influential Black Britons from the 4th century to the modern day, and all three schools prominently displayed TFL's Black History tube map.

In the Junior School, Dr Enya Doyle, Director of Inclusion, led an assembly on 'shared journeys' based on the TFL map, highlighting the contributions of 9 of the 272 Black people featured on the map. Pupils enjoyed a visit from the Bigfoot Theatre Group who hosted their Black History Month workshop to contextualise the topic through powerful performances. Pupils have been exploring cultural connotations through debate, research, creative arts and collaborative reflections, whilst using a range of audio-visual resources, library reference books as well as fiction and non-fiction. Discussions around the school's embedded values of mutual respect, tolerance, empathy and kindness for

the diverse representation of cultural backgrounds within and beyond the school community will continue to take place in subsequent terms.

Pupils in the Pre-Prep learned about the importance of diversity through One World Week, an annual event to celebrate different cultures from across the School and beyond. Just before half term, the children took part in an African Drumming workshop along with the Junior School.

Dr Doyle reported: *"As a school community, we recognise the importance of giving Black British history prominence. At the same time, Black History Month is a great opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to embedding these stories and experiences all year round."*

Highgate is part-way through a whole-school curriculum review, looking at subject matter, our classroom environments and our academic resources, to ensure they each represent and reflect the diversity we see in our society here in London. Last year, we rolled out some changes to the curriculum across all years and we are currently working with our pupils to assess progress and help identify areas to develop further.

A superimposition of Chemistry and Music!

In November 2022 **Graham Waterhouse** (SG 1975) marked his 60th birthday with a concert dedicated to his own chamber works in the Church of the Munich Residence.

The earliest work, a movement for String Sextet, dated back to Highgate School days in 1979, and the most recent work was the recently completed Alchymuc Quartet.

This was written to be performed concurrently with live Chemistry experiments (liquid nitrogen, chromatography, and colour changes) conducted by **Dr Andrew Szydlo** and was premiered to great acclaim by the *Philharmonisches Quartet, München*.

The concert was also attended by a capacity audience including former Highgate Physics teacher **Peter Bullett**. It was recorded and can be viewed under the heading *GW Festkonzert* on Youtube.

The superimposition of chemistry and music continued into December 2022 at Dr Szydlo's hugely anticipated lecture 'The Explosive History of Hydrogen' at the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London (see photograph)

Accompanying the final experiment involving the combustion of a series of balloons (filled with hydrogen and hydrogen/oxygen) was the Highgate School Chorale under the direction of **Catherine Harrison**, performing Graham Waterhouse's new work 'Hydrogenesis'.



Dr Andrew Szydlo lights up the room

German Exchange Visit to Essen Werden

In April **Germanists from Y10 and Y12** spent 5 nights in North-West Germany during the first leg of the annual *Austausch* with Essen Werden Gymnasium.

A highlight of the trip was the day of sightseeing in the neighboring city of Cologne which included visits to the popular chocolate museum and the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral. On the final day pupils enjoyed a 16km bicycle tour around the picturesque Baldeney Lake and sampled life in a German school, attending 5 lessons including an energetic dance class! There was also the obligatory sampling of *Currywurst und Pommes* at one of Werden's culinary hotspots. The return visit to London took place during the summer term with friendships truly forged.

The partnership between Essen Werden Gymnasium and Highgate stretches back almost 30 years. Werden's Reinhold Bartels founded the initiative in 1995 together with Highgate's Brian Matthews. A team of Highgate's athletes also attended the region's annual inter-school *Sportfest* in the late 1990s. In 2023 Gareth Creagh and Werden's Oliver Hermann are proud to continue the legacy!



Pupils enjoy a day trip to Cologne

World Book Day

In March 2023, to support World Book Day, pupils from Years 3&4 in the Junior School finished their Miniature Library project, inspired by the long tradition of miniature books.



World Book Day is always a popular moment in the Junior School calendar. Classrooms and hallways bustle with a colourful array of literary legends as children celebrate the books that have captured their imaginations and fuelled, what we hope will be, a lifelong love of reading.

Underpinning these values is a year-round programme of events at the Junior School to nurture pupils' ongoing enthusiasm for the inspirational and transformative power of words. Across the year, there are author talks, book clubs, library assistant responsibilities, drama workshops, performance poetry, topical reading lists and creative projects to extend their engagement.

Those with a particular interest in reading could even apply to become a Library Assistant. Twelve

representatives from Years 4, 5 & 6 were chosen to assist with the day-to-day duties of running the library. This year has seen the library assistants promote both World Book Day and National Storytelling Week, during which they read stories aloud to pupils at break times.

"I like being a library assistant because I get to recommend books to other pupils, and I've learnt things I wouldn't know otherwise", says Emily in Y5.

Y5&6 pupils were encouraged to share photos of themselves reading in unusual locations for the Junior School's 'Caught Reading' initiative. The week concluded with a visit from writer author Sharna Jackson, who is popular for her children's mystery books.

Senior School Cross-Country

The 2022-23 cross-country season saw exceptional numbers of pupils competing in local, regional and national competitions and some outstanding team and individual performances.



'Star performer' Y12 athlete
Lauren (Russell)

The highlight of the first half of the season was Highgate's performance in the English Schools' Athletics Association Cross-Country Cup. Not only did our teams qualify for the regional finals in four out of the six categories but Lauren (Year 12) and Theo (Year 8) each won their first-round races at Dulwich, with Izzy (Year 11) 2nd and Vita (Year 9) 3rd in theirs. Theo followed up his victory with a 2nd position in the far more competitive regional round at St Albans, and a 3rd in Harrow's 'Ten School's' race, where Amaya (Year 10), staging a strong comeback to the sport, finished 2nd in the intermediate girls race, and Caitlin (Year 8), another of our up and coming athletes, 3rd in the junior girls.

Michaelmas also saw nearly a dozen of our runners qualifying to represent the borough of Haringey in the Mini London Marathon and London Youth Games cross-country, where Lauren continued

her very strong season, winning the U17 girls' race. At the start of Lent 2023, spirited and determined performances over the testing course of Sevenoaks' Knole Run were not enough to compensate for the depletion of our teams owing to injury, and last year's triumph of our girls' team was not to be reproduced. Partial redemption was to be found in the Wellington Relays: our senior girls team won their category, and our senior boys and junior girls each finished 3rd in theirs, with Izzy F-S. (Year 11) posting the fastest time overall in the senior girls' race. Once again, it was the ESAA's three round competition, this time the Cross-country Championships, which brought out the best from us. No fewer than 22 of our runners qualified to represent the borough of Haringey at the Middlesex Championships, and five of our most talented (Theo, Amaya, Alex (Year 11), Millie (Year 11), and Lauren) progressed to the final round, the National Championships in Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Lauren's 3rd place in the senior girls' race, following several top five finishes in other national races, was outstanding.

James Morrow

Highgate's History Explorers

In Michaelmas Term, pupils from years 7 and 8 were invited to travel back in time with the Thursday Lunchtime Activity (TLA) Highgate's History Explorers.



The Archives team took them on an exploration of the Second World War, all the way from Highgate village to the School's evacuation in Devon, and far-flung battlefields. Using original records from the archive, they investigated the experiences of Highgate pupils, Old Cholmeleians and teachers to find out how they fared.

Our intrepid team also had the opportunity to pass on their knowledge to younger pupils during Explore Your Archive Week. The whole of the Junior School came to visit a display highlighting some of the favourite records in our collection.

Highgate are lucky enough to hold materials in both a purpose-built Archive and the Museum. Spanning more than 450 years, this ranges from the Royal Charter of Queen Elizabeth I and School Statutes, to photographs, uniforms, exam papers, and even some shrapnel from the V-1 flying bomb that landed on Senior Field in June 1944. The latter being particularly popular!

If you have anything to contribute to the Archive or would like to arrange a tour of the Museum, please contact us on archives@highgateschool.org.uk or 020 8347 4421.



*An Obituary for***Anthony Green**

GREEN (SG 1950). On February 14, 2023,
Anthony Eric Sandall Green, RA, aged 83.

His art teacher at Highgate convinced his parents that he should apply for a place at the Slade School of Art; he remembered being interviewed by the Head of the School, William Coldstream, and crawling around on his office floor inspecting two oils done on Hampstead Heath. He thanked him for coming and said they would let him know; two days later came the letter offering a place in Autumn 1956.

Green was an artist best known for his many paintings of his lifetime love, his wife Mary. The other distinguishing feature of his paintings was their irregular shapes and compositions, created from his vivid imagination.

His life and art revolved around Mary Cozens-Walker, who he met at a jazz dance at the Slade in 1957. They married in 1961 and she was, he maintained, his only inspiration and nearly all of his some 400 paintings capture aspects of their happy life together, including in bed together on their honeymoon in Paris. However, Mary always rejected accusations that she was being exploited as his muse, considering it was a natural role to play in her partner's art. Indeed, Mary was herself an artist, working in textile sculptures with embroidery; but she too focussed on their family life, including their daughters Kate, an artist, and Lucy, a scientist.

In 1971 Green was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy and became a full Academician in 1977. He exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions every year from 1966 and twice stood for President – in 1999, beaten by the sculptor Philip King, and 2004, beaten by architect Nicholas Grimshaw.

His London dealers were the Rowan Gallery (1962-90), during which time he was awarded a Harkness Fellowship in 1967 to study art on the East and West coasts of America; the Piccadilly Gallery (1999-2000); and, from 2015, the Chris Beetles Gallery. He had many exhibitions and *Anthony Green: Painting Life*, a book and complete catalogue of his work, was published by the RA in 2017.

Although his paintings were sometimes regarded as over-romanticised works for traditional attenders of the Summer Exhibitions, Green did not shy away from the difficult aspects of family life, though often the story lay

just beneath the surface of the picture. He was a lively and engaging speaker, and always glad to explain what was happening in a painting.

After Mary had developed Parkinson's Disease, Anthony devotedly looked after her in their Cambridgeshire cottage, but just before Covid-19 she had to move to a care home and when the pandemic struck Anthony could no longer visit her, and with her condition conversing on the telephone was difficult. As Anthony put it in his book *Lockdown Love Letters*, "Mary in a nursing home, fading away, ravaged by Parkinson's Disease; me at home, mortal, but so tired and alone." He communicated with love letters, written in Valentine-style red ink and illustrated with his inimitable sketches, all found neatly filed with her personal effects after she died on 4 July 2020, aged 82. Anthony was devastated but continued to work.

He died a few weeks after being diagnosed with a tumour. Among his last paintings is one of an incapacitated Mary in the sitting-room of their cottage, wrapped in a rug and arm outstretched but unable to move properly. Anthony's legs and one arm are visible at the side, but not his body. His hand reaches out to hers, but they cannot meet; perhaps such a picture helped him come to terms with her suffering at the end.

Lockdown Love Letters was launched, as planned, at a Valentine's Day evening event at Chris Beetles Gallery. The invitation specified it would be "in the presence of the artist"; sadly, he died at home that morning. (taken from an article by Martin Bailey in *The Art Newspaper*, 15 Feb. 2023, and from the Funeral Service readings on 10th March, 2023)

An Obituary for

Roger Mortimer



Roger Mortimer 1947 - 2022 RIP

Roger Mortimer (CH 1959) shared his talents and humour with so many, from Junior School pupils to OC friends and his family.

His love of literature and the spoken word touched pupils and helped their careers. Daniel Hope OC (EG 1986), the virtuoso violinist, wrote: "Mr Mortimer was a brilliant teacher who ignited my interest in both history and drama. He coached me in the role of Puck in Benjamin Britten's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", the audition for which I went on to win at the Royal College of Music. He also entrusted me with the role of the MC in "Oh, What a Lovely War." Both opportunities taught me how to address an audience, and I shall be forever indebted to him for installing this skill in me." Roger's memory will live on through the annual presentation of the Mortimer Cup Drama Award to a Year 8 drama student. OC friends have donated the Mortimer Cup as a lasting memory of Roger's contribution to young people at the School.

Roger died on 2nd July 2022 at Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow from Sepsis brought about by acute leukaemia, aged 75 years. As a pupil at Highgate, he was known by his birth name of Roger Ball, but he changed it to Mortimer as a stage name when he trained as an actor at drama school in Bristol. His great passions were the Stage, Literature and Shakespeare and one of his first drama appearances at School was in 1960 as Miranda in *The Tempest*, playing opposite Robin Ellis [QG 1955] who later played Poldark in the BBC TV series.

Roger married Annie in 1970 and had two daughters, Becky and Kath. Both children followed in their father's footsteps, Becky becoming a teacher, and Kath an actor. Roger began his teaching career at Hendon Preparatory School. He returned to Highgate as a teacher in the Junior School in 1979 under Alan Fox specialising in teaching English, Drama and History. One of his first achievements was setting up the Drama Department. He delighted in teaching drama and produced over twenty-two productions including musicals and Shakespeare plays such as *Macbeth* and *Twelfth Night*. Roger believed in challenging his pupils and not playing down to them. The well-known Theatre critic Michael Coveney wrote an admiring response in *The Observer* to Roger's 1991 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He went on to break new ground with many challenging and original productions, directing "The Beggars' Opera," "Daisy Pulls it Off" and "Oh What a Lovely War." He instilled in his pupils a love of theatre, leading a number of them to pursue a career in the Arts, and some have become household names. He became Housemaster at "Field

House" when it was still a boarding house and took on extra responsibilities as Deputy Principal.

Roger started the popular annual Weight and Cohen Trophy drama competitions in the early 1980s: guest adjudicators included Tim Pigott-Smith, Charles Collingwood and Michael Bowden. He also started the Junior School Parents' Associations and the Cholmeley Debating Society, featuring lively weekly debates. He drew immense pleasure from sharing literature with pupils and seeing them inspired by the emotion of words, which led him to become an author of books for children. His most important work was the "Mouse Kingdom Trilogy." This was a highly imaginative evocation of a world wrapped in children's adventures, folk arts, and myths. The Trilogy encompassed "Eagle Warrior", "Eagles' Revenge" and "The Ruby of Carminel". Here is a photo of Roger signing "Eagle Warrior" at its launch.



From 1980 to 2006 Roger organised the '79 Essay Prize for Year 8 writers who submitted essays from their exam coursework; these were adjudicated by the publisher Ion Trewin [TL, 1956]. He also started the Cholmeley Library aided by pupil librarians. Roger retired in 2006, aged sixty, when he and his wife Annie moved to Bradninch in Devon to enjoy a country environment which he loved. He took up archery and became an extremely popular guide at Exeter Cathedral with many quips and fascinating background historical facts.

Roger was popular at Highgate, both as a pupil and a teacher, and much appreciated for his fine wit, literary skill, humour and charmingly warm, affectionate, personality. He leaves his loving soulmate Annie, their two daughters and two grandchildren who were of great comfort to him. His family and his OC friends are missing him hugely.

Richard Brewster [CH 1959] Immediate Past President
Michael Crisp [CH 1959].



An Obituary for

David Bolton,

former Fargate Housemaster

Fargate House 1969

On January 2, 2023, **David M W Bolton**, died aged 86. David read English at St. Edmunds Hall, Oxford and came to the School after a short period as English Master at Alleyn's School. He was a natural schoolmaster, respected by colleagues and pupils alike, was a methodical and organised teacher, and became Housemaster of Fargate in 1969.

Aside from being a steady and loyal lieutenant of Head of English, David lent gravitas and good practice to the curriculum, but also staged a memorable production of Ben Jonson's *Volpone*. However, his finest contribution was considered to be his leadership of the Highgate School Literary Society. David brought major figures in the world of literature to the school, who were privileged to meet and listen to presentations by literary giants of the time such as Iris Murdoch, John Betjeman, Arnold Wesker and, most strikingly perhaps, the greatest poet of modern times, Ted Hughes.

David also played a major role in the Common Room and developed a reputation for being a sound and respected negotiator with Senior Management about matters relating to staff morale and well-being. He had a positive relationship with senior colleagues, and headmaster Alfred Doulton often asked David for his views and opinions on matters relating to developments within the school community.

In sport, his skilled and aggressive football was invaluable to the Common Room in their annual combats with the School; he had charge of several School teams and brought his sporting qualities to his teaching – devotion to the subject and concern for the individual boy's taste, talent and pace. He embedded the Scribbler's Club in school life and acted and produced on the School's stages. He also had charge of the Roman Catholic Circle – and no lapses escaped his eye! He left in 1972 to become Deputy Head at Chancellor's School, Brookman's Park, Herts.

Written by his son James Adam Bolton (NG 1979), with help from notes by David's friend and colleague John Griffin, Common Room 1963-72, and from his valet in the Cholmeleian for Nov. 1972 by colleague Cyril Hartley, Common Room 1962-86

An Obituary for

Colin Dean (TL 1947)



Colin Dean pictured with Highgate's Head, Adam Pettitt

As a cricketer, he established a reputation as an outstanding slow left arm bowler. He teamed up with his fellow spin twin, John Dare, establishing a formidable partnership. In Wisden's 1951 review of the public schools' cricket season, it was noted that Highgate won 14 of its 15 1st XI matches and added that 'the chief strength lay in the spin bowling of C. Dean (slow medium left arm) and J. Dare (medium pace off spin). Colin's 83 wickets, including all 10 against the MCC, at a rate of only 7.48 off 248 overs, was quite a remarkable achievement. It remains a school record for wickets taken in a season and was particularly notable as he was only 16 years of age.

Later in Colin's life, the Old Cholmeleians were invited to participate in the Cricketer Cup. Colin was the automatic choice as team captain, and he skippered the side between 1969 and 1988. Colin enjoyed club cricket for many years, particularly playing for the OC's, North Mymms, and several wandering sides.

At the age of 40, Colin took to the Real Tennis Court. He soon became a skilled player of the "game of kings" and won many amateur competitions, becoming British and world champion in several age groups. He also represented the Old Cholmeleians in the Cattermull Cup Doubles tournament with fellow OC Andrew Lloyd. Colin was a natural sports administrator and was chairman of numerous committees including the Tennis and Rackets Association, the International Real Tennis committee as well as his home club, Hatfield House RTC. He was widely respected as an effective chairman,

For **Colin Dean**, whose death was announced in May last year, school days at Highgate were a very happy time, mainly due to his love of sport.

with the ability to persuade committee members to compromise to the consensus position that he wanted!

Real tennis provided a wonderful opportunity for Colin and his wife, Jenny, to visit Australia several times, making lifelong friends there as well as throughout the sporting world.

When Colin could no longer run about the tennis court, golf beckoned. He was fortunate as he entered his mid 70s to have a new sport that provided yet another challenge and of course was very sociable. He enjoyed playing with the OC Golfing Society at Highgate where he won The Kelly Cup three years running. It has only just been returned to Highgate!

Colin was a true Corinthian and embodied all that is good in amateur sport, but his life wasn't just sport. After leaving Highgate, he worked for Esso, specialising in Tankers, and later joined Petroleum Economics Ltd, where he became a director. He was a much-loved husband, father and grandfather, and a good friend to many. A man who loved his music, especially jazz and opera, and holidays with his family, most notably to Italy. He leaves Jenny, his daughter Emma and his son William, who is Headteacher of Highgate Primary School.

Words by **Jenny Dean**

Notes & News

Blue Sapphire Wedding

JONES (TL 1946). On May 11, 2023, **Michael and Karen Jones** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in New Brunswick, Canada. Their daughter Alexandra, who also lives in New Brunswick, took them to dinner at a local Italian restaurant, where they reminisced about family events and travel over the years. It was a most entertaining and amusing evening. They are still living in the house they designed and had built in 2004; in parts of the property they left to re-wild, there are now numerous spruce trees, closing in on the house rather like Birnam Wood starting to move towards Dunsinane in Macbeth.

Diamond Wedding

TUCKER - WILLIAMS: On 5 January 1963. **Hugh Browse Tucker (TL 1953) and Fiona Jean Williams** at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Woking. They had a quiet celebration with family and friends in their assisted living accommodation in Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

CURNOCK (CH 1948) Tony and Lesley Curnock (née McKelvie), celebrated on Thursday 7 July 2022 with 18 members of their family, in Anglesey.

Wedding

SEBASTIAN SUNDBVIK (MG 2012) and his wife **Tolu** were married in December 2022.

Deaths

JOHNSON (FG 1936). On January 24, 2023, **David Arthur Johnson**, aged 98. His son Andrew writes: I still have a copy of his final school report dated Summer 1941. It made me smile to see that he was graded 1= in physics, an achievement somewhat diminished by the entry in the adjacent column headed "Number in Class" - 2! He was in the sixth form when his year was evacuated to Westward Ho in 1939 at the start of the war. On leaving Highgate, David went to Queens' College, Cambridge where he studied Mechanical Sciences (now referred to as Engineering). He was awarded a scholarship at the college and represented Queens in both tennis and rowing. For the remainder of the war, he was in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and then had a long career with British Petroleum, becoming a chartered chemical engineer and a chartered mechanical engineer. He was very proud of his time at the school

and told me of his many fond memories when he invited me to join him at an event at the school for more "senior" old boys about 6 or 7 years ago. When our family recently hosted our own "Desert Island Discs" for him, David chose the Highgate School song amongst his selection.

MYLES (EG 1944). On 26th November 2021, **John Whitson Myles**, aged 91. During John's first year at School, a V1 flying bomb ("Doodlebug") landed in the school field and John suffered a wound (fortunately slight) from flying glass when the class-room window was blown in! After leaving, John studied Medicine at Glasgow University, and following qualification he worked at various hospitals in different parts of the UK. In the early 1970s he was appointed Orthopaedic Consultant at Peterborough District Hospital and served there until his retirement. He specialised in hip fractures, but also carried out varied orthopaedic surgery. He invented the "Radius Jack" for treatment of wrist injuries and designed an improved hospital bed. He was amongst the instigators of the highly successful Peterborough "Hospital at Home" service. John suffered a stroke at his home in Peterborough and never recovered consciousness, dying in hospital a few days later. His wife Margaret predeceased him in 2008; he leaves his daughters Susan and Alison. John was the elder brother of David Myles (EG 1945).

McCAHON (GH 1945). On March 26, 2022, **Dr. Ian Albert McCahon**, aged 87.

MILNE (EG 1945). On December 26th, 2022, **Alastair Fenton Milne**, aged 90. Born in Aberdeen and initially educated at Aberdeen Grammar School, his father moved to London in 1946 when he bought a pharmacy in New Southgate. He was an excellent shot and represented the school at Bisley. After school he was employed on the family farm to gain experience before entering the Royal Agricultural College, interspersed with national service got in Osnabruck, Germany, followed by 10 years with the Honourable Artillery Company in City Road, London. During this time, he was employed by a Ford main dealer and as production manager for Lesney Products (Matchbox car models). He also worked with Shell Mex & BP in the heating oil market. In 1971 he launched M&G Marquee Hire Ltd, which even supplied marquees to the OC Sports Club at Hendon Wood Lane when big functions were held there! The business was eventually sold in 1993 & Alastair retired in 1996. Alastair joined Barnet Rugby Club in 1952, playing in the 1st XV and in the Hertfordshire 2nd XV and North London. He joined the Barnet Executive committee in 1967 and became membership secretary in 1977

until his death. He was also a Life member of the Truants golfing society, his love of golf resulting in him joining Hadley Wood Golf Club, where he was captain 1965/66. He ran the rugby club's golfing society since 1968, became an honorary member of Royal Cromer Golf Club and organised biennial trips to Edinburgh to coincide with the Calcutta Cup weekend. A man whose wide interests in sport enabled others to share his enjoyment through the many events and meetings he organised, he will be missed by so many at his various clubs and his many friends.

BIRCH (1946). On August 8, 2022, **Peter Birch**, aged 88.



DARE (NG 1946 and Common Room 1962-1970). In November 2022, **John Christopher Dare**, aged 89, near Bideford, Devon. At school he excelled both academically and in sport, becoming both Head of School and Captain of Games. He

earned 2nd XI Football Colours in 1951; School Fives Colours in 1952 and 1st XI Cricket colours 1948-49-50-51-52 and was Captain of Cricket in 1952; Norris Butcher (Common Room 1947-89), writing Dare's 1970 Farewell note in the Cholmeleian, recalled that his bowling partnership with Colin Dean (TL 1947) was almost legendary. He studied at Clare College, Cambridge, earning a double first in Modern Languages. After national service in the RAF, he entered the Civil Service and, as Butcher recalls, was well launched on a successful career when Norris, who was also an OC and knew him at School, "inveigled him into school mastering". He returned to Highgate in 1962 as Master of Modern Languages, and was housemaster of Westgate from 1964 to 1970, when he left to become Headmaster of Bideford Grammar School, which later combined with the local secondary school to form Bideford School. He retired in 1993. He and his wife, who died in January 2021, had three children, Andrew (who attended Highgate Junior School), Catherine and Jonathan. He always spoke about his time at Highgate with warmth and affection and made friends there with whom he remained in regular contact until his death, three of them becoming godparents to his children. His funeral was at St Mary Church, Bideford on 14th December 2022.

EGGLE (MG 1946). On December 22, 2022, **John Charles Arthur Eggle**, aged 89.

CURLEY (EG 1947). On January 15, 2023, **Michael Oliver Curley**, aged 86. Tragically his death was the result of a severe blow to the head during a physical attack. He worked at Johnson Matthey for many years before his retirement. He loved sports, classical music,

travel and reading. His untimely demise is mourned by his wife, Helen Philip-Watson and their two daughters. He was buried at Bandon Hill Cemetery, Wallington.

GODFREY (SH 1947). During 2022, **Brian William Godfrey**, aged 88. He had been a Solicitor at Lake, Parry and Treadwell, London. He and his wife were married for 63 years.

WILLIAMS (GH 1947). On September 10, 2022, **John Hugh Hammerton Williams**, aged 88, in Exeter. After Highgate, where he was a member of the choir and played clarinet in the orchestra, he went on to qualify and practice as a chartered structural engineer until he retired.

CARTER (MG 1948). On February 6, 2021, **John Richard Carter**, aged 84.

EGGLETON (FG 1948). In April 2022, **Stuart Reginald Eggleton (FG 1948)**, aged 86. He enjoyed his time at Highgate, made many friends and was always pleased to receive the Cholmeleian. He was manager of various travel agencies, including the Methodist Travel Agency, for many years, and then Manager of a Christian Bookshop in Sutton, before working for Financial Advisors and solicitors. Much missed by his wife, Margaret, son Tim, daughter Vicky and four grandchildren.

GUMPEL (SH 1948). On October 5, 2022, **James Michael Gumpel**, aged 86, from heart failure. Born in Berlin, he studied medicine at Trinity College, did his clinical training at St Thomas' Hospital in London and met his first wife, Shirley Fisher, while working at the Whittington Hospital. They were both awarded fellowships at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, USA, from 1962 to 1965, and on returning to London, he was appointed consultant physician specialising in rheumatology and acute care medicine at Northwick Park Hospital from 1970 to 1997; he pioneered treatment to ease the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and co-authored 129 papers between 1967 and 2003. He campaigned for better funding for medicine, and in 1997 published a joint letter in The BMJ to the then secretary of state for health, Frank Dobson, about the problems in acute hospital services in the NHS. Michael and his second wife, Carole, ran a private practice in Harley Street and the Clementine Churchill Hospital from 1997 until retirement in 2007. He leaves his wife, Carole; three children, Nicky, Jon, and Sophie; stepson, Andrew; and 10 grandchildren. [Full obituary in the British Medical Journal, Nov. 11, 2022]

PARKER (GH 1948). On November 23, 2022, **John Mervyn Parker**, aged 87, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He was Senior Vice-President with insurance company Reed Stenhouse Ltd. in Toronto, was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1977 and was President of the Canadian Certified General Accountants' Association in 1980. His daughter Gillian Parker

records that he had fond memories of his time at Highgate, was a proud OC, and was active in the Toronto Branch of the Society.

KNIGHT (SH 1949). On January 9, 2023, **Malcolm Richard Knight**, aged 87, in Melbourne, Australia. He leaves his wife Sally, and children Judy, Toby and Wendy.

WILLIAMS (NG 1950). On October 3, 2021, **David John Williams, CBE**, aged 83, from respiratory failure, peacefully, at home. After a year as an English-Speaking Union scholar at the Hotchkiss School, Connecticut, USA, he read medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge, and St Thomas' Hospital, qualifying in 1964. As a junior doctor, he worked at the National Heart Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital, Kingston Hospital, the Middlesex Hospital, and the Maudsley. He spent a month working in Yemen for the British Yemen Relief Committee, and six months as a medical officer with the Qatar Petroleum Company in Qatar. In 1974 he became the first A&E consultant at the Middlesex Hospital and in 1984 became the first A&E consultant at St Thomas' Hospital. In 1987 he became president of the Casualty Surgeons Association (CSA), created the Faculty of A&E Medicine, and was its first president and honorary secretary. Now the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, it holds an annual David Williams lecture, in tribute to his contribution; there are now some 3000 consultants of emergency medicine in the UK. He was president of the European Society for Emergency Medicine, and chairman of the emergency medicine section of the European Union of Medical Specialists. He retired in 2000 as clinical director of the A&E departments of Guy's and St Thomas', and became a clinical adviser to the Health Services Ombudsman, a Justice of the Peace, a member of the Criminal Appeals Panel and trustee for a charity supporting the homeless. In 1977 he married Ann, a modern languages teacher. They had two children, Jonathan and Antonia, and two stepchildren, Lucy, and Martin. He died peacefully at home, thanks to the gentle care and support of the NHS end of life care team, and his family. [Full obituary in the British Medical Journal, July 22, 2022]



NOKES (EG 1951). On November 26, 2021, **Rev. Robert Harvey Nokes**, aged 82. *David Bell (EG 1948) writes:* Robert and I met when he came to Highgate three years after me. I got to know him because we were both in Eastgate, but also because my friend Tony Lawdham (1948) was his cousin. It was already obvious that Robert was destined for the Church; indeed, in Eastgate and in form, he was known affectionately as "Bish Nokes".

After Highgate, we both went to Keble College, Oxford, in my case via National Service, which Robert was young enough to escape. There he read History. Naturally, he

was involved in Chapel affairs and became President of the John Keble Society. After going down from Oxford, we kept in touch throughout Robert's life - meaning that each Christmas I received a detailed account of his year, and he received a Christmas card! From Keble, he went on to Queen's College, Birmingham and was ordained in 1964. At school, Robert had been determined that he wanted to serve the poor and needy: so, after ordination, it was perhaps inevitable that he was sent to one of the wealthiest suburbs of London - Totteridge - to serve as a curate. He then went to Dunstable, before becoming vicar of St Andrew's, Langford, Bedfordshire in 1973. He was also deeply influenced by three study periods at St George's College, Jerusalem and he served on its British Regional Committee until 2018.

He re-entered my life when in 1990 he moved to the next-door parish to become rector of Braughing with Furneux Pelham and Stocking Pelham. He wrote telling us of his move and inviting me and my wife to his induction at St Mary's, Braughing, where we at last met his wife, Mary, whom he had married in Dunstable in 1970, and his two children, Debbie and Andrew. He was a great family man, so we already knew much about them from his Christmas messages!

He retired in 2004 to Hanslope in Buckinghamshire. Typically, Robert delayed his departure from Braughing: a terrible murder took place in Furneux Pelham, and he stayed on to support the shocked village. Once in Hanslope, he quickly became involved in the ministry of the parish of St James the Great.

He was always well-organised and, although his death in November 2021 was unexpected, he had already prepared his "very last Order of Service" - his own funeral. He had also prepared his 2021 Christmas missive, which Mary decided to send to its usual recipients, added a short picture history of his life, from their marriage through children and their granddaughter, Jessica, to a recent happy picture with Mary, and including one of Robert looking splendid in his Mackenzie tartan kilt. Poignantly, his letter concluded with how he and Mary expected to spend Christmas.

VIVIAN (NG 1951). In May 2019, **Michael Francis Vivian**, aged 80, at Cluden House, Northam, Devon, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

DOUGLAS-BROWN (SG 1952). On September 2, 2022, **Michael Douglas-Brown**, aged 82. Born in Scotland, the family moved to Hampstead after the War. He often spoke of his fond memories of Highgate. After leaving, he worked in design, pursued a career in music and travelled extensively before moving to Pembrokeshire with his



soon-to-be wife Susan in 1976. Here, he raised a family and became a director of a tourism company which the family still operates. Mike and Sue moved to Ludlow, Shropshire in 2020 where the company had started a second venture in design. Michael led a varied and successful life and is much missed by his wife Susan, his two sons James and Christopher and his three grandchildren. If anyone wishes to make contact, please send any correspondence to Christopher at Douglas Attire, 8 Mill Street, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1AZ or email us at contact@douglasattire.com

DOWLING (WG 1952). On July 14, 2019, **Christopher Dowling**, aged 78. Christopher was born in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of poet Basil Dowling. He came to England in 1952 and entered Highgate School in the same year. A fellow pupil, and life-long friend, was the future historian Martin Gilbert. He was taught history by an old Orienses, Alan Palmer, and in 1958 took up an open scholarship in Modern History at Oriel College. After coming down he spent an unhappy year in industry before returning to Oxford.



On completion of his D.Phil. Christopher was offered an appointment at the Imperial War Museum, the job of his dreams, where he spent his whole working life. His role as Director of Public Services gave him free rein over publishing, exhibitions, public relations, marketing, educational services and many commercial activities.

His enthusiasm for history was infectious and he did much to raise the Museum's public and media profile by steering a course towards broadening its terms of reference with a strong focus on social and cultural history.

Christopher had an unerring instinct for historical themes that would interest the media and attract diverse audiences. He was a stickler for detail but bored by 'admin' and committee meetings. His was a creative force; he loved to dream up ideas and run with them. His work schedule often verged on the impossible but as loyal members of his team remarked – 'it was such fun'.

Exhibition themes included commemorations for the Armistice and D-Day, poetry of the Great War, T E Lawrence, the Spanish Civil War, and London at war. The cast from *Dad's Army* turned up to launch a show on the Home Guard; Darcy Bussell, photographed by Lord Snowdon, fronted *Forties Fashion and the New Look*; Jilly Cooper and Joanna Lumley wrote books to accompany *Animals in War* and *Forces Sweethearts*; a show on 'Dig for Victory' inspired Christopher to ask Sir Terence Conran to design a gold medal-winning garden for the Chelsea Flower Show, and C4's *The*

1940s House led him to oversee the construction of an entire suburban home inside the Museum, a hit with visitors for many years. There was also a huge programme of talks, lectures, holiday adventures for children, chamber concerts, fashion shows - and *Colditz* the musical! One month it might be Dame Judi Dench or Sir Dirk Bogarde giving a reading, on another a debate with Harold Pinter and Tony Benn.

He initiated the IWM's publishing programme with a series of personal experience accounts, the first of which, George Coppard's *With a Machine Gun to Cambrai*, became a classic. Scores of successful titles on a wide range of subjects followed over the decades. He also gave the writer of this column great help and support during his research on, and publication in 1991 of, *No Easy Hopes or Lies: The World War I Letters of Arthur Preston White*, a master at Highgate from 1919 to 1951 who, with colleague Alan Palmer (see obituary, *Cholmeleian* 2022), was Sir Martin Gilbert's history teacher.

Though a naturally somewhat diffident man, Christopher was never happier than when organising parties. Politicians, journalists, sportsmen, writers, artists and actors - as well as countless veterans - were greeted by a beaming Christopher wearing one of his memorably flamboyant ties. He was awarded an OBE for services to museums in 2002.

Beyond the Museum, Christopher's passions were for art, literature, classical music, gardening and cricket - his cousin, Graham Dowling, captained the NZ team. During his retirement he was afflicted by a rare form of dementia. He died at home in the arms of his wife of more than 45 years. He is buried in Highgate Cemetery near his childhood home and the school where he spent so many happy days. As Shirley Williams once remarked about Christopher, 'Such a lovely man!'

MICHAELSON (SG 1953). On January 17, 2023, **Robin Winston Michaelson**, aged 82.

BENSON (MG 1955). In February 2023, **Stephen Benson**, aged 79.

STURT (NG 1955) On February 17, 2022, **Andrew Henry John Sturt**, aged 79, after a short illness in hospital. Born with a pyloric stenosis, Andrew was taken to Great Ormond Street and survived one of the first pioneering operations which saved his life at two weeks old. Whilst not strong on the playing field, Andrew worked hard to become a competitive swimmer. He also learnt sailing on the Welsh Harp and later sailed in the University of London Firefly Class. After university Andrew joined the BBC and whilst working in the BBC TV telecine department during the early days of colour broadcasting, he was offered a position at London Weekend Television, where he spent the rest of his career. He edited programs such as Big Match, Aquarius, Upstairs Downstairs etc. He also set up the first broadcasting studio for the British Army on the Rhine and was a



consultant to Channel Island TV for a short time. After retirement at fifty, he enjoyed seeing his grandchildren growing up and was a keen member of TV and Radio clubs. Sadly widowed four years ago, he is survived by his daughter Lucy and grandchildren Charlotte and Oliver.

CORDRAN (NG 1956). On March 14, 2023, **John Peter Robert Cordran**, aged 79. He was Financial Director of the Colchester Lathe Co. and from 1999 to 2010 of Peerless Europe Ltd. of Colchester. The website of the 14th Southgate Scout Group notes his passing, observing that he was a Rover Scout and volunteer leader there in the 1950s and 1960s, and adding that he made many lasting memories and life-long connections in Scouts, where he played bass drum in the Group band and later met his wife Alison (then a Cub leader) at a Scout Camp at Kessingland. John is survived by Alison, his three children and four grandchildren.

SNOWMAN (SG 1957). On March 2, 2023, **Michael Nicholas Snowman**, aged 78. Born in London to Kenneth Snowman, a jeweller, painter and chair of the family firm of antiques dealers Wartski, from whom Nicholas took over the company in 2002, he studied English literature at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he founded the Cambridge University Opera Society. After leaving Highgate he became a leading figure in national cultural life, heading three flagship organisations - London Sinfonietta, the Southbank Centre and Glyndebourne and supporting many other cultural enterprises. Gaining a reputation as a quietly determined, even ruthless, administrator, not always carrying his colleagues with him in his ambitious ideas and sometimes seeming happiest when returning to his beloved France, where he ran the Opéra National du Rhin in Strasbourg 2002-2009.

Not long after graduating from Magdalen College, Oxford, he founded The London Sinfonietta, for many years the country's leading contemporary music group, in 1968 with fellow graduate and conductor David Atherton. Their inclusion of OC John Tavener's (HG 1957) sensational dramatic cantata *The Whale* in their first concert made both composer and ensemble famous overnight. The Beatles wanted it for their Apple label and its recording was played with, among others, Snowman, his father and Ringo Starr. The Sinfonietta, with its core group of 16 players, and with the collaboration of Pierre Boulez, commissioned impressive repertoires from leading composers and inspired new generations of ensembles committed to contemporary music.

Snowman remained general manager of the Sinfonietta until 1972, when Boulez brought him to Paris to be artistic director of IRCAM, the laboratory for new music located in the Pompidou Centre. He returned to Britain in 1986 to become general director (Arts) of the South Bank Centre (now Southbank Centre), and chief executive from 1992 to

1998. He placed contemporary music at the centre of Southbank policy, and a thrust stage was introduced in the Queen Elizabeth Hall with exposed theatrical lighting overhead, enabling the venue to present experimental stage work.

An enterprise named Opera Factory London Sinfonietta, bringing together David Freeman's avant-garde opera company and Snowman's own Sinfonietta, was effectively the resident opera company in those years. A highly popular and influential *Così fan tutte* in 1986, featuring a beach, bikinis and powerful operatic acting, was followed by further successes, including a Maxwell Davies / Ligeti / Weill trilogy (1987), Gluck's *Iphigénie en Aulide* (1987), Reimann's *Die Gespenstersonate* (1989, based on the Strindberg play), and *Don Giovanni* (1990). Co-promotions with such enterprises as the Holland festival and the Théâtre du Châtelet lent the Southbank programme an international perspective. More controversial was Snowman's handling of the issue of the single orchestral residency proposed by the Arts Council for the Royal Festival Hall, depriving orchestras such as the LPO, the Philharmonia and the centre of funding for some years before the Arts Council dropped its plans; and of the abortive £134m plan to redevelop the site with architect Terry Farrell.

In 1998 he became general director at Glyndebourne and produced an ambitious 10-year artistic plan. The Glyndebourne Touring operation was brought under central control with the aim of integrating more experimental touring and main house productions.

While Harrison Birtwistle's *The Last Supper* had already been put in place by his predecessor, Anthony Whitworth-Jones, Snowman produced new works by Elliott Carter (*What's Next*), Péter Eötvös (*Angels in America*) and Thomas Adès, and a revival of Birtwistle's *Mask of Orpheus* and less familiar repertory by Weber, Schumann and Schubert. Not all these projects came to fruition, but Snowman expanded Glyndebourne's repertory to include Verdi's *Otello* and its first Wagner, *Tristan und Isolde*. He brought in directors such as David McVicar, Christof Loy and Richard Jones to present cutting-edge productions. As at the Southbank he retained artistic control, but he appointed Vladimir Jurowski as music director. He planned short seasons in Paris, a series of concerts at Glyndebourne and more community and educational work. But after only two years, he resigned in 2000, revealing the reasons only in 2004, in an interview in *Opera* magazine. He had misconceived the place, he said, and gone about things in the wrong way. Senior staff, forming what he called a "kitchen cabinet", had gone behind his back to the board and threatened to leave if he were not removed. Indeed, Executive Chairman Gus Christie himself overruled some of his artistic plans: having lined up Simon Rattle to conduct *Hippolyte et Aricie*, Snowman was told: "We don't do Rameau here, we do Handel." Tacitly conceding that his management skills could have been better, Snowman acknowledged that both

at Glyndebourne and the Southbank he should have talked and listened more to colleagues.

He was a trustee of the New Berlioz edition (the French composer was a passion of his), the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, the Aurora Orchestra and the Keyboard Trust. With greater freedom at Strasbourg, he realised his Euryanthe ambition there, as well as staging Wagner's Ring and a Berlioz cycle culminating in Les Troyens. He was made OBE in 2014. In 1983 he married Margo Rouard, a professor at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. She and their son, Hector, and granddaughter, Victoria, survive him. (adapted from obituary in the Guardian, March 22, 2023)

COLES (NG 1959). In January 2023, Shaun Melvyn Coles, aged 76. He was managing director of Burleigh Instruments (UK).

WHITE (CH 1959). On March 27, 2023, **Vivian Lewis White**, aged 76. He after a short illness.

KEAN (TL 1961). On January 3, of 2023, **Roger Michael Kean**, aged 74, from Motor Neurone Disease. He spent his childhood in Nigeria before coming to board at Highgate. He studied fine art and film technique, editing TV sports films for a decade, before moving from London to Ludlow in 1982 with his partner Oliver, who died in 2022. Together they founded Newsfield Ltd., a magazine publisher which, during the 1980s, published the two top-selling computer games magazines, *Crash and Zap!64*. In 1991, after Europress acquired Newsfield, it launched Impact Magazine, and Kean then oversaw the releases of magazines such as Sega Force, N-Force, and Amiga Force under the label. He went on to co-create Archetype to produce gaming guidebooks; in 1995 it was acquired by Prima Communications Group and Kean then transitioned into publishing novels online and running the oliverfreyart.com website. He also edited books on computer games, popular music, sports and history; his historical books included *Pirates: Predators of the Seas; Forgotten Power - Byzantium Bulwark of Christianity; The Complete Chronicle of the Emperors of Rome; A New History of the Roman Emperors - From Augustus to Romulus Augustulus, 30BC-AD 476; and Exploring Ancient Egypt*. A few years ago, he unearthed, in his cellar, ten paintings done while he was at Highgate under the tutorship of Kyffin Williams and Anthony Green; five were featured on a display curated by School Heritage Officer David Smith in 2018 and displayed at the School Museum; it included a long memoir by Kean of KW, whose studio in Kensington he looked after while Kyffin was in Patagonia in 1968. The black and white photograph, from the 1966 BBC film *Horizons Hung in Air*, shows Kyffin Williams observing pupil Roger Kean at work.

LEWISOHN (WG 1962). On January 7, 2022, **Clive Sydney Lewisohn**, aged 69. His wife Ann said "He

always took an interest in OC activities and had very fond memories of his time at the school."

KREMPEL (QG 1965). On June 15, 2022, **Mark Krempel**, aged 69, peacefully at his house in the Italian commune of Coreglia Antelminelli.

WEIGHT (Common Room 1978-95). On June 12, 2022, **David J. Weight**, aged 85, in Southwold, where he lived. He taught Modern Languages and was Housemaster of Eastgate.

OAKES (KG 1985). On February 21, 2023, **Daniel Oakes**, aged 50, unexpectedly, in his sleep. An equity-linked and ECM banker, he had recently been promoted to managing director at Commerzbank and moved with his family to The Hague to take responsibility for multinational corporates in the Benelux region. He is remembered by friends and colleagues as a warm, caring person and a team player without ego. He worked with Ute Gerbault early in his career at WestLB, and later when she ran ECM at Commerzbank, she brought him on board to run international ECM in London. "He was so special and probably one of the most gentle, modest, civilised and humorous colleagues in my career," she said. "His highly positive character was combined with a strong passion, reliability, and determination to get the best out of his teams and for his clients. This is why he was so liked and well respected, even by competitors." He joined Samuel Montagu, part of HSBC, as a graduate trainee in 1995 and was posted to convertible origination in Dusseldorf. He moved to WestLB in 1999, running the equity-linked effort through some lean years, during which, not letting a sluggish market dampen his enthusiasm, he applied his skills elsewhere, designing retail structured products such as index trackers that offered a guaranteed minimum return.

In 2006 he joined Nomura to build an equity-linked origination business alongside Lorraine Lodge, one of the most highly rated analysts covering convertibles. David Arlettaz, Commerzbank regional board member for Western Europe, said: "Dan had truly unique interpersonal skills that shone through in his strong client relationships as well as with colleagues, including the most junior for whom he was a role model." Indeed, one of them described Oakes last week as a "lovely guy – and god of convertible bonds".

Nomura's purchase of Lehman Brothers in Europe in 2008 saw dramatic changes in ECM and Oakes took responsibility for Germany, Austria and Switzerland, before reuniting with several former Nomura colleagues at start-up STJ Advisors in 2009. From there he moved to Commerzbank. One former manager said his thoughtful nature meant he frequently took time to evaluate situations, which could be frustrating when they wanted him to get on with it, but at other times it proved invaluable. The concentration of activity in the hands of ever fewer banks saw him switch out of ECM into a new relationship role in 2019 covering Irish clients from Paris, prompted by Brexit. Within four

years he had recruited a team to cover Benelux clients from Amsterdam.

All who knew Dan were aware of the complex needs of his son Guy and his family's devotion to him in the years of Guy's short life; but Dan was never weighed down by his responsibilities and always had a smile on his face and a kind word for others. He is survived by his wife Vanessa and son Joshua. A celebration of Dan's life was held at St Michael's Church, Highgate on April 22, 2023.

(from the *International Financing Review* website)

Notes

HARRY GABRIEL PELISSIER (1885) is the subject of a new biography by Anthony Binns, exploring the extraordinary life of the theatrical visionary called by some "the funniest man in London". Born in Finchley, Pélissier attended Highgate School between 1885 – 1888. At first the organiser of a south London amateur entertainers' group, his ground-breaking act – The Follies – was the origin and inspiration of for the modern revue. He performed before King Edward VII, was admired by J.M. Barrie and George Bernard Shaw, and had his risqué shows banned by the Censor's office. His marriage to Compton Mackenzie's teenage sister, the noted actress Fay Compton, shocked London society.

OWEN BARFIELD (1906) is the subject of *The Tower: Major Poems and Plays* (eds. Leslie A. Taylor and Jefferey H. Taylor, 2020). Barfield (1898-1997) was one of the 20th century's most original and influential literary figures. C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien were among leading figures influenced by his work; he was a life-long friend and creative partner of Lewis. Barfield was 'Romanticism' personified. A member of the Oxford Inklings group, Barfield's first book, *The Silver Trumpet* (1925), was their first *Märchen*, or fantasy story. Despite his influence on contemporary authors such as Howard Nemerov and Saul Bellow, most of the major poems and poetic dramas he wrote according to his theories are missing from the published corpus of his work. This book remedies that omission, presenting five pieces: *The Tower*, an introspective narrative poem, the 'great work' of Barfield's youth; *Medea*, a mythopoeic drama, his last major poetic and dramatic work; the mythopoeic narrative poem *Riders on Pegasus*; a trilogy of Anthroposophical mystery plays, *Angels at Bay*; and the light-hearted extended poem *The Unicorn*. In 1985, Theodore Mallinson and Michael Hammerson recorded an interview with Barfield at the School. The Marion E Wade Center in Illinois, which holds the foremost Barfield Collection, recently learned of it and asked for a copy, which Michael provided. Barfield's grandson, also Owen (FG 1983), was at Highgate at the time of the interview and remembers his grandfather's visit.

SANDY (aka David Michael) SAUNDERS, B.E.M., R.D., R.N.R. (MG 1947) and his wife Rosemary celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary on 6th September 2022. He is still President of Brain Tumour Research, Chair of the South Bucks Association of Local Councils, and Chair of the London Association of Reserve Naval Officers and was awarded the BEM in the 2020 Queen's birthday Honours List.

His final school report stated that he "approached Sixth Form history in too cavalier a fashion", which put paid to Oxbridge and a career in the Foreign Office. Instead, he volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm to train as a Fighter pilot. The aftereffects of a near-death experience with Meningitis grounded him, and he re-trained as an Air Traffic Control Officer, specializing in using precision radar to talk down pilots in low visibility landings. In January 1957, re-acting to a May-day call from a squadron desperately short of fuel, he risked a Court Martial, and a potential charge of Manslaughter to save the lives of 8 pilots when dense fog surrounded the airfield.

Following a Short Service Commission in the Royal Navy, Sandy took up an apprenticeship in the Engineering Industry. He graduated with a Diploma in Management Studies and joined Honeywell, becoming Director of Marketing for its UK and North European operations. Moving to McKinsey, his roles were to advise the Boards of International Groups on their longer-term growth strategies. His leadership qualities, resourcefulness, personal determination and commitment came to the attention of Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of Rolls-Royce, who asked Sandy to join him on a Committee of the National Economic Development Office.

Sandy has lectured in Business subjects for the University of Leicester, at a Symposium for International Academics at Balliol College Oxford, and to MBA students at the University for the Creative Arts. He also served on the CBI Council and was invited by HM Government to join several trade missions to the Far East, to the USA, and to Central America. He was also Industrial Advisor to the former Industrial Unit at the Bank of England, to three of the Clearing Banks, to the West Midlands Enterprise and Yorkshire Enterprise Boards, and to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In July 1985, Sandy was awarded the Freedom of the City. He was installed as Master of the Livery Company of Tinsplate workers (alias Wireworkers) in 2007 and is now Vice-President of the Association of Past Masters who held office in Sir David Lewis' year as Lord Mayor. Persuaded by his love of the sea, he volunteered for a course on Minesweeping in the Royal Naval Reserve. His ship was subsequently assigned to NATO, where amongst other tasks he led a team which swept mined areas in the Straits of Dover to widen the channel for commercial shipping. His team helped to clear the waters off the Dutch and German Friesian Islands for the safety of coastal fishing fleets. He was



later awarded the Reserve Decoration. He remained at sea until retiring in 1986. He is now Chairman of the London Association of Reserve Naval Officers. After the tragic death

of their eldest daughter, Sandy and his family formed the Diana Ford Trust to fund research into the causes of brain tumours, now part of Brain Tumour Research, of which he is now Life President.

In the 2020 Queen's birthday Honours List, he was awarded the British Empire Medal. Sandy and Rosemary have lived in Beaconsfield for 55 years. He was first elected to the Town Council in 2009. His recommendations in his paper, "A Parish Appraisal", requested of all English Town and Parish Councils by Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, in 2009, were adopted by Council in 2010, and Sandy was asked to be a candidate at the May 2011 elections. His first role was as Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee, where he initiated a review which resulted in substantial upgrades to two of the Town's Green Spaces. In the following year he was appointed Deputy Mayor and became heavily involved in producing the Town Plan. In 2013 he became Mayor, and later that year was Founding Chairman of the Association of Mayors of Buckinghamshire. In 2015 he represented Beaconsfield on the South Bucks Association of Local Councils, of which he is now Chairman, and became Chairman of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils. He is currently Chair of Town Council's Committees for Community and Safety, has taken the Chair at Planning on several occasions, and was Chairman of the 75th Anniversary of the VE-Day Celebration Committee. The photograph shows Sandy in 2004 with the Mayors of two villages on the West Coast of Normandy, where General Eisenhower had his Headquarters after the D-Day landings.

ROBIN ELLIS (HG 1954) is most famous for his performance as Ross Poldark in the successful 1970s BBC TV mini-series Poldark; but acting is not his only talent! His love of cooking developed at an early age and was encouraged by moving to the south of France several years ago, enabling him to immerse himself in the Mediterranean way of life. In 1999 he was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes.

STEPHEN KOMLOSY (TL 1954) retired as CEO of TomCo Energy in 2012 after over 50 years' experience as an entrepreneur in the UK and the USA. As founder of AIM quoted Security Research Group Plc (formerly PSG Solutions Plc), he took the company from "shell" status to over £2m profits and was

previously instrumental in the flotations of PremiSys Plc and Netcentric Systems Plc on AIM and Avatar Systems Inc on NASDAQ (Oil business Accounting). He has since been writing and has published two books, *You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two* about his brush with the Mafia, and most recently *Flight of The Rainbow Flame*, a sci-fi novel, in which Septuagenarian Sebastian Manheim finds a spaceship in his garden which has been buried where it crashed for 3000 years. The aliens are dead, but the computers are not, Seb develops a close relationship with one of them, the wisecracking Sobek, who is a pillar of light about four feet high. Seb agrees to be enhanced physically back to 25yrs and mentally to the highest human and some alien IQ by Sobek's technology. Seb agrees to repair the spaceship as Sobek's life force is running out and they need to get back to their planet for supplies.

HOWARD DARBON (GH 1955), the official Bedford Athletic Wheelchair Racing Manager, appeared on BBC3 Counties Radio.

RICHARD BURDEN (MG 1956) has been immersing himself in the work of John Kyffin Williams, Art Master at Highgate from 1944 to 1973 and subsequently one of Wales' most noted artists. During his research, Richard found an extraordinarily revealing letter of recommendation for Sir Kyffin written by Headmaster Geoffrey Bell on 26th May 1953, showing that his contribution to the culture of the school has perhaps been too little understood: "J. Kyffin-Williams has been the Senior of two Art Masters at this School for the last nine years... His work has been of the highest value, and the art has flourished as it has not done hitherto. The generality of boys is they are keen and produce work, which is not stereotyped, and it is with Senior Boys where [he] has been particularly successful. Boys have gone from here with a good reputation to Art and Architectural Schools, and two of three Scholarships have been won. This inspiration derives in art from the fact that he is an artist in his own right. "Mr. Kyffin-Williams was educated at Shrewsbury School and knows the need for accommodating himself to the needs and vagaries of a place of learning; and he is a particularly congenial member of the Masters' Common Room. He is free of the awkwardness which sometimes makes for disharmony. I recommend him warmly and without reserve for a lectureship in New Zealand."

NIGEL SHOCK (HG 1964) writes that in April 2021 he had to retire from the bench, having reached the mandatory retirement age for judges and magistrates of 70. However, primary legislation was passed in March 2022 raising that age to 75 and, as a result, he made a successful application to return to court and is sitting again as a presiding justice (they used to be called chairmen) in both the adult and youth courts. He is also again sitting on magistrate court appeals in the crown court and is an appraiser and a mentor on his bench, West London. He was appointed as a

magistrate in 2005. Aside from court he also sits on the Professional Conduct Panel of the Teaching Regulation Agency and the Independent School Appeals panel for Buckinghamshire, where he now lives.

BERNARD ADAMS's (Common Room 1967-91)

English translation of Hungarian classic 'The Village Notary' by József Eotvos has received critical acclaim. One reviewer said that he "envied any that had not yet read the book, they had that pleasure in store". For the full interview, click on the link in our April 2023 e-newsletter.

BEN BROWN (KG 1981), whose plays include *Larkin with Women*, *The Promise*, *Three Days in May*, has produced his latest two historical plays, available to stream on Original Theatre until early July 2023. *The End of the Night* is set in the final days of World War II, when a secret meeting takes place between a member of the World Jewish Congress and one of the most powerful Nazis in Germany, without Hitler's knowledge. Dr. Felix Kersten, Himmler's trusted personal physiotherapist, uses his unique position to facilitate a meeting between the architect of The Holocaust and Swedish Jew Norbert Masur, which could turn Himmler's thoughts away from the downfall of the Third Reich and towards a course of action that could save thousands of lives. With battle lines crumbling and lives in the balance, the two men must try to find a way to persuade Himmler to release the last surviving concentration camp prisoners, contrary to Hitler's orders that no Jew should outlast the regime. *A Splinter of Ice* is set in Moscow in 1987. As the cold war begins to thaw, an extraordinary reunion takes place between noted novelist Graham Greene and his old MI6 boss, the notorious Soviet spy, Kim Philby. As the two men raise their vodka glasses under the watchful eye of Russian memoirist and Philby's last wife, Rufa, the drama explores whether Philby betrayed his friend as well as his country, and how much the writer of *The Third Man* knew about Philby's secret life.

JAMES DAVIES (EG 1985) completed his 6 Star Abbott World Marathon Majors journey, a championship-style competition for marathon runners, in Tokyo. James, who is based in New York and has participated in many marathons across the world, described it as the toughest race he'd had. James, who is a Managing Director at Deutsche Bank in New York, has participated in marathons across the world for years, and was grateful for the support and understanding of his family while he embarked on this arduous challenge. His next race is at the Wanda Age Group World Championships in Chicago.

BEN WILLIAMSON (KG 2003), US Director of Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), joined forces in November 2022 with over 20 organisations, including ProVeg International and A Well-Fed World, to highlight the urgent need for food system transformation at Egypt's COP27 in November.

MAX JAMILLY (WG 2010) and ED STEELE (HG 2010), co-founders of Hoxton Farms, a business dedicated to growing animal fat from stem cells in a bid to help consumers reduce their meat consumption, has raised \$22 million from investors to build a pilot plant.

COUNCILLOR ADAM JOGEE (FG 2010), currently Mayor of the London Borough of Haringey, spoke with U.S. Attorney and diplomat John Kerry about climate change, COP27 and the impact of toxic air on communities ahead of the COP27 Conference.

AMELIA CHANNON (TL 2011) is a qualified social worker and has been working with children and families for the last five years. Dancing from an early age, she trained in ballet. Care to Dance is a social enterprise driven by an aim to ensure that every young person in care has the opportunity to enjoy the benefits that come from being involved in dance. Their mission is to pioneer new ways of using dance to improve the wellbeing of young people in care.

SASHA HACO (HG 2011), CEO of computer software company Unitary, spoke in December 2022 at London AI, a community of Artificial Intelligence practitioners from technology companies. She spoke about free speech, the challenge of content moderation and the future of online safety.

SOPHIA PARVIZI-WAYNE (WG 2015) has launched her Kanjo Health app, the first app for parents and children to better communicate and understand each other.

CAMERON BURT (TL 2016) graduated from the Guildford School of Acting with a BA Honours in Musical Theatre in 2019. He has starred in high-profile productions including *Frozen*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Prom Queen* and in September 2022 joined the cast of *Les Misérables* at the Sondheim Theatre, the production receiving rave reviews. Cameron also specialises in ballads, pop, acapella, choral singing, ballet, and jazz dancing and performed as part of the annual OC Creatives event at the Hawley Arms in June 2022.

BILLIE ESPLEN (GH 2016), won prizes at Oxford University for her screenwriting and filmmaking and is currently submitting her debut sitcom *Slanted* to production companies. At the beginning of 2023, Billie premiered her new comedy *Scholar's Creek* at the White Bear Theatre in Kennington, a queer romantic comedy about how the stories we consume affect the ones we tell about ourselves. She also freelances in TV & film production and worked as the script and copyright clearance secretary on Season 4 of the BBC series *Killing Eve*.

GEORGE LLOYD-OWEN (EG 2016), cellist and composer, joined forces in November 2022 with Phoenix Dance and Creative Director Sarah Golding to produce an exciting film project, *Kalena*, inspired by, and a gift to, African American and Hispanic conductor

Kalena Bovell. George also recently composed for Ballet Black's multi award-winning short film Like Water, George's and **Aris Sabetai's (MG 2021)** folk band Iris & Steel work to show the valuable role the Arts play in mental health. Taking part in performing arts activities can help with overcoming major life challenges, helping boost confidence, making people feel more engaged and resilient, and also alleviating anxiety, depression and stress. George and Aris are a great example of how performance brings people together.

RACHEL TABIZEL (FG 2016) wrote, directed and starred in Polka Theatre's recent puppet play, in collaboration with Wimbledon UAL, front of children from across Wimbledon. Rachel is a keen performer and has been involved with past OC Creative events where she has shared with audiences her spoken word poetry and other work.

ANTON BALEANU (MG 2017), otherwise known by his stage name AntsLive, always had a passion for music. From age 8 he was writing poetry for his grandma, began creating tracks on Soundcloud for fun with his school friends and released his debut single Brown Liquor at the start of the pandemic. A rising star championed by fellow rapper Stormzy, he has become one of the most up and coming young rap artists through his diverse nine-track project, and he has just released his debut mixtape Just a Matter of Time, a combination of introspective ideas and heavy hitting verses. Anton has received co-signs from artists such as DJ Semtex, Tiffany Calver and I-D magazine, sold out concerts at Reading and Leeds Festivals and surpassed millions of online streams independently.

LAURA JENNINGS (WG 2018), HENRY PEARCE (HG 2018) and **NICK ROBERTS (HG 2018)**, a.k.a. Juice Box band, released their second single 'Halcyon Days'. Influenced by yacht rock, jazz and 1970s Americana, they began writing and producing together in 2019. 'Halcyon Days' can be streamed on Spotify.

KIRA ROTHWELL (GH 2019) has been on the international Netball scene since she was selected for the Roses Academy back in 2016. Continuing this winning streak, she has been reselected into the Future Roses Programme for 2022-23.

LAMESHA RUDDOCK (FG 2019) features in the Old Vic's series of emerging artists. A recent graduate in History from the University of Durham, Lamesha has been passionate about technical theatre since school. Her engagement with The Old Vic began with a placement in their Backstage programme, which led to a career as an Assistant Stage Manager in London's West End. She has worked as a Producer on a number of high-profile productions in theatres across the UK including Battersea Arts Centre and Theatre Royal Stratford East. The Victoria branch of the OCs in Australia gathered for lunch in Melbourne on October 30, 2022. The many OCs present included

the Victoria Regional representative **Paul Ackerman (NG 1975)**, and they were delighted to welcome **Martin Lyon (FG 1979)** and his wife Sarah who were holidaying in Melbourne.

BEATRICE TWENTYMAN (SG 2019) began her studies in English Literature and Spanish at the University of Durham and has, as part of her year abroad, had the opportunity to work as a Multimedia Intern with the Crees Foundation in the Peruvian Amazon. She spent three months improving her photography, journalism and videography skills in one of the most remote and challenging environments in the world.

For the final project during the internship, Beatrice made her first short film, *Define Development*. She spent four days in the Diamante native community, interviewing the people there (in Spanish!) about their complex attitudes towards the incoming development threatening their ways of life. After three months in Peru, she spent two months in Temuco, Chile, working with El Observatorio Ciudadano, a human rights organisation which works to advocate for and defend indigenous Mapuche communities. There she made short videos and photographic content about the issues faced by these communities, as well as the ways they are reviving their indigenous culture. She says of her time there: "it was an immersive and unique experience, amazing and eye-opening." See the full interview and Beatrice's short film on YouTube by clicking in the oink in our April 2023 e-newsletter.

HENRY ZEFFMAN (TL 2012) is joining the BBC as their Chief Political Correspondent this summer, after seven years working at *The Times*.



OC Notes are compiled by Michael Hammerson

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 can be hired for private functions.

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