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**THE CHOLMELEIAN**

THE MAGAZINE OF HIGHGATE SCHOOL & THE CHOLMELEIANS

SPRING 2016
the party’s over, and we have enjoyed a huge variety of special events this year – from May’s memorable service at St Paul’s Cathedral and Canon Oakley’s inspired preaching, followed by lunch afterwards at the Merchant Taylors’ Hall – to the 450 plays in December.

These events have been so inspiring for pupils, parents and OCs alike, that some of them will be repeated this year, and so our 450 year will have a legacy, as well as some very special memories.

2016 will be no let down, as we look forward to the opening of our splendid new Junior School, and we warmly invite you to come and look around once it’s open. In this issue, we feature Mark James, Principal of the Junior School since 2002.

And finally, a big thank you to Laura Stubbs, our Media Services Manager, for all her help with the design of the magazine, including the front cover’s magnificent cake (it was delicious!) and to Mike Hammerson, whose sterling work keeps the Notes section up to date and informative.

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Simon Appleton
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Catherine Coulson,
Faith Donner,
Ben Hodgson (Art),
Sam Huston (Music),
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he ever-vigilant Editor of this excellent magazine knows to remind me of my editorial responsibilities, and his ever-so-polite prompt to put pen to paper for this edition coincided with the kindest letter of thanks from the Head Girl and Head Boy of 2014–15.

Their thoughtful reflections were prefaced with a most unnecessary apology for having taken so long to write at all: how much nicer to have a routine November evening enlivened by the arrival of not one but two presents, together with words: what they wrote, and the act of their writing, is just the spur I needed!

Given that iPhones and indeed
WE ARE LOOKING INTO NEW WAYS OF REACHING OUT TO AS MANY OF OUR ALUMNI AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT WE NOT ONLY COMMUNICATE BUT THAT WE LISTEN TOO!

Adam Pettitt

EDITORIAL

other ‘smart’ mobile phones emerged eight years ago or so, the current School is a generation which has not known a time when emails and their instant messaging successors could not follow you about, a time when you had to sit down at a PC or open up a laptop to open your electronic post. While the practice of writing notes or cards was already on the wane by then, it really does seem to have died a near death, and that must be a shame! Of course, I love the flexibility and vibrancy of a photo message, especially those mad in-jokes which only make sense to the initiated, but the note which communicates thanks does so much more than acknowledge gratitude: shared memories or, better still, events, actions or words which have anchored themselves in someone else’s store of experiences and have become part of their heritage of precious memory, touch us deeply. And so I shall go on unformational ythorical the young to stick to the old ways when it comes to saying thank you and goodbye!

This magazine marks the continuing celebrations of our 450th anniversary. Our most senior alumnus, Tryphon Kedros, who is featured, was my guest at the spectacular celebratory luncheon held at Merchant Taylors’ Hall after the service of thanksgiving at St Paul’s, and spoke with huge fondness of his time at Highgate and with greater fondness still of his new engagement with his old school. And this has been my overwhelming experience of the many encounters with OCs, not least during the School’s first ‘Telethon’ during which younger alumni made contact with several hundred of their predecessors. It was, though, clear that not all memories were happy ones, and I was grateful and touched that so many were willing not only to talk through what they had known but to express their pleasure, their relief, perhaps, that the School was now different and that their callers had been so happy and felt so well cared for. Institutions with long histories often have mixed histories too and I hope that all OCs will know that we are interested in them whether their memories inspire fondness or not, and that we are looking into new ways of reaching out to as many of our alumni as possible to ensure that we not only communicate but that we listen, too. ■

Adam Pettitt
In his latest album, the virtuosic violinist Daniel Hope (EG 1986) not only plays some of the most famous pieces of Hollywood film music, but also explores the music that created the genre.

As is to be expected with film music, the album rattles through emotions and styles at a rate that might be too much for some, especially when taken out of the context of film. However, his musicality is apparent throughout and, as such, means that the slight incongruity of the album does not feel laboured.

Daniel Hope was born in 1973 in Durban, South Africa, and after moving to London as a child, he briefly attended the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music before moving to study at Highgate. He made his debut as a soloist at the age of 15 and since then has gone from strength to strength, studying at the Royal Academy of Music and touring the world as a leading soloist.

His latest album comes as a natural continuation to his contributions to the album Terezín / Theresienstadt and a definitive collection of the music of Messiaen. Both of these releases are linked by the Second World War: the former, as it is about the music of those oppressed by the Nazis and the latter because Messiaen was a German prisoner of war when he wrote his famous piece Quatuor pour la fin du temps. However, Escape to Paradise: The Hollywood Album is about the composers and musicians who escaped from Europe and went on to help create the genre of film music and their legacy in Hollywood.

This is a highly enjoyable album and a good starting place for anyone to either get into music for the violin or classical music in general. It is quite schmaltzy, which might not be to everyone’s taste, but Hope’s playing and the accompanying orchestra are excellent and handle the Hollywood style with ease from start to finish. ■

Sam Huston  (12MG)
Daniel made his debut as a soloist at the age of 15 and since then has gone from strength to strength.
Surgeon at War
By Stanley Aylett

Stanley Aylett’s memoir follows his work as a wartime surgeon, from operating tables behind the front lines of the battlefields of Africa, to France and a defeated Germany.

He treated the horrific wounds inflicted by war with unflinching courage, and, after experiencing all the evils of war, found time for an enjoyment of life and love that fills these pages. There are heart-breaking moments where Stanley describes the brief hope that family Christmas time gives a wounded soldier, before the ‘white sheets, splints and bandages limit and confine his world’ but there are also moments when Aylett falls in love, or watches the beauty of spring in the Normandy countryside, with apple blossom in bloom.

Surgery next to the battlefields was infinitely harder than in London, with water and space in high demand, anaesthetics needed, wounds needing to be clean, equipment sterilised and soldiers fed. Hundreds of things needed to be done at once, immediately, or somebody could die. But Aylett knows well not to fill the book with only despair, dispersing hope throughout his memoirs. The nurses, assistants, and great numbers of individuals are recollected and praised. Madame Jean of the Hostellerie de la Vieille Ferme took care of personnel, Lieutenant-Colonel G.A.H. Buttle was instrumental in aiding the restoration of life to the wounded and Colonel Melvin repeatedly broke red tape and gave leave to keep units comfortable and skilled. The camaraderie broke down the differences between nations, allied together against a common cause.

The most powerful aspect of the book comes near the end, a depressing culmination of the previous inhumanities, when Aylett is among the first to liberate the concentration camp at Sandbostel. This is the antithesis of the operation rooms where Stanley fought to preserve life. People waited for others to die to grab their possessions, others struggling to use bedpans. An incredibly moving exchange between Stanley and a boy prisoner of the camp, when presented with a fresh bed and clean marquee, shows the ultimate relief of being set free. It’s easy in times of war and horror only to see the void of inhumanity, and to think only of the destruction which people can bring, but this is only a veil, concealing the wider truth ‘that even in bad times people do good deeds’.

There is no great, climactic conclusion to the book; in the end, Stanley Aylett just goes home. When people needed help, he helped them. That’s all you have to do.

Bruno Savill de Jong (13KG)

John Blake Publishing £12.99

Tryphon Kedros

Tryphon Kedros (centre) with Peter and Serita Burrowes and OC friends at the Merchant Taylors’ Lunch in May

The youngest member of the of the Pre-Prep at the St Paul’s Service was four and a half years old, and the oldest, at 103, was Tryphon Kedros. Born in the old Ottoman Empire in 1912, his family fled persecution by the Turks following the Smyrna massacre, and they ended up in London, having abandoned all their property and possessions.

Tryphon arrived at Highgate in 1926 at the time of Dr Johnson’s headship, and soon established himself as a sportsman of some prowess, and became a monitor in School House.

Following the outbreak of war, Tryphon was attached to military intelligence, where he met his wife, Margaret, and following their marriage, they had a family of six children. After the war, he established himself in the shipping business, and is still actively involved in the running of the business from the offices in Baltic Street, which he thinks of as an extended family.

Tryphon is not only a friend of the School, but a leading figure in the London Greek world, through his involvement with the London Hellenic Centre.
OCB S VISIT
TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

A party of pupils from Highgate and partner schools were privileged to meet the first woman President of the College, Dr Clare Marx CBE. Dr Marx, an orthopaedic surgeon, explained the importance of the life-saving work carried out by orthopaedic surgeons, and how important it is to encourage women into a profession where it can sometimes be assumed that a woman in an operating theatre is a nurse.

Dr Marx related how she had overcome prejudice as a young doctor to achieve the position she now occupies, and seeing the walls of her office hung with picture of eminent women in medicine, you felt that progress towards equality has been made.

The pupils saw round the College and its training facilities, guided by Professor Vishy Mahadevan, who explained how surgeons were trained in the latest surgical techniques.

Thanks are due to Geoffrey Walker OC, a retired orthopaedic surgeon, for arranging the visit and inviting Dr Marx to talk to the pupils.

Dr Julie Welch, Director of Higher Education commented: ‘I thought it was an inspirational event and it was a huge privilege for pupils to have an opportunity to interact with Dr Marx and Prof Mahadevan who took time out of their busy schedules to meet them. The event also typifies how OCs are helping the next generation of would be medics. Hopefully, Dr Marx’ example will encourage some of the young men and women in the party to consider a career in this fascinating and challenging profession.’

WAR PLAQUE
DEDICATION OF PLAQUE FOR FALLEN OCs

On Saturday 12 October, a plaque was dedicated in St George’s Church, Ypres, to the 228 OCs, staff and pupils who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914-18.

The plaque contains a quotation from Alexander Williamson, an OC who also taught at Highgate, and who was the first schoolmaster to be killed in the war: ‘I have realised to the full the possibilities of my position and am quite ready for any service to which God has called me’. Rev Nick Lamb, Highgate’s Assistant Chaplain, preached about the importance of remembering the sacrifice of those young men.

Afterwards, the Head and 31 OCs, wives and members of staff were present at the laying of a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The wreath-laying party comprised the Head, Nick Ward (EG c/2011) and Guy Kingsbury (EG 1945), whose idea the commemorative plaque had been.

Earlier in the day, the party had visited the Ypres memorials, including Tyne Cot Cemetery to say prayers and lay crosses on the graves of fallen OCs, identified by Paul Israel (TL 1981). Nick Lamb led the prayers. It gave a nicely personal touch to for the party to be able to remember those who gave their lives for us.
had always wanted to stand as a parliamentary candidate in a General Election. Aged 58, this was the moment!

Electoral Commission rules permit British citizens living abroad to stand, even if the fifteen year rule disallows me from voting for myself and my party. I had joined the Liberal Democrats since my return to Brussels from New Zealand in 2012. So, why not have a go and enjoy a unique experience?

Working for the European Union and committed to Europe, I wanted to wave the flag in a part of the country seething with UKIP supporters. Thanet North constituency fitted the bill nicely, being in the top ten of UKIP’s target seats as well as adjacent to Thanet South, where Nigel Farage was making yet another attempt to get into the British Parliament. Curiously the Isle of Thanet is perhaps the most eurosceptic place in the UK (now the only UKIP district council in Britain), yet geographically one of the closest to the European continent.

Running for a small party with a tiny local membership in an unwinnable constituency meant there was a lot of ‘do-it-yourself’. Not only was it necessary to handle both General and District Council Elections simultaneously but the constituency seat spanned two local parties with candidates standing for different district councils. There was no office, difficult mobile phone coverage (the best place to phone near where I stayed was the local cemetery), no paid staff, no money from headquarters and you had to be your own campaign manager and press officer as well. Much of the work was motivating volunteers. Fortunately, I managed to revive the local party sufficiently to have some thirty people working for me regularly by the end of the campaign, including twelve standing as district council candidates to boot!

The local campaign was dominated by skulduggery concerning the closure of the local Manston Airport and attempts to turn it into a housing estate with hundreds of millions of pounds of potential profit to the owners and developers.

Fighting the British General Election whilst living and working abroad can have its idiosyncrasies. Not only was I disenfranchised, but I was not allowed for that reason to donate money to my own campaign. My Brussels address appeared on the ballot paper. With the Lib Dems only gaining 8% of the vote nationally, I could certainly not outperform that result locally. I thank the 1,645 voters of Thanet North that nonetheless trusted me sufficiently to have given me their votes!

The absolute Tory victory was unexpected and indeed unwelcome to many of us but at least it had one silver lining. In the Queen’s Speech, the new government committed itself to giving back the vote to all Brits living abroad. And the membership of Brussels and Europe Lib Dems branch in Brussels - where I am Vice-Chair - has more than doubled since the election to a whopping 350 members.

Now I am preparing myself for the next big fight – the EU referendum campaign!

GEORGE CUNNINGHAM (SG 1969)

To view George’s General Election campaign, please see:
Twitter: @GFCunningham
Facebook: George Cunningham for Europe
Email: gfjcunningham@gmail.com
Jeremy Randall (QG 1963) has been in the right place at the right time rather a lot recently.

President of the Watermen’s Company in 2014, he celebrated its 500th anniversary; one of Highgate’s Governing Body, he is celebrating the School’s 450th anniversary, and he will be President of the Leander Club in 2018, when the Club celebrates its bicentenary.

Jeremy’s love of rowing, a sport recently introduced at his alma mater, Highgate, dates back to college days at Reading University. Jeremy, popularly known as ‘Rass’, began his infatuation with the River Thames when he arrived at the University in 1970 and at 6’ 3” and 15 stone was immediately picked up by the rowing club and told to turn up the next day. His ‘addiction’ to rowing was sealed by winning the first two regattas that he entered and by the end of his first year he passed from the novice eight straight to the University first eight.

In his second year he was elected secretary of the University Boat Club and in his final year became President. Following his graduation in 1973, he was encouraged by his coach to go for a trial at Leander, the world’s greatest rowing club. He was successful and went on to compete for the Club both at home and abroad in a variety of boats including pairs, fours and eights. In 1975 he was a member of the crew that won the Britannia Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta in record-breaking time, a record that was to remain unbroken for some twenty years.

In 1976 Jeremy was appointed Vice Captain of Leander and in 1980 was elected the new Honorary Secretary of the Club at age 30, a previously unthinkable appointment. He went on to serve for seven years as secretary and a further seven years as Treasurer and four years as Chairman. He was elected President in 2013 and will be in post in 2018 when the club celebrates its bicentenary.

During this period, Leander Club became financially robust and the tired Edwardian Clubhouse was refurbished and extended to include state-of-the-art-gym facilities at a total cost of nearly four million pounds, all of which created an inspiring sporting environment that attracted great athletes such as Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell.

Jeremy’s strong connection with the river, and his financial acumen, brought him to the Company of Watermen & Lightermen of the River Thames where he was elected as a Freeman of the Company in 1999.

The Watermen’s senior apprentices race a 10 km course from London Bridge to Chelsea Bridge in an annual race that started in 1515 called the Doggett’s Coat and Badge. One of his first jobs with the Watermen was to help re-vitalise the race, by encouraging apprentices to row and scull.

Jeremy was elected to the Court of the Company in 2006 and progressed to be Master in 2014, the year in which the Company celebrated its 500th anniversary, a very special year for the Watermen.

Jeremy has been a member of Highgate’s Governing Body since 2008, following his tenure as President of the Cholmeleian Society from 2006-08. He chairs the Development Committee and is the Governor responsible for educational visits.
On 9 September, a blue plaque was unveiled in memory of AV Hill, or ‘AV’ as he was known, at 16 Bishopwood Road.

AV Hill was a leading pioneer in the field of sports medicine, and one of only two physiologists whose life and work is commemorated with a blue plaque. He won the Nobel Prize in 1922 aged only 36 for his work on muscle metabolism.

AV is remembered as a passionate defender of the rights of refugees, many of whom he helped to rescue from Nazi Germany. One of those helped by AV, who came to live at Number 16, was Dr Bernard Katz, who himself went on to win a Nobel Prize.

AV’s work on muscle metabolism led to the development of the field of sports science, and so it was fitting that Greg Dyke, Chairman of the FA, gave the first speech of welcome to the family and other distinguished guests.

Manchester University’s Life Sciences Building is named after AV, who took the chair of physiology in 1920. Sir Ralph Kohn, a University of Manchester alumnus, who started the Kohn Foundation, and Nicholas Humphrey, a Professor at the London School of Economics, and AV’s grandson, officially opened the building in May 2009.

At the unveiling, Sir Ralph spoke of the importance of AV’s humanitarian work, and how he regarded the rescue of refugees as not just our duty as human beings, but a way of preserving the intellectual life and culture of a country during a time of tyranny and oppression. He quoted AV: ‘Tolerance and intellectual freedom cannot be taken for granted, but demand continual watchfulness and care’.

Nicholas Humphrey spoke of his memories of No 16, which included Sunday tea parties at which eminent intellectuals, like the economist JM Keynes, were present. He also recalled the rules for frog races, which the children played in the garden.

AV sat on a committee with Sir Henry Tizard, which led to the development of radar, and was an independent MP for the University of Cambridge from 1940-45.

AV was a long-serving governor of Highgate School from 1929-60. He sold No 16 to the School on preferential terms, and the School in turn sold the property to a developer, Atelier, who have completed a remarkable modernisation which includes a swimming pool in the basement. The house was on the market for £14 million.

Greg Dyke with members of the History Society at the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to AV Hill.
Though it feels as if no time at all has passed since we were pupils here, we James Sperling (QG c/2011), Joe Connor (FG c/2012), Alex Graham (TL c/2010) and Jacob Green (HG c/2015) have returned to Highgate to plunge into the exciting world of Highgate’s partnership teaching.

Highgate pupils are blessed with an array of talented and enthusiastic teachers and superb facilities. However, not all pupils in our neighbouring boroughs can draw on quite the same resources. Therefore Highgate maintains partnerships with 37 secondary schools and 8 primary schools with a vision for improving the quality of teaching and learning of STEM subjects within a wider academic community. To achieve this, a number of Highgate teachers spend time working with partner schools, assisting with teaching, providing extension and revision sessions and supporting staff training. Highgate also plays host to a number of events that bring together pupils from partner schools, cementing our relationship and allowing talented pupils to flourish whatever their background.

Underpinning and supporting both these elements are the Chrysalis Fellows. As recent leavers and graduates with tentative plans to enter teaching, we are well-placed to provide support to the partnership schemes. We are here to act as a resource for teachers from both Highgate and partner schools to facilitate the delivery of outstanding education to all pupils, to whom we offer a friendly face to support their learning.

Returning to Highgate so soon after bidding farewell has provided some valuable lessons: who knew that teachers plan their lessons? Of course, there are benefits to coming back to Highgate – the opportunity for some sweet revenge in staff football and the surprising satisfaction of enforcing the correct use of the one-way system amongst others. However, it is our time spent working in partner schools where the most positive aspects of this role lie. During the course of the week, it is a pleasure to interact with such a large number and variety of pupils, whose enthusiasm and challenging thirst for knowledge make it a pleasure to do what we do.

Joe Connor (c/2012)
On the set of Wolf Hall: Damian Lewis (Henry VIII), Joss Porter (Richard Cromwell), Gavin Finney looking through lens (Director of Photography), Peter Kosminsky (Director)

GAVIN FINNEY

GAVIN FINNEY WINS MAJOR CINEMATOGRAPHY AWARDS
The rewards of being a cinematographer are that the job is highly creative, challenging and always different. I haven’t had a single dull day in 24 years.

Since graduating from the Cinematography course at The National Film & Television School in the UK, Gavin Finney BSC (HG 1976) has photographed many feature films and major television dramas.

He won the BAFTA, RTS and BSC best cinematography awards for The Fear in 2013 - the first time all three major awards have been won by the same person. He also received the Royal Television Society Award for Going Postal in 2010 and for Gormenghast in 2000, and received BAFTA nominations for Going Postal in 2011 and Hogfather in 2007 and an RTS nomination for The English Wife.

In 2014 he photographed Wolf Hall, which became the highest rated drama on BBC2 since current records began.

Gavin commented to The Cholmeleian: ‘The rewards of being a cinematographer are that the job is highly creative, challenging and always different. I haven’t had a single dull day in 24 years, and I look forward to going to work, wherever in the world that may be. The rewards are that one’s work is seen, and sometime appreciated, by millions of people. The challenge is that one’s work is seen and not always appreciated by millions of people! As a freelancer in a highly competitive field, you are only as good as your last job, so you have to be on top of your game every day…there are no second chances and mistakes are both visible and very expensive to rectify. Every day brings different challenges, usually of not enough time, but also logistics and the best way to creatively interpret the script and performances, but that is part of what makes it so interesting. You work and mix with very talented people, and as each job only lasts between 1 day and 6 months, you meet new people all the time.

I didn’t particularly enjoy my time at Highgate, but I am sure it was a very different school then. It suited my brother, but not me. I left before the sixth form to pursue girls, a maturer attitude to students and a five-day week! All of which I see you now have.

I was no athlete, but I was saved by the sailing club which I thoroughly enjoyed and through which I made many longstanding friendships.’
s an ex-Highgater, Pearson Sound aka Ramadanman aka David Kennedy (WG c/2006) has caused a stir with his back catalogue of strong, taut, highly rhythmic releases.

Now tipped as one of the most exciting electronic music producers of today, his productions are often centred around muscular grooves which hypnotically clatter against ethereal chord stabs and booming bass hits. His command of melody also contributes to the percussion-dominated texture of his music, and his extensive vinyl collection and knowledge of modern and contemporary music causes the listener to catch a familiar scent, and follow it, only to be thrown off by another even more rich and developed one.

Whilst in the confines of Highgate, Kennedy toyed with music production, using a demo version of FL studio to create tracks which he couldn’t save to the computer, having instead to leave the files open to work on them. His profound interest in electronic music was sparked by listening to North London pirate radio stations, and although he didn’t have his first clubbing epiphany until he was of age (obviously!), he became familiar with his tools, and quietly developed his home brew of dubstep, house, garage and techno.

His latest record is a twisted patchwork of loops and textures, punctuated with dusty 808 drum samples, spiralling metallic drones, and screeching feedback loops which hang menacingly in the middle ground. Tracks like Russet and Crank Call see a triumphant return to the traditional Pearson Sound template: gleefully programmed drum patterns laced with sleepy drones and tight, percussive intrusions, while the abrasive swing of tracks like Rubber Tree and Swill awakens the Mr Hyde in the mix: the tracks are infectiously danceable, yet scold the listener with their industrial clatter and dark swagger. The spookiness of the record culminates in the longest track, Headless: a nail-bitingly tense composition, pierced by harsh claps and moaning synths. The highlight of the album, however, comes in the form of the track Asphalt Sparkle: a towering, cinematic opener, strewn with skittering anvil-like samples, and thunderous bass hits.

With the release of his debut album, it is clear that David Kennedy’s sound has matured a great deal. The record seems organic and spontaneous, yet theatrical and poised. Highly Recommended!

BEN HODGSON (13NG)
With our new OCBS President, Jon Polledri (SH 1987), involved in the world of property as CEO of Lee Valley Estates, it was a great opportunity to gather a group of experts in the field to share their wisdom and insight with pupils from Highgate and partner schools, OCs and parents.

Last March, they met in the new Museum for an insight into many different areas of the world of property, from architecture to real estate. The panel included Mike Davies, CBE (GH 1954) ‘the man in red’, and one of the country’s best-known architects. Founding partner of Rogers Stirk Harbour, Mike has designed some of the most important architectural projects in this country and abroad, including Heathrow Terminal 5, the Pompidou Centre in Paris and he has recently been working on a major project in Paris, for which Nicolas Sarkozy awarded him the Legion D’Honneur.

James Taylor (KG 1987), a director at British Land, is responsible for delivering Clarges Mayfair, a Super-Prime development overlooking Green Park. Andrew Saunderson (NG 1989) joined Grainger plc in the summer of 2000. They are the UK’s largest listed private residential landlord, where he is now the Director of Transactions and Special Projects. His main focus is on acquiring assets and since joining Grainger he estimates that he has acquired around £1bn of predominantly residential property.

Becchi Taylor is an Associate at Arup, the leading international engineering and management consultancy. Becchi is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers and received the Woman of the Future Award in Science and Technology in 2012 and Madeline Cosgrove is Senior Vice President of GIC Real Estate, the real estate arm of GIC.

The panel briefly described their careers, before opening up to questions from the floor. Many were about getting onto the first rung of the careers ladder, and the panel gave some interesting answers – it’s not about what you know, but about personality and teamwork, an answer that appears time and again at careers events.

Mike Davies encouraged potential architects to go abroad and travel, and to look at architecture in different countries. He praised Stirk Rogers as providing an intellectually stimulating atmosphere, where equal opportunities in the workplace were encouraged.

Above all, when choosing a career, ‘listen to your heart’, Mike commented. The modern worker, however, should also prepare themselves for more than one career. ‘The days of the single career are over’, he said, and it is important to build up a wide portfolio of skills.

Andrew’s answer pleased Mike, as he picked Heathrow Terminal 5, a choice endorsed by many on the panel. Jon Polledri picked the Grade II listed Tottenham Town Hall, James Saunderson picked Frank Lloyd Wright’s Studio in Chicago, Madeline Cosgrove picked Borough Market and the Cheesegrater, and Becchi chose Santa Sofia in Istanbul. A range of masterpieces, old and new!

It was a fascinating evening, and thanks to the panel for giving up their time and expertise, and to Jon, whose inspiration the evening was.
During the last half term, the School was lucky enough to welcome Peter Scott-Presland OC to its groundbreaking LGBT Society to talk about his life as a Gay Rights activist, giving an insight into the early life of the Gay Rights movement in the 1960s.

Peter, author of Amiable Warriors, the first book in a 3 part series about the history of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality movement, joined Highgate in 1957, before studying at St Edmund Hall, Oxford when he left the School in 1967. Peter began his talk by commenting on how amazing it was that an LGBT society had been set up at the School, and how happy he was at how far the School had come since his time as a pupil. He gave the audience a whistle-stop tour of his life, with many anecdotes along the way. Peter told us of his first homosexual experience, aged 9, when he kissed his friend Anthony during a pillow fight. The next day he was called into the Headmaster’s office and separated from Anthony, and told he was a ‘bad influence’ on him. This left a huge impact on him, as his first real homosexual encounter had been surrounded with negativity. Growing up in the 1960s what information there was about homosexuality was incredibly depressing, as being a homosexual was still illegal in the UK.

The first time Peter became aware of the Gay Rights movement was in October 1971, when he tried to gate-crash a party at Hertford College, and met a man named Mick Wallace, who was wearing a badge for the Gay Liberation Front. Peter went on to tell Mick his entire life story, as this was the first opportunity he had had to talk about his sexuality with someone who would understand. This moment, he said, changed his life. Over the next week, he told all his friends that he was homosexual, and told his father that Christmas, to which his father responded, ‘none of your aunts will kiss you, and whatever you do, don’t tell your mother’. Over the coming years, Peter became more involved in the Gay Rights movement, despite the fact that homosexuals were not allowed to advocate homosexual law reform. While homosexuality was legalised in 1967, this did not apply to Scotland and Northern Ireland, and the age of consent was 21.

By 2001, full equality had been reached in the UK, and in 2006 legislation was passed to ban homosexual hate crime. Peter left a lasting impression on all the members of the audience, myself included, and did a fantastic job of showing, through his own personal journey, how much life as a homosexual has changed in the UK since he was a child. As Peter said, ‘our history is our family’, and his work in the Gay Rights movement, paved the way for societies like our LGBT society to exist.

ROBERT PRESTON (13MG)
e were very privileged to have John Zarnecki (MG 1962) the President Elect of the Royal Astronomical Society, to deliver the 450 lecture on What We Have Learned about Space Since 1565.

Professor Zarnecki, who has been involved with unmanned missions to Titan, Mars and the recent Rosetta mission to land upon a comet for the first time, spoke 'as a rocket scientist with space grease under his fingernails' in a fascinating hour and a half’s talk.

From the Ptolomaic view of the universe and the discovery of the telescope, to a future where astronauts might walk on Mars, Professor Zarnecki’s talk was as exciting as it was informative, and the handing-round of fragments of meteors and comets brought the theory to life.

Professor Zarnecki paid tribute to the teachers who influenced his love of science at Highgate, Geoff Pether and Charlie Topham, and recalled the excitement of the day when Soviet Astronaut Yuri Gagarin visited the tomb of Karl Marx at Highgate Cemetery, and the School was allowed time off to watch.

We wish Professor Zarnecki good luck in his new role at the Royal Astronomical Society, and we are grateful to him for the energy and dynamism he brought to the exciting subject of our expanding knowledge of space.

The LGBT is always looking for interested OCs to come and visit, either to give a talk or simply to participate in discussions with the group. If you or anyone you know would be interested in doing so, please email Andy Plaistowe at: Andrew.plaistowe@highgateschool.org.uk

Inspired by the success of our pupil LGBT Society, we are forming an OC LGBT Network, with an inaugural drinks reception to be held at:

The bar of the British Film Institute
Monday 21 March at 7pm

Just as the School’s Society does not require attendees to be LGB or T, we do not wish only to invite LGBT OCs. All are welcome. If you would like to attend, or register an interest in joining the Network, email John Coffield at: john.coffield@highgateschool.org.uk

FROM THE PTOLOMAIC VIEW OF THE UNIVERSE TO A FUTURE WHERE ASTRONAUTS MIGHT WALK ON MARS, PROFESSOR ZARNECKI’S TALK WAS AS EXCITING AS IT WAS INFORMATIVE
There are some issues that governments refuse to address because to grapple with them would simply be too troublesome? Charles Clarke, (1963) who as Education Secretary and Home Secretary headed two of the departments most notorious for producing bungles and fudges, is in as good a position as anyone to know. This collection of twenty-seven essays, whose origins lie in a lecture series coordinated by Clarke at the University of East Anglia after he lost his seat in the House of Commons in 2010, asks politicians (predominantly, but not exclusively, Labour), academics, civil servants and commentators what problems governments have consigned to what he terms the ‘too difficult box’.

As with any edited volume, the quality of the contributions is variable. The best are those that stick rigidly to Clarke’s theme. In Sir Stephen Wall’s essay on UK-EU relations it quickly becomes apparent that the present political tensions over the EU are born out of a failure of successive governments to consider whether the UK is truly committed to the vision of a politically united Europe or not. Instead, piecemeal and occasional opt-outs were negotiated, bargains were struck, and no coherent vision of the UK’s place in Europe has ever been forged. Richard Dannatt, ex-Chief of the General Staff, exposes a similar failure of introspection in his essay on defence policy. Short-term exigencies have dissuaded governments from thinking any thoughts even approaching profundity about what Britain’s place in the world ought to be. Perhaps even more pertinent is the question of what the state of our public finances actually permits of our global role. Geoffrey Filkin, a Labour peer, finds an uncomfortable and unarticulated truth lurking at the roots of our ageing society. A girl born today in the UK can expect to live to 100, and politicians do not have the incentives to level with the public about what this means for society: we will have to work longer, save more money, stay employable for longer and downsize our expectations about the ability of the NHS to keep us healthy. A miserable problem to confront – which makes confronting it all the more important.

Some of the contributions are not so clear, though. Shirley Williams’ chapter on nuclear disarmament presents an authoritative version of the somewhat trite case that the USA and Russia having 22,000 nuclear warheads between them is not an especially good thing. But, as she readily admits, the 21st Century problem is about the comparatively unknowable actors who own the other nuclear arsenals.

A second pitfall of some contributors is that they use their space to advocate their own, sometimes esoteric, solution to a thorny problem, rather than undertaking the more interesting and more useful task of analysing why politicians may have neglected the issue. Alan Howarth, a former MP most notable for being

WHERE THIS BOOK REALLY SPRINGS TO LIFE IS IN CLARKE’S OWN ATTEMPTS, TO EXPOSE AND THEN OFFER SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF THE TOO DIFFICULT BOX.
the first to defect directly from the Conservatives to Labour, argues for the decriminalisation of a broad range of recreational drugs. His case is compelling and erudite, but he makes little attempt to show why drugs policy belongs in the too difficult box. The uncomfortable truth for Howarth may well be that the reason politicians have not implemented the drugs policy he advocates is that they do not agree with him.

Where this book really springs to life is in Clarke’s own attempts, which bookend the volume, to expose and then offer solutions to the problem of the too difficult box. Clarke calls for more bipartisanship in Parliament, including public assertions from the party leaders of issues on which they will seek consensus. Devices such as royal commissions and public inquiries should be used only when they are genuine attempts to incubate long-term thinking or produce substantive proposals, not when they are merely grandiloquent ways of swerving an important question. The media must acknowledge its responsibility in framing public debate, and inculcate a less partisan political environment. Political journalism should stray further from what Clarke calls ‘office politics’ and the gaudy show of PMQs and analyse policy in greater depth. The House of Commons’ ability to scrutinise the executive should be strengthened, with the role of party whips diminished. First Past the Post should be replaced, and Australia’s example followed in the introduction of compulsory voting. These are sophisticated and interesting ideas for how to renew our creaking democracy. They are also unabashedly utopian. But at a time when politicians seem to slug it out over the lowest of possible horizons, a bit of utopianism is salutary. Only bold thinking will unlock the too difficult box.

HENRY ZEFFMAN (TL c/2012)

Henry recently won the Anthony Howard Award, and has interned at The Times, The Observer and The New Statesman whilst writing a 5000 word essay on British politics. He also won £25,000. Anthony Howard attended Highgate Junior School.

The Maccabees’ fourth studio album Marks to Prove It is, all in all, a homage to the big smoke.

The South London group, fronted by Cholmeleian Orlando Weeks (GH 1997), have created a record brimming with ideas about city life: a dark and exhilarating take on the pressures of living in modern day London whilst the wave of gentrification bowls over one district after the other. On the cover of the record proudly sits the Elephant and Castle roundabout: every Maccabee spends a great deal of time in the area, and this is reflected in the overlapping textures of the title track: a cavernous, anthemic, and occasionally nightmarish blend of roomy organ sounds, abrasive guitars, and lyrics documenting the loneliness and alienation existing between the city’s limits: the daily commute, the morphing surroundings: ‘a lot changed, and they changed to keep up with it’ croons Weeks. The album maintains this concept throughout, and it is unsurprising that fans will soon be treated to a feature documentary about Elephant and Castle itself, using music from the album.

The tune Kamakura is something of an allusion to Given to the Wild – the rolling low end providing a buoyant support for the ethereal, tense guitar. This tension, which underpins the album and gives it a malevolent streak, rises to prominence in tracks such as River Song – a song which is stirring and menacing in equal parts: a louche war cry played by a busking saxophonist in a resounding tube station. It evokes the trudging pulse of the weary city, whilst simultaneously feeling both archaic and cinematic. The band who we once saw release Young Love have indubitably grown up: their music is worlds apart both sonically and conceptually from their original output.

BEN HODGSON (13NG)
Stuart Webber (QG c/2012) returned to Highgate in June to talk about the challenges of his role as the President-Elect of the Oxford Union.

Stuart was voted in after fierce competition, and a measure of controversy, following accusations of skulduggery practised by opposing candidates. He is now looking forward to inviting more speakers, including, in the time-honoured tradition of the Union, some controversial ones. ‘It’s necessary to promote free speech’, he comments. ‘The Union is a forum, not a platform.’

Historically important debates have occurred in the Union, including the legendary debate in 1933, when the motion, ‘That this House will in No Circumstances Fight for its King and Country’, was carried by 275 votes to 153. In 1964, Malcolm X gave a speech which served as a crystallisation of his new political philosophy. Stuart eagerly explained the variety of people he has brought in, from Stephen Fry to Asap Rocky and Sir Ian McKellen (with whom Stuart revealed he had shared an interesting conversation on testicular cancer). One of the best speakers he remembers was Michael Ball, whom he surprisingly found extremely funny. Anna Wintour (editor of Vogue), was very pleasant, despite her ‘Devil Wears Prada’ reputation, and Michael Sandel, a philosopher Stuart had never heard of, was extremely interesting and informative. Marine Le Penn, leader of the French National Front, caused a mob to break through the gates of the Union, forcing Stuart to take refuge. He takes these ups and downs phlegmatically, staying true to the aim of ‘making people better informed, so that they can make considered judgements on the world.’

Stuart also gave us an insight into the Oxford system, including the famed weekly tutorial, preceded by the legendary ‘all-nighter’. ‘You must do most of the work yourself’, he commented. ‘It’s a kind of reverse teaching. You teach yourself through them’. It’s one of the downsides of the Oxbriidge system, where the teachers are really researchers, whom you must chase down for homework and instructions. Stuart explains how it can be easy not to do the reading due to this lack of supervision. Although it can be managed if time is properly allocated, he says: ‘all-nighters are inevitable for everyone’, looking slightly sheepish as he does so. Of course, he emphasises, you should also read around your subject, and enjoy it as well: ‘It shouldn’t be a chore to love your subject. You shouldn’t be afraid to explore, get things wrong, engage and experiment’. He asks: ‘Why else go to Uni?’

Bruno Savill de Jong (13KG)
In Monday 14 September, students and teachers, old and new, visited the opening of Dr Szydlo’s photography exhibition *A Schoolmaster’s Diary*. It was a collection dating from 1975 until May 2015, capturing both special occasions, such as the St. Paul’s service earlier this year, and day-to-day classroom life across the decades.

Having worked for over 40 years, Dr Szydlo has certainly seen many changes at Highgate, and these were reflected in his photos. One of the most obvious was the intake of girls, as most of the early photos contained boys with periodically dated haircuts. Another was a School panorama from 1975, portraying the clear architectural differences between then and now. However, there were many elements of his photos that are still very much a part of Highgate life today. Zinc Sulphide Synthesis displayed a smoky, explosive chemistry experiment, dated May 1978, but still very much Dr Szydlo’s trademark. There was also a classic shot of one of his legendary 2500 word punishment essays – 750 of which were there in hard copy, many of them having been written by the Old Chomeleians present!

When speaking about his photos, Dr Szydlo described them as a ‘collection of souvenirs of everything he’s done in his life.’ He talked about his early life, and the influence of his father, who coached him and instilled in him a strong work ethic. He said his father, who attended the occasion, had inspired his photos. He described how ever since he was a child, he enjoyed ‘the fun of watching the image come out’ and ‘the satisfaction of pressing the button,’ which of course many of us in the smartphone generation miss out on.

When I asked him what his favourite photo was, he told me it was a whole school shot from May 1988, captioned 675 People in a Field. He said he liked ‘the fun of watching the image come out’ and ‘the satisfaction of pressing the button,’ which of course many of us in the smartphone generation miss out on.

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Kate Coulson (13WG)
No member of the Highgate community can be in any doubt that ‘450’ has been the busiest year anyone can remember on the OC front. 2015 has not just been about the packed events calendar, however. The other main aspect of the Development Office’s role is fundraising, as Highgate is an educational charity as well as a School. For the past few years, the School has steadily been increasing its income from philanthropic donations, from OCs, parents and friends of the School, in support of three key priorities: bursaries, Chrysalis Partnership Teaching, and Highgate’s buildings and facilities.

2015 started with the opening of the Highgate School Museum, which was made possible thanks to donations totalling £45,000 from OCs, parents and friends, in our first crowdfunding campaign. We were thrilled that the Museum captured the imaginations of so many supporters, and were pleased to honour their generosity by inviting all donors to the Museum’s official opening in January. Another, smaller crowdfunding campaign in the Spring enabled Highgate’s VEX Robotics team, ‘System 32’, to take part in the World Championships in Kentucky, with £6,000 being donated by supporters. Crowdfunding is a very simple concept – the impact of lots of small donations from a community all combining to make something happen – and it has been hugely exciting to see this succeed at Highgate.

We saw the same principle at work in September, with Highgate’s first Telephone Fundraising campaign. I very much hope that OCs will be inspired to hear that their donations of £20 or £100, or pledges of £10 or £20 per month, have all added up to a total of nearly £90,000 for Highgate’s charitable objectives, over the next four years. We intend to keep all our donors informed regarding our fundraising progress, and the impact that their donations are making on Highgate’s ability to offer bursaries to bright children, so that family finances are not a barrier to a Highgate education, to strengthen and deepen our educational partnerships, and to continue to enhance our buildings and facilities.

There are two other strands to Highgate’s fundraising: legacies and major giving. The 1565 Society was created to recognise the support of those who have chosen to remember Highgate in their wills. The Society met for the first time in a few years in 2014. By the time the Society met again in 2015, the number of ‘known legators’, those who have told the School of their intention to leave a legacy to Highgate, had doubled. Leaving a bequest is an incredibly special way to support the School, and is often a way of making a gift that would not be possible during one’s lifetime. Emily Clarke, Highgate’s Development Manager, is always happy to hear from OCs and others who are interested in finding out more about legacies.

Highgate is also extremely fortunate to benefit from the generosity of several major donors. Around 80 children receive substantial means-tested bursaries, and some have all or part of their school fees paid by benefactors. Other donors are sponsoring the salaries of teachers who engage in Chrysalis Partnership teaching in STEM subjects, or of...
he latter half of the 450th Anniversary year was just as action-packed as the first. Those interested in History were treated to a series of lectures, beginning with Highgate History teacher, Dr Dabby, presenting his fascinating research into the School’s Founder, Sir Roger Cholmeley.

This interesting and well-attended talk was complemented by John Guy’s lecture, on Tudor England at the time of Sir Roger Cholmeley, and by Professor Andrew Pettegree’s presentation on England’s relationship with sixteenth-century Europe. A more scientific angle was taken with Professor John Zarnecki’s lecture, concerning space and what we have learned since 1565.

A highlight of the Summer Term was the Summer Festival and show. Highgate took to the stage, as a packed audience of 1,300 watched pupils from across all three Schools perform highlights of 2015’s drama, dance and theatre productions in the splendid setting of the Camden Roundhouse.

Michaelmas term saw Highgate staff and OCs make the journey to Belgium, to witness the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Highgate’s war dead in St George’s Church, Ypres. This moving ceremony was attended by 30 OCs, and held especial significance being not only in Highgate’s Anniversary Year, but also in the centenary of 1915. The term also saw a unique event in our Anniversary programme, a photography exhibition, fittingly held in the School Museum. Over the course of a week, almost 300 visitors got the chance to reminisce as they viewed the exhibition, showcasing the School over the past 40 years, shot from the unique perspective of long-serving teacher and photographer, Dr Andrew Szydlo.

We approached the end of the 450th Anniversary in truly magnificent style, with a Champagne reception and three-course dinner in the Peers’ Dining Room at the House of Lords. This lively and convivial event saw over 100 OCs, of all generations, meet to celebrate the end of what has been a fantastic Anniversary year for Highgate. 2016, you have big shoes to fill.

Emily Clarke, Development Officer

Chrysalis Fellows – recent Highgate leavers who work with our partner schools as teaching and project assistants. Finally, some donors have made major gifts to the new Junior School, the Mallinson Sports Centre upgrade, and the Pre-Prep refurbishments. Given that we wish to increase the number of bursaries that we are able to offer, to extend our educational partnerships into other subjects, and to continue to invest in our buildings and facilities, we will be continuing to seek support from more donors.

We are hugely grateful to all our supporters, and I look forward to continuing to engage more OCs and parents as our plans develop. ■

SALIMA VIRJI, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
When I was at Highgate, I remember that our house, in Cholmeley Crescent, was surrounded by neighbours who drove cars like 2CVs, Vauxhalls and the very occasional Ford Escort. Nothing really remarkable – just good solid cars that got you from A to B.

This all changed when two things happened. The first involved my getting a job at Howe and Son to deliver papers in Fitzroy Park and Merton Lane. Early mornings dragging sacks full of newsprint through fog and black ice were character-building to say the least! The highspot though was delivering newspapers to the drummer of a certain internationally famous rock band and spying in his garages a large number of gleaming vintage cars and high-performance ‘supercars’. I lingered far too long popping his Guardian through the letter-box – hoping that the doors had been left open a little more each day so I could have a stare. This implanted something deep within me about cars as ‘art and design’ and not just as a box on wheels to get you from A to B. A couple of years later, now in the Sixth Form, my neighbour and life-long friend (still) Michael Bolingbroke (WG 1975) took delivery of an Alfa Spider of the type that Dustin Hoffman made his escape in at the end of The Graduate. Another moment when something shifted deep within.

Many, many years later, as the result of a chance remark from my wife, I bought my first classic car – a slightly neglected MGB Roadster (1972) – pictured - and became happily obsessed with tinkering around with it and driving it to rallies and events and such-like. I am just about to ship a 1960 TR3a convertible over from Long Island to add to the collection and I fear that it won’t stop there. A meeting with Ronaldo Sallows (QG 1979) earlier this Summer who, it transpired, is also a fan and classic car owner, made us both realise that we should reach out and see if there are some like-minded OCs and staff (current or former) who wish to join together and form a club. If you are an owner or a fan of any vehicle (car, bike, van etc) manufactured in 1974 or earlier and would like to join us for the occasional meeting, a drive out into the country and, our ultimate aim, to park in The Quad before anyone notices, then please be in touch with me and Ronaldo c/o simon.trewin@gmail.com

Simon Trewin (WG 1979)
What is he most looking forward to? ‘I’m really excited about the fact that we will, for the first time have all our facilities on one site. There’s a hall, an Astro, science labs, art, design and technology. There will be more opportunities for art and drama. The new building has wide corridors, it’s bright and open and you can get all the year groups together in the same place, with resource rooms for each year. It’s got great views and could be described as an urban school in an almost rural setting. We’ve got outdoor learning spaces – there’s a literary garden, with quotations from the best children’s literature, and there’s a mini-beast hotel, which is a mud wall full of creepy-crawlies, which gets the children excited about science’, he enthuses.

‘I think it’s just the fact of developing a sense of community, where we’re not just disparate and all over the place. It may sound a cliché, but it’s got a heart, a core’, he reflects.

‘I’m not someone who’s worried about change. I’m always – maybe naively – positive about life. The temporary classrooms have been terrific, but we’re all looking forward to the new move. I’m looking forward to the fact that my new office has a button which can turn the windows milky white instead of drawing blinds. I can stroke a Persian cat and say:

Being Principal of Highgate’s Junior School in the School’s 450th Anniversary Year is only the beginning of the excitement for Mark James, as the Junior School prepares for its move into its brand new buildings in 2016. But what will it be called?! We spoke to Mark James, Principal of the Junior School since 2002, about the new School.
The north elevation
View of the Hall
The pupils’ entrance
The Reception area
The north elevation
“What an unexpected pleasure, Mr Bond.” We worry that Mr James is perhaps overplaying a mild resemblance to Christopher Walz, who plays the villainous Blofeld in the latest Bond outing, Spectre.

‘And the coffee machine will be a real Gaggia, the same machine you find in Café Nero’, he gloats.

The Senior School will also benefit from these new facilities, with Mr James happy to offer the use of a 360 seat auditorium for meetings and debates.

Does he worry that the new School will get too big, too impersonal after the cosiness of Cholmeley? ‘Not at all. I pride myself on knowing all the children in the School by name. If the School got too big, my poor brain couldn’t cope, so, no, there is no Machiavellian scheme to make the School the biggest in the world.’

What does he see as mattering educationally? After all, schools are more than buildings.

‘It’s about making sure that by the time they leave Year 6, they don’t think of a subject as dull or uninteresting. You want them to think of literature, or science for example as exciting, dynamic. It is important we do all we can to instil in the children a lifelong love of learning. People are switched on to things if they’re fun, and turned off if the subject is taught by rote.’

His philosophy embodies Adam Pettitt’s ideal of Highgate’s learning objectives, summarised in a handy acronym: IBAC - Independence, Buzz, Aspiration and Collaboration.

But what will the new JS be called? ‘There’s a lot of pedantry around the naming of it, whether it will be the Junior School at Highgate, or the Highgate Junior School. It doesn’t have a name like Derek, or something. Derek the Junior School!’ He chortles at this flight of fantasy.

The Junior School has also been busy joining in the 450 celebrations, with participation in the concert at the Festival Hall, the service at St Paul’s, a 450 word story-writing competition, a 450 metre race and a 450 question general knowledge competition.

‘The children have been up to the Museum, and they’ve got a sense of Highgate’s history in this anniversary year’, he adds.

In the last issue, we asked Adam Pettitt to speculate about the future of education, and where we will be when Highgate celebrates its 500th.

‘Well’, says Mr James, ‘our pupils will be in their sixties’. ‘Mr Appleton and I will not be around, unless we are awoken from a cryogenic sleep to join in the festivities!’

Does he see the independent sector surviving? ‘Yes. I’ve been in the profession for 30 years, and I have seen the independent sector thrive and flourish. This is not a political statement. I just think independent schools will continue to thrive 50 years from today. What I can’t see surviving is single-sex education. I think by then all schools will be coeducational.’

Is he comfortable with Highgate marketing itself? ‘Well it’s a question of being in a strong financial position’, he answers. ‘If we’re trying to widen access, for example by providing bursaries and opportunities to those children who could not otherwise afford an independent school education then this takes significant funds. You can’t just pull that out of thin air.’

In his many years at Highgate, what are his best memories? ‘It has to be Faith as a drunk dwarf in Panto Pandemonium and Robert Preston as third dwarf, stage right.’

‘Actually, it would be taking the running club on the Heath when there was snow. One Year 5 boy looked wide-eyed at the scene and declared: ‘Oh, it’s like Narnia here!’

That was a spontaneous comment from a child and is a very special memory’. ■

SIMON APPLETON, CASSIA JOHNSON-WHEELER (13 KG), FAITH DONNER (13 NG) AND ROBERT PRESTON (13 MG)
Ashleigh (8M) narrowly missed a podium place in the open category for 12-13 year old girls at the competition in Denmark. She was one of only three selected to represent Britain in this category. This follows her extraordinary success closer to home, recently achieving third place in two national competitions.

Despite her success, Ashleigh felt she didn’t do herself justice, having set her sights on a medal: ‘It was my first time competing abroad,’ she says, ‘and there was a lot of pressure. I wasn’t fighting my best.’ Ashleigh progressed rapidly through the early rounds, but met her match against the Danish competitor, the eventual winner of the competition. Ashleigh could not find the tactics to deal with her: ‘She was very fast, and kept kicking her leg up. I didn’t know what to do.’ Ashleigh’s coming fourth is all the more impressive given the open nature of the category which means her opponents can be 10kg heavier. What’s more she and her compatriots achieved second place in the team competition despite being against competitors up to three years older.

Ashleigh’s training regime is intense, especially in the months leading up to a championship, with sessions six days a week for between 2 and 4 hours. She doesn’t just learn the traditional fighting techniques but also the correct terminology. Ashleigh practises the wado-ryu type of Karate which, according to her, ‘involves a lot of bouncing around and avoiding opponents’ attacks, which makes it more entertaining to watch.’ Since taking up wado-ryu she has progressed through 5 belts in only one and a half years. Ashleigh explains the competition is based on points awarded by judges in a series of 90 second rounds. Though one thinks of tactics in advance of a match, things usually end up not going to plan: ‘You’ve simply got to use what you’ve got against what they’ve got’, she commented.

Asked about her ambitions, Ashleigh says she wants to keep going as long as she can, and would consider fighting as an adult. Whether she gets a place to fight at the world championship, in two years’ time, will depend on how hard she trains, she says, though it is certainly a realistic goal. In the meantime there will be plenty more national competitions for her to excel in. Well done, Ashleigh!
**HIGHGATE HOSTS LOCAL MATHS OLYMPIAD FOR GIRLS**

As the Maths Olympiad for girls took place across the country, Highgate welcomed pupils in Years 11-13 from its partnership schools to participate alongside its own, as part of its broader initiative to promote the collaborative thinking of pupils in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

Tuesday 29 September saw the arrival of nineteen girls from schools in Haringey and neighbouring boroughs to join 21 girls from Highgate in tackling the formidable paper. The task before them was a two and a half hour long paper in which they had to answer five gruelling questions on topics ranging from seemingly simple KS3 geometry to more abstract problems far beyond the syllabus. Soon the concentration in the air was palpable. After two and a half hours, many dull pencils, some furious rubbing out and several reams of paper, the girls could do no more and their time was up. Excited chatter filled the hall as mathematicians from all years and schools argued their case for their answers to the different questions. They didn’t have long to wait.

Following a well-earned lunch, there was another two hours of intense but jovial analysis, with the girls working collaboratively. Help was provided by Jen Brewin and Jenny Owldi, former member of the British Maths Olympiad team and now Senior Associate at the Bank of England who stressed the ‘strategy of simplifying problems to find a strategy for complex questions’. The end of the day saw many of the girls signing up to hear about taking part in similar events and master-classes. Many were clearly excited by the whole process, boasting of their deep understanding of all the questions they now had, or how they had been encouraged to try questions they hadn’t seen before. For one the best thing about the day was ‘seeing how other people tackle different problems’. Highgate pupils and staff too enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to seeing the same girls again for more community projects. ■

**YEAR 7 CRACK THE ENIGMA CODE**

Enowned Cambridge Mathematician Dr James Grime treated Year 7 to the story of arguably one of the most fascinating episodes of the entire Second World War: the Allies’ cracking of the Germans’ Enigma code through the work of Alan Turing and other code breakers at Bletchley Park. Pupils had the opportunity to see a genuine (and very rare) German Army Enigma machine in action, and looked at some of the techniques employed by Turing and his colleagues to break the supposedly unbreakable code, which led to the development of the first computer.

As well as looking at the history of cryptography, Dr Grime ran code breaking sessions throughout the day where all the pupils had the opportunity to try their hand at their code breaking skills, working in groups to design and crack fiendish ciphers. Perhaps the most important outcome of the day was for pupils to see what Mathematics really is all about: solving challenging and important problems with a mixture of cunning, imagination, luck and hard work. ■

**David Vaccaro, Head of Maths**
YEAR 9 GIRLS WIN PRIZE IN MICROSOFT KODU KUP 2015

Emily Rapp (9EG), Miyu Harada (9EG) and Sarah Henderson (9OG) have won the ‘Girls in Coding’ Prize at the 2015 Microsoft Kodu Kup for computer programming. The girls beat 9 other schools at the final held at Microsoft’s UK headquarters in Reading, in a contest which required competitors to design a computer game using the Kodu programming language and to create a brand and merchandise to market their product. The judges were particularly impressed by the anti-bullying message in the girls’ game, their business plan, and campaign to encourage more girls into programming.

Emily, Miyu and Sarah first came together two years ago when they attended the School’s programming club. Being the only three girls to turn up they joined forces, and it was from this union that their team, Stargamer Studios, was formed. In the run-up to the competition they spent two terms working on the idea of a 3 level game in which the player assumes the role of a policeman aiming to find and defeat the bully character, known as the Red Cycle. Asked how they came up with the idea for the game, they replied: ‘Most people know someone who has been bullied – it’s an important issue, and emotional bullying is hard to recognise.’

The next stage was to create a business plan around the game so, gaining advice from teachers in the Economics department, they spent time practising their pitch, came up with an identifiable icon and even sent out surveys to fellow pupils to find the best kinds of merchandise to use. ‘We had fallen down on merchandising the previous year so learned from that and knew how important it was’ they added.

Come the day of the competition they stocked their stall with a wealth of branded products such as shirts, mugs and stickers (‘The cupcakes were especially popular’, one commented) not to mention the original song they composed and performed.

The day finished with a tour of Microsoft’s UK headquarters and the chance to play on the latest technology which the girls particularly enjoyed. They were surprised when they were awarded the ‘Girls in Coding’ prize: ‘We didn’t have any expectations going into the competition, and were delighted to win. There were so many other really good games’, they said.

This being the last Kodu Kup ever means the girls will reign as champions in perpetuity, but, not being ones to rest on their laurels, they are already thinking about the next challenge – the Raspberry Pi competition, for which they will have to build and program their own computer.

The girls would like to thank all the teachers who helped them prepare for the final: Mr Feven, Miss Cowell, Miss Norris, Mr Thomson, Mr Taylor, Ms Fehr, and of course Mr O’Connor. Let’s not forget though the credit due to them for this achievement: Congratulations Emily, Miyu and Sarah!

HIGHGATE’S NEW HEADS OF SCHOOL

When asked if they were surprised when they found out they had got the role, both admitted they were. Tilly said that the ‘popularity aspect’ was slightly daunting, and she felt there were ‘loads of teachers that she didn’t know.’ Cameron agreed, with disarming modesty, saying he wanted to ‘keep his hopes down’ to avoid disappointment.

They also both agreed on the nerve-wracking nature of speaking in front of the whole School on the first day of term. I was surprised at this, as both of them have performed in school musicals, including the School’s production of West Side Story. Cameron explained, ‘It’s a lot more difficult going on stage being you, as you don’t have a character to hide behind.’ Tilly also mentioned her worry about how she came across as she didn’t want to sound ‘really over-rehearsed so what you’re saying loses its meaning.’

When asked what their favourite aspect of the role so far is, Cameron initially said – tongue in cheek – the Head’s breakfast croissants. However, he then went on to talk about how he likes the open days, as: ‘it’s fun meeting new people and giving tours.’ Tilly agreed, saying that she likes: ‘being someone other pupils can ask things of’ like showing them where to go for lessons. She said it was ‘nice to be known.’

The biggest challenge that comes with the role, according to both, is time management. Tilly said ‘it’s hard to balance all your duties, like open mornings and meetings, on top of four A Levels.’ Cameron also mentioned the additional prefect duties, and the future Old Chomeleian events they will attend, remarking ‘hopefully that won’t have an impact in exam season.’ Having said that, they also both stressed the importance of ‘going for it with extra-curricular stuff.’ Cameron affirmed this with the philosophical observation that ‘you have to do what makes you happy,’ which can’t always be found in a classroom. —

KATE COULSON (13WG)
A team of 6 pupils from Years 10 and 11 were placed third in the inaugural Formula E School series, held at Battersea Park Racecourse. The initiative, organised by Greenpower Education Trust, aims to teach pupils about sustainability and engineering by giving them the opportunity to build and race an electric kit car.

Rory McKinnon, driver for the Highgate team, explains how they got involved: ‘It all started when Jake Portner and I approached Mr Thomson to ask about reworking a go-kart frame in the DT department. This wasn’t possible but he told us about the school series and Greenpower Education Trust, the organisation behind the competition. We attended the launch at Canary Wharf, one thing led to another, and we found ourselves with a place in the competition.’

The team then spent two months building the car in the DT department. All teams had been given the same kit, with some scope for modification as Rory explains: ‘There were certain aspects of the car that we could change during the building – most importantly the height of the rear axle, and the angle and alignment of the front wheels. Beyond that, it was down to how well we had built the car and how well it was driven.’

After a session on the School’s parade ground to decide who was to be charged with the responsibility of driving the car, the pupils decided to test their vehicle in a competition on Goodwood Racecourse, also organised by Greenpower. All did not go according to plan. Rory says, ‘We experienced repeated issues with the motor overheating during the hour and a half race, but were confident it would hold for the championship at Battersea Park.’

Come the day, Highgate found themselves up against 11 other thoroughly-prepared schools. Rory recalls: ‘The atmosphere in the park on the day was electric (pun definitely intended) despite the lack of engine roar and petrol fumes.’ Following some last-minute nerves as the entire event was nearly cancelled owing to problems with the course, a preliminary round was held during which the vehicles’ efficiency was measured in order to decide their starting positions. After that, the race proper got underway. Rory bided his time, as the teams from Colfe’s School and London Nautical School fought it out for first place. ‘I was just watching these two fighting ahead of me and hoping they might take each other off, ’ he recalls, ‘I fell back from them towards the end because my batteries just weren’t as fresh anymore.’ Despite the problems Rory still managed third, just nine seconds behind the leaders and over half a minute ahead of the next fastest.

Delighted with their performance, the Highgate team is already looking to the next challenge: ‘We plan to return to Battersea next year, having started work on a new car of our own design, aiming for another podium finish. We are very grateful to Mr Thomson, Mr Taylor, Ms Creed, Mr Davey and Mr Kasczyszyn for supporting us on the day and during the project,’ they commented.
Henry Wyn-Jones (10FG) filled Highgate’s Mills Centre with a captivating display of wildlife photography focusing on different bird species.

A perhaps surprising hobby for a teenage boy, Henry explains how he developed an interest in it: ‘from a very young age my dad Gareth used to take me bird watching across the hills and valleys of North Wales. He ignited my enthusiasm for nature. When I was just nine years old my dad died from cancer. We all grieve in different ways; I found comfort in the great outdoors, remembering the special times we had. I picked up his camera, binoculars and bird identification book and have never looked back.’

Henry, who is self-taught as a photographer, is surprised he has achieved so much in such a short time. He comments, ‘I just started taking more and more photos. I have a friend who works for the RSPB – he put some of my photos on his Facebook page. Now if I go to see a rare bird, people will know my name. It was luck at the right time. It’s brilliant so many people got to find out about me.’

Henry’s reputation has continued to grow. He has had his photos on show at an RSPB Rainham Marshes exhibition and has been commended in the Scottish Wildlife photographer of the year competition.

A network of ‘birding buddies’ feed him with information on sightings. Henry tells me watchers will go to extraordinary lengths, with one travelling 200 miles, and another to the top of Scotland to see rare or interesting species.

Henry, who uses high quality digital photography and prints his own photos using a friend’s studio says, ‘You don’t need specialist equipment but it helps.’ He figured out lighting and positioning himself, and, as advice to anyone interested in photography, says simply, ‘The more you get out and practise, the better your photos will become.’

When asked about his ambitions Henry says he would love to tread in the footsteps of David Attenborough, whom he views as truly inspiring, though confesses at some point he may have to avert his gaze from the sky to his textbooks.
GREAT LAKES CHARITY
CHALLENGE DAY 2015

HEAVE-HO!
Pupils learn the value of teamwork outside the classroom.

In another physical challenge set in the Mallinson Sports Centre gymnasium pupils had to row for three continuous hours in teams of 4. Some managed to cover a virtual 30 km.

The Year 13 prefects placed around the Heath to monitor the walkers were the only ones to escape some sort of physical exertion (which probably explains the big smiles)
**HIGHGATE WINS U25 LADIES NATIONAL FIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Amira Reimer (12QG) and Phoebe Bracken (12KG) have won the Ladies National U25 Championships for the second year running. Having been overshadowed by fellow pupils Eve Smith-Bingham and Aimee Paul in six national finals, in the past two years they have assumed the mantle as Highgate’s number one pair. Last year, they won the National U25, National U21 and Schools U18 Championships and this year they began by defending their U25 title beating Emily Scoones (OC) and Harriet Asquith 12-6, 12-6 in the final.

To reach the final, they beat Highgate’s second pair, Marjolaine Briscoe and Carolina Valensise, who had made it to the semi-final by vanquishing last year’s University champions from Cambridge 12-10, 12-9, itself an extraordinary achievement. It was a fantastic win: they showed such tenacity and skill in overcoming the second seeds of the tournament. In the third/fourth play off, they played a very strong ladies pair, who had won their group. The match was a cliffhanger, probably the most exciting match of the tournament, but Marjolaine and Carolina could not quite pull off the sensational win, losing 11-12, 11-12, though they had match points in both games.

Highgate’s young third pair, Viva Ruggi and Minna Griffiths, gained valuable experience and visibly improved as the day went on, doing incredibly well to come sixth overall – a very impressive performance.

In the final, Amira and Phoebe played with tremendous skill and dominated their opponents with a commanding and powerful display. Both players cut and returned cut well and controlled the match on top step with attacking volleys and pinpoint accurate shots into the pepper from bottom step. A brilliant win and well deserved. Congratulations to all three pairs.

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**HIGHGATE WINS FIRST AID TROPHY IN GUTHRIE CUP**

On Sunday 11 October a section of 9 specially selected cadets from Highgate’s CCF contingent competed in the Guthrie Cup at Harrow School against 10 other schools from across the London District. The Competition consisted of 10 events, testing military skills taught at the cadet level, including shooting, first aid, target indication and fire control orders. Highgate’s section won the first aid event, managing a simulated plane crash perfectly and giving first aid to 4 casualties. In other events, Marjolaine Briscoe came joint second in the shooting, and the team joint third in the Military Knowledge event. Highgate did exceedingly well to finish fifth overall in a very tough competition, against schools with much larger CCF contingents. Cadets had the honour of meeting Field Marshall Lord Guthrie himself, who presented the trophies. All in all, a very challenging but enjoyable day. Well done Highgate!

THOMAS MELVIN (13QG)
Juliet Evans (13KG) has won the competition with her performance of Ulrich Staeps’ Furioso, Gigue and Aria for recorder. Einav Grushka (10MG) and Amos Sharp (9MG) were awarded second and third place prizes.

The final saw 10 pupils in Years 11-13 who had progressed through earlier rounds of the competition perform to an audience in Dyne House Auditorium. Pupils showed themselves not only virtuoso but also highly expressive performers. And the Classical idiom did not have a monopoly: Bruce Allinson (12WG) performed the percussion component of the Foo Fighters’ Times like These with the able assistance of Mr Murphy, head of instrumental music.

Judging the programme was Tabby Estell, Head of Children’s and Young People’s Programmes at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, who praised the competitors for the quality of their playing and their interpretations as well as offering them useful advice. She remarked on the unenviable task of having to choose between them. ‘I can see why they bring someone else in to do this’, she commented. In the end it was Juliet Evans who was awarded first prize for her performance of Staep’s Piece for Two Recorders, which combined technically-demanding outer movements requiring dextrous articulation with a more contemplative Aria.

Einav Grushka came second with her performance of the less well-known third movement of Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata, the presto agitato. Not only was she up to the great technical demands of the piece, but met the interpretative challenge of conveying the piece’s turbulent and frenetic atmosphere.

Finally, Amos Sharp took third place, showing himself a consummate performer holding the audience captive in his rendition of Zigeunerweisen by Sarasate.

In all, a fantastic evening’s music from all competitors reminding us of the talent of Highgate’s musicians.
CELEBRATING 450 YEARS

The School Museum and archive were key to helping the Junior School learn about the history of the School as part of the 450th anniversary celebrations. Classes had the opportunity to visit the Museum and complete a quiz as they wandered around the exhibits and asked Henley Henley-Smith questions. The research done provided the basis for a variety of follow-up work in the classroom.

WIZARD OF OZ

Year 6 marked the end of their time in the Junior School by staging a production of the popular musical, *The Wizard of Oz*. Extraordinary sets transported the audience to the wonderful worlds of Kansas, Munchkinland and the Emerald City. The children performed with confidence and energy whether they were in the chorus or had a starring role. Those who did not wish to perform had the opportunity to work with a team of visiting experts to shoot and edit a film recording backstage moments and interviews with the stars. The children were delighted to perform a medley of the most popular numbers at the Roundhouse event as part of the 450 celebrations.

IRON CHILD CHALLENGE

On 15 October all children in the Junior School took part in the Iron Child Challenge to raise money for The Great Lakes School in Uganda. The first major house event since the restructuring of the Junior School house system, all children were off timetable for the day and participated in swimming, cross country and fitness events. Each house in each year group ran a marathon and swam 1565 metres. The highlight of the day for many of the children was climbing ‘Spider Mountain’ in order to come down the inflatable slide. Children worked hard and pushed themselves throughout the day and many achieved things that they hadn’t thought possible while raising considerable sums of money for this important whole school project.
In Art, the Year 6 pupils have been busy designing model pavilions for the Serpentine Gallery Competition. The competition, open to all children aged 8-14, has given the Year 6 pupils the total freedom to explore architectural style because pavilions are buildings that can do or be anything. A pavilion is a flexible architectural open space that invites people to come in and spend time in it.

After looking at a selection of pavilions past and present and taking inspiration from anything around them the pupils asked themselves what they wanted their pavilion to be, do and feel like. Then once they had their idea they began to sketch it out – thinking about what it would look like from different perspectives.

Once they had completed their sketches, it was time to pick the materials and build the models! Using A5 foam board as a base they used three or four of the suggested materials, joining them with wire, thread, string, cable ties and glue. It was also important to think about how big a human is in proportion to their pavilion model.

The final step once finished was to add some little people, take a photo of the models with good light and focus and submit! If a Highgate pupil wins, he or she could be going home with an iPad loaded with architectural software.

Elliot Ryan

Year 6 pupils hard at work on their model pavilions.
Over Michaelmas half term Sixth Form pupils visited CERN, the international particle Physics research laboratory in Geneva. Pupils saw the Synchrocyclotron, CERN’s first particle accelerator, gained a fascinating insight into the world of modern physics research, and took a whistle-stop tour of the city.

A cast and crew of 17 pupils from Years 11, 12 and 13 took a production of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. The pupils did a dazzling job of restaging the production and found time for flash mobs on the Mle and generally soaking up the atmosphere.

Pupils visited Ladakh in Kashmir, lying between the Kuen Lun and Himalayan mountain ranges. The trip included 9 days of walking and challenging mountain ascents, up to an altitude of 5,600m. On their inevitable rest days pupils met and assisted local inhabitants.

Pupils spent time in the museums and factories of Ferrari, Lamborghini and Pagani seeing cars such as the legendary Countach and million-euro Zonda, and learning about their construction.

The pupils discovered a range of biological sampling techniques, and many obtained open water diving qualifications while on the island of Madagascar. Pupils saw a wide variety of organisms including lemurs, chameleons, scorpions, geckos and various snake species.
There were countless opportunities for pupils to practise their Mandarin: as well as haggling in street markets and receiving lessons in cookery, t’ai chi and calligraphy from Chinese masters, pupils spent a day at a local secondary school and taught English in a Beijing primary school.

Highgate made its annual trip to the Great Lakes High School in Uganda. Pupils not only taught in the school but enjoyed the fantastic scenery and animal life of the Queen Elizabeth National Park, as well as boat and forest tours.
n Friday 2 October children’s author Lauren Child came to visit the Pre-Prep as part of our Literacy Week. The focus of the week was reading for pleasure. The classes had spent the week focusing on and completing work related to various picture books. The children were very excited that the award-winning author of the famous Charlie and Lola series was coming to speak to them in an assembly.

Lauren showed the children original artwork from some of her Charlie and Lola books and proofs that were sent to her before they were published. She also showed the children examples of some of her illustrations and modelled how she uses collage to create and layer her illustrations.

Lauren’s visit was the finale of our Literacy Week and coincided with the release of her new book entitled One Thing to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Charlie and Lola. After the assembly the children were able to meet and talk to Lauren Child one-to-one in the library as she signed copies of her books.

SARAH FLEMING
odgy politicians, outraged citizens, playful children, a weird stranger and menacing rats! That can only mean one thing. In celebration of their years at Highgate Pre-Prep, Year 2 leavers performed their end of year show, *The Pied Piper*, to an appreciative audience of parents.

The story started with market day in the town of Hamelin but to the horror of the stall holders, their wares had been ruined by the rats that had taken over the town. Needless to say, the bumptious, ineffectual mayor was doing nothing about it. He and his council cronies would rather eat the municipal breakfast than sort out the problems of the town he was elected to serve.

Following a rousing medley of three songs sung in perfect harmony, the citizens marched to the Town Hall to demand action. The mayor, outraged by the invasion of the people, but also fearful of their wrath, tried to think up a solution, to no avail. Cue the mysterious stranger, The Pied Piper, who did, indeed, rid the town of the rats.

Of course, the original story ends with the Pied Piper, having not been paid, leading the town’s children into the opening in the mountain. The beautifully melancholic song *Without Our Children* left hardly a dry eye in the house. However, with such a young cast and as the show was to round off the children’s time in the Pre-Prep, we couldn’t leave it with such a sad ending. With a few tweaks, the story ended with the citizens clubbing together to pay the Pied Piper his due so that their children were returned.

The talented young cast performed with confidence and enthusiasm and worked hard to learn a difficult script. Special mention should go to Luca Lawrence as the Mayor and Theo Eissa as the Pied Piper who both had a lot of tricky dialogue to learn. These young performers took it all in their stride and everyone learned a valuable lesson about the democratic process – that we should choose our politicians wisely!

CLIVE SMITH

THE TALENTED YOUNG CAST PERFORMED WITH CONFIDENCE AND ENTHUSIASM AND WORKED HARD TO LEARN A DIFFICULT SCRIPT

The Year 2 production of *The Pied Piper* gave a new twist to the classic folk tale
13 OCTOBER 2015
Highgate hosted a Live Music Now ‘Songs and Scones’ community concert. For photos and more info: http://goo.gl/CN7F9t

1 OCT 2015
Pupils twinned Junior School toilets with latrines around the world. goo.gl/1rT6uN @toilettwinning pic.twitter.com/1RURsSzaSH

11 NOVEMBER 2015
Fog over Highgate
13 OCTOBER 2015
On Saturday, the Head dedicated a plaque at the St George’s Church in Ypres and laid a wreath at the Menin Gate in memorial of the 228 OCs, staff and pupils who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914-18.

9 SEPTEMBER 2015
Professor Andrew Pettegree delighted with a brilliant discussion on Sir Roger Cholmeley’s England in the European context.

13 OCT 2015
Making the Ask, Making a Difference.
Read the Head’s blog here ow.ly/Tlrsm

5 OCT 2015
Dan Cruickshank gave a captivating talk to our Y10s
pic.twitter.com/XlUQpfCqZb
Girls’ Sport saw an expansion of the fixture list this year and the number of girls representing the school, their club and the county has increased significantly.

Girls took to the tennis court throughout the term in a number of competitions. We saw levels and mixed pairings from Year 7 to Year 13 wearing the Highgate shield with pride and this year both girls’ and boys’ teams performed in the Aegon National Schools competition. Many of our girls were able to be a part of a variety of sports teams this year, and were members of Tennis, Rounders and Athletics squads, competing during the week and on Saturdays. With the evolution of the SpEx programme, girls’ sport continues to flourish and the quest for Participation, Enjoyment, and Progression remains at the top of the agenda. Athletics saw boys and girls competing side by side and our mixed gender squad was a real advocate for the co-educational principle of equality in sport. This culminated in many of our girls representing the county and district in a number of track and field events. The drive for an increase in tennis and athletics coaching will see the girls follow these pathways and continue to strive for more success on the court and track. ■

STEPH PRIDE
Athletics at Highgate continued its resurgence last year, with ever-increasing numbers of pupils competing for the school on a variety of fronts. These ranged from local Haringey Borough competitions - new indoor competitions this year, as well as the usual outdoor Borough championships - to the Hertfordshire Schools’ league in which we fielded boys’ and girls’ teams from Years 7 to 11, and the ESAA Track and Field Cup which the School entered for the first time in over a decade.

As a result of performances in these competitions, and some specific work on the more technical events, Highgate provided seventeen competitors for the Haringey team which competed in the Middlesex Schools Championships. There were a number of personal bests achieved on the day but the highlights were Gold for Dempster Fawden (1500m), Silver medals for Minna Griffiths (300m) and Patrick Henderson (Pole Vault), as well as Bronze medals for Henry Wyn-Jones (200m), Oliver Light (800m) and Phoebe Littler (800m). Minna Griffiths and Olivia Hirschfield were also selected to represent Middlesex in the regional Combined Events competition.

The highlight of the season was the selection of Henry Wyn-Jones, Terry Fawden and Sophia Farvizi-Wayne to compete for Middlesex in the English Schools’ Athletics Championships which resulted in Terry achieving 9th place in the final of the 1500 Steeplechase, and Sophia winning Gold in the 3000m – a fitting end to her school Athletics career.

The Junior House and Y7&8 Inter-form Athletics Championships took place at the Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Centre, which was a great celebration of School Athletics, and saw over 600 pupils taking part. The atmosphere indoors on the day was electric, and there were some outstanding performances throughout the arena. The individual Victor Ludorum prizes on the day were awarded to Olivia Hirschfield (1st in 200m and Long Jump), Oliver Light (1st in 400m and 800m) and Henry Wyn-Jones (1st in 60m and 200m). The Form titles were won by 7J and 8B, and the overall Junior House Athletic Champions were The Lodge.

ALISTAIR TAPP
The Cricket season of 2015 was excellent in that the weather was kind and each team was able to play more matches than had been possible in many a year.

The 1st team were superb, beating UCS, Mill Hill and Chigwell early on in the season and beating Forest later on in their 20/20 competition. Highgate also reached the semi-final of the Middlesex Cup this year, narrowly failing to defend their title. Jack Bruce played for Middlesex and was in the squad for England Schools while Tom Waine consistently featured with bat and ball. Sam Hoar was a very steady bowler and all-rounder. Percy Verity should develop into a fine cricketer if he can stay injury free. Ben Reed was an ever-present Upper Sixth cricketer who contributed enormously to the success of the team as did Michael Boyall who has been another loyal and successful servant of Highgate cricket with both bat and ball. With the majority of the team remaining with us for the next two years, the future looks bright.

The junior sides also enjoyed great success and with the likes of Burton, Blackshaw and Hopkins in the Under 15 side the future again looks bright. Similarly with the likes of Avigdor and Everitt in the Under 14 side and a whole crop of talent in Year 7 and 8 Highgate Cricket is in capable hands.

The other pleasing aspect about cricket and Summer Term sport in general is that without the pressure of AS levels pupils will feel there is a longer window of opportunity to contribute to Senior Sport during that Lower Sixth year.
The season’s curtain-raiser against the School unfortunately fell foul of the inclement weather in late April, whereafter the club focussed on its league campaign.

OCs continue to run 2 sides in the competitive Saracen-sponsored Herts cricket league. The 1st XI were once again captained by the canny and inspirational Sam Khalique and they earned a well-deserved promotion under his stewardship.

Sam was at the heart of most of their league wins with some outstanding bowling performances. Like good wine Sam is improving with age: this season taking 49 league wickets at a miserly 9.9 runs per wicket. He was well supported by Jamie Whybrow (18 wickets at 16.5) and there were also good bowling performances from Arsalan Khalique, Alex Schlagman and Eddie Davis.

Cricketer Cup captain Jamie Whybrow scored most runs (334) with a top score of 86 against Luton Town Indians, but was outshone by newcomer Tom Lethbridge who put in a number of stylish displays and topped the team’s batting averages with 37.7 and a top score of 93* v Hoddesdon away. There were 22 individual scores of 40 or more, by 9 different players, demonstrating the side’s batting strength in depth.

The 2s were again skippered by the tactically-astute Ross McCaskill, who marshalled his troops skilfully throughout the season. Although Ross had a disappointing season with the bat, he encouraged the younger players to express themselves and they did not let him down. We were also delighted to welcome other OC newcomers: Ed McCormack, Jamie Wilder, Duncan Walters and recent school leaver Ben Reed each of whom showed real promise.

Until he was elevated to the 1sts, Tom Lethbridge showed his undoubted batting skills, especially against Rickmansworth when he was stranded on 95* (having run out of overs!). Marlon McCaskill demonstrated his class with a delightful 81 v Southgate Adelaide and James Miller hit a powerful 70 against Letchworth. Top run scorer was Dan Sherry with 426 in his 17 innings and a top individual knock of 66 v Watton. Dan demonstrated his ability to push the run rate along with a number of decent scores throughout the season. The top 2nd XI bowler was the evergreen Dom Gibberd with 19 wickets for only 14.2 each, closely followed by Eddie Tse with 20 wickets at 16.05 a piece. They received good bowling support from vice-captain Rory Blackshaw and Alex Thomas.

The Annual Dinner took place once more at Highgate Golf Club where 60 players, friends and guests attended. Grace was said by Principal Deputy Head Todd Lindsay and a very convivial atmosphere pervaded the evening, with an amusing review of the season and annual awards.

A word about this year’s Cricketer Cup competition. Jamie Whybrow took over from his stalwart predecessor Richard Moxon, with Jack Atchinson installed as Vice Captain. The 1st round draw meant an early morning departure in early June to the beautiful grounds of Sherborne College in Dorset. The home side won the toss and batted and, with some big hitters in their side, they made 301-7 off their allotted 50 overs. The OCs got off to the best possible start, with Jack Atchinson (78) and Nick Friend (47) putting on a record 1st wicket partnership of 152 in good time. Unfortunately, once that stand was broken, wickets fell at regular intervals and the OCs fell 71 runs short. Notwithstanding the defeat, the spirit in the side was excellent and bodes well for future years.

All being well, we will be bringing a side to compete in the annual Cricket-on-Ice tournament on the frozen lake in St Moritz, Switzerland (18 to 20 February 2016). This will be the 20th consecutive year that we have been invited to attend… so here’s hoping for an OC victory!

JOHN ZANI (WG 1966), CHAIRMAN
very few musicians during their lives manage to play at the Wigmore hall. Fewer still have performed Bach and Chopin in front of a live television audience at the age of 10. Eminent pianist, conductor and Old Cholmeleian Howard Shelley (QG 1962) has done both and much more in a professional career which has pushed the boundaries of both personal achievement and musical repertoire.

As we celebrate the School’s 450th anniversary, it is interesting to draw parallels with what Highgate was like 50 years earlier, at our 400th anniversary. Howard attended Highgate in the 1960s, during the reign of the great music master Edward Chapman and he speaks with great passion both about the influence that this man had on his development as a musician and the opportunities that Highgate granted him whilst he was a student here.
Highgate has visited St Paul’s Cathedral to celebrate both its 400th and 450th anniversaries: a precocious young Shelley was there in the thick of the music-making aged just 15. However, his musical education at Highgate did not just consist of playing at a keyboard. The Senior School Choir of the day was prolific in its use in prominent concerts and Shelley recounts singing in performances of a huge range of repertoire including Britten’s War Requiem and Mahler’s Third Symphony at venues such as The Royal Festival Hall and La Scala, Milan.

And so, Howard left Highgate as a talented young pianist. Nevertheless, he was a long way from being the celebrated musician that he is now.

The defining moment of his career came after he had been awarded a scholarship to study piano at the Royal College of Music at the age of 16. While he admits that the sudden change from the vigour of school life to having less than two hours of supervised teaching a week was a rather large shock to the system, he soon came to thrive. Following his first full year at the College he won the top prize for pianists – an accolade usually reserved for third or fourth year students. Publicity of this new talent quickly followed and after a tour around the country, which included a debut performance at a packed Wigmore Hall, he performed as one of the soloists in a Prom with the London Symphony Orchestra. Not long afterwards, the orchestra invited him to direct a Mozart Piano Concerto with them at the Royal Festival Hall and then to conduct them at the Barbican and as his fame grew he began to gain more choice in what he played; soon coming to specialise in conducting, playing piano concerti or even conducting from the piano.

Indeed, it is the last of these that Howard has really made his own. The key problem to playing concertos as a soloist, as Howard pointed out to us, is that the conductor and soloist only really come together at the last minute to agree an interpretation. In one Beethoven concert, the beginning of a cycle, the conductor asked him only to come to rehearse a couple of hours before the concert itself, which was broadcast live. These last minute rehearsals are often not especially helpful – indeed on this occasion the conductor simply pointed to a few bars of the score and predicted that it wouldn’t be together on the night! Therefore, Howard has since spent much of his time perfecting the art of conducting and playing piano concerti. He has steered clear of trying to do this with the most expressive works of the repertoire, such as the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerti, where he believes the true range of the concerto would be lost without a separate conductor and pianist. However, for the Beethoven or Mozart Concerti, this concept not only works very nicely but is actually an ideal way for these pieces to be performed: this is exactly how Beethoven would have done it himself; it enables a certain clarity of performance that can be lacking when the artistic ideas of soloist and conductor collide in a conventional performance. But Shelley’s scope of musical interest is far broader than just these key pillars of the repertoire. He has also championed the work of lesser composers, ranging from pieces by the Classical composer Clementi to the late Romantic Cyril Scott. What Shelley shows by actively engaging in such music is his musical integrity; he is not driven by a desire for fame but instead he plays the music that he believes to be worthy of a wider audience: something that many musicians seem to neglect.

This integrity shows itself very prominently when speaking to him; when asked which of his concerts he valued the most he did not answer that it was playing on the BBC at the age of 10, or being whipped out of the Royal College of Music to perform the Mozart piano concerti with the London Symphony Orchestra, or even playing Mendelssohn’s First Piano Concerto at the Proms’ 100th anniversary concert. Instead, he answered that his most moving concert was playing Mozart in Salzburg, the city in which Mozart had been born yet had also been all but held prisoner, working for the Royal Court. And as such, as Shelley walked through the streets of the city, he looked up at the castle where the court had been based, heard the bells ringing out from the church and was moved to tears by the luck of his situation, because he had the opportunity to perform and interpret some of the greatest works of art ever produced, without the hardships faced by those who had gone before him.

This humility of character, combined with Shelley’s virtuosity of performance, makes him a man that Highgate can be exceptionally proud to call an Old Cholmelean and we look forward to hearing what the future has in store for him.

SAM HUSTON (12MG)
Our Music Editor, Sam Huston (12MG), looks back at the year’s music-making at Highgate
fter the climactic success of the Royal Festival Hall Concert at the end of the Lent term, the first key event was the Music Department’s tour to Rome, which took place during the Easter holiday; a group of Highgate singers and instrumentalists set off to play in a variety of venues ranging from St Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican to the Gregory Jazz club. The Highgate Chorale sang pieces by Palestrina, Durufle and Tallis, covering a wide range of choral repertoire in one of the most prestigious choral venues in the world.

In addition to formal concerts, the jazz quartet and singers took to the streets of Rome to busk and entertain passers-by in a more relaxed setting. While the tour was a great opportunity for Highgate musicians to enjoy music making in a new setting, it was also a sad event as it was the last major chance for many of the Year 13s to perform in a Highgate concert. This year, Highgate said goodbye to many stalwarts of the Music Department who will be much missed.

Highgate continued its 450th anniversary celebrations into the Summer Term with a service at St Paul’s Cathedral. This was a fantastic opportunity for Highgate’s singers and the resonance of St Paul’s huge dome provided a truly ethereal dimension to John Tavener’s Song for Athene: a mystical piece which was especially poignant, given that Tavener was an OC himself who died in late 2013.

However, music at Highgate is not just about performance but also education and learning about music in a wider sense. As such, Highgate was very lucky to welcome world-renowned tenor Ian Bostridge CBE to deliver a lecture on Schubert’s song cycle Winterreise, or Winter Journey, in translation. This is one of Schubert’s most famous song cycles and although it was written originally for tenor, it has since been transposed so that all different vocal ranges can sing it, ranging from the bass voice of Matthew Rose or the lyric baritone of Fischer-Dieskau to the mezzo-soprano of Christa Ludwig. This highlights the importance of the song cycle and its enduring influence and popularity as many of the most famous singers of their times have chosen to sing and record it. Despite this, Bostridge took a slightly different tone with his talk and not only did he examine the music itself, but also the words which Schubert had adapted from the poetry of Wilhelm Müller.

The next event in Highgate’s musical calendar saw the Jazz Orchestra and Chamber group make their annual trip to Soho to perform at the Pizza Express Jazz Club. The contrast between this event and Ian Bostridge’s lecture shows the great breadth of musical experience on offer at Highgate. This was a great success with the Chamber group opening the concert with the piece Caravan which they played in the up-beat Latin style which was popularised in the recent film Whiplash, and Georgia on my Mind. The standout performers here were Rupert McMinn (11KG) who took the lead on saxophone and Ruby Gold (12FG) who sung Georgia on my Mind with great tenderness. However, the main event was the performance of the Jazz Orchestra which followed. They played a variety of Jazz favourites including the virtuosic Us by Thad
The main event was the performance of the Jazz Orchestra which followed. They played a variety of Jazz favourites including the virtuosic *Us* by Thad Jones and the funky number *Slingshot* by Jeff Jarvis.
Jones and the funky number Slingshot by Jeff Jarvis. Special mention must go to Sam Coade, Dan Hilton, Richard Footman, Gabriel Mulcahy, Theo Hurford, Beth Belin, Michael Delgado, Aron Shlemy, Joey Grostern and Hal Knight: all of whom have left us after many years of service and have done a great deal to raise the profile of Jazz at Highgate.

With Years 11-13 off doing exams, music in the Summer Term is usually a chance for younger pupils to shine at the summer concert – playing lighter-hearted music than that of the rest of the year. This year was no different with the highlights being an a capella performance of Blue Moon by the Summer Chorale and the Summer Symphony Orchestra performing the music from Jurassic Park.

The key event of the Summer Term was the Roundhouse concert: a summary of all the music and drama that had taken place at Highgate during the previous year. The Symphonic band’s rendition of Transcendent Journey aptly opened the concert alongside a presentation taking us on a journey through Highgate’s history over the past 450 years. Other highlights included the Chamber Orchestra’s performance of Pachelbel’s Canon with a little bit of a techno twist at the end, courtesy of Mr Murphy’s new-found Garage Band skills.

After such a break-through year, 2015-16 has a very high level to live up to. The musical year began, as is customary, with the House Vocal competition. In a year where houses were very closely matched, Eastgate were standout performers with their rendition of Where Are You Now? They were followed by Midgate in second place with September and Southgate in third with Superstition. Eastgate have now won this competition back to back with Georgina Lloyd Owen (13EG) as their leader; a remarkable feat for which she deserves great credit.

The Michaelmas half term was drawn to a close with the music competition, now rebranded Highgate Young Musician of the Year. As it is every year, the standard was exceptionally high with Juliet Evans (13KG) eventually winning playing Furioso, Gigue und Aria by Hans Ulrich Staeps on recorder. While Highgate often focusses on ensemble playing and music on a larger scale, the Highgate Young Musician of the Year shows off the fabulous individual performers that we have at the School.

The Jazz Orchestra creates an exciting background for diners at Dean Street’s Pizza Express.
Richard III Diva!

The Lower School production of Shakespeare’s classic tale of political tyranny was given a twist and set as a cabaret musical in a shady yet glamorous setting to complement the dark side of the plot.

The audience was immediately immersed in the story as if we were interrupting the dancers’ warm up. The studio felt musky and mysterious from the smoke machines and purple hazy lights, which added to the shady nature of the story.

The play opened with the song Walking on Sunshine which was sung by the whole cast. This created an energetic and joyful start, which engaged the audience. Shortly afterwards, we were greeted by the sassy Richard Duke of Gloucester played by Louis Pettitt who confidently and comically portrayed him as a Diva, fitting the cabaret setting. This created a greater contrast with a malicious Richard in the second half of the musical, who was very cleverly played by Lochie Springett. By having two actors play the same person, the audience are shown how much Richard changes once he has hold of the crown. In the second half, King Richard enters wearing a leather jacket and boots like a rocker, exposing the true dictator after the glitz and the glamour are stripped away.

Additionally, all the singing and dancing was excellent and very well arranged. I particularly enjoyed the performance of Beyoncé’s Heaven sung by Lady Anne (played by Vivika Martini), accompanied by the dance chorus. It was a very moving performance and was beautifully sung. Vivika portrayed her as a strong female character despite the unfortunate events that she experiences. In her performance it was clear how Lady Anne wanted to stay tough but Vivika allowed the audience to see moments of pain. However, I found all the songs, particularly the solos and duets very impressive, including Rather Be performed by Ela and Selena Wynne James and Small Bump performed by Queen Elizabeth (Eliza Light) and The Duchess of York (Maya Hoad Leftley) which was also a very touching moment from both of them.

Overall, the production was unique and exciting. This is because of the work that was put in by the directors, Hugh Wyld and Katie Hale, designers, Hannah Rowley and Fredrick Haslam, Clare Rogers the choreographer and most of all, the cast who bravely acted, sang and danced their hearts out. Well done to everyone. ■

DOMINIKA UCAR (13KG)
Romeo and Juliet

Juliet Fehr and Jenny McLoughlin’s watchable, witty, cheeky and high-octane version of Shakespeare’s Classic

Leonor Burke, Faith Donner, Juliet Fehr and Jenny McLoughlin’s Romeo and Juliet is set on the streets of 1960s London – and the main thing swinging is the fist, as the rival gangs of Montagues and Capulets fight for supremacy.

This relocation is not a new idea, but this production’s rediscovery of the energy of both violence and love gave it a dynamic rush which carried the audience along. The removal of the adult parts also gave the play a different balance, with the focus moved to the pain and difficulty of adolescence. Also original was the transposition of some of the male parts to female, which gave us Leia Jalali’s Sister Vic (ex-Friar Lawrence) and Anouska Rees’s merciless Tybalt. The maleness of the rival gangs in the original was further dissipated by having girls in the Montague and Capulet gangs (Annie Hartley, Roisin Cowen, Beth Chalmers and Kate Coulson).

The deft cutting of the text left a running total of an hour and a half, which added to the pace and energy of the production. Maxim Uys and Ruth Louis displayed a definite chemistry as the star-crossed lovers, and the concentration on the physical elements of the production didn’t detract from some moving declaiming of Shakespeare’s poetry. Sam Coade’s rather camp Paris was an interesting reimagining of the role, and a contrast to his performance in the house drama as the murdering psychopath in American Psycho.

Another young actor to watch out for is Bruce Allinson, whose turn as the Apothecary was well judged. Bruce extracts every ounce from a dramatic situation, and commands attention on stage. Joe Hilton had excellent delivery and clarity in his role as Benvolio and Toby Miller gave an energetic performance as Greg.

What made this production so watchable was the brilliance of the choreography, with the fight sequences in particular being exciting to watch, but the highlight was the staging of the Queen Mab speech, declaimed by Marko Andrejevic’s Mercutio.

The addition of the chorale (Beth Chalmers, Cameron Burt, Richard Footman and Eleanor Burke) was a good touch, which gave us some atmospheric music at the wedding, and the rest of the production was powered by rock and roll classics, put together by Eleanor Burke.

The directors are to be congratulated on creating a watchable, witty, cheeky and high-octane version of Shakespeare’s classic, and a good choice as Highgate’s offering to this summer’s Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

SIMON APPLETON
The annual Highgate art exhibition is a showcase of pupils’ work through Years 11 to 13, and is always a vibrant platform for the ideas and concepts which the students build throughout the academic year.

Walking round the show, it is easy to forget that the majority of the work is done within thematic guidelines, simply because of the hugely impressive variety of approaches. Some students choose to present their work as large-scale sculptures, some as a series of paintings or photographs, or even new media installations: Tom Roylance’s audio-visual installation for instance, in which the viewer is invited to partake, producing kaleidoscopic patterns by stamping his feet and making a general ruckus. At the other end of the spectrum, pieces such as Alice Cameron’s colourful abstractions of household space and Seb Birch’s avant-garde body paintings (a nod to the work of Yves Klein perhaps?) demonstrate the impressive array of ideas in the more fine art realm.

Other outstanding contributions included Unzall Haq’s depictions of the cosmos in edibles, Max Ezzat’s washed-out collection of minimalist renderings of household objects, Georgie Wilson’s elaborate altar-like piece, and Alfie Gadstone’s bold, brash, Jeff Koons-esque images of coloured paperclips. The quiet workings of the Art department throughout the academic year rise to surface in these exhibitions, and the impressive results of a year’s hard grafting always makes for a dazzling show.

The exhibition is arranged by year group, although this year there was no obvious disparity between years in terms of standard – all of the pieces were impressive and worthy contributions. The atmosphere of the evening was light-hearted and celebratory, and the OJ was flowing. Bring on next year! ■

BEN HODGSON (13NG)
Walking round the show, it is easy to forget that the majority of the work is done within thematic guidelines, simply because of the hugely impressive variety of approaches.
HIGHGATE’S FIRST TELETHON

WILLIAM KIMBERLEY TALKS TO THE YOUNG OCs INVOLVED IN HIGHGATE’S FIRST TELETHON
The phone rings. You pick it up. There’s a slight pause before a voice asks whether they can talk to Mr so and so. Instant alarm and a decision to be made! Put the receiver down or continue with the call. Innate politeness kicks in, and you respond, heart beating, temperature rising. Are you about to be sold PPI? Have you recently been in an accident? Is it the bank or someone purportedly from Talk Talk?

Such is the worry about answering the phone nowadays that it puts many people off from doing so. It was therefore very brave of the School to embark on running a telethon. All of the 2,000 or so Cholmeleians who had been selected to receive a phone call were advised beforehand by letter and email that they could expect to receive such a call, and were given the opportunity to opt out of the campaign, but the recent Highgate leavers who were recruited into the calling team still had to break down the initial frosty barrier in some cases.

Fundraising has not really been high on the School’s agenda for many years, the last major campaign when OCs were asked to donate funds being in the 1970s for the Mallinson Sports Centre. Spotting that this was an area that needed addressing, Salima Virji was recruited to the new position of Development Director in August 2013, supported by Simon Appleton as Head of Alumni Relations, Emily Clarke, as Development Officer and Laura Benson and John Coffield as Alumni Officers. Together, they decided to plan a telethon, a method of fundraising used with great success in many schools and universities over the last twenty years or so.

The School has a number of charitable priorities for which it seeks funding over and above the school fees to fulfil, for example the provision of means-tested bursaries and the Chrysalis partnership programme, the outreach teaching programme that Highgate has with nearly 40 state schools across London.

As Salima explains: ‘We’ve invested a great deal of time and energy in our links with partner schools and community partnership work. The equivalent of four full-time teachers teach part of their time at Highgate and part of their time at other schools, as well as running a full programme of after school and Saturday classes, clubs and talks, primarily in the STEM subjects, under the direction of Dr John Lewis as Community Partnerships Director, and Sarah Butterworth as Partnership Teaching Co-ordinator. We are continually expanding and deepening our partnership work, and it is very much part of our DNA. As such, we have been acknowledged as a national leader in the field of educational partnerships between independent and maintained schools.

We are very grateful to those donors who are supporting this work and helping to cement our valuable educational partnerships.’

Other areas where funding is needed is in the School’s policy of means-tested bursaries (assisted places) and maintaining the upkeep of buildings. ‘Highgate has always offered financial support to bright pupils who would thrive here but could not otherwise afford the fees, and we are committed to increasing the number of bursary places that we offer,’ says Salima. ‘We
also need to address the School’s infrastructure and ensure that our educational environment is the best that it can be. Thanks to donations from OCs and parents, we can set about addressing these things in a far shorter time.’

A first priority in all this was to engage OCs in the current life of the School, and a re-invigorated programme of OC events, particularly over the past year to celebrate the 450th Anniversary, has been an important aspect of this. ‘We felt it was important to give OCs lots of opportunities to get involved in School life, and to explain the School’s fundraising priorities as clearly as possible,’ explains Salima.

“We knew that recruiting a team of marvellous, bright, intelligent and young OCs to make the phone calls and have conversations with OCs of previous generations would be the best way of doing this.’

One of the team was Silan Fidan, who left Highgate in 2014 and is starting a degree in medicine at Plymouth University in September 2016. ‘What we are doing is calling OCs, whether they left in the 1950s or just a few years ago and updating them about what has been happening at the School since they left. We also find out about what they’ve been up to and where their path from Highgate has taken them. We then finish off the conversation by requesting either monthly or single donations towards our Annual Fund which supports bursaries at Highgate, goes towards infrastructure projects including the improvements to the Mallinson Sports Centre, and helps to fund the School Chrysalis partnership programme.’

Far from OCs being resentful of the phone calls, the majority are pleasantly surprised that the School has been proactive in contacting them, many recounting tales of when they were at Highgate and others taking the opportunity to offer career advice as part of the dialogue.

‘Most of them haven’t been contacted by the School in this way before,’ says Silan. ‘They all receive the magazine and event invitations and so have been quite receptive to our calls. I’ve spoken to people in their seventies and their memories from Highgate are still so vivid, such as remembering anecdotes about their housemasters and so on. It’s also amazing to hear how successful people from Highgate have gone on to be. Altogether, there’s a warm sense of community that comes across which I think is unique.’

It is a similar story from Janet Talabi who came to the School on a bursary, and is passionate about the partnership programmes in particular. ‘This is because I heard about the School having attended a Chrysalis summer school at Highgate. I used to go to a state school in East London, one of Highgate’s partner schools, and I was sent here for a summer school to help me pick my A levels for university. It’s an opportunity I will never forget and want to see extended to others.’

From those who were making literally hundreds of phone calls to OCs, to the recipients of those calls, the telethon seems to have been a massive success. OCs pledged a total of over £90,000 to Highgate’s Annual Fund, and over 660 conversations were had over the two-week campaign. It was a bold, some would say risky, move but one that has paid off and not only created goodwill for the School but also raised much-needed funds. Expect to be called sometime in the future.

■

William Kimberley (CH 1963)

“WE ARE COMMITTED TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF BURSARY PLACES THAT WE OFFER”

Salima Virji
Development Director

A Chrysalis Chemistry MasterClass: Highgate has teaching partnerships with 37 secondary and 3 primary schools in the borough.
his Thalidomide thing has defined my life’, comments David Mason (SH 1956). David’s daughter, Louise, was born in 1962 without arms or legs as a result of his wife being prescribed the drug thalidomide in pregnancy. The ‘Thalidomide Campaign’, his epic battle in 1970 to get compensation from Distillers, the marketers of the drug, was the subject of an hour long BBC 2 documentary and now Hollywood is falling over itself to buy the film rights.

David has been drawn back into the conflict recently and very, very reluctantly. The scars of that battle run deep, and it was only an urge to get the story told right which made him agree to appear in the recent documentary. The screening last May caused a snowball effect of interest in the story, with 13 film companies eager to make the film. James Corden was one of many wanting to play the part of David. ‘He’s not exactly a hunk’, chortles David, ‘but neither am I. He’s a helluva nice guy.’

We reflect on what has caused this interest in the Thalidomide children and David’s battle to get compensation for them. David sees a parallel with the film Erin Brockovich, a David and Goliath story about an individual who stood up against a corporate giant, and won.

‘At the time’, says David, ‘and what people today find absolutely staggering is, up until Thalidomide, there was no drug screening’. In America they had the FDA which carefully screened all drugs and in Britain we had nothing. The deeper significance of the Thalidomide Campaign was that we brought into being the Dunlop Testing Safety Committee which brought about drugs screening which obviously we have today.

Distillers initially refused to take responsibility for the victims of the drug, and David was forced into legal action to increase compensation from the ‘paltry amount of £3 million for all 420 children’ to the £32 million they finally succeeded in winning, in 1970 a huge sum!

It was a vicious fight. David’s refusal of the initial offer of compensation led to Distillers financing some of the other parents to take him to court to have his daughter Louise made a Ward of Court, on the basis that he was acting against her best interests.

‘Today, the Trust David established stands in possession of £400 million, and the money will care for the Thalidomide victims for the rest of their lives’
They succeeded in this desperate manoeuvre but he then took the case to the Appeal Court where the ruling was overturned and David won her back. The other parents were furious, as his refusal meant that they were not paid out either. The Establishment closed ranks and the other parents ganged up against him. ‘I had threats on my life, I had threats on my children’s life, I had bomb threats on my company. They were trying to strong-arm me’, David recalls.

It was only after David caught a plane to America, where Distillers made most of its profits, that he felt he would definitely succeed in winning the battle. His plan was to ask Ralph Nader to promote a boycott of Distillers products in America and Canada. He was able to announce at a huge press conference in Washington with Ralph Nader, the American consumer champion, that the boycott had already begun. David had noticed that the cabin crew were serving Distillers’ brands, and he decided to launch a boycott on the plane by successfully persuading all the other passengers to switch brand.

He was then able to recount at his first press conference with Ralph Nader, telling the story of his journey: ‘Ladies and gentlemen, I’d like to inform you that the boycott has already begun. I persuaded all the passengers on the plane over to switch from Distillers’ products. Nobody bought a Distillers drink. I don’t think we’re going to have a problem with a boycott in America or indeed the continent of North America’.

It was only when threatened by a boycott that Distillers immediately caved in to David’s demands and paid up the compensation figure that he had demanded.

‘The money has made a huge difference to the 420 victims’ lives’, David tells us. ‘If you’ve got a child with no arms and legs, you know damn well it’s going to cost a fortune. The NHS and the welfare state in 1962 was a shadow of what it is today. Louise can get about in her adapted car, which cost £70,000 and has to be regularly replaced. Alterations to her house all those years ago cost another £60,000 and her care continually costs huge amounts of money.

Today, the Trust David established stands in possession of £400 million, and the money will care for the Thalidomide victims for the rest of their lives. The strength of mind needed to succeed in this bitter battle came from David’s admiration of his hero, Winston Churchill, and, David adds: ‘the principles and lessons taught to me at Highgate put me in good stead particularly about standing up to bullying.’
Thalidomide may be what he is remembered for, but David has led a successful business life as an art dealer, and has returned to the world of motor racing after a fifty year absence, recently winning the Britcar Championship, driving a Ferrari 458 Challenge with Calum Lockie.

David’s art gallery, the MacConnal-Mason Gallery in St James, is a leading dealership in fine art, from Constable to Lowry. David, like his mentor, Kyffin Williams, has little time for modern ‘Daubist’ art.

‘I’ve bought Damien Hirst on commission for clients, but I think he mocks art, like Tracey Emin and all that nonsense. Do you know the origin of those spots he paints? He was ill, and the colours of the spots were based on the antibiotics he was taking at the time. Don’t tell me that’s art any more than Tracy Emin’s unmade bed with all the names of her conquests!!’

And the most significant painting he’s handled? David tells the story of buying a £9 million Canaletto painting of Horseguards Parade for his friend, Andrew Lloyd Webber. David has helped form Lloyd Webber’s collection, giving him ‘a proper collection from Canaletto to a blue period Picasso costing US $30 million.’

David trades in eighteen countries, with two buildings in Duke Street, St James, and a staff of twenty people.

He became a friend of Kyffin’s long after their time at school, when Kyffin called into the gallery in St James, having just come from Buckingham Palace where he been lunching with the Queen at one of her private lunches. ‘Funny old world, isn’t it?’ reflected Kyffin. ‘One minute we’re in Highgate, and I can’t sell any of my paintings, now here we are, you with an art gallery and the OBE, and me having lunched with the Queen.’

‘He was a great character, a lovely man’ David recalls. He was a contemporary of Anthony Green, whom he remembers as ‘being the school hero, because as soon as the master went out of the classroom, ‘Froggy’ would go up there with a piece of chalk and do Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck or whoever on the blackboard. He was and is a real artist, and he’s done very well and is now a Royal Academician.’

His battle to get a just settlement for the victims of thalidomide may have defined his life, but it has been a rich and full one in many other ways. ■

SM I ON A P P LE T O N

David Mason meets The Cholmeleian’s Student Editors on a recent visit to Highgate School

‘THE PRINCIPLES AND LESSONS TAUGHT TO ME AT HIGHGATE PUT ME IN GOOD STEAD PARTICULARLY ABOUT STANDING UP TO BULLYING.’
BETJEMAN AT HIGHGATE

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IN SEPTEMBER, 1915, THE NINE-YEAR-OLD JOHN BETJEMAN ARRIVED AT HIGHGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL, HAVING ALREADY SPENT FOUR YEARS AT NEIGHBOURING BYRON HOUSE SCHOOL. HE WAS TAUGHT BY T S ELIOT – A FUTURE POET LAUREATE GUIDED BY A FUTURE NOBEL PRIZE WINNER – AND ATTENDED FOR FIVE TERMS BEFORE LEAVING FOR MARLBOROUGH IN MARCH, 1917.

Summoned By Bells (1960) gives us a memorable record of those years. It was reprinted in 1969, when Betjeman was knighted, and by 1970, he was at the height of his fame, known to millions through radio and television.

In that year, with the help of Theodore Mallinson, one of Betjeman’s fags at Marlborough, I invited the poet to give a reading in the new Dyne House to members of the Scribblers Club, would-be writers from the school.

Thus on Monday 25 January 1971, I met Sir John at Highgate Tube Station and made a short tour of the village before introducing him to Head Master Alfred Doulton, and afterwards to Cyril Hartley, who ran the English Department. We then took a brief tour of the main school buildings. Very little remained of the old Dyne House except for the boys’ outside lavatories, which he was fascinated to see, as was the photographer from the Ham & High.

The Junior School which Sir John attended was on the site of the old Dyne House and started out in 1889 as Cholmeley House, a conversion of the Headmaster’s house. It was extended in 1894 and again in 1904, when a separate block was added and the school became known as Highgate Junior School. This survived until 1938, when properties were acquired in Bishopswood Road. I have not yet been able to find a photo of the building in which JB was taught.

The new Dyne House was opened in 1967 by the world-famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin, a local resident, who often rehearsed there in the school holidays. Betjeman liked its exterior clean lines, its interior comfort and its commanding views across to Epping Forest. The reading went very well, was generously applauded and was followed by a book-signing. There is a good account of it – written by Paul Weindling – in The Cholmeleian for June 1971, volume 64, no.379.

The poet’s time at Highgate was largely unhappy. Bevis Hillier quotes Betjeman in a radio talk in 1950, describing his earlier years at Byron House: ‘It was an enlightened, happy place. Jack and Willie were its only blots.’ Jack Shakespeare and Willie Buchanan, however, much to the young Betjeman’s dismay, were already at Highgate Junior School when John arrived and were largely responsible for making his life miserable. This only added to the fear he had of EH Kelly, Headmaster of the Junior School.

There were happy moments. ‘That dear good man’ (American master, Mr Eliot) is well known to readers of Summoned By Bells but he moved on and the boy with the German-sounding name was left with his tormentors.

At last, in the spring of 1917, John was sent to board at Marlborough. But the bullying never really stopped.

DAVID BOLTON (STAFF 1963 – 1972)
Ian Thomas, who died on 31 May, was a powerful presence in Highgate during his twenty-year career at the School.

A Cardiff graduate in French and German, he quickly identified where his preference lay. Nobody could doubt his immersion in the German language and culture. It was an enthusiasm which he brought with him to Highgate from 1967 on.

As a linguist, Alan inculcated very precise, grammatically exact, standards to his German pupils. Later, he became Head of Modern Languages at the school. His A-level students soon came to appreciate that for Alan, German was not simply a functional language: it was equally a source of some of the world’s greatest literature. None of them could forget his favourite novel (Buddenbrooks), nor his affection for the golden age of German poetry.

Alan’s classroom discipline was legendary. A firm glance from those piercing eyes was all that was needed to establish the right atmosphere; perhaps with a supplementary twitch of an eyebrow. Some of his new pupils may have found this unnerving but they soon came to appreciate the dedication and sense of fairness which underlay his schoolmastering. Later in their school lives, they would also come to recognise the twinkle in his eye, the wry sense of humour with which he treated them, and the real pulse of humanity which drove the man. These were qualities which he drew on hugely in his long housemastering career, firstly in Westgate, which he led with real distinction, and later at Kingsgate, which he founded de novo. For his charges, he was a rock-like presence and assurance: firm, demanding, but also warmly encouraging and carved in the mould of a supportive uncle figure.

To language teaching and house mastering, add sport, his third passion. Given his innate modesty, few pupils appreciated that they were in the presence of a remarkable table tennis player, even at international level.

It was an interest he encouraged at Highgate. Always open to novelty, he adopted a fresher’s interest in Eton Fives, but cricket was his chief love.

This saw Alan at his craftiest. He knew every wrinkle and contour in that most trampled of carpets, and he played its terrain like a master.

There followed a long and happy retirement with his wife, Kitty, filled with golf, Rotarians’ work, church, foreign cruises and continued contact with former colleagues and new friends. He will be missed by us all, of course, but none knew better than Kitty how Alan remained the model of the traditional gentleman to the end.

was interested to read John Fawcett’s account of his goal-scoring achievements back in 1955, as I was a couple of years behind him in Grindal, and I well remember the awe that his prowess – especially with his bullet-like headers – commanded among his contemporaries. As for the precise number of goals scored I can’t help you there. All I know is that he was a feared opponent and the other schools and clubs that Highgate played against had good cause to be worried when John was ‘on song’.

My own two elder brothers, Gordon and Robbie, were outstanding goalkeepers, both for the House and for the School, at around that time, and both went on to play for Cambridge University in the 1950s, Robbie getting his ‘Blue’ in 1960, Gordon losing out to Mike Pinner who then became the English Amateur No 1 Keeper. In the two successive years when the OCs won the Arthur Dunn Cup, Robbie ousted Gordon from the side on the second occasion! There were ‘no hard feelings’!

Although never in their league, I did follow them to Christ’s College, Cambridge, where, as a centre-forward or winger, I did manage to play for the University second team – ‘The Falcons’ – as well as captaining the hugely-successful College team, which managed to win the inter-college Cup for 9 years out of 10!

TIM CLYDE (GH 1952)
PRINCE FETHI SAMI AND THE V1

I read with great interest the insert on page 69 of the last Cholmeleian, written by Michael Pyrke (SH 1943). Michael writes about Jumbo Preston White. I remember him as teaching me French, though it’s over seventy years ago and my memory plays me tricks. In my memory he followed an opposite policy to that of the Master teaching me Latin, at least when it came to V1 attacks. The Latinist would say to the class every time ‘Move under your desks,’ while Jumbo White would say, in real irritation, ‘Stop fidgeting! I’m trying to teach you French!’

As I remember it, we were together, Jumbo and I, that morning around June 20 1944, just before lunch, when the V1 passed over the cricket pavilion, where the class was being held. (Safety measure!?) I looked up to see it, 200 feet up. There was a lot of shrapnel when it landed in the centre of Big Field, but what a difference if it had hit the pavilion. I wonder if Jumbo White came out of it OK.

There must be several accounts of how it went that morning. The staff included a Turkish prince teaching Phys Ed in the gymnasium, which was even closer to Ground Zero than the cricket pavilion. I remember him as heroic, bringing people out. We thought he would win a GC.

DAVID ALAN WINGEATE PIKE (JUNIOR SCHOOL AT WESTWARD HO! THEN HARTLAND ABBEY, 1939-1944; SCHOOL HOUSE 1944)

THE STAFF INCLUDED A TURKISH PRINCE TEACHING PHYS ED. I REMEMBER HIM AS HEROIC, BRINGING PEOPLE OUT.

YOUTH HOSTELLING IN THE NORTH DOWNS 1962

I am writing inspired by a ‘Note’ from John Clarke in the last Cholmeleian. From a few email communications it appears that we were both on a Youth Hostelling expedition in the North Downs in 1962! I wonder if anyone else remembers this too?

I trained in Civil Engineering at Newcastle University, followed by a short period trying to sort out the Highways of Hertfordshire. I then moved north to build the nuclear power station at Heysham, which was a great experience for a young engineer. Returning south some 40 years ago, I continued in construction in rather smaller projects for about 15 years. During this time, my eyesight had been declining, to the point where it was not very sensible to be working in construction.

I then joined RNIB and spent 21 years, mainly problem solving, – trying to help blind and partially-sighted people gain and retain employment. This gave me a wide experience of the workplace, from glue factories to the Home Secretary’s chair! - and many other sticky jobs in between. I’ve not been good at keeping up since school, but if you were on the North Downs, I’d be interested, and you could contact me at johnsimpson316@btinternet.com.

JOHN SIMPSON (MG 1959)

IT APPEARS THAT WE WERE BOTH ON A YOUTH HOSTELLING EXPEDITION IN THE NORTH DOWNS IN 1962! I WONDER IF ANYONE ELSE REMEMBERS THIS TOO?
Virtuous Learning

The Story of
Sir Roger Cholmeley
Part 2

WHAT DROVE SIR ROGER CHOLMELEY TO FOUND A SCHOOL IN HIGHGATE? IN THIS SECOND ARTICLE FOR THE CHOLMELEIAN COMMEMORATING THE SCHOOL’S 450TH ANNIVERSARY, HIGHGATE’S RESIDENT HISTORIAN DR BENJAMIN DABBY, AUTHOR OF LOYAL TO THE CROWN: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF SIR ROGER CHOLMELEY, EXPLAINS THAT GRAMMAR SCHOOLS OFFERED A NEW AND EXCITING EDUCATION IN TUDOR ENGLAND, AND REVEALS THAT THEY APPEALED TO CHOLMELEY FOR MORE PERSONAL REASONS TOO...
Following a succession of misdemeanours, a group of apprentices had been sent to receive a stern word from a senior member of Lincoln’s Inn, and even now their high spirits were getting the better of them. What gave this man the right to chastise them? One of them could keep silent no longer. ‘Syr,’ he said, ‘we be yong gentlemen, and wise men before us have proved all fashions, and yet done full well’. The youth had the audacity to pun, since the wise man before them was Sir Roger Cholmeley who before them had been brought more than once before the Inn’s council for the rule-breaking escapades of his youth. Now in his old age, the episode had become one of Cholmeley’s favourite stories to tell according to Queen Elizabeth I’s former tutor, Roger Ascham. ‘In deed’, Cholmeley replied, ‘I was, as you at now: and I had twelve feloes like unto my self, but not one of them came to a good ende.’ ‘Follow not my example in youthe,’ he went on, ‘but follow my counsell in aige... lesse ye meet either with povertie or Tiburn in the way.’ The warning probably had the desired effect. This was a man who more than once had sentenced men to death at Tyburn, and despite his old age by the time of Elizabeth’s coronation as queen of England, France, and Ireland on 15 January 1559, he remained in full command of his faculties.

And yet who would remember Sir Roger’s name in the years to come? He had no son to honour him, and he himself had played a leading role in the Dissolution of Chantries, the traditional Catholic church endowments made in bequests for the remembrance of the deceased. The answer lay in the foundation of a grammar school, which held a powerful appeal in his time.

By the beginning of June 1565 Sir Roger Cholmeley knew he did not have long to live. He could not know the moment of his death but he knew it would be soon. The time had come to act and on 7 June, Queen Elizabeth I granted her loyal servant an audience at her Palace of Westminster and approved the formal grant by which he made over lands and goods to the six men who would act as his school’s founding governors.

It ‘shall be called the Grammar School of me the aforesaid Sir Roger Cholmeley, Knight, for the education, institution, and instruction of boys and youths IN GRAMMAR, FOR EVER TO REMAIN.’ The founding governors were men close to Cholmeley: Sir William Hewett, the former lord mayor of London, Sir Roger Martin, who would be lord mayor in 1567, Roger Carew and Richard Hodges, both local Middlesex dignitaries, Richard Haywood of London, and Jasper Cholmeley. The grant was the moment when Highgate School came into being, and made manifest the permission Queen Elizabeth had granted in letters patent affixed with her great seal in January 1565 and April 1565, authorising her ‘well beloved and faithful subject’ to provide ‘for the MOST LIBERAL education and instruction of the boys and young men placed at the said school’, ‘FROM THENCEFORTH FOR EVER.’

Three weeks later, on 21 June 1565, Cholmeley breathed his last breath, and died. He was buried alongside his wife at St Martin’s, Ludgate, not far from the Inns of Court where he had spent his working life. Their graves and any monument to their names remained until the Great Fire of London destroyed St Martin’s in 1666.

It was now up to the governors of Sir Roger Cholmeley’s Free Grammar School at Highgate to establish a place of learning worthy of his memory, and...
their task was made easier by the support Cholmeley had secured from the bishop of London, Edmund Grindal. Following the letters patent issued by Elizabeth in April, Grindal had granted Cholmeley’s new school a chapel and two acres of land, as well as wood from the bishop’s wood, remembered today by the name of Bishopswood Road. Although Cholmeley had his place in Foxe’s Book of martyrs, the founding of a grammar school was an act of which Grindal thoroughly approved: he would go on to found his own grammar school, St Bees, in 1583. When the governors came to draw up the ‘Rules, Laws, and Statutes’ of the school in 1571, they were also aided by the network of friends and relatives Cholmeley had built up. Grindal’s successor as bishop of London in 1570 was Edwin Sandys, and although he had nothing in common with Cholmeley’s brand of religious conservatism, this no longer mattered. Instead Sandys saw the opportunity to promote a Protestant foundation, and one he emulated with the foundation of Hawkshead Grammar School in Cumbria in 1585.

In financial terms, however, the foundation of Sir Roger Cholmeley’s school differed significantly from its peers because it had no sizeable cash endowment. Its running costs would have to be met entirely from the rental income of those properties Cholmeley granted to the governors, and they were not substantial: only two acres of pasture on Highgate Common, ‘eight cart loads of fuel or wood’ from the bishop of London’s woods, and an endowment of properties in the parish of St Martin’s which would provide them with £10 3s. 4d. per year in rent. This was slight, to say the least. By contrast, John Colet’s re-endowment of St Paul’s had provided his school with ‘1965 acres of arable, pasture, and meadow land, and 30 acres of woodland’, which rendered a rent of £122 per year. And when the playhouse magnate Edward Alleyn founded Alleyn’s College of God’s Gift in 1619, known as Dulwich College, his school enjoyed over £800 per year in rent from an estate Alleyn had paid £5000 to buy. These were handsome provisions which far exceeded the modest endowment of Highgate.

Sir Roger’s name has come to represent the values of all those who are proud to call themselves ‘Cholmeleians,’ and when they leave his school, ‘Old Cholmeleians.’

Edwin Sandys, bishop of London, an early benefactor, pictured with his wife
The governors of Sir Roger Cholmeley's School would have to make do with less, which was reflected in the statutes they drew up in 1571. The first schoolmaster was one Johnson Charle, and it was his task to teach no more than forty boys from 'Highgate, Holloway, Hornsey, Finchley, or Kentish Town', or further afield if necessary. Each boy would have to 'pay fourpence at the time of his admittance' for books, and another fourpence 'to the schoolmaster, for and towards his better relief'. The careful costing of the foundation was at the forefront of the governors' minds, and a great deal would rest on the effectiveness of Charle's work.

Highgate's earliest recorded schoolhouse was some thirty-two feet long and twelve feet wide, built of timber, and stood somewhere on the site of the present-day Chapel Quad. In 1576 these were replaced by a brick schoolhouse and chapel, and the £490 it cost to carry out this work was borne by the school's governors. Once again, Cholmeley's network of powerful friends proved invaluable. Some £150 came from the grant of new leases on the school's properties, whilst Jasper Cholmeley was able to provide £49. Sir William Cordell, however, was Highgate's most generous early benefactor and served as one of its governors in 1576. He remembered the support he had received from Cholmeley early on in his career when he had joined Lincoln's Inn, and provided £172 for the construction of the new schoolhouse and chapel. It is in honour of Cordell that one of the griffin's heads from his coat of arms was incorporated into those of Sir Roger to form the school's coat of arms, a copy of which survive in the governors' original book of minutes.

In the centuries which followed, the memory of Sir Roger Cholmeley's life — of his indomitable resolve to succeed, to flourish, and to survive in the most dangerous of times — faded slowly but surely. He had no direct descendants to tell the story of his life, and only his name remained in the school at Highgate which he had left behind. His name has come to represent the values of all those who are proud to call themselves 'Cholmeleians', and when they leave his school, 'Old Cholmeleians.' He rests now in Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, after the laying of new pipes across London in 1893 disturbed the remains of those buried deep in the vaults of St Martin's Church, Ludgate. A large memorial cross, now overgrown with ivy and moss, marks the place of his final rest.

To order a copy of Loyal to the Crown, a lavishly illustrated hardbound book, please email oc@highgateschool.org.uk. Copies are on sale for £15.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENGAGEMENTS

The engagement is announced between JESSE MOTION (KG 1999), son of Sir Andrew Motion and Ms Jan Dalley of London, and Hannah, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Nigel Haynes of Salisbury, Wilts.

WEDDINGS

PIERS MARAIS (EG 1999) on 8 August 2015 to Lucy Miles, who currently teaches the Reception class in the Pre-Prep School. The wedding was in St Mary of Wedale Church, Stow, Scottish Borders. A number of OCs were there, including the best man, Will Perkins (FG 1999); and Jess Marais (EG c/2012), one of the bridesmaids – and all of the men in kilts!

DR IAN PERRY (FG 1951) to Marion Verschoyle on 9 May 2015 at St James Church, Shaftesbury, Dorset. A number of OCs were in attendance.

MICHAEL STAMMERS (CH 1954) to Jill Body in Brecon on 9 July 2015.
In the previous issue, the photograph of Dr Richard Crossley was inadvertently placed with the notice for his cousin David Crossley, both of whose obituaries appeared on the same page (page 75), and was incorrectly titled “Doctor David Crossley while at school”. It should have been titled “Doctor Richard Crossley at Oxford in 1956”. We apologise for this error.

HEYMAN (1933)
On 26 March 2015
Joseph Beaumont Walter Heyman, aged 93. At the beginning of the war he was a clerical worker at Deepdene House, Dorking (British Railways’ Southern Railway wartime HQ). He served as a Captain in the Movements Division of the Royal Engineers during the Second World War, was in the second wave of the D-Day Invasion in September, 1944, and ended up in North Germany at Montgomery’s HQ. Demobbed in 1946, he joined British Railways (Southern Railway) as Traffic Cadet in 1947, to gain experience in the different areas of railway work, established an office in Cologne, and became British Railways’ General Agent for Western Germany 1953-1961. He was Assistant Director of Studies at the British Transport Staff College, Woking, 1961-5, including a term at the College d’Europe in Bruges, and then was Freight Assistant Manager for the Southern Railway at Waterloo (London). After taking early retirement in 1978, he became an administrative assistant in the Cuckfield Hospital School of Nursing, and was later a Front of House Usher at the Glyndebourne Opera. He enjoyed photography, music and local history. He is survived by his wife, Judith. The funeral was at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield, Sussex.

PARROTT (SH 1932)
During 2015, John Francis Parrott, aged about 96; he was born the day the First World War ended, and was a Chartered Accountant

LEE-CLARK (NG 1932)
In February 2015, Cooper John Lee-Clark, aged 94.

DANIEL (SH 1933)
In April, 2015, Peter George Daniel, aged 94. He was in the RAF during World War II, was an income Tax Accountant at the Commonwealth Development Office and spent his retirement in Frinton-on-Sea.

NICHOLSON (TL 1933)
On 4 November 2014, Robert Dunning Nicholson, FRCS, aged 93. He grew up in Barnet, and on leaving school he trained at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital as a doctor. At the outbreak of World War II he was evacuated to Cambridge to continue his studies at Queen’s College, returning to Barts to complete his training in 1943. He spent a short time in the Home Guard, often on night watch during the Blitz, before joining the navy as a ship’s doctor. In 1944 he crossed to Juno Beach with the D-day forces, making several trips to bring back the wounded and take more troops before being shipped out to India for the final year of the war. After the War he lectured briefly at Newcastle University while qualifying for his FRCS. He then took up medical positions at Barts Hospital in Winchester and Swindon through the 1950s. In 1962 he moved to West Somerset to take up a single-handed practice in Dunster combined with surgery at Minehead Hospital. In 1972 he returned to full-time general surgery at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton. He retired in 1986.

POLLOCK (SG 1937)
On 29 September 2015, David Pollock, aged 90. After School he studied Engineering at Imperial College, London. By profession, an engineer, he rose to become Managing Director of Westinghouse Brake and Cable, and then manager of the Festiniog Railway. After his retirement he used his engineering skills as a volunteer with Remap, devising implements to assist disabled people with restricted mobility or dexterity, and employing his woodworking and cabinet-making skills. Through his great grandfather, John, a sailor whose adventures took him around the world, the sea was also in David’s blood and he designed and built his first yacht. While he did not have the exotic adventures of his great grandfather, he had some hair-raising voyages, including a shipwreck of one of his boats on the rocks off Start Point. He also had an artistic side which blossomed in his retirement, being a keen amateur painter and enthusiastic piano player. When diagnosed with cancer, David decided to focus solely on the piano, and particularly Bach; he said that he had never played as well as he did in those last few months. He was a Freeman of the City of Newcastle, the sixth generation of his family to hold that title.

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Clifford Newbold

On 29 April, 2015, Clifford James Newbold, aged 89. After national service he studied to be an architect. He joined Ronald Ward & Partners in 1952 and was involved in the design of Millbank Tower and Dungeness Lighthouse, both included in the first Listing of post war buildings. He was involved with the design of offices, banks, factories, hospitals, warehouses and industrial units in British West Africa. In 1967 he set up his own architectural practice in Devonshire Square and until retirement in 1982 (when he retired due to ill health) designed banks and office buildings and restored many period properties in London and the Provinces. Whilst living in Highgate, he was a founder member of the Highgate Rotary Club, church warden at St Michael’s Church and a governor at St Michael’s Primary School and at Highfield School.

He was a Freeman of the City of London and in 1960 became a livery man in the worshipful company of Coopers. He was a Past Master of the Guild of Freemen and also of the Worshipful Company of Coopers, Past President of the Society of Livery Companies and a Member of the City Livery Club, the City Pickwick Club and the United Wards Club. He retired to live in Guernsey, where he became President of the Past Rotarians.

In 1999, Wentworth Woodhouse, a Grade I Listed country mansion of International importance in desperate need of saving, and in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest private house in the country, came on the market. Newbold came out of retirement to purchase and manage the project of restoring it. Restoration work started and was progressing but has been hampered by subsidence caused by mining in the area.

It has nevertheless been open to the public since September 2012. The project has brought extra tourism, national and International, to South Yorkshire and has had a favourable impact on local businesses and other attractions. A long account of its restoration, with photographs of the restored house, can be seen on [http://goo.gl/IPjIHo](http://goo.gl/IPjIHo). He leaves his wife Dorothy Esther, sons Peter (WG 1977) and Marcus (WG 1986) and daughter Felicity – sadly Paul (NG 1964), his eldest son, died unexpectedly in November 2012 – and five grandchildren. [Shortened version of family obituary printed in the Rotherham Advertiser, 6 May 2015]

Gordon Bell

On 18 April 2015, Gordon David Bell, aged 88. Following in the footsteps of his older brother Bob (AR Bell, 1933) he entered Highgate at the outbreak of the war. Gordon thrived at Highgate, under the watchful eye of Theodore Mallinson, and developed several lifelong friendships during his time there. He was a member of the School Football and Cricket teams and was a regular for many years at the OC bistro lunches. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1943 and spent time in Malta. Following National Service he took up his life career as a Chartered Surveyor with King and Company, becoming a partner in 1957. In 1954 he married Pam (née Boon) at St Michael’s, Highgate. They lived in Totteridge and were devoted to each other for the following 61 years. Their son Stuart went to Highgate, (NG 1974), their daughter Alison to North London Collegiate; they had three grandsons, who live in Toronto, Canada.

Gordon loved to travel, and in later years they travelled around the globe, visiting the Amazon, China, Russia, various locations in North America and Africa, the Arctic Circle and New Zealand. He was a lifelong sports enthusiast; his other interests included gardening. He was always keen to help others, particularly younger OCs with advice through the Business Section. After retirement he advised on local conservation issues in Totteridge and was a member of Probus. Gordon lived a fulfilling life and will be remembered by all who knew him for his great sense of humour and kindness.
Kahn (1938)  
On 15 March 2015, Walter Anselm Henry Kahn, aged 88. His German-Jewish parents, from Mannheim, fled the Nazis in 1933 and settled in London; at Highgate he was among the evacuees to Westward Ho!, and was a classmate of Gerard Hoffnun. He joined the RAF in 1944, aged 17, working as a clerk and in bomb disposal. He studied aeronautical engineering at Northampton Polytechnical Institute, and was commissioned Pilot Officer in the RAF in 1950, serving in the public relations branch until 1960. He joined the family cigar importing business which merged with Joseph Samuel Ltd., of which he became managing director. He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders (from whose magazine, together with an obituary in The Times for 23 May, 2015, this obituary is abridged) 1974-5. A gliding enthusiast, he was instrumental in finding the land for Lasham where he had been posted, rescuing 40 German gliders before the Americans could destroy them. He broke 17 British gliding records and competed in national championships, and was awarded the Wakefield trophy for gliding 223km from Lasham to Coningsby. He also did 11,000 tows as a tug pilot, and continued flying even after a triple by-pass operation. He was a Council Member of the British Gliding Association 1954-1990, served on the Committee of the Royal Aero Club, receiving its Silver Medal in 1995, and was awarded an MBE for services to Gliding in 2011. He published his autobiography, A Glider Pilot Bold, and was the driving force behind the creation of the Wally Kahn Library, a digital collection of gliding books. His wife Margaret Moore, whom he married in 1954, was also a glider pilot and an accomplished painter of gliders; she died in 1996. He is survived by their daughter Christine.

CHISHOLM (1939)  
In August, 2015, John Stephen Roy Chisholm, aged 88. He was the subject of a feature on page 10 of the Summer 2015 Cholmeleian.

FRIEDMAN (1939)  
On 21 May 2015 Ronald (Roy) Samuel Friedman, aged 88. He was a Solicitor.

GILPIN (NG 1946)  
On 6 May 2015 Nigel Gilpin, aged 81. At Highgate he sang in the choir and developed a love of music which stayed with him. He also represented the School in the soccer (in goal) and cricket XIs, and captained both sides at Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he read English. He was a regular visitor to Highbury and Lords, and it was when playing for Totteridge Cricket XI that he met his wife Janet in 1957. His teaching career began at Taunton School, where he taught English 1955-62 and encouraged sport there. He then became Head of English at St. Bees School in 1962, before moving in 1966 to the state sector as Head of English at the Crypt School, Gloucester. He then became Deputy Head of Hele’s School Exeter in 1969, and was appointed Head of Poole Grammar School in 1972 at the young age of 28. He led the school through a period of strong development and change in the profession, finding relaxation in golf, music and the theatre. He became strongly involved in the work of the Magistracy, becoming Chair of Poole Bench in 1991, and training magistrates both locally and nationally after his retirement. He and Janet moved to Bere Regis in 1982, taking up snooker as he laid down his golf clubs, and was honoured by being appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset. He is survived by Janet, two sons, and two grandsons. (adapted from the Bournemouth Daily Echo, 5 June 2015).

HULLAND (FH 1939)  
In July 2014, Eric Hawksworth Hulland, aged 90. He was Inspector of Schools for Leeds Education Committee.

KLEIN (1944)  
On 22 July, 2015, Timothy Bernard Klein, aged 84. He was an architect.

PARR (1944)  
During 2015, John Graeme Parr, aged about 85.

HAYES-ALLEN (SG 1945)  
In July 2015, Anthony (Tony) Valentine Hayes-Allen, aged 82. He worked for Martins Bank, Sun Life of Canada and the Inland Revenue. After National Service he served for many years in the Territorial Army. After he retired, he was a Borough Councillor for 10 years in Woking, where he lived. He was married for 47 years and had a son and a daughter and 4 grandchildren.

LEWIS (1945)  
On 6 June 2015, Gordon Lewis, aged 83.
GADSDEN (TL 1956) On 7 October 2015, Michael John Gadsden, aged 71, his life sadly cut short by cancer. He was a keen golfer and cricketer and played an active role in the Old Cholmeleian Society. He was a School Monitor and in the CCF rose to Company Quarter Master Sergeant. He was involved with the Dramatic Society and was secretary of the School Chapel Council, both as a Warden and as a Server. He loved sport, playing Fives, Cricket, Golf and Athletics. He won the Under 14s Hoskyn Cup at Fives, held the Under 16s record at the Weight and was adept with the discus. He was awarded school cricket colours and was in the Cricket and Golf Teams as well as the Junior and Senior Athletics Teams. Though in The Lodge, the “Blue Book” for 1962 indicated that he spent his last year as House Captain of Waiting House.

Mike’s involvement with Highgate continued after leaving school, as he made a very significant contribution to the OCs. For many years he was their Treasurer and was very proud to have become the Society’s President. He spent many happy years with the OC Golfing Society, won the Horns of Highgate Trophy on three occasions, and even spent two years writing the history of the OC Golfing Society. Head Adam Pettitt has movingly described Mike as having been a firm, loyal and generous friend to Highgate, noting reassuringly that cricket has a firm foothold in the School’s sporting calendar – even for the girls who now attend the school.

Mike left Highgate in 1962, becoming an articled clerk with Touche Ross and qualifying as a Chartered Accountant. In due course he joined Lloyds Bank and became an Assistant Chief Inspector in their Management Computer Audit Team. He had a key role and handled delicate crises and fraud issues, and was highly regarded; he was a good team player and always dependable. Mike’s help was then sought by Habib Bank to sort out their internal control systems, and his final business role was with the Red Cross, where he left a lasting legacy.

Mike was a committed family man, and his long marriage to Gill was short by only one year from their golden wedding anniversary at his death. Mike was fiercely proud of his two daughters Nicky and Jo, and doted on his four grandchildren. However, he also found time to devote his retirement years to various charitable causes, including NADPAS where he was the Beds and Herts Area Chairman. For many years he was an active member of the Mid Herts Golf Club and became their Captain; during his golfing life he achieved no less than three holes in one. He also found the time to enjoy his love of sailing. In May 2015 Mike and Gill attended the School’s 450th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul’s Cathedral.

Mike was a source of inspiration and pride to his family as well as to us all. He was a true gentleman, a doer, a man of smiles. He was gentle, loved teasing, had patience, high ideals and courage. He looked you in the eye and meant what he said with that strong soft voice, that warm handshake or hug. Over his last year, Mike was losing his fight against cancer, though he fought it with great dignity. Many OCs attended Mike’s Service of Thanksgiving. (Tony Glenn, EG 1956)

WEINER (WG 1958) On 29 April, 2015, Thomas Weiner, aged 72. He came to Highgate following the closure of Mercers. He studied History at LSE and at Columbia University, New York City, where he achieved an MBA. On his return he worked in his family business, retiring in 2000; but retirement didn’t suit him and he became a freelance finance consultant for several businesses. In 2012 he was diagnosed as having a cerebral aneurysm which was pressing on his brainstem, but for which there was no treatment due to its position. This increasingly affected his hearing, balance, and, at later stages, his heart, breathing and co-ordination, and disabled him from the many things which he loved doing. However, as his wife of 46 years, Sandra, said in his eulogy, far from making him totally despairing of life and eager for an end, he took it all head on, rolled metaphorically with the punches, and accepted it with resignation and great stoicism. The doctors at the Royal Free Hospital never thought he would be able to wean himself off the ventilator, and were astonished by his resilience. He died peacefully in hospital. A further eulogy was read at the last night of shiva prayers by Melvyn Simonson (WG 1958), his friend from his schooldays.

BRUCE RUSSELL (SG 1957) On 2 January, aged 71. [A full obituary will appear in the next issue]

DALTON (SG 1936) On 11 January 2015, Terence Robert Dalton, aged 91. His last two years at Highgate were spent at Westward Ho! He then enlisted in the Indian Army and spent World War II in India, Java and Burma, returning to England in 1946. He founded and ran the Lavenham Press and Terence Dalton Ltd. (the publishing arm) until his retirement; the companies continue to grow, and are still owned and managed by his family. He retained happy memories of Highgate, which fostered a love of cricket, reflected in his lifelong support for Essex CC. (Information from his widow, Diana).

DENT (SH 1950) In August 2015, Thomas Alfred George Dent, born 1937.
TREWIN (TL 1956) On 8 April 2015, Jon Courtenay Gill Trewin, aged 71. [An obituary will follow in the next edition]

NORRIS (WG 1934) Verbal notification has been received of the death, early in 2015, of Kenneth Burton Norris, aged about 92.

ROGERS (FG 1955) On 16 April 2015, Major General Anthony Peter Vernon Rogers, aged 72. Before retirement he had been Director of Army Legal Services. He was awarded the OBE (Military) in 1985. His book Law on the Battlefield is the standard work on the subject.


SIMMONS (KG 1978) On 5th July 2015, after a year-long fight with pancreatic cancer, Oliver Cooke Simmons, aged 49. He is survived by his wife Anna and their two children, Harry (5) & Ella (2). He enjoyed the cadet force at Highgate, where his teacher, Mr. Major, gave him a lifelong interest in military medals and badges. His novel Delirium, published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson when he was 21, received critical acclaim in the press, and his family hope to publish his follow-up book, Mad Soho Cat. In his spare time he played jazz guitar. The funeral service was on 20 July 2015 at St Michaels, Highgate. To post a condolence message or for other information, please contact Anna-Marie Zolfaghari, or Ahmed Assem (QG 1978), a personal friend, via Facebook.

MACDONALD (COMMON ROOM, 2002 – 2006) On 26 September 2015, Lindsay MacDonald (nee McMaster) aged 43. Lindsay joined Highgate in 2002 and was the first female physics teacher. She joined the School when the Common Room was male dominated and she was part of the first wave of young female teachers. She is warmly remembered as a breath of fresh air to the Physics department. She took on the challenge of the Highgate pupil body with relish and passed the key schoolboy test: are the lessons fun? She is remembered by her colleagues as having the flexibility and the humility to say that she did not know the answer to a question and then to lead an exciting investigation to find out, offering the pupils a chance to discover something interesting under expert guidance. She was famed for burning the candle at both ends (although her hangovers were never noticed by David Smith, her Head of Department). Her Smurf outfit to a staff party has never been forgotten, nor her laughter and popular gatherings in her school flat. Lindsay moved on from Highgate to Eton, where she combined her two great loves, teaching and horses, taking on the challenge of training the school polo team. After Eton she moved to King Edward’s School, Birmingham; this allowed Lindsay, her husband Scott and their two boys Billy and Robbie to be closer to the rest of the family and enjoy rural life, with their horses quickly becoming part of their lives. (Written by Lindsay’s cousin, Elizabeth Cowell).

CLARKE (WG 1959) On 16 September 2015, Peter Geoffrey Hatherley Clarke died peacefully in hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland from cancer, aged 68. His twin brother, John (also WG 1959) writes: On leaving Highgate, Peter studied Engineering Science at St Peter’s College, Oxford and then for a PhD in neuroscience at Keele. After several years post-doctoral research at Oxford he moved to what was then the Institute of Anatomy in Lausanne where he continued teaching and researching the brain. He finished as Associate Professor. While in Lausanne he met Stephanie, who is now Professor of Neuropsychology. They married and had two daughters, one of whom, Christine, also sadly died of cancer in 2014. From his Highgate days, when he was involved with the Christian Union, Peter was a convinced Christian. He was very interested in the relationship between science, particularly neuroscience, and faith. He was on the committee of the Faraday Institute, based in Cambridge, which organizes research and teaching programmes on science and faith, and supported two new groups with similar aims for the French speaking world. He was a member of the executive committee of Réseau des Scientifiques Evangéliques (RSE), based in Paris, and the founding President of a branch of RSE for the French-speaking part of Switzerland. He wrote 2 books on such topics in French and All in the Mind? Does Neuroscience Challenge Faith? (Lion 2015). He leaves a wife, Stephanie and daughter, Lydia.
HAROLD HOLDEN (1943) was awarded the Ordre National Legion D’Honneur by the French Government in 2012, for many years of voluntary service to French Medicine.

“Cherry” Chapman’s Friday afternoon Concert Chorus sessions), John chose to concentrate on the less familiar small choral works of Tavener. He had hoped to recruit a few OCs to swell the numbers (and entertain the assembly with memories of JT), but did attract more than 60 singers from all over the South West. We sight read our way through a variety of pieces, some well known, such as the Song for Athene, which brought John Tavener’s music to the attention of the widest British public when performed at the funeral of Princess Diana, and others less often heard, such as his music for his own father’s funeral. Starting with a Bruckner motet (Bruckner was a great favourite of JT’s), John and his co-director, David Davies of Exeter Cathedral, went on to tangle with the harmonic and tuning challenges of The Lamb. This encouraged them to consider some of JT’s harder writings, so several hours later the singers felt justifiably satisfied with their day’s work, and inducted into the interesting world of Tavener’s music. Malcolm Burns (EG 1958)

JOHN RUTTER (SG 1958) was commissioned to compose a fanfare which was played when the Queen arrived at Runnymede on 15 June, 2015, for the ceremony commemorating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. It was sung by Temple church choir, whose London base served in 1215 as the London HQ for King John.

ADAM YAMEY (HG 1965) has published Exodus to Africa, a portrayal of the history of Jewish migration from Europe to South Africa during the 19th and 20th centuries. Relatively few of the European emigrants to South Africa were Jewish, but they made a disproportionately large contribution to the development and history of the country, from facilitating trade to opposing apartheid. The book uses the stories of members of Adam’s extended family to illustrate this history, describing why and how they went to South Africa, and what they and their descendants did there. It can be purchased on Amazon’s Kindle, and from www.lulu.com (paperback).

DANIEL START (MG 1986) is joint author of the Wild Guide: Southern and Eastern England. One of the Wild Guide series, it features the best hidden places to visit in southern and eastern England, including ideas for slow food, wilder accommodation, the wild swimming rivers, secret beaches and lost ruins of Norfolk and Suffolk, and the ancient woods, meadows and orchards of Kent and Sussex. Published 2015 by Wild Things Publishing Ltd, we find it available for £12.39 on Amazon.

NICKY COLLINS (c/2012) has been awarded a First in Natural Sciences at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

ADAM ALVAREZ (WG 1992) writes that “I have recently become an author, albeit of a rather short, self published book that is unlikely to make the A-level reading list”. The title is Investing in Hurricanes: A concise guide to reinsurance, catastrophe bonds and insurance linked funds. It can be ordered on http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B002ZB3HC3.

BRUNO HEINEN (WG 1997) has released his CD Postcard to Bill Evans, his tribute to jazz pianist Bill Evans, whose classical approach to Jazz piano, he says, opened his ears to a whole new way of thinking. Heinen, a London-based contemporary pianist, composer and bandleader described as an “exceptional upcoming young pianist”, joined with Danish guitarist Kristian Borring to record this duet exploring the works of master of modern jazz piano Bill Evans. Bruno studied classical piano at the Royal College of Music, won prizes from the Musicians Benevolent Fund and the Countess of Munster Trust and nominations for the Paul Hamlyn Composers Award and the British Composers Award. He now teaches Jazz harmony to classical piano students.
at the Guildhall School of Music. He has written for groups ranging from sextet to two pianos and percussion, and from big band to classical string trio. He has released two other titles: The Dialogues Trio’s Twinkle, Twinkle in 2012, and the 2013 release of Stockhausen’s Tierkreis for Jazz sextet, originally written for twelve music boxes, one for each sign of the zodiac. Four of the original music boxes have been in Bruno’s family since he was born, which started his fascination with the piece. John Fordham wrote in The Guardian, ‘Heinen sounds like the kind of erudite and curious new arrival destined to make a real difference.’ The CD was released in September 2015 on the Babel Label, http://babel-label.bandcamp.com/album/postcard-to-bill-evans.

MICHAEL HAMMERSON (WG 1956) organised the dedication ceremony of a new stone for the unmarked grave of an English recipient of the US Congressional Medal of Honor at the East London Cemetery on September 10. He was Captain of the Afterguard Maurice Wagg, who won the medal for his participation in the rescue of the crew of the renowned ironclad USS Monitor when it sank during the American Civil War in 1862. Michael persuaded the US Veterans Administration to provide the stone for Wagg, who died in 1926 and was buried in a pauper’s grave. The U.S. Government was represented by its Naval Attaché to Great Britain, Captain Mark Rudesill. The ceremony was covered by the local newspaper (see http://goo.gl/A0sNjD – Michael is standing immediately to the right of the stone) and the US Forces newspaper, Stars and Stripes. This was part of Michael’s project to locate the graves of veterans of the American Civil War (1861–1865) in mainland UK; he currently knows of some 1,300, and asks OCs who know of any, or would be interested in helping to locate them, to contact him at michael@midsummer.demon.co.uk. In October his book, If I am Alive Next Summer, the letters of an officer in the American Civil War who was mortally wounded at Gettysburg, the greatest battle of the war, was published in the United States. It can be ordered at http://www.chapelchoir.co.uk/product/101-E5649.html.

HARRY LOBEK (HG 1999) has a Pop Up Restaurant, London Shell Co., http://www.londonshellco.com. It serves fresh British Seafood with an Italian twist and paired wines from a boat on the Regent’s Canal; it offers 5 courses and 5 Wines for £50, with vegetarian options. Their first run sold out; the next was for October, 2015, and tickets for future runs can be bought on http://www.londonshellco.com/#about3/cmbb. They naturally appreciate support through word of mouth, as always the best way to promote anything.

James Sperling (QG c/2011) tells us that the Choir of Royal Holloway, of which he is a member, have just released their new CD, Calm on the Listening Ear of Night, on Hyperion Records. It features music from two modern American composers, Stephen Paulus and René Clausen, contains a mixture of Christmas, reflective and celebratory choral music, and features poetry from Walt Whitman. For further information, visit www.chapelchoir.co.uk or view a promotional video at https://youtu.be/1Xu7O9F0Eig. James is currently working at the School as a Chrysalis Fellow, helping with outreach.

OLIVER ZEFFMAN (TL c/2011), who has just finished at Durham University (where he read Russian and History), has started a year of conducting lessons with Sian Edwards at the Royal Academy of Music, and already runs his own ensemble, the Melos Sinfonia. They have already done touring concerts in Edinburgh, Italy and St.Petersburg, and Oliver conducted a programme of Debussy, Poulenc and Schubert at St. Jude’s, Hampstead Garden Suburb, on 25 September.
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